

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
50 EAST ST.  
NEW MILFORD, CT 06776

COMMITTEE ON LEARNING SUB-COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTICE

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE  
TOWN CLERK  
*gm*

2010 MAR 12 P 2:46

NEW MILFORD, CT

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>March 16, 2010</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>7:30 P.M.</b>
<b>PLACE:</b>	<b>Lillis Administration Building – Room 2</b>

AGENDA

**A. Call to Order**

**B. Public Comment**

The Board welcomes public participation and asks that speakers please limit their comments to 3 minutes. Speakers may offer objective comments of school operations and programs that concern them. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Educations personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the New Milford Public School System.

**C. Items for Discussion**

1. Kindergarten Orientation Update
2. CMT/CAPT Assessment Status
3. April 1 – Professional Development Day Schedule
4. Middle/High School Student Placement Options
5. Curriculum Update

**D. Item for Discussion and Possible Action**

1. English Language Learner (ELL) Plan of Improvement

**E. Adjourn**

**Sub-Committee Members:**

**Mrs. Alexandra Thomas, Chair**  
**Mr. David A. Lawson**  
**Mrs. Lynette Celli Rigdon**  
**Mrs. Nancy C. Tarascio-Latour**

**Alternates:**

**Mr. Thomas McSherry**  
**Mr. Rodney Weinberg**

## New Milford School District

**ELL Goal:** To improve ELL CMT scores in reading and mathematics

**District Indicators:**

- Percentage of all students in grades 3-8 scoring at or above proficiency in reading will increase from 48.2% to 79% as measured by the Connecticut Mastery Test administered in March 2010.
- Percentage of all students in grades 3-8 scoring at or above proficiency in mathematics will increase from 79% to 81.3% as measured by the Connecticut Mastery Test administered in March 2010.

<b>Action Steps</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Person (s) Responsible</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Identify the strands in the CMT where students have the most difficulty	September 2010	ELL Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CMT data</li><li>• Analysis of results by ELL staff</li></ul>
Consistently expose students to CMT vocabulary and question format	Ongoing	Mainstream teachers ELL teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Internet</li><li>• CSDE website</li><li>• CMT materials</li><li>• <i>CMT Language Arts &amp; Mathematics Handbooks</i> (CSDE)</li><li>• <i>CMT Coach</i> (levels G &amp; H)</li><li>• <i>How to Get Better Test Scores</i></li></ul>

<p>Collaborate weekly with the reading teachers so that the learning material/resources will be consistent and reinforced across the district</p>	<p>Weekly – beginning the fall of 2010 and ongoing for year 2010-2011</p>	<p>Reading teachers ELL teachers</p>	<p><u>ELL Materials</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avenues Series (Hampton Brown)</li> <li>• Oxford Picture Dictionary Series (Oxford)</li> <li>• <u>My ABC Storybook and Workbook</u> (Longman)</li> <li>• <u>Side by Side</u> (Longman)</li> <li>• <u>The Options Strategies for Successful Reading and Writing</u></li> <li>• <u>Options Reading Predictors</u> (grade 3)</li> <li>• <u>Just Right Reading</u> (Options)</li> </ul> <p><u>District-wide Reading Dept Materials</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rigby</li> <li>• Pioneer Valley</li> <li>• Foundation books</li> <li>• Read Naturally (fluency program grades 2-3)</li> <li>• Wilson Reading</li> <li>• Merrill Linguistics (Wilson et al)</li> <li>• Leveled books (Fountas &amp; Pinnell)</li> <li>• Explode the Code (Hall)</li> <li>• <u>Shared Reading</u> (Boyles)</li> </ul>
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Provide parents with information related to literacy as well as to the CMT	Week of March 1, 2010	ELL teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet link: <a href="http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/cmt/cmt_gen4_resources_parents.htm">http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/cmt/cmt_gen4_resources_parents.htm</a></li> <li>• Purchase <u>Ayuda a Sus Hijos a Tener Exito en la Escuela</u> (Dabbah)</li> <li>• Collaborate with CAPELL surrounding districts (4 X/year)</li> </ul>
Provide professional development for ELL and mainstream teachers	Beginning in the spring of 2010 and ongoing for 2010-2011	ELL teachers Mainstream teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TESOL Conference (March 2010)</li> <li>• SERC workshops (e.g., Differentiated Instruction ... 5/5/10)</li> </ul>
Use of literature and ELL materials that focus on reading comprehension	Ongoing	ELL teachers	<p>Big books Books on tape Books on reading comprehension (Options Publishing) Chapter Books (Clyde Robert Bulla)</p>
Staff development during faculty meetings	Fall of 2010	ELL teachers	<p>Classroom strategies from a variety of resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo Gusman workshops</li> <li>• "Engaging Readers Through Effective Classroom Practices K-6" (4/14-15/10) at Lesley University</li> </ul>



finished CMT's today and 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> will be done on Thursday. CAPT finished on the 15<sup>th</sup>. We have until March 26 to complete make-ups. The district needs to attain a 95% participation rate.

### **3. April 1—Professional Development Day Schedule**

Dr. McLaughlin said the professional development day needs to be seven hours and 15 minutes to align with the teachers' contract. This professional development day will allow for six CEU's for each teacher. She worked with the professional development committee to establish the schedule and to determine what was needed in each grade level and department. The intent is to get every school on the same page.

- Mr. Lawson asked why there were some out-of-district activities in the middle school and high school. Dr. McLaughlin said some of those were approved a long time ago and could not be changed.
- Mrs. Tarascio-Latour asked what was taught in the sexuality unit, and Dr. McLaughlin said that is part of the health curriculum.
- Mrs. Thomas noted that this professional development day is a change from what has been done in the past, and she liked the fact that the schools are working together as K-12.

### **4. Middle/High School Student Placement Options**

Dr. McLaughlin said she met with Dana Ford and Joyce Johnson about using the Orleans-Hanna assessment to determine if a student should take algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Dr. McLaughlin said there is currently no rubric in place to determine placement at the high school. The decision is made primarily by teacher recommendations. She suggested that DRP results,

### **April 1—Professional Development Day Schedule**

### **Middle/High School Student Placement Options**

<p>CMT results, 3<sup>rd</sup> period marking grades, and maybe a couple of other objective measures could be used to determine where students would be most successful in high school.</p> <p><b>5. Curriculum Update</b></p> <p>Dr. McLaughlin said she is working on compiling a complete list of curricula and when they were last revised. The list she handed out at this meeting was not complete but it is a good start.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. Rigdon asked what it meant when a curriculum has no date listed. Dr. McLaughlin said that some curricula was found, but had no date of approval on the cover.</li><li>• Dr. McLaughlin said the five-year plan allows curricula to be revisited every five years. We plan to start with language arts K-12. Some pieces are currently in place and will just need to be revised to meet the CSDE guidelines.</li><li>• Mrs. Rigdon asked how long it took to write curriculum. Dr. McLaughlin said the language arts can take all year, but some electives can be done more quickly.</li><li>• Mr. Lawson noted that there are usually several authors contracted to do the work. The final draft is reviewed by department chairs, principals, and the Assistant Superintendent.</li><li>• Mrs. Rigdon said she has a hard time understanding why some of the curricula have not been addressed in almost 15 years. Dr. Paddyfote said this budget item has been cut for many years.</li><li>• Mrs. Tarascio-Latour asked if each teacher will get a contract to write curriculum. Dr. McLaughlin said only those teachers interested in writing curricula will be involved. In a few cases, such as an elective, only one or two teachers might be the authors.</li><li>• Dr. Paddyfote noted that the school district lost the K-12 perspective when the coordinators were cut from the budget.</li></ul>	<p><b>Curriculum Update</b></p>
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<p><b>D.</b></p>	<p><b>Item for Discussion and Possible Action</b>  <b>1. English Language Learner (ELL) Plan of Improvement</b></p> <p>Dr. McLaughlin said because the district has not made AYP for two years in a row, a plan has to be sent to the State for approval. She said when one looks at the CMT's, the area that is suffering is reading because the students who are not proficient in English have difficulty reading English. She said the plan calls for PD for general classroom teachers and getting materials out to the parents of those students who are ELL. She said the plan has been submitted to the State and she anticipates its approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Lawson said it was a comprehensive plan, but he said to get 50% of the kids to be reading English in ten months takes a lot of action.</li> <li>• Mrs. Rigdon asked if a child was always ELL once s/he was designated to be that. Dr. McLaughlin said that once students achieve a certain score on the CMT and the LAS Links, they are no longer ELL.</li> <li>• Mrs. Thomas noted that once that happens, it can become more difficult for children because previously they were receiving extra help.</li> <li>• Mrs. Tarascio-Latour asked what happened if the school did not make goal. Dr. McLaughlin said that by 2014 the federal government wants 100% proficiency for all students, which is unrealistic. Each state determines its own level of proficiency. CT's standard is high.</li> <li>• Mr. Lawson said this law will probably change once all districts are not able to meet the goal.</li> <li>• Mrs. Tarascio-Latour asked what would happen if goal were not met, and Dr. Paddyfote said there could be sanctions. For example, the government could come in and say that the administration and staff need to be changed.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to accept the English Language Learner Plan of Improvement and to forward to the</p>	<p><b>Item for Discussion and Possible Action</b>  <b>1. English Language Learner (ELL) Plan of Improvement</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to accept the</b></p>
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	full Board for approval; Mrs. Tarascio-Latour seconded and the motion passed unanimously.	<b>English Language Learner Plan of Improvement and to forward it to the full Board for approval.</b>
<b>E.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>  Mr. Lawson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Rigdon and passed unanimously.	<b>Adjourn</b>  <b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.</b>

Respectfully submitted,



David A. Lawson, Board Secretary  
Committee on Learning Member