

**New Milford Board of Education
Board Workshop Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2015
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Angela Chastain, Chair Mr. Robert Coppola (arrived at 6:31 p.m.) Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. David A. Lawson Mr. Dave Littlefield (arrived at 6:31 p.m.) Mr. David R. Shaffer Mr. John W. Spatola Mrs. Theresa Volinski
Absent:	Mrs. Daniele Shook

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Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Joshua Smith, Deputy Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Mr. Michael Clyne, Data Coach
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1.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Presentation Deputy Superintendent Joshua Smith will present information regarding district assessment data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Smith and Mr. Clyne presented the student achievement update to the Board. Mr. Smith noted that NWEA is used in school districts across the country and is a private nonprofit. This NWEA assessment measures what students know and adapts to the testee without prejudice or bias. This is one data point that is simply used to judge a student's growth. NWEA does not measure the mastery of a subject rather it gives predictive individual targets for each student. 	Presentation Deputy Superintendent Joshua Smith will present information regarding district assessment data.

- In terms of math performance, five of the six grades tested outperformed the national norm. The national norm is an historic annual projection of where each grade level should be.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if these were nationwide norms and if so if they were weighted towards states that test better. Mr. Smith said nothing is by state so the norm is based on a spectrum of all types of school districts and is not Connecticut versus other states.
- Mr. Clyne noted there are 10 to 12 million users each year.
- According to the MAP Assessment Performance, 52.3% of New Milford students scored above the national norm for the spring test.
- Mr. Coppola asked how often the test was given and Mr. Smith said it was given in the fall, winter and spring. Mr. Coppola asked if this assessment gave a child's individual performance and Mr. Smith said after each test a report was sent home to parents giving their child's results.
- Mr. Coppola asked if the assessment showed certain items that children do not do well in and Mr. Clyne said it is not an item by item analysis but rather a standard analysis.
- Mr. Smith said the expectation of NWEA, an adaptive test to find the midpoint of student understanding, is that 50% of the participants will make the projection. The overall improvement target is 100% which tells how much each student has grown. For New Milford, the third grade growth was 110% which was 10% higher than expected. He noted that New Milford presented its results at an NWEA conference and other districts were excited about what New Milford was doing and asked about the programming.
- Mr. Clyne discussed the reading performance scores. He said the reading assessment performance test showed the beginning test result, which averaged 57.7%, rose to 63.1% from fall to spring.
- Mr. Smith said the kindergarten is not tested in

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	<p>the fall so their first assessment is winter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Littlefield asked why the fifth grade improved so much and Mr. Smith said it could be a teacher driven effort due to the new curriculum or that the particular class is a factor. He said that will show through in sixth grade next year if it is the class itself.• Mr. Shaffer asked what kind of questions are asked such as essay or multiple choice and Mr. Smith said the test is adaptive so K-2 has audio reading passages and 3 – 8 has reading. He noted the test is highly adaptive as one fourth grade student did so well that they were reading Shakespeare.• Mr. Clyne noted that the reading consisted of literature, non-fictional and vocabulary testing.• Mr. Smith discussed the intervention supports and said at Schaghticoke 77 students were selected for six week intervention supports in reading and mathematics. He noted that no control group was used so it is impossible to say that the interventions definitely worked but 57 of 74 students met their projections on the corresponding NWEA assessment• Mr. Coppola asked how the students were selected and Mr. Smith said they tried to find students who fell through the cracks and did not get any supports. He said the decision was based on MAP scores, grades, discipline, attendance and teacher input.• Mr. Coppola asked if 77 was a magic number and Mr. Smith said no.• Mr. Smith noted the interventions at the high school had 29 students serviced and 24 of them met their short term intervention goals. He also noted there was no control group. Mr. Clyne said these students were behind track on graduating.• Mr. Shaffer asked if a student had poor attendance if they received intervention since their attendance would not change. Mr. Smith said attendance was a factor but not the driving factor.• Mr. Smith showed many slides of charts which showed the growth level for K-8 students in	
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	<p>reading and math.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Lawson asked why there was an identical drop over time in the fall of 2014-15 and wondered if that was due to no summer school. Mr. Smith said he could not support the summer school program as it was before since there was limited return on investment. He felt now that the district was better able to assess the student progress he could better suggest a summer school program to the Board and the parents.• Mr. Smith discussed the increased number of AP tests taken and how that has improved the college readiness score as determined by US News.• Mr. Littlefield asked about the enrichment outliers and Mr. Smith said they are now offering the seventh graders algebra. Mr. Littlefield asked if it would be offered to younger grades such as fourth grade and Mr. Smith said there are blocks in fifth grade that allow for a deeper level of understanding on standards.• Mr. Smith thanked the Board for its role in the process with their support of the interventionists, the curriculum changes and the new math program.	
3.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. Littlefield moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m., seconded by Mr. Lawson and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Wendy Faulenbach

Secretary

New Milford Board of Education