

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Minutes
 October 20, 2015
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present: Mrs. Daniele Shook, Chairperson
 Mrs. Angela C. Chastain
 Mr. Dave Littlefield
 Mr. David R. Shaffer

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Joshua Smith, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Michael Abraham, Teacher, New Milford High School
 Mr. Jeffrey Bronn, Teacher, New Milford High School
 Dr. Kathleen DelMonico, English Chair, New Milford High School
 Mrs. Deborah Knipple, Teacher, New Milford High School
 Ms. Linda Scoralick, Assistant Principal, New Milford High School

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Shook.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was none. 	Public Comment
3. A. 1.	Discussion and Possible Action Review and Approval of Curriculum: Chinese Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Smith noted that Mr. Abraham worked on the Chinese Studies curriculum. Mr. Abraham noted this is a one semester course that covers traditional China and modern China. Students are exposed to the language and characters that make up the language. They learn basic sentences like "I am" and "I am from" through Pimsler's Mandarin Chinese. The students will read excerpts from classic Chinese literature and work on brush painting. They will see Chinese films as well. The modern China section will discuss communism and the reform period 	Discussion and Possible Action A. Review and Approval of Curriculum: 1. Chinese Studies

where the relations with the US were restored.

- Mrs. Chastain asked how many sections there were of this course and Mr. Abraham said there are two small sections this year. Typically there is one but since 22 students signed up this year and there were some scheduling issues, they had to make two sections.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if any of former President Bush's, former Ambassador to China, writings were referenced and Mr. Abraham said he was not aware of any.
- Mr. Shaffer noted that the Gunnery teaches Mandarin and Canterbury has some Mandarin teachings as well so it might be interesting to bring in some native speakers.

Mr. Shaffer moved to bring the Chinese Studies curriculum to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.

2. Children's Literature

Mr. Littlefield left the meeting at 7:38 pm and returned at 7:39 pm.

- Mr. Bronn said Children's Literature is a fantastic course. In 2013 there were two sections, next year there will be four sections. He said the course deals with children's literacy and issues facing children today. Many of the students taking the course are employed in child care centers and take child development courses. The course will look into the contest of children's books and analyze the different parts. Some of the focus is on feminism and gender roles in children's literature and the role the mother plays versus the father. Fairy tales contain gender stereotypes, for instance. Issues such as the over protection of children are addressed in this course. Students have to write a children's information book which are difficult to do because of the focus on children which requires a focus on a much younger audience. They will

Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Chinese Studies

2. Children's Literature

	<p>write a book proposal and create a website. Then they will write a children's book with a lesson in it such as a social behavior. Finally they will write a lesson plan for the children's books and will take a field trip to the elementary schools to teach their books.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Chastain said she did not like the term feminism and suggested the description be about gender roles or gender stereotypes.• Mrs. Chastain noted the PTO sponsors elementary school authors and suggested Mr. Bronn might reach out to the PTO to suggest that the authors also come to meet these students. <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to bring the Children's Literature curriculum to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mr. Shaffer and passed unanimously.</p> <p>3. Journalism I 4. Journalism II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith said all of the curricula are works in progress and they continue to be improved and modified as things change including Twitter and other social media options.• Mrs. DelMonico said the Journalism I curriculum teaches the traditional groundwork before trying to go off in all the directions that today's journalism deals with.• Mr. Shaffer asked how long these courses were taught here and Mrs. DelMonico said as long as she has been here but Journalism II was dormant for a while and was made into an independent study.• Mr. Shaffer asked how many take I and II and Mrs. DelMonico said there are about 15 students.• Mr. Smith noted the requirement for 26 credits makes students consider different courses and career paths. He said the goal has become to build meaningful options for college and career readiness.	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Children's Literature</p> <p>3. Journalism I 4. Journalism II</p>
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- Mrs. Chastain suggested that seniors need to start writing their college essays sooner than their senior year, maybe spring semester of their junior year.
- Mr. Smith said part of the SAT prep class is to shift the conversation to what do students want to do for their lives. The PSAT has predictors in it to help students consider their future careers.
- Mr. Shaffer noted students who are applying for early decision to college need to write their essays early. Mrs. DelMonico noted that the new applications require videos or Skype.
- Mr. Littlefield noted his concern as a parent is to get direction from the counselors as to what their students are thinking about for the future given their lack of communication skills.
- Mr. Smith said the new conversation starts with freshman orientation about the future. The schools are using Navience and the PSAT tools to help students think about the future.
- Mr. Littlefield said as a parent it is important to hear feedback from counselors about their children's interests.

Mr. Shaffer moved to send Journalism I and II to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.

B. Request for New Program or Course

1. Sports and Entertainment Marketing

- Mr. Smith noted this course comes about as a change in the graduation credit requirements which will require more new courses from time to time.
- Mrs. Knipple said she teaches marketing I and II at the high school and has for the past five years and learned that students are interested in sports marketing. She noted that at the DECA competitions sports marketing is often a subject that New Milford students do not do well at. Sports marketing includes events, products,

Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Journalism I and Journalism II.

B. Request for New Program or Course

1. Sports and Entertainment Marketing

promotion and branding. Sports marketing does not mean working for a team. As a side note, Mrs. Knipple's son is the Director of Sports Management at the YMCA and has a degree in sports marketing.

- Mrs. Chastain asked if this course was predominantly men and Mrs. Knipple said women are interested as well.
- Mrs. Chastain asked about the demographic of men and women and Mrs. Knipple said it is about 50-50.
- Mr. Smith said DECA has 80 students involved.
- Mrs. Knipple said last year 9 students went to the national competition. She also noted that seniors like half year courses.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if Marketing I is a prerequisite and Mrs. Knipple said it was.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if there was a public speaking part of the course and Mrs. Knipple said all students are required to do presentations weekly.

Mrs. Chastain moved to bring the request for a new program: Sports and Entertainment Marketing to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.

C. Request for Course Revision

1. **Practical Math: Applications of Measurement**
2. **Practical Math: Applications of Percent**
3. **Practical Math: Applications of Probability**
4. **Practical Math: Applications of Statistics**

- Mr. Smith said the new 26 credit requirement leads to new courses for all levels.
- Ms. Scoralick noted these classes are revisions of practical math courses toward graduation requirements. In 2017, four credits in math will be required. She said the measurement and percent courses utilize core concepts and demonstrate application of topics such as surveying, construction and home design. The

Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the request for new program or course: Sports and Entertainment Marketing to the full Board for approval.

C. Request for Course Revision

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4. **Practical Math: Applications of Statistics**

	<p>probability and statistics courses will demonstrate the way statistics are used in the media for example.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain asked how these courses fall in line with Geometry and Algebra. Mr. Smith said these are for students who are not taking Algebra and Geometry. These will make the math meaningful and help them apply math skills. • Ms. Scoralick said these are practical math courses to discuss statistics such as “4 out of 5 dentists recommend.” These half year practical math courses will appeal to all levels as seniors like to take half year courses. • Mrs. Shook said she was concerned about the four math credits when the Board first approved that but these courses make that possible. • Mr. Shaffer felt these courses were a home run and noted that when Mr. Shugrue got some grief for the size of the bag girls could carry he told them to design something and they used math to do that. • Mr. Shaffer asked if the plan was to get these implemented for next year and Ms. Scoralick said that would be ideal. Mr. Smith said they are here tonight for approval and recommendation to the full Board for approval. Then the budget will have a request for curriculum writing and then they will go into the course catalog. <p>Mr. Shaffer moved to bring the request for course revision: Practical Math: Applications of Measurement, Practical Math: Applications of Percent, Practical Math: Applications of Probability and Practical Math: Applications of Statistics to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the request for course revision: Practical Math: Applications of Measurement, Practical Math: Applications of Percent, Practical Math: Applications of Probability and Practical Math: Applications of Statistics to the full Board for approval.</p>
<p>4. A.</p>	<p>Item for Information and Discussion</p> <p>SAT Assessment Update</p>	<p>Item for Information and Discussion</p> <p>A. SAT Assessment Update</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Smith said he had gone to a meeting at the state regarding the SAT assessments hoping to learn about the SAT rollout timeline, etc. the State still does not have that information. They said they did not want to start giving out information only to have to possibly change it later on. It is a state law now that all Juniors have to take the SAT in the spring.	
5.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">There was none.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn Mrs. Chastain moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Daniele Shook

Daniele Shook, Chairperson
Committee on Learning