

**New Milford Board of Education
 Policy Sub-Committee Special Meeting Minutes
 May 6, 2019
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
 Mr. Joseph Failla
 Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
 Mr. J.T. Schemm

Also Present: Dr. Stephen Tracy, Interim Superintendent of Schools
 Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>The special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
3.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Policies for Review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 6146 Graduation Requirements 2. 6141.4 Independent Study 3. 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. McInerney said the graduation policies on for this evening were discussed by the Board as a second review last month. They will be up for vote at the next Board meeting. Discussion at the previous Board meeting seemed to center around middle school credits so she suggested they start with that. • Ms. DiCorpo distributed a revision to policy 6146 based on comments made at the Board meeting. The suggested three credits allowed from middle school have been reduced to two possible. These credits are not factored into the high school GPA. She also distributed a handout regarding the criteria for middle school classes. • Mr. Shugrue said the STEM cluster on page 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Policies for Review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 6146 Graduation Requirements 2. 6141.4 Independent Study 3. 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses

6146(c) now only allows one credit from middle school, in Geometry. Page 6146(e) specifies a maximum of two credits possible: one for Geometry and one for World Language.

- Mrs. McInerney asked for clarification that they are recommending only one middle school math for credit now and Mr. Shugrue said that is correct.
- Dr. Tracy asked what the thinking was behind not recommending credit for middle school Algebra any longer. Mr. Shugrue said it was in response to the Board's hesitancy to allow three credits from the middle school.
- Dr. Tracy said he believes that if a credit is allowed for Geometry, then it should be allowed for Algebra as well, since those students are mastering equivalent work.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said the concern at the Board meeting was that a larger number of students would be done with their credit requirements prior to senior year.
- Mr. Shugrue said many students now graduate with more than the minimum credits required.
- Mr. Failla said he is concerned with the possibility of students graduating at 15 and 16 years of age. He said there is a maturity problem to consider. He said we are setting up student to push and get out of high school when they need social interaction and time to mature. He would prefer zero credits allowed from the middle school.
- Mr. Shugrue suggested the Board could go back to requiring seven semesters versus six on page 6146(e) before graduating.
- Mr. Schemm said that the reality is that, with these changes, students can finish in six semesters and that should be recognized.
- Mrs. McInerney said the students who would earn middle school credits are typically ones who stay in school and take other courses for growth. She said the Board provides AP classes for college credit. Why not provide the middle school credit opportunity as well?
- Mr. Failla said because those classes do not take place in high school.

- Mrs. Faulenbach said the conversation should be about all students and how the requirements capture all student needs. She said she agrees with Mr. Failla that some students are not ready to graduate early.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the changes would also allow more opportunities for intervention.
- Mr. Shugrue said the Board might consider whether it is their philosophy to limit students' choices or a parenting issue to make that decision.
- Mr. Schemm said the changes also require a need to change the language on page 6146(e) regarding when a student must notify the counselor of his/her intention to graduate early.
- Mr. Shugrue suggested it be changed to "no later than the end of the student's fifth semester".
- Dr. Tracy said that he believes philosophically that if a student demonstrates accomplishment then credit should be given. He said there are currently early college programs of various types that allow students to get on with their chosen path with parental consent. He said the district should be looking for ways to cultivate more "high flyers" to bring up in level.
- Mrs. Faulenbach asked how it is anticipated that changes will be monitored. She is looking for assurance that proper protocols are in place.
- Ms. DiCorpo said they are looking now at what Guidance is doing for students and parents and what the plan will be going forward. She said she asked Mr. Shugrue and Mrs. Lambiase back in February to create a plan that demonstrates what information is shared with students and parents and how over the course of a student's high school career. They have been working on the plan and when the graduation requirements are decided upon, they will reconvene to add any additional supports that are necessary to both categories of the plan for implementation in 2019-20.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she has spoken over the last few years about the need to do a better job of communicating pathways to students and parents. She is still concerned with the entire

picture when making any changes, especially to something as important as graduation requirements.

- Mr. Shugrue said he has been having conversations with Guidance since the fall and timetables are in motion.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she is not totally against offering middle school credits, but this is a big change, and provides a much bigger opportunity for students to graduate early.
- Ms. DiCorpo said all the CT public colleges are now accepting an AP score of 3 or better for college credit. She said ECE (Early College Experience) classes are coming into new form for credit as well. As a district, we have begun focus groups to look at curriculum and standards overall and the “vision of a graduate work” is coming.
- Mr. Failla said he really likes the curriculum layout of 6146. His issue is with middle school credit. He suggested students be included in focus groups.
- Ms. DiCorpo asked for direction as to where to go moving forward to the Board.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she is only one vote but that the structure in place will be key.
- Mr. Schemm said he would find a credit audit helpful. He would like to see the credit range of the graduated class of 2018.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said she was in favor of bringing this revision to the full Board for discussion and approval, although at this time she is not sure how she will vote. She asked that the data requested be provided prior to the meeting.
- Mr. Schemm suggested the revision stay at six semesters. If nothing else, this offers an economic option for some.

Mrs. Faulenbach moved to bring policy 6146, as amended, to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mr. Schemm.

Motion passed 3-1.

Aye: Mrs. McInerney, Mrs. Faulenbach, Mr. Schemm
No: Mr. Failla

Motion made and passed to bring policy 6146, as amended, to the full Board for approval.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus was to allow policies 6141.4 and 6172.6 to remain on the Board agenda for approval, with no changes suggested. • Due to time constraints, Mrs. McInerney said that the rest of the agenda topics will be moved to the next scheduled meeting for discussion. <p>4. 1324 Fund-Raising by Students 5. 1325 Advertising and Promotion 6. 1330 Use of School Facilities 7. 1331 Smoking 8. 1411 Relations with Police Authorities 9. 1412 Fire Department 10. 1430/1440 State and Federal Aid 11. 1620/1640 Relations with Private Schools, Colleges and Universities 12. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited</p>	<p>4. 1324 Fund-Raising by Students 5. 1325 Advertising and Promotion 6. 1330 Use of School Facilities 7. 1331 Smoking 8. 1411 Relations with Police Authorities 9. 1412 Fire Department 10. 1430/1440 State and Federal Aid 11. 1620/1640 Relations with Private Schools, Colleges and Universities 12. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited</p>
4.	Item of Information A. Regulation Revision: 1. 1325 Advertising and Promotion	Item of Information A. Regulation Revision: 1. 1325 Advertising and Promotion
5.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn Mr. Schemm moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
 Policy Sub-Committee