

**New Milford Board of Education  
Policy Sub-Committee Minutes  
April 2, 2019  
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

**Present:** Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson  
Mr. J.T. Schemm  
Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Alternate

**Absent:** Mr. Joseph Failla  
Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

**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><b>Call to Order</b></p> <p>The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney. Mrs. Chastain was seated in the absence of Mrs. Faulenbach.</p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p>
2.	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was none.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
3.	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Policies for Review:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6146 Graduation Requirements</li> <li>2. 6141.4 Independent Study</li> <li>3. 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. McInerney said the graduation policies on for this evening were discussed by the Board as a first review last month. All Board members could comment and ask follow-up questions. The policies are here at committee for further discussion before going back to the April Board meeting for second review.</li> <li>• Mrs. McInerney asked if other schools are allowing middle school credit. Ms. DiCorpo said she had not done a general survey yet. She is aware that Bethel is, with a limit of two credits.</li> <li>• Mrs. McInerney asked if Algebra I and</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion and Possible Action</b></p> <p><b>A. Policies for Review:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6146 Graduation Requirements</li> <li>2. 6141.4 Independent Study</li> <li>3. 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses</li> </ol>

Geometry I at SMS are the same as Algebra I CP and Geometry I at the high school. Ms. DiCorpo said it is the same curriculum, but students do not receive high school credit currently.

- Mr. Schemm asked to clarify that the changes recommend three possible middle school credits total. Ms. DiCorpo said that is correct. She said a grade of at least B- is required for credit.
- Mr. Schemm said with three credits possible from the middle school and another credit for mastery-based learning, some students entering high school will only need to acquire 21 credits additional.
- Mrs. Chastain said that is a concern. Current students need 26 credits and their day still has study halls, release time etc. because they can't get into electives. She said it's not a good model now and including middle school credit will only make it worse. Adding more classes at the high school will require more funds. She also questions the rigor of the middle school classes as compared to high school.
- Mr. Shugrue said electives are limited by budgetary constraints. He said the Board could consider mandating that seniors must take five credits but that would affect early graduates on the flip side. He also reaffirmed that the curriculum for the classes in the middle school for which students would receive high school credit are the same and that the rigor in middle school is often higher due to the age and development of the students.
- Dr. Tracy said they may be able to carve out an exemption for early grads with planning and customization.
- Mrs. Chastain asked about the possibility of eliminating senior privilege unless it is for work purposes.
- Mr. Schemm said senior privilege is not policy determined.
- Mr. Shugrue said it is important to know the history of how senior privilege was developed. He said it was an equity issue where only some student schedules worked it in and others were

	<p>left out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs. Chastain asked how many other high schools offer senior privilege. Mr. Shugrue said he did not have that information. Mrs. Chastain asked if virtually all seniors leave early at least one day and Mr. Shugrue said yes.</li><li>• Mrs. Chastain suggested that it might be helpful to provide services to seniors instead of free time, perhaps something related to college planning. Mr. Shugrue said that is happening at the junior level this year.</li><li>• Mrs. McInerney said these would be important topics to bring up at the Board level during second review.</li><li>• Mr. Shugrue said the middle school courses under discussion are the same courses as those offered at the high school, including the same mid-term and final exams; students are on a higher-level math track. He said students would still have a full complement of math classes available to them at the high school, based on current courses offered.</li><li>• Mrs. Chastain asked if the higher-level courses such as BC Calculus are consistently offered. Mr. Shugrue said his philosophy is yes, but he can't guarantee high class sizes for these types of courses so the Board would have to support that.</li><li>• Ms. DiCorpo said the changes to the independent study policy are designed to enable students to fill the time allowed by the middle school credits.</li><li>• Mrs. Chastain said independent study requires staffing too. Ms. DiCorpo said the changes suggested to virtual learning allow more independence to get around that issue.</li><li>• Mr. Schemm questioned the phrase on page 6146(e) that credit "may be granted for middle school courses". Ms. DiCorpo said they left the terminology open ended because other courses may align over time with high school courses, such as computer science.</li><li>• Mr. Schemm asked who would grant credit, the Board or administrators through regulations. Ms. DiCorpo said it would be under the Board's purview as course curriculum is</li></ul>	
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	<p>rewritten and qualifies. She said she could add a line to the course proposal so the Board would see the connection. She said additional choice would provide students with a pathway for their interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Schemm said additional choice could be messy since the credits are capped at three. Who determines what three credits will be applied if the student qualifies for more than that? Ms. DiCorpo said that would be a counseling matter.</li><li>• Mr. Schemm said he thinks there is still a lot of uncertainty with how this will all play out, especially with some students only needing 21 additional credits at the high school; that means, in reality, some students could skip senior year. He asked how many credits would be required for a student to stay enrolled and be considered a “senior”.</li><li>• Mr. Shugrue said the CIAC requires four credits per year for athletics. Mrs. Chastain said she thought that should be clearly communicated either through a regulation or the handbook.</li><li>• Mr. Schemm suggested a legal reference to Public Act 17-42 be added to page 6146(f).</li><li>• Ms. DiCorpo said she continues to monitor this Act and it is not in session for discussion yet.</li><li>• Regarding policy 6141.4, Mr. Schemm suggested the addition of a comma and clarification of the designee on page 6141.4(a).</li><li>• Dr. Tracy asked if New Milford had considered collaborating with other districts in regard to courses not offered at the high school. Mr. Shugrue said they had done so in the past with a math class, but enrollment grew and it was added to the high school course listing. He said they continue to explore possibilities.</li><li>• Mr. Shugrue said the Independent Study policy is used quite a bit by students now for credit recovery and to help advance in a particular track.</li><li>• Due to time constraints, Mrs. McNerney said that the rest of the agenda topics will be moved to the next scheduled meeting for discussion.</li></ul>	
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<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Item of Information</b></p> <p><b>A. Regulation Revision:</b></p> <p><b>1. 1325 Advertising and Promotion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to time constraints, this regulation will be moved to the next scheduled meeting for discussion.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Item of Information</b></p> <p><b>A. Regulation Revision:</b></p> <p><b>1. 1325 Advertising and Promotion</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was none.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. seconded by Mr. Schemm and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.</b></p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson  
 Policy Sub-Committee