

NEW MILFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, Connecticut 06776

COMMITTEE ON LEARNING
MEETING NOTICE

DATE:	October 16, 2012
TIME:	7:30 P.M.
PLACE:	Lillis Administration Building – Room 2

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
TOWN CLERK

2012 OCT 12 P 1:11

NEW MILFORD, CT

AGENDA

New Milford Public Schools Mission Statement

The mission of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family, and community is to prepare each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human being, and contribute to society by providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum, offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board welcomes public participation and asks that speakers please limit their comments to three 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.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Review and approval of curriculum:

1. General Woodworking
2. Introduction to Woodworking
3. Global Studies

Mr. Jeffrey Teravainen
Mr. Jeffrey Teravainen
Mr. Michael Abraham

4. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

- A. 2012-2017 Five-Year Curriculum Plan
- B. Windows on New Milford
- C. Teacher Evaluation Update
- D. Block Schedule Update
- E. Graduation Credit Increase

Mr. Joshua Smith
Mr. Joshua Smith
Mr. Joshua Smith
Mr. Greg Shugrue
Mr. Greg Shugrue

5. ADJOURN

Sub-Committee Members: Mr. David Lawson, Chairperson
Mr. Thomas Brant
Mr. David Shaffer
Mrs. Daniele Shook

Alternates: Mrs. Lynette Celli Rigdon
Mr. William Wellman

The Committee on Learning curriculum
can be previewed in the
Office of the Assistant Superintendent
Lillis Administration Building – Room #6.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Minutes
 October 16, 2012
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson
 Mr. Tom Brant
 Mr. David R. Shaffer
 Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

Absent: Mrs. Daniele Shook

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School
 Mr. Jeffrey Teravainen, Teacher, New Milford High School
 Mr. Michael Abraham, Teacher, New Milford High School

GEORGE C. BUCKBEE
 TOWN CLERK

2012 OCT 16 P 3:22

NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	<p>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 Mr. Lawson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach was seated for Mrs. Daniele Shook. 	<p>Call to Order</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<p>Public Comment</p>
3.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With no objections from the committee, Mr. Lawson allowed presenters to choose their order and invited them to share highlights of the revised curriculum. <p>A. Review and Approval of curriculum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General Woodworking Introduction to Woodworking Global Studies <p>Global Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Michael Abraham stated that this course was introduced in 2000/2001. It is a very dynamic course that uses a regional approach. It combines historical highlights with patterns 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Review and Approval of curriculum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> General Woodworking Introduction to Woodworking Global Studies

<p>4.</p> <p>A.</p> <p>B.</p> <p>C.</p>	<p>Items of Information</p> <p>2012-2017 Five-Year Curriculum Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Smith distributed a copy of the Five-Year Curriculum Plan but said that rapid changes are coming to this plan due to Common Core adoptions. Science and Math standards are coming this year that will affect our courses and teacher training. He will be looking to reallocate some curriculum funds to training going forward. Mr. Lawson agreed that training will be key. Mr. Shaffer pointed out that SAT Prep and Consumer Math should be deleted from the plan as they are no longer offered. <p>Windows on New Milford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Smith distributed a copy of the Windows on New Milford. He asked the Committee to review the handout before distribution to the full Board in November. He highlighted some of the items included in the report such as the waiver that the state received, current SPI ratings for the district by school, and standardized test results. The report also includes an updated glossary of terms. Mrs. Faulenbach asked if all Board members could receive a copy and Mr. Lawson asked that the report be put on the agenda for the next Board meeting as an Item of Information. Mr. Shaffer asked if the report could be put on the next Committee on Learning agenda for follow up questions. <p>Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Smith distributed an abbreviated copy of the official SEED document. He said that Connecticut has never had a common teacher evaluation process. SEED will put almost all districts on the same page going forward. Administrators will be held to the same evaluation standards as teachers for student learning. The intent of the system is to be proactive not punitive. This “coach” model is creating a shift in the thought process behind 	<p>Items of Information</p> <p>2012-2017 Five-Year Curriculum Plan</p> <p>Windows on New Milford</p> <p>Teacher Evaluation Update</p>
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	<p>personalized mentorship to students. The high school now has an advisory program that meets every other day. Teachers have Professional Learning Committees (PLC) built into their schedules. They use this time to focus as a team on student academic gains, to ensure course consistency from teacher to teacher, and develop common assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith stated that districts that are not using a block or rotating schedule will be stressed to incorporate professional development under the new standards. <p>E. Graduation Credit Increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Shugrue stated that the state will be requiring 25 credits for graduation and the taking of courses in clusters of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), Humanities, and Career and Life Skills. This has and will require adjustments to the schedule. With the block schedule 96% of 9th and 10th graders are able to take 6 or more credits this year and 72% are taking 7 or more credits this year, as opposed to previously when it was 5.75 or more. Students can take up to 8 credits in the block schedule, but this is rare as courses are not available. • Mr. Shaffer expressed concern that under the new block schedule, science class time has been reduced by 67 hours of instruction annually. He also noted a decline in AP scores in science and math from the previous year. Mr. Shugrue stated that the reduction in instructional time was not as drastic as it appeared because there is less transition time required with the block schedule. He also stated that he thought there was a learning curve with the first year for both staff and students. Mr. Shugrue said that other districts that have had a block schedule for years consistently score in the upper tier for AP scores. • Mr. Shaffer said he had a complaint from one parent that her student had an uneven schedule with four classes one day and only one class another. Mr. Shugrue said that happened to a 	<p>Graduation Credit Increase</p>
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5.	Adjourn Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. seconded by Mr. Brant and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m.
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Respectfully submitted:



David Lawson, Chairperson
Committee on Learning