

New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
 February 27, 2007

Present: *Mr. William McLachlan, Chair – COL
 *Dr. Lisa Diamond 7:15 pm
 *Mr. David A. Lawson
 *Dr. Lawrence Stillman
 Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Chair – BOE
 Mr. Joseph Failla
 Absent: *Mrs. Julie Turk

Also Present Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent
 Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent
 Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School
 Mrs. Chalice Racey, Social Studies Dept Chair, New Milford High School
 Ms. Suzanne Andrews, Social Studies Dept., New Milford High School
 Mr. Daryl Daniels, Business Dept, New Milford High School

* Sub-Committee Member

1. Mr. McLachlan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm	Call to Order
2. There was no public comment.	Public Comment
3. Discussion and Possible Action Items a) Economics Curriculum: Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Mulvihill opened the discussion by stating that 2 years ago, the BOE asked that the Economics course be re-instated. The old course was revisited and revised. Mrs. Racey and Ms. Andrews made many revisions to bring it up to date. Mr. Mulvihill thanked them for their patience and diligence. ▪ Mrs. Racey explained that the target student for this course is a general level student. Topics such as budgeting money and taxes are presented as everyday economics with a hands-on approach. ▪ Mr. Failla questioned how much emphasis would be placed on global economics. ▪ Mrs. Racey explained that global economics are imbedded throughout the History curriculum and Ms. Andrews added that financial newspapers are available for class use and some discussion takes place as current events dictate. The text to be used for this course is <u>Economics for Consumers</u>. ▪ Mrs. Faulenbach noted the wealth of information included in the course proposal. ▪ Mr. McLachlan was impressed by the alternate choices for senior projects. 	Discussion and Possible Action Items Economics Curriculum Discussion

<p>Motion by Dr. Stillman: Move that the Economics Curriculum for Grade 12 be brought to the Board of Education for approval.</p> <p>Seconded by: Mr. Lawson</p> <p>Aye: Mr. McLachlan, Dr. Stillman, Mr. Lawson Nay: Abstain: Motion: Passed Unanimously 3-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that the Economics Curriculum for Grade 12 be brought to the Board of Education for approval.</p>
<p>Dr. Diamond arrived at the meeting at 7:15 pm.</p>	
<p>c) SAT Prep Semester Course Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Mulvihill stated that on the new SAT scores are down across the country as well as in Connecticut. Verbal scores are down 20 points, Math 10 points, with the Writing component difficult to judge because it is so new – there isn’t enough history yet with this test. ▪ Mr. Mulvihill believes that a prep course imbedded in the school day that also addresses curriculum could benefit more students. ▪ This course is designed to be a half year course and would dove-tail with the Junior year half year Civics course. It could be scheduled in sections of 30, would offer another elective, and would help ease scheduling for many levels of students. Credit would be awarded in the general elective area. ▪ The cost of this program is estimated at \$8,000 with \$5,000 of that total being invested in materials. There would also be a professional development piece, with teachers being trained in timed-test management techniques, content area tricks and other specific test-taking skills. Students in this course will not take practice tests everyday but will be offered more opportunities to practice test than normal. ▪ A small percentage of colleges do not require SAT results but students are allowed to submit them as part of their application. The ACT test is more widely accepted in the Western and Southern colleges but the SAT test is still used more widely. ▪ Mr. Lawson asked if this course could be ready to go for next year. Although Mr. Shugrue is scheduling now for next year’s courses, both he and Mr. Mulvihill feel that a course proposal could be ready for the March BOE meeting. 	<p>SAT Prep Semester Course Discussion</p>

<p>Motion made by Dr. Diamond: Move to allow Administration to bring the SAT Prep Course proposal to the NMBOE for approval.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Stillman Aye: Mr. McLachlan, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Dr. Stillman Nay: Abstain: Motion: Passed Unanimously 4-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed to allow Administration to bring the SAT Prep Course proposal to the NMBOE for approval.</p>
<p>d) Goals for 2007 – COL Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Committee members felt that their 2007 Goal would be to follow the 5-Year Plan. ▪ Modifications in the formatting of the 5-year plan were requested to aide in clarification and comprehension. These changes were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) New or additional items should be designated by font, bolding, or some other easily remarked method. 2) Ammendments should appear with the strike out of the older version. 3) Dates of updates should appear in the upper right-hand corner of the subject box. 4) When necessary , an * should be used to denote recent partial updates. Each subject box should have a * to footnote the most recent revision or change. ▪ It was noted that the Strategic Planning Committee will be sending the COL new course/curriculum suggestions in the Spring, such as a 5-year Character Education Curriculum and Technology Course suggestions. 	<p>Goals for 2007 – COL Discussion</p>
<p>4. Items of Information</p> <p>a) All Day Kindergarten Program Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs. Faulenbach noted that the Kindergarten information had a very well laid out breakdown of costs. ▪ Mr. Lawson thanked Mr. Mulvihill for his comments about this during budget discussions. <p>b) Five-Year Plan</p>	<p>Items of Information All Day Kindergarten Five-Year Plan</p>
<p>Motion made by Dr. Stillman: Move that the COL Sub-Committee adjourn.</p> <p>Seconded by: Dr. Diamond</p> <p>Aye: Mr. McLachlan, Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Dr. Stillman, Nay: Abstain: Motion: Passed Unanimously 4-0-0</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that the COL Sub-Committee adjourn.</p>

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The meeting of the Committee on Learning Sub-Committee was adjourned at 7:59 pm.	Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

**William McLachlan, Chairman
Committee on Learning**