

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Special Meeting Minutes
 May 26, 2015
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

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, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology
 Mr. Michael Clyne, District Data Coach
 Mr. Joshua Elliott, NMHS Teacher

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	Call to Order The special 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: Forensic Psychology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Joshua Elliott said this started as a senior elective with a prerequisite of Intro or AP Psychology. This revision opens up access to additional students. The book under review will be used as a reference not as a required text. • Mrs. Chastain asked how many students currently take the class. Mr. Elliott said there are currently four sections taught by two teachers. • Mrs. Chastain asked if there was an AP component and Mr. Elliott said no but honors credit is available. • Mrs. Chastain expressed concern regarding the unit on mass murderers and serial killers though she thinks this is a great elective to offer students in general. Mr. Elliott said this is 	Discussion and Possible Action A. Review and Approval of Curriculum: 1. Forensic Psychology

	<p>a primary area of forensic psychology but that they are conscious of the age of the students and will be selective in which case studies they choose. The text was chosen with that in mind as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Littlefield asked why an AP level is not offered. Mr. Smith said AP determination is made by the College Board and they do not offer this course. • Mr. Shaffer said he thinks the description of the course on page four should include reference to the fact that it is a half-year course. <p>2. Sports Medicine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said this revision emphasizes practical application through shadowing and hands on experience. There are currently two sections each semester but that can vary with demand. • Mr. Shaffer asked how many years this course had been offered and Mr. Smith said he would find out. <p>Mr. Shaffer moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Forensic Psychology and Sports Medicine seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>2. Sports Medicine</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Forensic Psychology and Sports Medicine.</p>
<p>4. A.</p>	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>Grade 6 Math Curriculum (Unit 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said curricula are usually written over the summer. With Grade 6 Math piloted this year he wanted to share the Unit 1 curriculum plan with the committee so they would be aware of what instruction teachers would be providing at the beginning of next year. • Mr. Shaffer asked if the curriculum was based on a book or plan and Mr. Smith said it was <i>Connected Math</i> which is an extension of the 	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>A. Grade 6 Math Curriculum (Unit 1)</p>

	<p>K-6 Math curriculum already approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Littlefield asked if there was a textbook and Mr. Smith said yes, it was a resource piece that was looked at with the K-5 curriculum approval. He said he would be happy to provide a copy.• Mr. Shaffer asked a question about terminology used on page 6 and whether students had to learn the exact terminology or just the concept. Mr. Smith said he believed it was just the concept but he would check.	
<p>B.</p>	<p>Administrator & Teacher Evaluation Plan Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith said these plans are required to be updated annually with the state. Drafts have been submitted and when the state approves them they will go before the Board for approval in full. The administrator plan has no substantive changes, only dates. The teacher plan has very little change, only some clarity to student learning objectives (SLOs) and clarification of the term “mutual agreement” and date changes. With the update, SLOs can now change if new information is found to warrant that.• Mr. Littlefield asked if the state could reject the plans. Mr. Smith said the state would provide feedback for any suggested changes if necessary and work with the district to reach agreement.	<p>B. Administrator & Teacher Evaluation Plan Update</p>
<p>C.</p>	<p>Student Achievement Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith and Mr. Clyne gave a presentation highlighting student achievement data. The data primarily comes from a comparison of the district’s two years of results with NWEA versus NWEA’s national norms.• Mr. Littlefield said he thought it would be very valuable to do this presentation at a full Board meeting with video recording so that the public can see where their dollars are going.• Mr. Smith said results show growth in both	<p>C. Student Achievement Data</p>

Math and Reading. District students are outperforming growth projections in general. He attributed this to changes in curriculum, use of district coaches and interventionist support for regular education students.

- Mr. Shaffer asked what “completed courses” meant since school was still in session. Mr. Clyne said it was expected success using percentiles the students are showing so far.
- Mr. Littlefield asked if they had discovered a common denominator at all for the students not making it. Mr. Smith said at the high school he would say it is lack of attendance. At SMS he thinks it is more varied. It is a larger group that meets for a shorter time and is often more of a case of “catching the student up” on a concept or concepts that might have gone to quickly for them in previous instruction. Mr. Smith said SMS also has intervention supports for after school with transportation and they will be adding after school transportation at the high school next year.
- Mr. Shaffer asked how support is offered at the high school and Mr. Smith said primarily through study halls and lunch periods. He has spoken to Mr. Shugrue about possibly hand scheduling students next year who have been identified for support.
- Mr. Shaffer asked how individualized the support is and Mr. Smith said it can be one on one or in small groups of less than six.
- Mr. Smith said most of the data shows a drop following the summer break. This now shows support to bring summer school back for select students.
- Regarding AP test taking, numbers of tests taken has increased dramatically which will help the district’s college readiness score.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if there was data on why students elect not to take AP tests. Mr. Smith said not concrete, but anecdotally it may be too many tests, sometimes financial. The district is addressing the financial piece with next year’s budget.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Smith said we continue to connect the work of the Board and the district to initiatives that are demonstrating results in student growth. 	
5.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robert Coppola said he agreed that this was a very valuable presentation that should be shared at a regular Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Chastain said perhaps something could be scheduled for September. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
6.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mrs. Chastain moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:

Daniele Shook

Daniele Shook, Chairperson
 Committee on Learning