

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Sub-Committee
 October 28, 2008
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present:	Mr. David Lawson, Chairperson
	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Committee Member
	Mrs. Elizabeth Finney, Committee Member
	Mr. Thomas McSherry, Board member
	Mrs. Alexandra Thomas, Committee Member
	Mr. William Wellman, alternate

Also Present	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
	Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent
	Mrs. Chalic Racey
	Mr. Michael Abraham
	Dr. Kathy Delmonico
	Mr. David Shaffer
	Mrs. Susan Partelow
	Mr. Shugrue

1	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning sub-committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Lawson.	Call to Order
2	No public comment.	Public Comment
3 A	<p>Discussion and possible action on a new course: Chinese Studies. Mr. Lawson noted this course is included in the Five Year Plan. Mrs. Racey explained that the course will be a half year course designed for seniors; it offers a more in depth study than the sophomore offering, Global Studies, including facets of history, and culture, and language. Mr. Abraham added that students over the years have shown a strong interest in China. The course is considered advantageous within the current business climate between China and USA; students being interested in careers in the State Department and students having expressed an interest in Chinese language.</p> <p>Mr. Wellman asked how all that is planned can be accomplished in half a year? Mr. Abraham replied that Global Studies gives students an introduction. This course provides a more</p>	Motion passed unanimously to approve the development of Chinese Studies.

	<p>focused study on major philosophies, literature, historical highlights of China.</p> <p>Mr. Mulvihill noted that when the curriculum is constructed the number of days spent on certain units can be incorporated spelling out how the topics will be covered.</p> <p>Mr. Abraham further commented that the course will choose from various primary resources. This course will be approached as a survey course exposing students to a broad outline of history, and through literature, they will look at political, historical time periods, geography and culture.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas commented that writing the curriculum will make the outline realistic.</p> <p>Mr. McSherry commented that Global Studies gives an introduction in the sophomore year, this course will give a better understanding of the Chinese society and would be offered to seniors.</p> <p>Mr. Abraham added that this course will spend time on contemporary China.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to approve the development of Chinese Studies course, seconded by Mrs. Thomas; motion passed unanimously.</p>	
3B 1	<p>Review and approval of Public Speaking. Dr. Delmonico noted that this course is an elective; it has been developed as a result of the association with Naugatuck Community College; it will expose students to better prepare for the real world. The course will include group activities; will encourage listening skills and focuses on public speaking.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to send Public Speaking to the full board for approval, motion seconded by Mrs. Finney; motion passed unanimously.</p>	Motion passed unanimously to send Public Speaking to the full board for approval.
3 B 2, 3	Review and approval of Academic Algebra I. Mr. Shaffer explained that Academic Algebra I has changed because of CAPT. Mr. Shaffer noted that this course now also contains items that	Motion passed unanimously to send Academic Algebra I and A.P. Calculus to the board

	<p>would have been in Algebra II and that would have been in calculus. The 8th grade math teachers include items to prepare students for this new course. Pages from the textbook can be retrieved online eliminating the need for students to take textbooks home. Mr. Shaffer added that the State has suggested a State written final exam for Algebra I and geometry as a requirement for graduation.</p> <p>Mr. Shaffer expressed concern about the lowest 25% of students being able to pass such a test.</p> <p>Review and approval of AP Calculus – Mr. Shaffer explained that UConn and WestConn will give 8 credits to students taking this course (UConn cost for credits \$200; WestConn \$120). The course teaches, based on AP syllabus, mathematical shortcuts that colleges cover; final exams must be taken by seniors.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson asked if a stipend from UCONN or WESTCONN was received for teaching this course and also if the school is reimbursed for offering the course – answers to both ‘no’.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to send Academic Algebra I and A.P. Calculus to the board for approval; Mrs. Faulenbach seconded the motion which passed unanimously.</p>	<p>for approval.</p>
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<p>3B 4</p>	<p>Review and approval of French I and French II. Mrs. Partelow explained French I course has been revised; French II honors has a different set of objectives.</p> <p>Mrs. Thomas moved to send French I and French II to the full board for approval, Mrs. Finney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion passed unanimously to send French I and French II to full board for approval.</p>
<p>C</p>	<p>Review of State High School Reform proposal – update: Mr. Lawson asked that this item be included on the agenda for input from members of the committee. The changes would have an impact on scheduling, budget and staffing. Currently 22.5 credits are required for graduation – this proposal is for 25 credits.</p>	<p>Discussion on State High School Reform proposal.</p>

	<p>Mr. Mulvihill added the Commissioner of Education was mandated to do something about high schools to be sure all graduates have skills that are pertinent for this century. Fifty-five percent (55%) of the seniors take some course for credit on the collegiate level, the statewide average is 28%.</p> <p>Mr. Shugrue commented on our great school. With a State final exam, some students will do fine, some will struggle. Mr. Shugrue tracked students graduating in 2006, 2007, and 2008 with credits at graduation and found significant numbers of students receiving more than the required credits. Currently the structure of scheduling is set for 6.25 credits per year, schedules would need to change to accrue 7-8 credits per year if the Commissioner's plan becomes a reality.</p> <p>Mr. Lawson felt if 25% of the students might not pass the state's exam, and if so, that is not acceptable.</p> <p>This proposal, according to Mr. Mulvihill, has been approved by the State Board of Education and is now at the State Assembly; if adopted it may be mandated in 2017. Mr. Mulvihill suggested a local representative might be invited to discuss this proposal with the Board.</p>	
4	By motion of Mrs. Faulenbach, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m., motion seconded by Mrs. Thomas and passed unanimously.	Motion passed unanimously to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David A. Lawson