

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
 Lillis Administration Bldg., Room 2
 April 24, 2007**

Present: Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Board Chairperson
 *Dr. Lisa Diamond
 *Mr. David A. Lawson
 *Dr. Lawrence Stillman
 *Mrs. Julie Turk
 *Mrs. Dian Traisci-Marandola
 Mr. Joseph Failla
 Mr. Tom McSherry

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent
 Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Asst. Superintendent
 Dr. Eileen Reed, Science Dept. Chair
 Mr. Bill Knipple, High School Math Teacher
 Mrs. Kristine Kaczka, High School Health Teacher
 Mrs. Marcy Autuori, Asst. Principal SNIS
 Mrs. Erica Hull, Tutor
 Mrs. Anne Bilko, Grade 5 Teacher
 Mrs. Karen Hartle, Grade 6 Teacher
 Mrs. Stacy Haleck, Grade 4 Teacher
 Mrs. Denise Duggan, High School Health Teacher
 *Sub-Committee Member

<p>1.</p>	<p>Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Board Chairperson called to order the Committee on Learning meeting at 7:04 p.m. It was agreed to change the order of the agenda to accommodate participants.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
<p>3B.</p>	<p>1. Presentation – CALI Connecticut Accountability Learning Initiative. Mrs. Marcy Autuori briefly discussed the CALI initiative at SNIS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SNIS was chosen for the CALI initiative because SNIS had been identified as a school in need of improvement under NCLB. ➤ The CALI initiative was presented to the entire staff. ➤ Sixteen staff members have been educated on DDDM (data driven decision making) and on data teams. This training/education is a continual process throughout the school year. ➤ Mrs. Bilko noted that SNIS was cited as a school in need of improvement due to special education, however, the data collected from regular ed mirrored the data from special ed. 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p>

- Mrs. Haleck stated that the teams looked at the CMT data because it affected all three grades.
- The team looked at all the students' strengths and weaknesses to determine what strategies will be used as a unified team.
- Progress can be seen monthly.
- There is a great deal of camaraderie developed among the staff working on the project.
- The team feels empowered and other staff have become interested.
- The team presented to the full staff on March 28th (professional development day) what the team has been doing with DDDM.
- Mrs. Hartle stated that the team is "working smarter, not harder", although the CALI initiative takes a great deal of time.
- The common formative assessment takes 90 minutes (at least) to develop.

A question and answer period followed:

- What strategies have been introduced to incorporate this initiative? Combining strategies among the teaching staff, laser like focus, Connections, collaboration among staff, 9 + 1 Ed Connection strategies have been used with this initiative. The group will decide what strategies to use for their data.

Mr. Mulvihill praised them for the hard work these staff members have been doing. \$14,000 has been budgeted in the 2007-08 school budget to provide 200 hours of substitute coverage during the year to allow teachers on different teams to meet and analyze data and build common assessments.

- Mrs. Turk asked if the 90 minute requirement would possibly be reduced in the future. Mr. Mulvihill stated it that the district may be able to look at the school calendar to provide some early release time to work on common assessments but that it will be necessary to somehow find time for staff to do the work necessary to make DDDM successful.

	<p>Ms. Baldelli praised the staff for their hard work and enthusiasm for the project.</p>	
	<p>2. Verbal Report of Sarah Noble Re-organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ SNIS will be going from a house configuration to a grade level configuration.➤ Parents are mostly concerned about their child being with their friends.➤ Grades will now have lunch and recess together.➤ 40% of the staff will be making room changes.➤ The change will provide teachers some planning time (entire grade having lunch/recess at the same time).➤ 5th & 6th grade will be split for lunch and recess, but will rotate throughout the year so that the students will change, within the grade, if they have lunch or recess first.➤ Parents have been supportive.➤ Teachers will now have an opportunity for professional dialogue in the hallways during period changes.➤ The change to grade levels will equalize the numbers within classes. <p>Dr. Diamond asked if P.E. was changing as well? Ms. Baldelli stated that P.E., music and art will go from a ten day cycle to a student having either P.E., music or art everyday. This change, however, is dependent on the extra art teacher which has been requested in the SNIS budget for the 2007-08 school year.</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach asked how the staff felt about the change? Ms. Baldelli stated that most of the staff is supportive and ready for the change, while a small group maybe somewhat resistant to change. Ms. Baldelli continued, stating that staff have been meeting with the elementary schools and bringing the students up to SNIS to spend a couple of hours and to tour the building. There will be parent meeting on May 23rd. Ms. Baldelli is meeting with Wayne Wilson to finalize the switching of the lunch schedules. It is anticipated that the fourth grade will eat together at one time and recess at one time. 5th & 6th grades will split, with half eating first and the other half recessing first.</p>	

	<p>Dr. Paddyfote praised the SNIS staff and Ms. Baldelli for their hard work. In addition, Ms. Baldelli has been meeting with Mary Furse to have SNIS on a computerized schedule for the 2007-08 school year.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola stated that SNIS is participating in the Walking Project involving community businesses. Local businesses have purchased pedometers for 17 fifth grade classes. They will be monitoring their progress. Kick off for this project is April 25th.</p>	
<p>3A.</p>	<p>Photography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Photography is now a part of the science department, but may be moved to become part of the art department in the near future. ➤ A unit in digital photography and Photo Shop has been included in this curriculum proposal. ➤ 18 students are currently enrolled in the course. It may be appropriate to put the new software on computers in the computer lab. The cost of Photo Shop is \$700. In addition, 4-5 digital cameras are needed as well as a color printer. <p>Biology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The changes in this curriculum are based on new state frameworks. ➤ There is more biotechnology units, as well as genetic and bacteria virus technology. New labs have been incorporated such as cell structure and function labs. <p>Academic Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This curriculum is also tied in with Naugatuck Valley Community College. ➤ There has been an increased use of technology, using graphing calculators. ➤ This is a half-year course with 33 students currently enrolled. ➤ This is an elective course that requires Algebra II as a pre-requisite. <p>Human Growth and Development Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Mulvihill explained that this curriculum may be changing when the Health K-12 Scope and Sequence is completed during the summer. 	<p>Approval of Curriculum</p>

	<p>Mrs. Kaczka gave a brief outline of the curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The state health education standards were used to develop this curriculum.➤ In addition, Mrs. Kaczka used some materials from the Brookfield Public Schools.➤ Several staff members attended a curriculum assessment workshop as well.➤ There are 17 lessons involved with this curriculum.➤ Students are split according to gender, each receiving four lessons.➤ There are two sexual harassment prevention lessons.➤ There is a prevention disease lesson.➤ Fifth grade is when this curriculum is introduced and again in 8th grade when students attend a health course.➤ Mr. Mulvihill stated there are some HIV lessons in 7th grade as well. <p>Mrs. Marandola asked how much time high school students spend involved in a health curriculum? Mrs. Kaczka explained that health is a semester course at the high school, five days a week. Students have to pass this course to graduate. In grades 10 through 12, the P.E. staff is required to present lessons on substance abuse and H.I.V. At the elementary level, the classroom teacher is responsible for health education.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola noted that the current K-12 Scope and Sequence has a lot of information that students have the potential of being exposed to, but that it is not required. Nutrition drives the changes in wellness and there is not a lot of information on nutrition in this document. Mrs. Marandola would prefer to see this document as part of the Health K-12 Scope and Sequence rather than a stand-alone document.</p> <p>Mr. Failla asked if the curriculum would be sprinkled throughout the grades or focused and concentrated at certain levels? Mrs. Kaczka stated that the state guidelines would be used which indicates what students should achieve and at what grade level.</p>	
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	<p>Mr. Mulvihill asked if moving this curriculum to 6th grade was a consideration? Board members as well as Mrs. Kaczka felt that 6th grade was a little late.</p> <p>Mrs. Marandola would like to see lesson plans because there is no text connected to this curriculum. Tests and assessment tools should be included, as well as a more rigorous documentation.</p> <p>Mr. McSherry stated that the information needs to be reinforced throughout the grades, especially 5-12.</p> <p>Motion by Dr. Diamond: Move that the Committee on Learning bring the following curriculum to the full Board for approval: Photography, Biology, Academic Statistics and Human Growth and Development Unit (Health Gr. 5). Seconded by: Dr. Stillman</p> <p>Aye: Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk Nay: Abstain: Mrs. Marandola</p> <p>Motion Passed: 4-0-1</p>	<p>Motion made and passed that the Committee on Learning bring the following curriculum to the full Board for approval: Photography, Biology, academic Statistics and Human Growth and Development Unit (Health Gr. 5)</p>
	<p>3. Presentation – On-Line Learning Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Mulvihill gave a brief overview of the tutorial program. In addition, Mrs. Hull discussed the tutorial program. A+ Systems is being used for students who have been expelled, are special education or 504 or need an alternative type of teaching program because the students cannot function in the usual environment. Students use laptops and have web-based access to 50 curricula. The program analyzes what the students know and what they need to know. The curriculum is aligned with Connecticut state curriculum frameworks. <p>Mrs. Hull distributed laptops to the Board members for a hands-on demonstration.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Update of Five-Year Curriculum Plan Mr. Mulvihill gave a brief overview of the update on the Five-Year Curriculum Plan.</p>	<p>Item of Information</p>

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5.	Motion by Dr. Stillman: Move that the Committee on Learning Regular Meeting adjourn. Seconded by: Dr. Diamond Aye: Dr. Diamond, Mr. Lawson, Mrs. Marandola, Dr. Stillman, Mrs. Turk Nay: Abstain: Motion Passed – Unanimously The Committee on Learning Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.	Adjournment Motion made and passed that the Committee on Learning Meeting adjourn.
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Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Faulenbach,
Board Chairperson