

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Minutes
 October 21, 2014
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson
 Mrs. Angela C. Chastain
 Mrs. Daniele Shook
 Mr. John W. Spatola

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources
 Mrs. Jennifer Morrison, Teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>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>	<p>Call to Order</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Robert Coppola said he is the new chairman for the district for the Lions Quest program sponsored by the Lions Club. He said the program focuses on character education and there is grant money available. He wanted to let the Committee know about the program. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
3. A. 1.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Review and Approval of Curriculum:</p> <p>1. Grade 8 Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Smith said the technology program was started two years ago and the curriculum is evolving as technology evolves. He said the goal is to build around skills, not tools, as the tools are constantly changing. Grade eight students take the class once a week for the entire year. Mrs. Morrison said her goal with class instruction is to have students take the tools given to them and figure out for themselves how best to use them. Mr. Spatola asked about the group interaction piece and Mrs. Morrison said that collaboration and group work is important. Often the 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Review and Approval of Curriculum:</p> <p>Grade 8 Technology</p>

students instruct each other. She said the class serves as a general introduction to technology which is explored more specifically in classes at the high school level.

- Mr. Spatola asked if there was a required prerequisite to the class and Mr. Smith said no but that all 7th graders do take a digital citizenship class.
- Mr. Lawson said the intent when the program was instituted was to help with computer literacy and adapt to changing technology.
- Mr. Spatola said he would like to see the projected impact on the budget of all curricula revised. Mr. Smith said changes are reflected at budget time either in the school's budget or at the district level.
- Mrs. Chastain said she has a current student in the program and it is a great class. Mrs. Shook also spoke favorably about the program.

Mrs. Shook moved to bring the following curriculum to the full Board for approval: Grade 8 Technology seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.

Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curriculum to the full Board for approval: Grade 8 Technology.

**B. Request for New Program or Course:
1. AP Microeconomics**

**Request for New Program or Course:
AP Microeconomics**


- Mr. Lawson asked Mr. Smith to clarify the difference between a request for a new course versus a revision. Mr. Smith said a request is for a course that is not currently offered, in this case AP Microeconomics. A revision is requested when the course is currently offered but requires changes. In this case, the College Board has split AP Physics into AP Physics I and AP Physics II courses so the current course as offered needs to be revised.
- Mr. Lawson said AP Microeconomics came before the Committee on Learning last year and did not go forward primarily over concerns about counting it as a credit for Civics.
- Mr. Smith said the course will be an elective and will not count as a required credit for Civics or Personal Finance. It is a full year, one

	<p>credit course, for juniors and seniors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Lawson said it would be complementary to Macroeconomics and the books are typically good for at least ten years.• Mrs. Chastain asked if the rule was still that the course would not be held unless ten students enrolled and Mr. Smith said yes. <p>Mrs. Shook moved to bring the new course AP Microeconomics to the full Board for approval seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.</p> <p>C. Revision to AP Physics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith distributed a handout describing the reasons for the revision, as well as documents describing the revision of the course into AP Physics I and II.• Mr. Lawson asked if students would be required to take AP Physics I before AP Physics II and said if that was the case he thought the student enrollment rule of ten should be increased for AP Physics I to at least fifteen to avoid having less than ten for AP Physics II should students choose not to continue. Mr. Smith said AP Physics I would be a prerequisite to AP Physics II. He said traditionally there is a significant number of students who take AP Physics. Last year the number was 26.• Mrs. Chastain said AP Physics was a very difficult course as a singleton and she thought the division into two courses was much better and should lead to more student success.• Mr. Spatola asked if the course as presently taught was using the split model and Mr. Smith said it was to mirror the College Board.• Mr. Lawson asked if any other AP courses were going through revision and Mr. Smith said the College Board was constantly monitoring and adjusting. There is a concerted effort to align AP and SAT testing so they will be true predictors of college and career readiness.	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the new course AP Microeconomics to the full Board for approval.</p> <p>Revision to AP Physics</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain said the current push to increase math and science rigor is complemented by this revision which she fully supports. • Mr. Lawson asked if each course has a separate AP exam and Mr. Smith said yes. <p>Mrs. Shook moved to bring the revision of AP Physics to the full Board for approval seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the revision of AP Physics to the full Board for approval.</p>
<p>4. A.</p>	<p>Items for Information and Discussion K-3 Report Cards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said he had professional conversations with teachers at the beginning of this school year who had concerns that report cards had not changed to reflect curriculum changes. He collected samples from other districts and met with teachers and developed a draft which he distributed to committee members to review. The new report card is now standards based with a place for comments. Instead of using a number key as previous, the new report card will have three levels: meets standard (M), progressing towards standard (P) or needs improvement (I). The standards are rigorous and there is no expectation that students will exceed the standards but most students should meet them. Parents will receive an explanatory letter and teachers will get guiding documents for the standards. • Mrs. Shook asked if it will be made clear to parents that not all standards will be met during the first few marking periods as material will still need to be taught and Mr. Smith said a not applicable (NA) note would be made in those cases. • Mrs. Chastain asked if the teachers would still have universal assessment tools among schools. Mr. Smith said the standards are district wide. He said assessment standards do not have to be used in all cases if it is already obvious to the teacher that a student has shown proficiency. This will cut down on time away from instruction. 	<p>Items for Information and Discussion K-3 Report Cards</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Spatola asked if the old reading assessment was still being used and Mr. Smith said it could be used for very specific standards where needed. • Mr. Lawson asked how often the report cards were distributed. Mr. Smith said three times per year but that it was expected that teachers provide feedback frequently. Kindergarten report cards go out twice a year. Mr. Smith said the reporting is a work in progress and additional changes may be made gradually. • Mrs. Shook said she thought the standards based report card was a great tool for both parents and teachers and found them much more descriptive than the old letter/number version. • Mr. Lawson noted the specific commentary for math and reading with not much for science and social studies or for special subjects. Mr. Smith said there would be further detail added over time. • Mrs. Chastain asked if the new report cards would take the teachers longer to complete than the old versions. Mr. Smith said it will take the teachers longer to actually fill out the report cards but the preparation should be less. • Mr. Lawson asked if these would be distributed electronically and Mr. Smith said that was a work in progress. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mrs. Shook moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



David Lawson, Chairperson
 Committee on Learning