

**New Milford Board of Education
 Policy Sub-Committee Minutes
 March 5, 2019
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
 Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
 Mr. J.T. Schemm

Absent: Mr. Joseph Failla

Also Present: Dr. Stephen Tracy, Interim Superintendent of Schools
 Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School

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NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	<p>Call to Order</p> <p>The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Policy Sub-Committee was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. McInerney said that the policies on for review this evening would likely need to be moved to a future agenda because the graduation requirement topic is weighty and time sensitive. 	<p>Call to Order</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
3.	<p>Item of Information</p> <p>A. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. DiCorpo said a committee of administrators and department heads has met to discuss changes to graduation requirements. Mr. Shugrue shared the historical background as to how New Milford got to its current 26 credit requirement. He said the new legislation will require a minimum of 25 credits beginning with the class of 2023, our current 8th graders. Mr. Shugrue said the legislation clusters credits in different pathways and provides more student choice. It is less prescriptive to students than the current graduation requirements. Ms. DiCorpo said this represents a paradigm 	<p>Item of Information</p> <p>A. Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements</p>

	<p>shift towards student individualism and choice. It is less about rigid restrictions in credit attainment (with 6 ways to distribute credits) and adds a mastery credit requirement. With Board approval, the new requirements also allow for flexibility in credit attainment for courses taken at the middle school that align with the high school curriculum. Ms. DiCorpo said the recommendation includes a maximum of three credits at middle school to count towards high school credit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. DiCorpo said the rationale for the suggested changes include: providing flexible and multiple pathways to align to the statute and provide more student choice; building on structures currently in place; providing greater alignment across disciplines; demonstrating mastery as prescribed in the law; incorporating changes in world language and health requirements; helping to retain transfer students and students with credit recovery; and making a reduction in total number of credits required so as to align with area districts.• Ms. DiCorpo said transfer students often come from districts with lower graduation requirements and they may find it difficult to reach 26 credits here to graduate on time. Many choose to transfer to Adult Education, which has a lower requirement.• Ms. DiCorpo and Mr. Shugrue distributed recommended changes to Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements. The current academic credit distribution requirements would be replaced by clusters. Under the new proposal, students would need to earn at least nine credits in the Humanities which would include no less than three credits each in English and Social Studies, including one mandated credit of US History, and a half credit in Civics/Modern America. There would be an additional three credits of student choice in this area. Nine credits would be required in a STEM cluster, including no less than three credits each in Science and Math and an additional three credits of student choice in this area. Included in the proposal, credit could be	
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awarded for Math courses of Algebra I or higher taken at the middle school with a minimum grade of B-. Two credits in the Health and Wellness cluster are required. This includes one credit in Physical Education and one credit in Health and Safety Education. One credit of World Language is now required. This credit could be obtained through successful completion of any world language course at the high school, or through successful completion (B- grade or above) of Part A and Part B of the same world language course from grades 7 and 8 at the middle school. An additional three credits would be required in the Electives cluster, including a mandated half credit of Personal Finance. Finally, a mastery-based credit is required.

- Mr. Schemm said it appears that a student could theoretically graduate in 3 ½ years under the new requirements.
- Ms. DiCorpo said policies 6141.4 Independent Study and 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses may also be impacted by the suggested changes to requirements.
- Mrs. Faulenbach recommended moving those policies and 6146 Graduation Requirements to the March Board meeting for first review so that there would be multiple opportunities for the Board to thoroughly review any recommended changes in a timely fashion.

Mrs. Faulenbach moved to bring Policies 6146 Graduation Requirements, 6141.4 Independent Study, and 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses, with recommended revisions, to the full Board for first review.

Motion seconded by Mr. Schemm.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Ms. DiCorpo said they would continue this conversation at Committee on Learning since there were implications there as well.

Motion made and passed unanimously to bring Policies 6146 Graduation Requirements, 6141.4 Independent Study, and 6172.6 Virtual/Online Courses/College/University Courses, with recommended revisions, to the full Board for first review.

<p>4.</p>	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Policies for Review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1324 Fund-Raising by Students 2. 1325 Advertising and Promotion 3. 1330 Use of School Facilities 4. 1331 Smoking 5. 1411 Relations with Police Authorities 6. 1412 Fire Department 7. 1430/1440 State and Federal Aid 8. 1620/1640 Relations with Private Schools, Colleges and Universities 9. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to time constraints, these policies will be added to a future agenda for discussion and possible action. 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Policies for Review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1324 Fund-Raising by Students 2. 1325 Advertising and Promotion 3. 1330 Use of School Facilities 4. 1331 Smoking 5. 1411 Relations with Police Authorities 6. 1412 Fire Department 7. 1430/1440 State and Federal Aid 8. 1620/1640 Relations with Private Schools, Colleges and Universities 9. 1700 Possession of Firearms on School Property Prohibited
<p>5.</p>	<p>Item of Information</p> <p>A. Regulation Revision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1325 Advertising and Promotion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to time constraints, this regulation will be added to a future agenda for discussion. 	<p>Item of Information</p> <p>A. Regulation Revision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1325 Advertising and Promotion
<p>6.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. seconded by Mr. Schemm and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
 Policy Sub-Committee