

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Minutes
 September 15, 2015
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present: Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Acting Chairperson
 Mr. Dave Littlefield
 Mr. David R. Shaffer
 Mr. John W. Spatola, Alternate

Absent: Mrs. Daniele Shook

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Joshua Smith, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Michael Clyne, Data Coach
 Mrs. Alison Huntington, Literacy Coach

1.	<p>Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Chastain, acting as Chair in the absence of Mrs. Shook. Mr. Spatola was seated as alternate.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
3. A. 1.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>Review and Approval of Curriculum:</p> <p>PE Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said this course is set up similar to a work study or internship where the student leader shadows and assists the teacher. It requires an application and interview and is designed for the student who has an interest in this career. This year, there are two student leaders. • Mr. Shaffer asked when the teacher and student meet to prepare. Mr. Smith said usually during the student's study hall or after or before school. • Mr. Shaffer asked how long the PE Leader course had been in existence and Mr. Smith said at least seven or eight years, possibly longer. • Mr. Shaffer asked if any parents had expressed 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. Review and Approval of Curriculum:</p> <p>1. PE Leader</p>

	<p>concerns regarding use of a PE Leader and Mr. Smith said no.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Shaffer asked what the difference was between a PE Leader and a student teacher in the first month of a course. Mr. Smith said there is the PE Leader does not do assessment, does not shadow the teacher through other classes and does not handle class management as a student teacher would.• Mr. Shaffer asked if it was a half year course and if it could be done more than once. Mr. Smith said it was half year and can only be done once.• Mr. Shaffer asked how the PE Leader was graded and Mr. Smith said pass/fail.• Mr. Spatola said he had some concerns about peer instructing the same age group and Mr. Littlefield said the curriculum calls for the senior student to work with freshman classes.• Mrs. Chastain said she thought this program would be good for team captains too. <p>2. Keyboarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Spatola said he thought students at this level already had keyboarding experience and suggested the course should be taught at a lower level. Mr. Smith said the course had been updated and stressed the speed of the keyboarding to assist with the amount of writing required of students at this level and in college using the computer. He said the district is increasing exposure at the K-8 level and that students are typing more at younger grades, but to add a formal program at the elementary level would mean taking valuable instructional time away from something else.• Mr. Spatola asked how many students were taking the course now and Mr. Smith said he believed there were two sections so approximately 50 students.• Mrs. Chastain said she would like to see the course offered at early grades but agreed with Mr. Smith that it is useful at this level too as students graduate from devices such as iPads to	<p>2. Keyboarding</p>
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	<p>laptops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Shaffer asked if it was a half year course and that the answer be added to the guide on page 4. Mr. Smith said it was a half year course and he would have it added.• Mr. Shaffer suggested the name be changed to something that would reflect the applications used. Mr. Smith asked for suggestions. Mr. Littlefield suggested Data Processing.• Mr. Shaffer said the list of document topics on page 5 does not list powerpoint which is mentioned on page 4. Mr. Smith said the powerpoint reference should be removed as that is not part of this course. <p>3. Sociology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Shaffer said the performance tasks headings listed on pages 9, 19, and 22 are blank. Mr. Smith said the tasks listed in the previous document were too outdated for authenticity and new tasks are being redeveloped as they are taught. Mr. Shaffer suggested that a disclaimer be added.• Mr. Shaffer referred to page 11 and asked how sociology research would be conducted. Mr. Smith said he would get that answer.• On page 15, Mr. Shaffer asked what “folkways” means. Mr. Smith will check.• Mr. Shaffer asked what texts are used for the course. Mr. Smith said the course is moving away from a traditional textbook and towards more relevant articles, news clips and videos.• Mr. Littlefield asked when the switch to this curriculum would happen and Mr. Smith said when the revision is approved by the Board.• The consensus of the committee was to bring the curriculum back to committee in October when the additional questions asked had answers. <p>Mr. Spatola moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: PE Leader and Keyboarding seconded by Mr. Shaffer and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>3. Sociology</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: PE Leader and Keyboarding.</p>
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<p>4.</p> <p>B.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said with the Chair’s permission he would like to give the Adult Ed update first. <p>Adult Education Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said the Board agreed to make the Adult Education Director position full time last year at an increased salary but that he has still been unable to fill the vacancy. The position requires administrative certification and a non-standard work day and the salary is still low in comparison to other administrative positions. In the short term, he will look to fill the position with a part-time person, if found, to bridge the gap. Mr. Smith said he and the site facilitator are running the program currently but it is not a long term solution. The program did open on time and courses are full and being run by qualified instructors. <p>2015 Assessment Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith and Mr. Clyne presented a comprehensive 50+ slide powerpoint presentation on 2015 assessment data which will be uploaded to the district website following the meeting. • Mr. Smith presented information on the Smarter Balanced assessment (SBAC) which he said is a mastery test of standards that is adaptive within the grade level. • Mr. Littlefield asked why there is a cap to the adaptiveness and Mr. Smith said the test is checking the student’s mastery of grade level standards only. • Mr. Littlefield said in these results the 5th grade Math scores are low but the MAP results were very good and asked what the difference was. Mr. Smith said the MAP scores show that students have made huge progress but that the grade level mastery of standards is still low. • Mr. Littlefield asked why other DRG schools 	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>B. Adult Education Update</p> <p>A. 2015 Assessment Update</p>
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did so much better. Mr. Smith said that many of the districts had redesigned their math program several years ago whereas New Milford is just starting over the last year or so. The SRBI program, content coaches and MAP assessments are still newly developed in New Milford too where other districts have been using these resources much longer. Mr. Smith credited the K-6 math staff who embraced the massive shift last year.

- Mr. Smith pointed out that New Milford sub-groups outperformed state averages so are not bringing down our average scores.
- Mr. Spatola said it is not satisfied with New Milford outperforming state averages; he wants to surpass other DRG schools. Mr. Smith agreed and said they are looking at high performing districts within our DRG to see what they are doing. New Milford will need quick movement to catch up as other districts are not standing still either.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if these results will be used for teacher evaluation. Mr. Smith said usage is waived for at least an additional year. He said the SBAC and MAP data are useful in many ways for assessing students; the MAP data recognizes student growth even if the SBAC threshold is not met. The data is a work in progress and it will take a few years for a pattern of any kind to emerge, but that a combination of student data will be used as a part of the evaluation process.
- Mr. Littlefield noted that the SBAC was used statewide but that not all districts use MAP. Mr. Smith said MAP is a nationally normed test; SBAC only has state norms as of now.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if parents would receive reports and Mr. Smith said there were samples at the end of the presentation.
- Mr. Shaffer asked if the data would be added to transcripts and Mr. Smith said no.
- Mr. Smith shared Science results. He said the district has added a K-8 science enrichment teacher this year to help.

- Mrs. Chastain said more time was needed to achieve results and suggested expanding the school day would need to be considered at some point.
- Mr. Shaffer cautioned that math growth was difficult to achieve without algebra as an integral part. Mr. Smith said with the new math program, algebraic thinking happens as early as second grade in some ways.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if the global category for SAT discussion was worldwide and Mr. Smith said yes.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if the data reflected all tests taken and Mr. Smith said the data was the highest score by each student from the year.
- Mrs. Chastain asked if the score distribution could be broken down by grade and Mr. Clyne said he thought that Naviance could provide that data.
- Mr. Smith noted that New Milford student SAT participation has increased. He said this year the PSAT is all new and the SAT is changing to a new test mid-year.
- ACT results were presented. New Milford is below the state average but above the college readiness index which predicts success in college at the freshman level.
- Mr. Shaffer said he was aware that the ACT includes Physics which many of our students don't take until they are seniors.
- Mr. Smith shared a summary of AP test results. Enrollment in AP classes has increased and overall pass rates went up.
- Mr. Shaffer suggested Mr. Smith write a summary of the data and send it to the newspapers to help the public's understanding of all the assessments.
- Mrs. Chastain encouraged an emphasis on initiatives at the K-2 level saying that a strong foundation will lead to growth in the later grades.
- Mr. Spatola said he agrees with Mrs. Chastain on the need for initiatives at the K-2 level. He feels that standards are set too low sometimes

	in the early grades, especially in reading and spelling. He does not want to see students just work to meet standards but wants students to exceed them.	
5.	Public Comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robert Coppola thanked Mr. Smith for the presentation.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn <p>Mr. Shaffer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.</p>	Adjourn <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Angela C. Chastain, Acting Chairperson
Committee on Learning

