

**New Milford Board of Education  
Committee on Learning  
September 25, 2007  
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present:	Mr. William McLachlan-Committee Chairperson
	Mrs. Julie Turk*
	Dr. Lawrence Stillman*
	Mr. David Lawson*
	Mrs. Dian Marandola**
	Mr. Thomas McSherry
	Mrs. Elizabeth Finney
	Mr. Joseph Failla
	Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, ex-officio Board Chairperson

\* Committee Member

\*\* Alternate Committee Member

Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
	Mr. Thomas Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent
	Mrs. Adele Johnson, Director of Pupil Personnel & Special Services
	Mr. Thomas Atticks, Principal—Northville School
	Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal—John Pettibone School
	Dr. Sandra Nadeau, Principal—Hill & Plain School
	Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Principal—Sarah Noble Intermediate School
	Mr. Denis Dolan, Assistant Principal—Schaghticoke Middle School
	Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal—New Milford High School
	Mrs. Kathleen Shemeley, Second Grade Teacher—Northville School
	Mrs. Gayle Stewart, Second Grade Teacher—John Pettibone School
	Mr. Jonathan Grauer, Music Teacher & Band Director—NMHS
	Mrs. Cindy Iffland, Music Teacher—Schaghticoke Middle School
	Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, Music Teacher—Sarah Noble Intermediate School

1.	The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Learning Sub-Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Marandola was seated for Mrs. Diamond.	Call to Order
2.	There was no public comment.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and possible action:	
3.A.	The committee reviewed the Instrumental Curriculum grades 4-12. Mr. Mulvihill introduced all present including Cindy Iffland, Michael Fitzgerald, and Jonathan Grauer. The proposed program was written for grades 4-12; the instrumental program in the lower grades has grown. It now serves 500 instrumentalists in grades 4-6. If the program were reduced to cover grades 5-12 about 200 students could be eliminated from the	Music – instrumental curriculum, grades 4-12. Motion passed unanimously to bring to full Board for approval.

	<p>program. Mr. Mulvihill recommends keeping grades 4-12 for program purposes. The Board should understand that additional staff might be required in the next budget cycle to meet the growing enrollment. Mr. McLachlan suggested students involved in music programs do better in school. By eliminating 4<sup>th</sup> grade the degree of musical knowledge will be reduced; Mrs. Iffland added that by eliminating 4<sup>th</sup> graders, students entering Schaghticoke will be about a half year behind where they are currently. Mr. Fitzgerald has parent support with large groups of students. The National standard for classroom instrumental instruction size is 8. Mr. Fitzgerald has 23. Mr. Grauer commented on the need for a string specialist with a full music background. Mr. Lawson asked about marching band being mandatory. Mr. Grauer requires all students to participate in all phases of music. The high school is richer because it has a band. It was pointed out that this is one program for the “students in the middle”—the “average” student. Mr. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Iffland feel a half time person would assist the program at SNIS. Mr. McLachlan commented on the community involvement especially at the high school with the band. Mr. Lawson moved to send this curriculum to the full Board for approval. Motion seconded by Dr. Stillman and passed unanimously.</p>	
<p>3.B.</p>	<p>“Windows on New Milford”, a slide presentation by Mr. Mulvihill highlighting the CMT and CAPT scores for math, reading, writing and science was given. Scores across the district generally improved in 2007. Grade 3 scores improved dramatically, especially in mathematics and writing. Mr. Mulvihill gave special credit to three teachers: Mrs. Shemeley, Mrs. Stewart and Ms. McStravick for leading the improvement in math at grade 3. Grade 5 scores fell in the language arts area. Changes in the schedule for language arts and when expository writing is introduced will be made. High School results on the CAPT have never been stronger. Still, special education students’ performance has not improved enough to have schools removed from “Schools in Need of Improvement” designation.</p>	<p>Windows on New Milford slide presentation</p>

3.C.	Reading lists for Grades 5, 7, 9.  Discussion on recommended reading lists ensued – Mr. McLachlan would like community involvement to get more people reading. Mrs. Faulenbach inquired about the statement in the packet regarding more reading material for boys. Mr. McLachlan urges that we be cognizant of what children are reading. Males score lower than girls on language arts tests. Therefore, we try to figure out how to get more boys reading. Mrs. Turk would appreciate getting book lists more often. Teachers do make lists available. Also, parents should read to children. Mr. McSherry asked if reading scores are a matter of comprehension. Some emphasis is put on vocabulary. Emphasis is being put on non-fiction as a result of the test results in efforts to find more interesting teaching materials for males.	Sample reading lists, Grades 5, 7, and 9.
4.	Mrs. Turk moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. seconded by Mr. Lawson; motion passed unanimously.	Adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William McLachlan, Chairman  
Committee on Learning