

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2025
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Sarah Herring, Chairperson Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. Randall Scofield Mr. Dean Barile	RECEIVED TOWN CLERK 2025 JUN -5 PM 2:43 NEW MILFORD, CT
Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent	
Absent:		

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:16 pm by Mrs. Sarah Herring.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m.
2.	Public Comment None	Public Comment None
3.	Items for Discussion and Approval <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Art Department <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduction to Ceramics b. Advertising Art and Design c. Portfolio - Art d. Sculpture 2. Social Studies Department <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chinese Studies Honors b. Political Science c. Sociology d. Gr. 8 Social Studies e. Gr. 7 Social Studies f. Gr. 6 Social Studies 3. English Department <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. AP English Literature and Composition b. Modern Voices c. Academic Reading (Reading Academy) d. Journalism 1 e. English 1 for Multilingual Learners f. Science Fiction 4. Mathematics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Honors Algebra 	Items for Discussion and Approval <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Art Department <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduction to Ceramics b. Advertising Art and Design c. Portfolio - Art d. Sculpture 2. Social Studies Department <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chinese Studies Honors b. Political Science c. Sociology d. Gr. 8 Social Studies e. Gr. 7 Social Studies f. Gr. 6 Social Studies 3. English Department <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. AP English Literature and Composition b. Modern Voices c. Academic Reading (Reading Academy) d. Journalism 1

<p>b. Introductory Algebra 1</p> <p>5. World Languages</p> <p>a. French II CP</p> <p>b. French II Honors</p> <p>c. Spanish II CP</p> <p>d. Spanish II Honors</p> <p>e. German II CP</p> <p>f. German II Honors</p> <p>6. STEM</p> <p>a. Computer Science III</p> <p>b. Digital Media 1</p> <p>7. Library Media</p> <p>a. 3-5 Library</p> <p>b. K-2 Library</p> <p>8. Early College Experiences</p> <p>a. ECE Microeconomics</p> <p>b. ECE Chinese Studies</p> <p>c. ECE Intermediate Marketing</p> <p>d. ECE UConn English</p> <p>e. ECE Exercise Physiology</p> <p>f. ECE US History</p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated the work is grounded with the board and district goals in mind as well as budget. It is done with purpose but also flexibility. During the curriculum writing process there are new courses proposed, keeping in mind that the district needs to have the proper staff member to write the curriculum and teach the course. Over the school year there is collaboration on subjects, writing and then finally approval. There is a lot of time, passion and energy that goes into creating each course.</p> <p>Ms. Hollander gave an overview of each of the curricula listed.</p> <p>Art Department:</p> <p>Ms. Hollander noted which courses were a ½ year or full year, and what grades the classes are offered. The courses are cycled because there are 3 art teachers at the high school.</p>	<p>e. English I for Multilingual Learners</p> <p>f. Science Fiction</p> <p>4. Mathematics</p> <p>a. Honors Algebra</p> <p>b. Introductory Algebra 1</p> <p>5. World Languages</p> <p>a. French II CP</p> <p>b. French II Honors</p> <p>c. Spanish II CP</p> <p>d. Spanish II Honors</p> <p>e. German II CP</p> <p>f. German II Honors</p> <p>6. STEM</p> <p>a. Computer Science III</p> <p>b. Digital Media 1</p> <p>7. Library Media</p> <p>a. 3-5 Library</p> <p>b. K-2 Library</p> <p>8. Early College Experiences</p> <p>a. ECE Microeconomics</p> <p>b. ECE Chinese Studies</p> <p>c. ECE Intermediate Marketing</p> <p>d. ECE UConn English</p> <p>e. ECE Exercise Physiology</p> <p>f. ECE US History</p>
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Social Studies Department:

Ms. Hollander stated Social Studies 6th grade is a full year course, focusing on ancient world regions. It's new, and includes new standards recently adopted. Social Studies 7th grade is creating a global citizen. It's revised but using new standards, so it is new. Social Studies grade 8 is U.S. History. The 8th and 9th grade teachers collaborated to ensure a smooth transition to 9th grade Social Studies. Chinese Studies is open to 11-13 grades and is a ½ year course. Mrs. McNerney asked if it focuses on modern chinese or ancient chinese. Ms. Hollander stated it is both. Mrs. Herring asked if it dives into politics. Ms. Hollander stated the write up does not go into politics. Continuing, Ms. Hollander stated, Political Science is a ½ year, new course for 11-12 grades. It is part of the pathways of the Social Studies program. Mrs. McNerney noted Civics is a required course and asked if there is one to take its place. Ms. Hollander stated no, it is part of the introduction to the Pathways.

Mr. Barile asked what information was used to create the Chinese Studies curriculum. Ms. Hollander stated it is based on the standards.

Ms. Hollander stated Sociology is a ½ year and open to 11-12 graders. It is based on investigating social behavior.

English Department:

Ms. Hollander stated AP English Literature and Composition is for 11-12 graders. All students will be required to take the AP exam in May. Modern Voices is a revised ½ year elective for seniors. Students write analytical essays, synthesize ideas, and develop critical thinking skills. Academic Reading is a new ½ year course for 9th graders. The course is geared towards teaching academic reading skills to increase fluency and comprehension. The hope is there will be evidence of impact with this course on test scores. Mrs. McNerney noted the hope is this will bridge the gap

and bring kids up to standard. Ms. Hollander stated Journalism 1 is for 10-12 graders. The course is geared towards understanding media news, identifying biased news and helps students to consume news. English 1 for Multilingual Learners (MLL) is new and is a sheltered English course specifically for 9-12 grade MLL students. If English is not a students first language, the hope is for them to earn English credit. Criteria for enrollment will be based on students diagnostic testing scores, and more. Science Fiction is a revised curriculum. It is open to 11-12 graders. The course will go into the origination of Science Fiction. Students will create their own utopian society and write their own Sci Fi story.

Math Department:

Ms. Hollander stated honors Algebra is a full year. Students will master algebraic technique at an accelerated pace and the course prepares students for higher level math courses. It is offered to students in 8th - 10th grades. Mrs. Herring asked, since math is cumulative, how does the revision affect the courses that come before and after they finish this course. Ms. Hollander stated the pathways for acceleration is prepared, and they designed the course to ensure there is no skipping over content. Mr. Barile asked if a student requires additional help, does it fall under special education. Ms. Hollander replied that it is part of the multi-tiered system of support.

Ms. Hollander continued by stating Introductory to Algebra 1 is a full credit for 9th graders. The course emphasizes mathematical concepts and critical thinking to solve problems in the real world. Mrs. McNerney asked if students would take Algebra after this course. Ms. Hollander stated yes.

World Language Department:

Mrs. Herring asked how the curriculum is set up for Spanish 1 since it is only offered to 8th graders and no

	<p>longer 7th graders. Ms. Hollander stated they worked closely with Mrs. Ward and still follow that same curriculum. Mrs. Herring asked if it aligns with Spanish 2. Ms. Hollander confirmed that it does. When it was previously offered in 7th and 8th grade the curriculum was essentially broken up into two years, with more redundancy. By offering it only in 8th grade it is streamlining the process and a faster paced class.</p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated, for all the language courses, they are focusing on comprehensible input rather than memorization. The goal is to step away from memorization to give kids more real world opportunities.</p> <p>French II CP increases already acquired basic knowledge and enhances speaking, reading and writing. It offers a deeper understanding of the language. French II Honors is faster paced with an expectation on accuracy of writing, speaking and reading. Spanish II CP is for students to gain knowledge who have a basic understanding of the language. Spanish II Honors is faster paced with a deeper understanding of the language through real world content. Students will learn to write and speak in detail. German II CP will utilize the theme of traveling for students to gain knowledge and be more confident speakers. German II Honors is for students who want to build a deeper understanding of the language.</p> <p>STEM:</p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated Computer Science III is a new ½ year course. It is for grades 7-8. The course is designed with hands-on building in mind. Students study the process of innovation. Mrs. McInerney asked if students have to take Computer Science I and II before taking this course. Ms. Hollander stated yes, and Computer Science is based on skill level, not grade level. Mr. Scofield asked if there was interest from girls to take the course. Ms. Hollander stated yes, she</p>	
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was excited to say there is. Ms. Hollander stated Digital Media 1 is an elective for 7th grade and focuses on the importance of learning digital media skills. Mr. Barile asked who teaches the course and if the teacher has experience in the field. Ms. Hollander stated Mr. Bradbury teaches the course and confirmed he has had experience in the field. Mr. Barile asked if the class will dive into Artificial Intelligence (AI). Ms. Hollander stated yes, it's actually something they will have to incorporate. We're at the point that it's not about whether or not to use AI but how to use it.

Library Media:

Ms. Hollander stated both curricula look at library rules and procedures. Both dive into fiction and nonfiction, and include interactive read aloud. They are revised to highlight library media procedures and help students identify valid resources. The courses are geared towards digital citizenship and guides students to become responsible digital citizens.

Early College Experiences:

Ms. Hollander stated these are for this fall and the courses are an opportunity for students to gain college credit.

Ms. Hollander stated ECE Microeconomics is a full year course that helps students be better decision makers in their everyday lives. The class will focus on understanding short and long term gains and losses and apply those strategies to business models. ECE Chinese Studies is a ½ year course that will allow students to contemplate a different world view as well as learn the rudimentary skills of calligraphy and landscape painting. ECE Intermediate Marketing is a full year course that has a prerequisite of Marketing 1. Students will develop a marketing and branding strategy. ECE UConn English will link assigned text to field research and allow students to gain self discovery through writing and composing. Students will reflect and do collaborative practices with

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	<p>metacognition through different media. ECE Exercise Physiology is a full year course that is open to 10th and 11th graders and practices assessing fitness performance. ECE U.S. History is a course where students have to be self motivated and create analytical arguments with classmates. They will work as true historians making connections to the present and becoming better citizens in the process.</p> <p>Ms. McInerney asked if the UConn English course could take the place of the AP English. Ms. Hollander stated yes it could.</p> <p>Ms. Hollander concluded by stating she would like to audit the curriculum writing process next year. The goal would be to align with district goals and the vision of the Life Long Learner. As a result it may cause a slight disruption in the curriculum cycle.</p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to bring the following curricula to the Board of Education for discussion and possible action: Introduction to Ceramics, Advertising Art and Design, Portfolio - Art, Sculpture, Chinese Studies Honors, Political Science, Sociology, Gr. 8 Social Studies, Gr. 7 Social Studies, Gr. 6 Social Studies, AP English Literature and Composition, Modern Voices, Academic Reading (Reading Academy), Journalism 1, English 1 for Multilingual Learners, Science Fiction, Honors Algebra, Introductory Algebra 1, French II CP, French II Honors, Spanish II CP, Spanish II Honors, German II CP, German II Honors, Computer Science III, Digital Media 1, 3-5 Library, K-2 Library, ECE Microeconomics, ECE Chinese Studies, ECE Intermediate Marketing, ECE UConn English, ECE Exercise Physiology, ECE U.S. History. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full board for second read: Introduction to Ceramics, Advertising Art and Design, Portfolio - Art, Sculpture, Chinese Studies Honors, Political Science, Sociology, Gr. 8 Social Studies, Gr. 7 Social Studies, Gr. 6 Social Studies, AP English Literature and Composition, Modern Voices, Academic Reading (Reading Academy), Journalism 1, English 1 for Multilingual Learners, Science Fiction, Honors Algebra, Introductory Algebra 1, French II CP, French II Honors, Spanish II CP, Spanish II Honors, German II CP, German II Honors, Computer Science III, Digital Media 1, 3-5 Library, K-2 Library, ECE Microeconomics, ECE Chinese Studies, ECE Intermediate Marketing, ECE UConn English, ECE Exercise Physiology, ECE U.S. History.</p>
4.	<p>Public Comment None</p>	<p>Public Comment None</p>

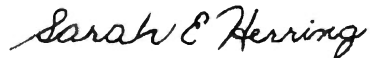
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5.	Adjourn <i>Mr. Barile moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Scofield, with all voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.</i>	Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.
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Respectfully submitted:



Sarah Herring, Chairperson
Committee on Learning