

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
 September 2, 2025
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Sarah Herring, Chairperson Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. Dean Barile
Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Jeffrey Turner, Technology Director Mrs. Megan Sylvester, K-6 Literacy Team Leader Mrs. Michelle Klee, K-6 Literacy Coach Mrs. Suzanne Andrews, High School Social Studies Teacher Mrs. Dianne Johnson, 5th Grade Head Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
Absent:	Mr. Randall Scofield

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:15 pm by Mrs. Sarah Herring.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.
2.	Public Comment None	Public Comment None
3.	Items of Information A. Artificial Intelligence (AI) District Guidelines Ms. Hollander stated Artificial Intelligence, AI, is a topic that is being looked into because of interest and out of necessity. It is apparent there will be materials turned in by students based off of AI platforms and it was decided guidelines were a necessity. The goals for instruction and student learning experiences include: 1. Defining AI and articulating its role in the classroom. 2. Research AI tools and platforms for integration into teaching and learning. 3. Develop district guidelines (regulations) for the use of AI. Mrs. Andrews stated a small group within the district came together to address the fear of AI; not only to embrace the future of the technology, but to help students use it properly. It was important to figure out proper usage for staff and students for responsible usage and lay out what would be considered irresponsible usage.	Items of Information A. Artificial Intelligence (AI) District Guidelines

<p>Ms. Hollander stated they are working on guidelines to demystify and bring understanding how to use AI and be ahead of it.</p> <p>Mr. Turner stated that it is about understanding how it can be used as a tool in the classroom. It's important to ensure it's safe for kids to use and that it fits the curriculum.</p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated next steps include district meetings as well as committee meetings at a building level. There is course development on how to help kids use it productively and responsibly.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked how other schools are handling this and dealing with situations, such as plagiarism. Mrs. Andrews stated MIT is leading the way with students having to cite AI and verify the information's validity.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney noted that students need to develop their own style of writing. If a student is relying on Chat GPT, are they still learning? Mr. Barile also noted that AI will develop patterns and dialogues based upon individuals. It will be able to generate and write in a fashion similar to a specific student. The only way to get around it is to write in class.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney stated she is excited to hear more about the guidelines. Ms. Hollander stated the initial guidelines will be centered around how to grow with it and it is all to be determined.</p> <p>B. K-3 Literacy Update: Bookworms</p> <p>Mrs. Sylvester stated Bookworms is a repetitive, interactive read-aloud that boosts vocabulary and comprehension by engaging children with text multiple times. Bookworms maximizes knowledge-building in Pre-K to 1st grade. Early exposure to such content rich reading improves language comprehension. This is an approved Department of Instruction (DOI) program. Pacing and planning are next steps, as well as labs with teachers.</p> <p>The state requires ORF (Oral Reading Fluency) exams. This measures how well a student reads a passage fluently at grade level. There has been a big</p>	<p>B. K-3 Literacy Update: Bookworms</p>
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acceleration, and students who were far below grade level are seeing huge gains.

Ms. Hollander stated they are also seeing an impact in special education. It's closing the gap on the number of students who might need focus support in intervention.

Mrs. Sylvester stated Bookworms is book-based knowledge building. Through the book, students analyze the text with the teacher leading.

Mrs. McInerney asked how long it had been taught. Mrs. Sylvester replied that it was rolled out this past Friday but has been done in the labs.

C. K-5 Progress Report Update

Ms. Hollander stated the goal is for the progress report to be parent friendly and for families to understand where their child is in regards to meeting grade level expectations. It is important for it to have a purpose, and data was collected through focus groups to help update what existed.

Mrs. Johnson stated it was a collaborative process. They sought input from parents, teachers of all grade levels, as well as multilingual learners.

Ms. Hollander stated this will address the needs of multi-lingual learner students and students with IEPs.

Mrs. Johnson stated that ongoing support is vital to the success. The DOI has online resources with information. Grade level meetings will be conducted so teachers can really show the growth of a child to a parent. Part of this is to strengthen partnerships with families and communicate to parents what their child is learning. There is also vertical calibration with other grade levels so we can pick up where the previous school year ended. Teachers will now be able to put into comments meaningful narratives for parents rather than comments from a bank. These comments will help show parents that teachers know their child, and the comments will help parents understand how their child can be supported at home.

Mrs. McInerney stated the canned responses do not say much about students, or their abilities, and asked how teachers are feeling about these updates. Mrs.

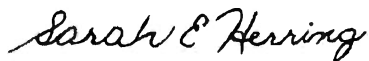
C. K-5 Progress Report Update

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	Hollander stated that they have been discussing it and there is a support system for colleagues. It will also be a topic discussed at curriculum night.	
4.	Public Comment None	Public Comment None
5.	Adjourn <i>Mr. Barile moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. McInerney, with all voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.</i>	Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Sarah Herring, Chairperson
Committee on Learning