

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Meeting Motion & Minutes
June 2, 2026
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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Present:	Mrs. Sarah Herring, Chairperson Mr. Joseph Failla Mr. Dean Barile	2026 JUN -5 A 7:54 NEW MILFORD, CT
Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent	
Absent:	Mrs. Tammy McInerney	

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mrs. Sarah Herring.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
2.	Public Comment None	Public Comment None
3.	For Discussion and Possible Action A. Curriculum Development: 1. Group Fitness 2. Team Sports 3. Summit Health and Wellness 4. Summit Citizenship 5. Nets and Recreational Games 6. Yoga and Pilates 7. Exploration in Physical Science 8. ECE Human Geography - SCSU 9. Intro to Drafting and Design I 10. Drafting and Design II 11. Summit Math III 12. Summit English III 13. AP Business with Personal Finance 14. ECE Middle East Studies 15. Digital Media II Ms. Hollander stated the curricula for approval has been aligned with the district's core materials and connected to the Life Long Learner. There was much thought put into the process to ensure there was no repetition. The courses are new, and eventually there will be a cycle of alignment of standards so there is an area of focus each year, such as science one year, math another year, etc.	For Discussion and Possible Action A. Curriculum Development: 1. Group Fitness 2. Team Sports 3. Summit Health and Wellness 4. Summit Citizenship 5. Nets and Recreational Games 6. Yoga and Pilates 7. Exploration in Physical Science 8. ECE Human Geography - SCSU 9. Intro to Drafting and Design I 10. Drafting and Design II 11. Summit Math III 12. Summit English III 13. AP Business with Personal Finance 14. ECE Middle East Studies 15. Digital Media II

Group Fitness:

Ms. Hollander stated this is a new course designed to give students an opportunity to explore different types of group fitness. Students will learn to stay motivated and apply leadership skills. It is one semester, 0.5 credit, and open to 10-12th grades.

Team Sports:

Ms. Hollander stated this new course will have students engaged in team building concepts that will focus on problem solving, critical thinking and working collaboratively. It is one semester, 0.5 credit and open to grades 9-12.

Summit Health and Wellness:

Ms. Hollander stated this new course will provide students with an opportunity to build fitness. The emphasis will integrate physical education, health, wellness and essential life skills needed to support a healthy lifestyle. It is a full year, 1.0 credit, open to grades 9-12.

Summit Citizenship:

Ms. Hollander stated this new course prepares students for active citizenship through critical thinking and civic understanding. Students will explore real-world issues, evaluate perspectives, and develop essential skills in research and collaboration. It is a full year, 1.0 credit, open to grades 10-12. It is a full year, 1.0 credit, open to grades 10-12.

Nets and Recreational Games:

Ms. Hollander stated this new offering will provide students with opportunities to engage in physical fitness through a variety of net and recreational activities. This includes volleyball, badminton, table tennis, pickleball and nitro ball. Students will learn appropriate strategies and concepts for each activity and apply them in a game situation. Students will develop communication and decision making skills to be successful in playing the varied games. It is one semester, 0.5 credits, open to grades 10-12.

Yoga and Pilates

Ms. Hollander stated Yoga and Pilates will focus on strengthening the balance and core of our students and

will incorporate mindfulness activities to assist with physical and mental health in a safe environment. It is one semester, 0.5 credit, open to grades 10-12.

Exploration in Physical Science

Ms. Hollander stated students will explore basic concepts in both chemical and physical sciences that are outlined in the NGSS framework. Students will develop their critical thinking and inquiry skills as they apply their learning to real-world situations. It is a full year, 1.0 credit, open to grades 9-12.

ECE Human Geography - SCSU

Ms. Hollander stated this new offering is a college-level course aligned to Southern Connecticut State University. Students will earn credit by earning a final grade of a C or better. It is a full year, 1.0 credit, open to grades 11-12.

Intro to Drafting and Design I

Ms. Hollander stated this was newly revised by Lori Cerra who has reimagined the course. It allows students to explore how ideas become real products using modern manufacturing technology. Students learn digital design and 2D CAD, investigate robotics and automation in manufacturing. It is a semester-long course, 0.5 credit, open to grades 9-12.

Drafting and Design II

Ms. Hollander stated this course builds on students' 2D CAD experiences by introducing 3D digital manufacturing, industry 4D concepts and advanced fabrication technologies. Students create original 3D models, apply human centered design to solve real-world problems and develop inactive multi-part partotypes. The offering emphasizes engineering design, prototyping, assembly tolerances, and hand-on problem solving using modern manufacturing tools. It is one semester, 0.5 credit, open to grades 9-12.

Summit Math III

Ms. Hollander stated this course focuses on the application of mathematics that students need after graduation: banking, taxes, budgets. This project-based offering requires students to produce an artifact to illustrate their learning. It is a full year, 1.0 credit, open to grades 9-12.

	Summit English III Ms. Hollander stated, over the course of four units, this offering will help students explore memoirs, micro-narratives and reflective writing. Additionally, students will analyze literature, music and film and will create a capstone project where they will research and deliver persuasive multimedia presentations. It is a full year, 1.0 credit, open to grades 9-12. AP Business with Personal Finance Ms. Hollander stated this is an introductory, college level business and personal finance course. Focus will be on students developing and creating unique business ideas using topics such as Entrepreneurship, Forms of Business, Financing Your Business and Managing Your Business. Students will use case studies. It is a full year, 1.0 credit, open to grades 10-12. ECE Middle East Studies Ms. Hollander stated this offering is equivalent to an introductory college level Middle East Culture offering at WCSU. The course seeks to deepen student understanding of Middle East geography, culture, society and geopolitical interest. It delves deeper into religious beliefs and practice, arts, and literature. Students will self-navigate course offerings and a research process expected at the colleague level. Students will be engaging in informed and reflective thinking practices that demonstrate curiosity and synthesis from multiple primary sources. It is a semester-long course, 0.5 credit, open to grades 9-12. Digital Media II Ms. Hollander stated this is a capstone course where students create their own business from the ground up. Students learn to use Google Workspace, Canva and other tools to solve real business problems. For 8th grade students. Mrs. Herring thanked all the teachers that wrote the curriculum, noting it takes a lot of work and time. Ms. Hollander stated that they try to support teachers in the writing process. Mr. Failla asked how long it takes to write the curriculum. Ms. Hollander stated it varies on the course and if it is a full year or half year.	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for discussion and possible
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	<i>Mr. Barile moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for discussion and possible action: Group Fitness, Team Sports, Summit Health and Wellness, Summit Citizenship, Nets and Recreational Games, Yoga and Pilates, Exploration in Physical Science, ECE Human Geography - SCSU, Intro to Drafting and Design I, Drafting and Design II, Summit Math III, Summit English III, AP Business with Personal Finance, ECE Middle East Studies, Digital Media II. Seconded by Mr. Failla. Motion passed unanimously.</i>	action: Group Fitness, Team Sports, Summit Health and Wellness, Summit Citizenship, Nets and Recreational Games, Yoga and Pilates, Exploration in Physical Science, ECE Human Geography - SCSU, Intro to Drafting and Design I, Drafting and Design II, Summit Math III, Summit English III, AP Business with Personal Finance, ECE Middle East Studies, Digital Media II.
4. A.	Items of Information A. Understanding the i-Ready Diagnostic A. Understanding the i-Ready Diagnostic Ms. Hollander reported that the district is in its fourth year of utilizing the i-Ready Diagnostic. The program provides teachers with real-time data to support instruction while adhering to Connecticut's student data privacy regulations. i-Ready is used to pinpoint specific student needs by identifying both academic gaps and strengths. Using a Grade 1 cohort as an example, Ms. Hollander demonstrated an increase in test scores from fall to spring. She noted that students performing two or more levels below grade level are typically referred to interventionists for additional support. In response to a query from Mrs. Herring regarding ELA scores, Ms. Hollander explained that students have the option to have text read aloud to them, which aligns with the state's Right to Read legislation. Mr. Barile asked if the diagnostic occasionally assesses students on topics not yet covered in the classroom. Ms. Hollander confirmed that this does occur within the adaptive testing framework. Mr. Failla and Dr. Parlato discussed the average 2nd-grade class size, which is 17 students. Ms. Hollander explained that instruction is differentiated through small groups and a Differentiation Block (DI) for skill-based centers. She noted that Math receives approximately 50 minutes of instruction while literacy	Items of Information A. Understanding the i-Ready Diagnostic

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	takes 90–120 minutes daily, and the new Bookworms program integrates science and social studies. Regarding feedback on Bookworms and i-Ready, Ms. Hollander stated that input is regularly gathered from head teachers and building leaders. Dr. Parlato added that teachers were actively involved in the selection process. The i-Ready core mathematics materials are subject to constant review to ensure staff remain comfortable and supported. Mrs. Herring concluded the discussion by sharing personal observations and experiences regarding computer-based testing environments.	
5.	Public Comment None	Public Comment None
6.	Adjourn <i>Mr. Barile moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm., seconded by Mr. Failla and passed unanimously.</i>	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Sarah Herring, Chairperson
Committee on Learning