

**New Milford Board of Education
Board Workshop Minutes
October 16, 2018
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson Mr. Bill Dahl (arrived at 6:46 p.m.) Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan
Absent:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Joseph Failla Mr. J.T. Schemm

Also Present:	Dr. Stephen Tracy, Interim Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mr. Michael Clyne, District Data Coach Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Mrs. Anne Bilko, Sarah Noble Intermediate School Principal Dr. Christopher Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal Mrs. Susan Murray, Northville Elementary School Principal Mr. Greg Shugrue, New Milford High School Principal
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1.	Call to Order	Call to Order
A.	Pledge of Allegiance The Board Workshop of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mr. Lawson. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	Presentation	Presentation
A.	District Assessments Ms. DiCorpo presented information on 2017-18 district assessment results which she described as the "state of the district". She presented an assessment flowchart which shows how we use the types of data. Ms. DiCorpo said all students are assessed through	A. District Assessments

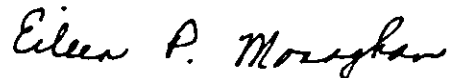
	universal screeners such as NWEA, PSAT, and Running Records which provide a snapshot of student reading levels; through state assessments such as Smarter Balanced and the SAT; and through classroom assessments that show the students' ability to apply learning. • The Smarter Balanced summary in ELA shows that New Milford had a 7.4% increase in the amount of students reaching state level benchmarks in grades 3-8. The State and DRG had less than 1% increases. New Milford went from 23rd of 24 districts in DRG to 20th and was in the 72nd percentile in the state for growth as well as 4th highest in the DRG for growth. Grade 5 had the 4th highest growth rate for the state, only behind Simsbury, Westport and Chester. There were increases in achievement for all subgroups. • In Math, New Milford maintained performance with 47.1% of students reaching state level benchmarks in grades 3-8. The State and DRG had slight 1% increases. Overall more students made year's growth (61%) in Math than compared to 2016-17 (58.7%). The district was 20th in 2016-17 in DRG and slid to 22nd (of 24) in 2017-18. Ms. DiCorpo said there is now a common program across the district so, even though there is a big hill to climb, steady growth should come. • CMT/CAPT went away last year and was replaced by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS Science Assessment was piloted in 2018, with participation rates only counting. In 2019, both participation and scores will count. • The SAT is the State mandated assessment for 11th graders. It is taken during the school day. New Milford's overall score was 1060 in 2018, well over the State score of 1019. Ms. DiCorpo said the SAT has become more and more challenging over time in its questions. The primary issues the district is showing systemically are in the areas of communication	
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	and problem solving so that is where the emphasis will be. • Regarding Physical Fitness scores, New Milford has always been in the 35-41% passing range. Last year, we were at 35.3%. To pass, students must pass all four sections of the assessment. For New Milford, the weaknesses are in the mile run and push-ups. The K-12 PE curriculum was rewritten last year to include practice in all four areas. • The district is offering the PSAT to all grade 9 students now. Students also take it in grade 10 and some in grade 11. New Milford exceeds state benchmarks in this area. • For the NWEA assessment, the correlation is that a 60% passing rate will lead to a 3 or 4 on the Smarter Balanced assessment, which is a passing score. New Milford is at 59.4% now so we are close in both Math and Reading. The district is looking at what is working, as well as areas of growth. • Ms. DiCorpo said the information results support our known areas for growth and the changes being instituted. She said looking at student growth through multiple data points allows the district to make predictive models of student success due to correlation of normed percentiles and achievement on other assessments (SBAC, CMT/CAPT, PSAT, SAT), and helps teachers better meet the instructional needs of students. • In 2018, the percentage of New Milford students earning a 3 or higher on Advanced Placement tests was 67. That compares to the state percentage of 71 and global percentage of 61. At the same time, enrollment in AP courses for New Milford was at an all-time high with 666 tests taken, and 433 passed. • There was an issue with last year's Graduation Rate that was discussed with the Board at the beginning of the year. The state reported New Milford's rate at 82.2% but it turns out 25 students were incorrectly coded. The corrected	
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	rate would be 89.5%. Steps are being taken to ensure the correct rate is reported next year. • Moving forward, Ms. DiCorpo said they are working on initiatives for improvement K-12. These include teams developed to review vertical alignment of curriculum and identify areas of strength and weakness in order to craft a plan for improvement and continuity. The district will continue to review curriculum and programs, as well as teacher supports. A phonics program will be added in school year 2019-20, from two which are being piloted this year. • Mr. McCauley asked how the district compared with the DRG on the SAT and PSAT. Mr. Clyne said New Milford is outperforming the average of the DRG and is in the top quarter. He will get specific numbers. • Ms. DiCorpo said the presentation has an appendix that gives more detailed backup data. The presentation will be on the district website tomorrow morning. • Mr. Lawson asked why the phonics program is being added. Ms. DiCorpo said this is an area the state identified as deficit. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked the cost of the phonics program. Ms. DiCorpo said she doesn't have specifics yet because a final choice has not been made. She said she is projecting savings over the current program. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the graduation rate coding and when the window closed for corrections. Ms. DiCorpo said it did not used to have a close date at all, now it is early on, and the district was caught off guard last year. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked about the drop in AP test results. Mr. Shugrue said more and more students are taking the tests and there is some leveling off as a result. • Mr. Clyne said the more positive outcome is to the College Readiness Score which is widely reported. AP participation plays a big role	
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	there. New Milford's score was 18.7 in 2014, well below many in our DRG. In 2018, it is now at 40.8. This speaks to the access to AP classes, the number offered, and the greater success students will have in college as a result. • Ms. DiCorpo said this was reflected on the alumni survey too with students reporting they were grateful to have taken the AP classes in preparation for college. • Mr. Lawson said Board members were at liberty to call with additional questions once they have reviewed all the data. • Dr. Tracy thanked Ms. DiCorpo, Mr. Clyne and the principals for their work in this area.	
3.	Adjourn Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Mrs. McNerney and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Eileen P. Monaghan
Assistant Secretary
New Milford Board of Education