

**New Milford Board of Education
Board Workshop Minutes
April 18, 2017
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson Mr. Robert Coppola Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. J.T. Schemm Mr. Dave Littlefield (arrived at 7:11 p.m.)
Absent:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain Mr. Bill Dahl Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

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Also Present:	Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology
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1. A.	Call to Order 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 and a moment of silence immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2. A.	Presentation Summary of results from the Search Institute Survey Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors - Ms. Allison Fulton, from Housatonic Valley Coalition Against Substance Abuse (HVCASA), and Mrs. Erica Keane, NMHS Health teacher and Co-Chair of the New Milford Substance Abuse Prevention Council, were present to discuss the outcome of the <i>Profiles of Student Life</i> survey. Ms. Fulton said this was a youth survey and not a school survey. This particular survey has been offered for 20 plus years. - Mrs. McInerney asked how they know students answer survey questions honestly and how the	Presentation A. Summary of results from the Search Institute Survey Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors

	responses are vetted. Ms. Fulton said the questions are designed to be asked in different ways so that if someone is not being honest it can be spotted. • The presentation included a summary of the findings including positive assets and then a further breakdown of survey results by grades 8, 10 and 12. • Some concerns include marijuana use, drugs and alcohol, sexual activity and suicide depression rates. • The timeline for future activity includes presentations and focus groups, and a community forum to discuss the issues and what the plan is to help the community. • Mr. Schemm noted this report can lead to actionable steps to leverage the data such as the Refuse to Lose campaign conducted in the past.	
B.	Special Education Update • Mrs. Olson said this was an opportunity to present information to the Board. She said the demographics of the special education population have remained relatively consistent over the past couple of years. This is IEP data and not 504. • Mrs. Olson showed a graphic that highlights how a student becomes eligible for special education services. • The IDEA grant, which provides special education funding, actually consists of two grants - 611 for ages 3-21 and 619 for ages 3-5. It also provides funding for nonpublic schools such as Canterbury and Faith Academy. • Mrs. Olson highlighted the budget numbers for both grants. • She also discussed the excess cost grant, which is the difference between the per pupil expenditure times 4.5 which is the threshold amount plus the amount spent; the state reimburses a percentage of the excess cost. The percentage changes based on the state's budget. • The co-teaching program is helpful to increase time with non-disabled peers. Special	B. Special Education Update

	education students are exposed to the rigor of regular education classes. • The ESS program at the high school is meeting with much success and has 18 students in therapeutic interventions and supports. The results include decreased absences and increased GPAs. • Highlights of parent feedback include the comment that the staff is very supportive to families and children. • One of the next initiatives includes identifying dyslexic students.	
3.	Adjourn Mr. Schemm moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education