

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
June 1, 2021
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson Mr. Joseph Failla Mr. Brian McCauley
Also Present:	Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Interim Assistant Superintendent Ms. Megan Sylvester, Instructional Coach

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Presentation 1. Phonemic Awareness - Mrs. Calabrese said this is her last Committee on Learning meeting sitting as the Interim Assistant Superintendent, and she wants to thank Mrs. McInerney, Mr. Failla, Mr. McCauley, the BOE, and Superintendent DiCorpo for allowing her to lead in this capacity over the last six months. She is excited to voluntarily return to her Asst. Principal roles at both NES and SMS. - Mrs. Calabrese has been working with Megan Sylvester, the Literacy Coach from NES/HPS, and the other instructional coaches on pacing the curriculum for the 2021-22 school year. Mrs. Calabrese also meets regularly and consults with fellow area Assistant Superintendents and Directors of Curriculum, where she was introduced to a program called Heggerty. Heggerty provides an easy way to	Discussion and Possible Action A. Presentation 1. Phonemic Awareness  RECEIVED TOWN CLERK 2021 JUN -3 A 9:59

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	teach and have students practice phonological awareness and it takes away extra planning time for teachers. Our district's early education teachers teach phonological awareness, which is a crucial skill to develop in children. It is strongly linked to early reading and spelling success through its association with phonics, but Heggerty will allow a formal universal resource approach which allows for assessment benchmarks to be able to identify where there are holes and how to inform instruction. ● Ms. Sylvester presented further details of the program and gave examples. She said the program focuses on pre-reading sounds versus text. It aligns with the Teacher's College program already in use. Teachers, interventionists and EL and Bilingual will all be able to use the Heggerty program. The program will be implemented in the fall K-1. ● Mrs. McInerney said she is excited to see this program and she thinks it will be very helpful for the developing reader. ● Ms. DiCorpo asked if the program was reviewed in light of preschool ELDS standards. She asked how it will fit into the school day. ● Mrs. Calabrese said it will be part of the morning ritual, no more than 10 minutes. She said Pre-K already has the program and intends to participate. ● Ms. Sylvester said the Pre-K teachers are the most familiar with it. She said there are three Heggerty manuals, one for Pre-K, one for K, and one for primary. ● Mrs. Calabrese said the program also provides support for small group instruction. ● Mrs. McInerney asked about preschool students who do not attend our Excel program. Ms. DiCorpo said they work with area childcare providers. They tell them what resources the district uses and then the childcare providers can purchase them on their own. ● Mr. Failla asked if there is funding in place for these manuals and Ms. DiCorpo said there is.	
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B. Request for New Course 1. Sports Literature - Mrs. Calabrese said this is a semester English elective proposed for 2022-23. It is designed to engage the reluctant reader. 2. Graphic Novels - Mrs. Calabrese said this is a semester English elective proposed for 2022-23. It is also designed to engage the reluctant reader. The graphic novel is also taught at SMS. This course takes a more sophisticated, deeper dive. She wanted to correct its description as a genre; it is a medium that lends itself to all genres. - Mrs. McInerney noted that this course may interest art students as well. - Mr. Failla said these two courses are great. It is important to provide courses for students who don't have a love of reading to gain interest. He likes the thinking out of the box. - Ms. DiCorpo said she had reviewed a text for this course previously and she asked Mrs. Calabrese to check into what text will be used. 3. World History 4. Modern World History - Mrs. Calabrese said these two courses will replace the current Western Civilization in 9th grade and Global Studies in 10th grade. They reflect the diversification of our global society versus the older Eurocentric view. - Mrs. McInerney asked how this will affect current 8th graders' course selection. Ms. DiCorpo said these courses will begin in 2022-23 so the change will be for current 7th graders. - Mrs. McInerney is concerned that parents may think their students are currently following an outdated curriculum. Ms. DiCorpo said it is more that Western Civilization and Global Studies double cover many of the same entities	B. Request for New Course 1. Sports Literature 2. Graphic Novels 3. World History 4. Modern World History 5. African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies
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	and cultures separately. The new courses will streamline and combine East and West studies, while adding a global view. • Mr. McCauley agrees that the current path is an outdated way of looking at history. He is sure that teachers currently adapt to include additional content. 5. African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies • Ms. DiCorpo said this full year course is a state mandate for 2022-23 and the curriculum is provided by the state. • Mrs. McInerney said she was glad to see the diversity of this course offering and asked if this will be college prep or honors level. Mrs. Calabrese will check with the state to see if they are going to provide a label or leave it up to the district. • Mrs. McInerney asked what happens if there is not sufficient enrollment. Ms. DiCorpo said originally there was no enrollment threshold, but Mrs. Calabrese will check to see if that has changed. • Mrs. McInerney said the law also seems to contradict when the course must be offered: 2021-22 or 2022-23. • Ms. DiCorpo suggested that the course move forward for approval to align with the law. The Department Chair has been attending professional development for the draft curriculum. She recommends funding commensurate with other courses. Mr. McCauley moved to bring the following requests for new courses to the full Board for discussion and approval: 1. Sports Literature 2. Graphic Novels 3. World History 4. Modern World History	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following requests for new courses to the full Board for discussion and approval: 1. Sports Literature 2. Graphic Novels 3. World History 4. Modern World History
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	5. African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies Seconded by Mr. Failla and passed unanimously. C. Review and Approval of Curricula ● Mrs. Calabrese thanked Diana Beddows for her help with this curriculum vetting. 1. Instrumental Music - Grades 6 and 7 2. Instrumental Music - Grade 8 ● Mrs. Calabrese said these yearlong courses follow the same standards; they are different in complexity. ● Mrs. McInerney commended the instrumental teachers on their engagement. 3. Public Speaking ● Mrs. Calabrese said this is a semester elective which teaches public speaking skills and techniques. ● Mrs. McInerney said this is a great course to offer and an important skill for adults too. 4. English I College Prep 5. English I Honors ● Mrs. Calabrese said these full year courses have updated reading selections for more diversity. 6. English II College Prep 7. English II Honors ● Mrs. Calabrese said these full year courses have been updated for a variety of texts and writing assignments. 8. Grade 4 Social Studies	5. African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies C. Review and Approval of Curricula 1. Instrumental Music - Grades 6 and 7 2. Instrumental Music - Grade 8 3. Public Speaking 4. English I College Prep 5. English I Honors 6. English II College Prep 7. English II Honors 8. Grade 4 Social Studies 9. Grade 5 Social Studies 10. Forensic Science
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	• Mrs. Calabrese said this course focuses on U.S. geography as it supports the development of the regions of the United States. 9. Grade 5 Social Studies • Mrs. Calabrese said this course focuses on early U.S. history from native peoples through the Revolutionary War. 10. Forensic Science • Mrs. Calabrese said this semester elective uses the core sciences to problem solve crime scene scenarios. • Mr. Failla said he does not see any discussion regarding the chain of evidence, and he thinks that would be a good addition. • Mrs. McInerney said forensic study is showing up in many areas and this is a good course for career exploration. Mrs. McInerney moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for discussion and approval: 1. Instrumental Music - Grades 6 and 7 2. Instrumental Music - Grade 8 3. Public Speaking 4. English I College Prep 5. English I Honors 6. English II College Prep 7. English II Honors 8. Grade 4 Social Studies 9. Grade 5 Social Studies 10. Forensic Science Seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously. • Mrs. McInerney thanked Mrs. Calabrese for stepping into the role of Assistant Superintendent and for all of her work on the Committee on Learning.	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for discussion and approval: 1. Instrumental Music - Grades 6 and 7 2. Instrumental Music - Grade 8 3. Public Speaking 4. English I College Prep 5. English I Honors 6. English II College Prep 7. English II Honors 8. Grade 4 Social Studies 9. Grade 5 Social Studies 10. Forensic Science
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4.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
5.	Adjourn Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
Committee on Learning