

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Minutes
February 4, 2020
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mr. Joseph Failla, Chairperson
Mr. Brian McCauley
Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny

Also Present: Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Keith Lipinsky, New Milford High School Athletic Director
Dr. Christopher Longo, Schaghticoke Middle School Principal
Ms. Jennifer Morrison, Schaghticoke Middle School Tech Ed Teacher

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NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Failla.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Presentation A. Coaching Boys into Men - Ms. DiCorpo said this national curriculum will provide an important addition to the social emotional learning in the district. - Ms. Linda Blozie, Director of Training and Prevention for the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Mr. Jason O'Connor, New Milford Youth Agency, spoke about the program. - Ms. Blozie said Coaching Boys into Men (CBIM) is a violence prevention program for athletic coaches to inspire them to teach their young male athletes about the importance of respect for themselves, others, and particularly women and girls. CBIM is coaching social and emotional intelligence skills in boys' sports. It is all about fostering healthy relationships	Presentation A. Coaching Boys into Men

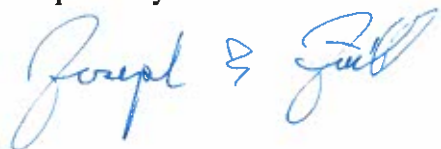
	among athletes and their peers: building trust and setting expectations for acceptable behavior and defining abusive behaviors and teaching healthy relationship skills. The program leverages coaches' influence as role models to their athletes and fits into the sports season, using 12 "mini-training" lessons of 15 minutes per week. It incorporates CSDE frameworks for PE and Health. • Ms. Blozie said the program is provided free of charge, the only requirement is that athletes' participating take a pre and post assessment. Data will be given to the district, with specific student data non-identifiable for privacy purposes. There is an opt out as well. • Ms. Blozie and her trainers will train Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Lipinsky so that they can train and support the athletic coaches going forward. • Mrs. McInerney asked if the program will be high school based. Ms. DiCorpo said the plan is to start at the high school with a pilot program, in this case, the baseball team. • Mr. O'Connor said the Youth Agency has been working to increase positive masculinity in town, and this program provides another avenue. Eventually they would like to reach out to the larger community in town. • Mrs. McInerney asked if the program is only designed for athletics since she can see other non-athletic groups benefiting as well. • Mr. O'Connor said athletics is the focus of this particular program. • Ms. Blozie noted that with slight language changes, the program is versatile enough to be adapted to non-athletic groups. • Mr. Failla said this program fits well with his general philosophy that athletics are part of the entire school learning experience. He hopes the program is rolled out soon, and expanded out. • Ms. Blozie said there is a similar program for girls called Coaching Girls to Leaders but it is	
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	not quite as user friendly as CBIM. She is working on a redesign. • Ms. DiCorpo said the pilot program will include the softball coaches as participants. • Dr. Parker said it is important for girls to find their voices as well. • Ms. DiCorpo said they are conscious of students who do not identify. Ms. Blozie said the program speaks in terms of gender neutral positive relationships, using the term partner vs. boyfriend or girlfriend.	
4.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Request for New Program or Course 1. Computer Science SMS • Ms. DiCorpo said the high school has a strong computer science pathway; the next step is the middle school. • Dr. Longo said they reviewed the state and national computer science standards in light of where they are now and what changes could be made in conjunction with the middle school schedule to help align with high school courses. The focus is shifting from use to creation of digital tools. He said they surveyed students and 70% would prefer a computer science course over a computer tech course. • Mrs. McInerney asked if it is possible to deliver both courses in the schedule. Dr. Longo said they are looking at a couple of models while building the schedule. • Ms. Morrison said, at the middle school, the computer science course will be a survey course for exposure only, designed to spark interest for high school and beyond. • Ms. Morrison said she believes everyone should take computer science. Ms. DiCorpo said the state agrees that the base is computer science. • Mr. Failla said in our modern society it is so important to learn these skills at a young age.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Request for New Program or Course 1. Computer Science SMS

	• Dr. Parker asked about the impact costs shown in year three. Dr. Longo said it is an expectation that the course will become more popular over time so additional resources may be needed down the road, similar to the building of PLTW over time. • Ms. Morrison said there are a lot of resources available now that are free to use, such as websites like code.org. Ms. DiCorpo said free resources are vetted through an approval process before being utilized in the classroom. • Mr. Failla asked if hardware resources are adequate now. Ms. Morrison said they can easily run on what they have to start. Most websites see where schools are going and are compatible with Chromebooks. Mr. McCauley moved to bring the request for new program or course: Computer Science SMS to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously. • Mr. Failla asked if the CBIM program would be presented to the full Board. • Ms. DiCorpo said it was her intent to move ahead with the pilot program, including the girls with softball, if there is no objection tonight. • Mrs. McInerney said she thought there should be a vote down the road, since the program is curriculum based, and there is a teaching component. • Mr. McCauley agreed, saying he views the pre and post assessments as being similar to past surveys on attitudes and behaviors and vaping, that were approved by the Board in the past. • Mrs. Faulenbach, Parliamentarian, said there should be no action taken tonight since the item was not warned for action. Instead, she said the COL chair could reach out to the Board Chair and ask that the item be added to the full agenda. • Mr. Failla said he would do that, on the	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the request for new program or course: Computer Science SMS to the full Board for approval.
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	committee's behalf.	
5.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m., seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Joseph Failla, Chairperson
Committee on Learning