

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Special Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2019
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

2019 MAY -8 P 12:55

CT

NEW MILFORD, CT

Present: Mr. J.T. Schemm, Chairperson
Mr. Bill Dahl
Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Alternate

Absent: Mrs. Angela C. Chastain

Also Present: Dr. Stephen Tracy, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School
Mrs. Nina Money, German Teacher, New Milford High School
Ms. Jessica Ward, World Languages Dept. Chair, New Milford High School
Ms. Kate DeBarber, K-2 Instructional Coach
Mr. Michael Clyne, Data Coach

1.	Call to Order The special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Mr. Schemm. Mrs. Faulenbach was seated in the absence of Mrs. Chastain.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Review and Approval of Curriculum 1. German AP - Mrs. Money said in authoring this curriculum, the balance is between what is required as an AP course and relevance to the students in real world applications. All instruction at this level, from teacher and students, is in German. There is a significant emphasis on culture as well. - Mr. Dahl asked how many students take the class currently. Mrs. Money said there are six, with four expected next year. - Mr. Dahl asked how many levels there are. Mrs. Money said access starts in 9th grade. - Mr. Schemm asked what the sequence is. Mrs.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Review and Approval of Curriculum 1. German AP

	Money said students take German 1, 2, and 3. Then may select either German 4 or AP. • Mr. Schemm asked if AP stands alone or is combined with other levels. Mrs. Money said this year it is stand-alone, but it varies from year to year. • Mr. Shugrue said that they are still looking at projections for next year to determine the best combinations for the five classes that Mrs. Money teaches. • Mr. Schemm said the AP website lists this course as AP German Language and Culture and suggested the course title should reflect that. He said it is important for students to understand the culture component too. He said it is fantastic to see the German language pathway continuing in New Milford since few districts offer the language. • Mrs. Ward said that would be consistent with the other languages offered. • Mr. Schemm said he is aware that the College Board requires an AP audit and he wondered how well that factors in with the task of curriculum writing. • Mrs. Money said she found curriculum writing more sequential in thought versus the audit, which focuses more on specific skills and activities. • Mrs. Ward said that the curriculum is actually helpful to completing the audit. Mrs. Faulenbach moved to bring the German AP curriculum to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the German AP curriculum to the full Board for approval.
4.	Items of Information	Items of Information
A.	Phonics Pilot • Ms. DiCorpo handed out the memo addressed to teachers last year requesting teacher participation in piloting phonics programs. • Teachers K-2 piloted Fountas And Pinnell. Teachers K-1 piloted Columbia Phonics (with Grade 2 to be released in August 2019); three Kindergarten teachers at HPS (there had been four but one left the district), four First Grade teachers	A. Phonics Pilot

at NES and four Second Grade teachers at NES.

- Teachers chose a program to pilot, which ran from August through March. Data was collected twice to address progress and was then reviewed with teachers. In reviewing the data, Teachers College (TC) Pilot data indicated higher overall growth in reading achievement and higher achievement in foundational scores both on internal and external assessments. Grade 1 students had entered in TC classrooms behind other classrooms, and grew at accelerated rates compared to their peers. An Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool (IMET) for ELA/Literacy Grades K-2 was used to evaluate the program's effectiveness and Teachers College scored well in all categories. As such, the district's plan is to move forward with Teachers College.
- Mr. Dahl noted that one school was used at each grade level. Ms. DiCorpo said that was not intentional; it was just the way teachers signed up.
- Mr. Schemm agreed the results were good but noted that this was a very small sample size that was self selected by teachers.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the results were clear. The teachers piloting the other program actually asked to stop and move to Teachers College instead.
- Mr. Schemm asked if the phonics program ties in to other Teachers College units. Ms. DeBarber said it does, to both the reading and writing. She said there are also extensive supports offered, including an interactive online forum.
- Ms. DiCorpo said there is a staff developer coming from Columbia in August for professional development. Of 45 seats available, there are already 38 filled. Instructional coaches will be leading professional development as well and demonstrating lessons. She said the next step is to purchase materials; funds are in the 2019-20 budget.
- Mrs. Faulenbach said with the amount of money involved, she appreciates the teacher collaboration and feedback regarding the pilot. She asked where the funds are budgeted and Ms. DiCorpo said within the school lines.
- Mr. Schemm said buy-in from teachers is very important and the pilot is significant in accomplishing this. He said it is important that we

	put teachers in touch with resources in a deliberate way, providing a consistent pathway to materials. He is pleased to see the consistent approach with this curriculum. • Mrs. McInerney said she finds the collaborative nature very powerful as well. B. Graduation Requirements • Mr. Schemm noted that this topic was discussed at the Policy meeting before this one. • Mr. Dahl said he would hold any of his comments until the full Board discussion. • Mrs. Faulenbach encouraged Board members to send any additional questions to Ms. DiCorpo prior to the Board meeting. • Mr. Schemm said having the additional requested data prior to the meeting would also be helpful to inform discussion. • Mrs. Faulenbach said she knows it is the legislation driving this change primarily but asked if there were other reasons for the changes suggested. • Ms. DiCorpo said the middle school teachers who teach the courses under consideration are in favor of giving credit since the students are doing the required work. Any changes will inform student scheduling going forward. She said they also look for 7-12 certification when hiring for math. • Mrs. Faulenbach said more collaboration will be needed between the middle school and high school for bridging. • Mr. Schemm said alignment is important between schools and it is clear in New Milford for the courses under discussion. • Mr. Schemm asked if Conversational Spanish is included for possible credit. Ms. DiCorpo said it is not since there is no alignment with the high school. • Mr. Schemm suggested that be made clear on page 6146(e) of the policy. • Mrs. McInerney said it was specified on page 6146(c). • Mrs. Faulenbach asked when students are expected to decide on their pathway. Ms. DiCorpo said it should start with the development of the student	B. Graduation Requirements
--	--	--

	success plan at the middle school level. She said they have slowly been working to increase counselor access to students at that level. • Mrs. McInerney said it is important to introduce parents to the pathways as well. • Mrs. Faulenbach said it needs to be more than one conversation; it needs to be repetitive. • Mr. Shugrue said they are working to revamp the high school structure so that there are numerous touch points throughout the year over multiple years.	
5.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m., seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



J.T. Schemm, Chairperson
Committee on Learning