

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Minutes
June 5, 2018
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
Mr. Bill Dahl
Mr. Joseph Failla
Mr. J.T. Schemm

Also Present: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology

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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 7:31 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Presentations - Mrs. McInerney asked when the Committee would next see curriculum for approval. Ms. DiCorpo said not until January or February. The district is putting in a new process which will allow writing to take place during the school year. Ms. DiCorpo is prioritizing the work now, and reviewing the proposal with those involved. - Mr. Schemm asked if writing will happen during school time. Ms. DiCorpo said it will be a combination of release time and offsite work. Mr. Schemm said he thinks it will be helpful to be doing the work at the same time the teaching is happening so the work is not done in a vacuum. - Mr. Dahl asked if substitutes will be needed. Ms. DiCorpo said yes, but there will be a balance.	Presentations
A.	Phonics Pilot Ms. DiCorpo said the phonics work is driven by	A. Phonics Pilot

the DLET goal and needs assessment. The district looked at current program limitations, investigated available phonics programs, and will pilot two next year.

- Mrs. McNerney asked about the role of the literacy coach in the process. Mr. Smith said the K-2 position is open and they purposely did not fill it this year to help fill the state funding deficit.
- Mrs. McNerney asked if teachers piloting would receive a stipend or if it is considered professional development. Ms. DiCorpo said it is professional development.
- Mr. Schemm asked what program the district is currently using. Ms. DiCorpo said Superkids. She said they will track that program in comparison to the pilots.
- Ms. DiCorpo said the two programs which will be piloted are Fountas & Pinnell and Columbia Units of Study in Phonics. She said the teachers piloting are excited to try them out. They will collaborate through the year and share results, so an ultimate decision can be made through consensus.
- Mr. Dahl said he was impressed with the tremendous amount of work that Ms. DiCorpo is doing.

B. Summer Reading

- Ms. DiCorpo said she has worked with Data Coach Michael Clyne to develop a coordinated response to summer reading, specifically focused on intervention of below grade level readers at the middle school level. They are working closely with the public library on strategies to increase reading participation, including programming and incentives. They have surveyed students and shared the results with the library for planning. They have also created one universal website for all NMPS students and families to access. Ms. DiCorpo said they will be emailing information to all families. They will also have hard copies available at the building level so teachers can add their encouragement.
- Mrs. McNerney said she thinks this is a great idea

B. Summer Reading

	and asked if the district has connected specifically with the parents of underachievers. Ms. DiCorpo said reading level was shared at spring conferences through grade 8. Mr. Smith said it is part of the MAP assessment too. • Mrs. McInerney said not all parents attend spring conferences. Ms. DiCorpo said she can talk to the building principals. • Mr. Smith said they want students to read more, regardless of level, as it benefits all. • Ms. DiCorpo said it has been a collaborative effort with the library and others. SMS teacher Gina Bernard is working with local girl scouts to set up free local libraries around town. The Youth Agency is involved in talks about getting their students involved. • Mr. Dahl said he is happy to see the collaboration with the public library which has outstanding programs. • Ms. DiCorpo said they are also promoting the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. She said the State is now monitoring participation and will award certificates to schools with highest books per student count and highest participation. Her goal is for NMPS to earn that recognition. The district goal is for 100% of students to read a reasonable number of books over the summer and for 100% of students to complete the governor's reading challenge form during or after summer to log the books they've read.	
4.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
5.	Adjourn • Mr. Dahl asked if the Committee would be meeting this summer. Mr. Smith said it was agreed that the July Policy and COL meetings will be canceled. No decision has been made yet on the August meetings.	Adjourn

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Page 4

	Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m., seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p.m.
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Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tammy McInerney', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
Committee on Learning