

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Minutes
October 1, 2019
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mr. J.T. Schemm, Chairperson
Mrs. Angela C. Chastain
Mr. Bill Dahl
Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Also Present: Dr. Kerry Parker, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal, New Milford High School
Mrs. Danette Lambiase, Head Counselor, New Milford High School

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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 7:38 p.m. by Mr. Schemm.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Item of Information A. Site Visits and Student Opportunities • Ms. DiCorpo introduced Cathy Awwad, Executive Director of the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB), who spoke about the Apprenticeship CT Initiative Manufacturing Program. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, the program provides an opportunity for students in four school districts: Danbury, New Milford, Torrington, and Waterbury to explore a career in manufacturing. The 10 to 12 week program, implemented by NRWIB, includes a 144-hour curriculum comprised of a minimum of 72 hours of manufacturing theory, hands-on training, and a minimum of 72 hours of a paid CT manufacturing pre-apprenticeship training experience with registered sponsor. • Here in New Milford the program sponsor will be MEDInstill. They are looking to start with ten juniors and/or seniors per year,	Item of Information A. Site Visits and Student Opportunities

	participating as an after school program. A grant covers the cost of the program, insurance etc. so there is no cost to the district. • Ms. DiCorpo said they have toured MEDInstill and the NRWIB program in Waterbury and it is truly not the manufacturing of yesteryear. There are computer science and biomedical components. • Mrs. McNerney said this is a fantastic opportunity for our students. She asked how students will be recruited. Ms. Awwad said the plan is to make presentations to all juniors and seniors, have them sign up if interested, then tour the facility to confirm interest before working with school personnel for selection. She said the plan is to start small and build if there is additional interest. Ms. Awwad offered to tour BOE members as well. • Ms. DiCorpo said there will be additional windows for community partnerships once the Perkins 5 guidelines are set. • The NRWIB also offers a Future Bankers Program and Pharmacy Tech Program sponsored through CVS. Ms. Awwad said the Future Bankers Program is an after school online program, with an in-building proctor. Students are eligible for three college credits and finish the program with paid work during April vacation. • Mrs. McNerney asked if the program would have an advisor and Ms. DiCorpo said yes. She said there could be a tie in to the mastery based component of the graduation requirements as well. • Ms. DiCorpo said there have been discussions through the Portrait of a Graduate work of regionalizing opportunities for students to provide more access to individual schools. • Ms. Awwad said the Perkins 5 career pathways are being defined and include manufacturing, health care, information technology, human services and construction related. She said these can be high paying jobs and there is a high need for them. • Mrs. Chastain said she has been beating this drum for the past seven years. She is thrilled	
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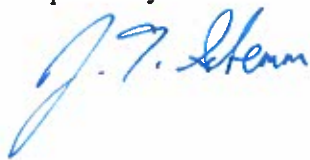
	to see these opportunities and hopes it inspires the district to reach out for more. She said it will be important to educate students and parents on these alternatives to a college pathway that will enable them to support themselves and future families. • Ms. Awwad said she did in-district professional development with support staff in August of this year. • Mr. Schemm said he appreciates what he sees as an important connection to the local community.	
4.	Presentation A. Guidance Plan • Ms. DiCorpo said the NMHS Comprehensive School Counseling Program document memorializes the work counselors do throughout the year, breaking it down by grade and month. • Mrs. Lambiase said they have reflected over the last few years on what and how they are meeting student needs and the requirements coming up. To that end, they have adopted the “two freshman counselor” model. • Mr. Dahl asked if the plan builds up from earlier levels. Mrs. Lambiase said not at this time. Ms. DiCorpo said counseling standards are coming and will help chart the path moving forward. Right now, the high school does outreach to the lower levels. • Mrs. Chastain asked if Mrs. Lambiase would explain the reasoning behind the designated freshman counselor and required transition to a new counselor sophomore year. She asked how this was communicated to parents and what feedback has been received. • Mrs. Lambiase said a letter went out to parents in August 2018. She said they considered the senior counselor model as well but thought it would be daunting with current staff levels. She said she had received between 10-12 emails expressing concern about the lack of continuity to sophomore year, but said that is	Presentation A. Guidance Plan

	not a big problem due to the department's team approach. She said the current set up provides more focus. • Mr. Schemm said front loading the focus on freshmen helps with discipline issues too. Touch points at this age are well spent. He asked if any peer work is done among grades and Mr. Shugrue said some of that is done. • Mrs. McInerney said she would be interested to see what is done with the eighth graders to prepare them for high school. Mrs. Lambiase said that last year they had the two freshman counselors at SMS for 3-4 days while course selection was taking place and that resulted in fewer course change requests. Mr. Shugrue said he reinforced the pathways with parents at the January Incoming Freshman Night too. • Mrs. Chastain asked if they had measurements of success, for example less students requesting changes, in crisis etc. • Mr. Shugrue said anecdotally the first day of school this year had no line of students in the school counseling office waiting to be seen, as has been the case in previous years. He said every "A" day, seniors can go to the Career Center for help during advisory. He said with the increased focus on freshmen, they have had fewer students repeating as freshmen due to lack of credits. • Mrs. Chastain asked if all counselors still work with students in crisis or if there is a designated counselor. Mrs. Lambiase said the issues fluctuate from day to day so they all still have a part. In the case of a major issue, the general program might be put on hold so all counselors are available. • Mrs. Chastain asked if there was any work in advisory to increase "grit" in students, to make them less anxious and more persistent. • Mr. Shugrue said that is a million dollar question. He does think that the lack of coping skills and perseverance are issues, and they are not helped by technology that allows for immediate contact. It doesn't give students time to process issues emotionally and intellectually over time. He said part of the	
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	WAVE acronym emphasizes that they want to empower students to advocate for themselves. • Mr. Dahl said he thinks “grit” should come from the home. • Mrs. McInerney agreed, saying that students need to learn to advocate for themselves and not all parents are teaching that.	
5.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Review and Approval of Curricula 1. Grade 3 Health 2. Grade 4 Health 3. Grade 5 Health 4. Health II 5. AP Spanish Language and Culture 6. AP French Language and Culture • Ms. DiCorpo said these are all revisions. Health II has been completely updated to reflect current topics. Cover sheets will be changed to reflect administrators and committee members seated at the time of approval. • Mr. Dahl said he was a Health teacher for 40 years and he thinks these curriculums are very well done. • Mr. Schemm asked if Health II is an elective. Ms. DiCorpo said it is. She said other courses in this area, such as Allied Health and EMT, are more specific in topic. This course is general in nature and should appeal to a large number of students looking to fulfill the graduation requirement. • Ms. DiCorpo said AP Spanish currently has two sections, one of 14 and one of 10 students. AP French has one section of 10 students. • Mrs. Chastain asked if these positions are still difficult to staff. Ms. DiCorpo said they are; it is a hard certification. • Mr. Schemm asked how many students are enrolled in AP German. Ms. DiCorpo said she would check. • Ms. DiCorpo said there are 17 more curriculum to approve before we are caught up and can begin the review of fall writing.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Review and Approval of Curricula 1. Grade 3 Health 2. Grade 4 Health 3. Grade 5 Health 4. Health II 5. AP Spanish Language and Culture 6. AP French Language and Culture

	- The committee discussed possibilities for moving these through, including a special meeting or consent agenda. - Mrs. Chastain said her concern in trying to move curriculum through in a timely manner is to allow the committee to discuss other additional topics of learning. Mr. Dahl moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Grade 3 Health, Grade 4 Health, Grade 5 Health, Health II, AP Spanish Language and Culture and AP French Language and Culture, seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval: Grade 3 Health, Grade 4 Health, Grade 5 Health, Health II, AP Spanish Language and Culture and AP French Language and Culture.
6.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
7.	Adjourn Mrs. Chastain moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dahl and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



J.T. Schemm, Chairperson
Committee on Learning