

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Minutes
November 5, 2019
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

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

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mr. Schemm. Mr. Schemm said this is a robust agenda. He thanked Ms. DiCorpo for working through the sixteen curriculums to help remove the backlog for the new Board.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Presentation A. Social and Emotional Learning Ms. DiCorpo said the district started purposeful play four years ago in the area of social and emotional learning (SEL). Since then, SEL has broadened to other initiatives. The curriculum for the Choose Love Movement was introduced at the Wellness Committee last year and has been adopted K-8 this year. It is presented through guidance counselors and by Dr. Tomasello. The program teaches four character values and SEL skills that help to cultivate compassion, connection, optimism, personal responsibility and resiliency. There are also parent handouts to reinforce student learning. At the high school level, the NAMES program is being discontinued. The Wingman program will be rolled out beginning next week. Ms. DiCorpo shared a video about the program, which is a student to student support initiative:	Presentation A. Social and Emotional Learning

<https://www.dylanswingsofchange.org/>.

Founder Ian Hockley spoke at the last faculty meeting. Ms. DiCorpo wrote the program into the Title IV grant, including the Youth Agency if they wish. Over 220 student nominations have been received from faculty. The pool will be narrowed down to 96 students who will be trained over two days. Mr. Shugrue has shared information in a parent letter and will present to PTO shortly. The program is being launched with the Behavior and Attitudes Survey results in mind. Those results will be presented to high school faculty on November 12. On November 14, Ian Hockley will present to students during the day and to parents at night.

- Mr. Dahl asked if there was any thought to connecting the program to grade 8, since the older students could be powerful role models. Ms. DiCorpo said perhaps eventually. Right now they are focused on training and implementation.
- Mr. Dahl asked if there is any outside community involvement because he thinks that can be a very valuable resource. Ms. DiCorpo said right now it is school based with the goal of starting a common language with the community.
- Dr. Parker agreed with Mr. Dahl that it is important to have a voice in partnership with Town agencies. She feels this is a growing area and gave as an example the opioid task force.
- Mr. Schemm said other programs such as NAMES and Refuse to Lose were long lasting and successful. He thinks building capacity of kids looking out for other kids is a great way to move forward.
- Mrs. Chastain said she viewed NAMES as more staff driven and thinks longevity comes with fostering student leadership.
- Dr. Parker said a new program can be invigorating in and of itself.
- Ms. DiCorpo said she would provide training and presentation dates to Board members and invited them to attend.

	• Ms. DiCorpo said there may be budget implications for the program down the road.	
4.	Discussion and Possible Action	Discussion and Possible Action
A.	Western CT Coalition Mini Grant Survey Question and Review • Jason O'Connor spoke on behalf of NMCAN, that sponsored the recent Attitude and Behaviors Survey through the Western CT Coalition. At the time the survey was given in New Milford, it did not include vaping questions. A mini grant opportunity has opened up to provide funding for those questions now to survey students and adults about vaping consumption and perception. The survey is short, 10 minutes, and could be done either in paper form or on a survey monkey. • Mrs. McInerney asked what grades will be surveyed. Jason said 8, 10, and 12 grade. He said this is an off year for the Attitude and Behaviors Survey, so this will be additional data. • Mrs. McInerney asked what class the survey will be taken in. Ms. DiCorpo said last time, the survey was taken in PE classes at the middle school and in advisory at the high school. • Mr. O'Connor said the participation rate at the high school was down significantly this year and he thinks the advisory model might not have produced enough time or buy in. He said he is looking for a better context this time. • Mrs. Chastain suggested offering students a small gift to encourage survey participation, either a food item or gift card, if the grant supports it. • Mr. O'Connor said he would like to administer the survey at the beginning of the new year, so he is looking for Board approval before then. • Ms. DiCorpo said she would check state guidelines for consistency with surveyed information prior to distribution.	A. Western CT Coalition Mini Grant Survey Question and Review

- Dr. Parker said she appreciates NMCAN's efforts.
- Mr. Schemm said it will be helpful to have information to inform curriculum and programming.

Mr. Dahl moved to bring the Western CT Coalition Mini Grant Survey for students and adults to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. McInerney and passed unanimously.

B. Review and Approval of Curricula

1. K-2 Library Media
2. 3-5 Library Media
3. 6-8 Library Media
4. 9-12 Library Media
5. Science Fiction CP
6. Theater Workshop and Performance
7. Experiencing Poetry
8. Physics CP
9. Physics Honors
10. AP Microeconomics
11. Introduction to Business
12. Grade 6 Art
13. Grade 7 Art
14. Grade 8 Art
15. Early Childhood
16. Statistics CP

- Ms. DiCorpo said these are all revisions.
- The Committee agreed to use a consent agenda format for these curricula.

Mrs. Chastain moved to bring the following curricula to the full Board for approval:

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Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the Western CT Coalition Mini Grant Survey for students and adults to the full Board for approval.

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	11. Introduction to Business 12. Grade 6 Art 13. Grade 7 Art 14. Grade 8 Art 15. Early Childhood 16. Statistics CP Seconded by Mr. Dahl and passed unanimously.	10. AP Microeconomics 11. Introduction to Business 12. Grade 6 Art 13. Grade 7 Art 14. Grade 8 Art 15. Early Childhood 16. Statistics CP
5.	Item of Information A. Budget Drivers • Ms. DiCorpo said this is a draft of budget items under discussion. Two bilingual teachers will be mandated next year due to student numbers. With schools with 20 or more ELs who have the same dominant language, these schools are mandated by the state to offer a bilingual education program in that language in the following school year. A part time ELL coordinator was funded by grant this year; that funding is not available next year. Due to increasing population in this area, Ms. DiCorpo is recommending a full time coordinator. • Mrs. Chastain asked if any other language besides Spanish was getting close to mandate. Ms. DiCorpo said no. • Ms. DiCorpo said the other drivers relate to the Portrait of a Graduate work and the strategic plan that will be developed as a result. Once this reaches implementation phase, teacher support will be needed. As a result, coordinator positions are being requested in the areas of STEM and the Humanities. She said vertical alignment is challenging to create in the current set up, especially regarding professional development. • Dr. Parker said these positions will help with community outreach as well. • Ms. DiCorpo said K-2 is the only level that does not have head teachers. The recommendation would be a stipend position. • Mrs. McInerney said she views this as a	Item of Information A. Budget Drivers

	fairness issue. • Mr. Dahl said while he appreciates the need, the Board hears all the time that there are too many administrators and not enough paras. He's not sure this proposal will fly. • Mrs. Chastain asked if other positions will be eliminated to make room for the three new positions requested. Dr. Parker said it appears there may be FTE's to work with but it is still a work in progress. She said the conversation about paras is ongoing too, with discussion about adding paras for regular education to support social and emotional learning for every student. She said these are preliminary conversations that she wants the Board to be aware of. She is conscious of the overall bottom line. • Mrs. Chastain said education will have to change. Towns cannot continue to support the ever-growing needs.	
6.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
7.	Adjourn Mr. Dahl moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



J.T. Schemm, Chairperson
Committee on Learning