

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Special Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2022
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Ex Officio
Absent:	Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.
Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Interim Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Nick Manciero, NMHS Math Department Chair Ms. Gavi Ziu-Pires, K-8 Math Coordinator Ms. Karen Bosco, District Data Coach Ms. Megan Sylvester, K-5 ELA Coordinator

1.	Call to Order The special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney. Mrs. Faulenbach was seated in the absence of Mr. Swanhall.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Review and Approval of Curriculum 1. Honors Biology - Ms. Hollander said this is a one credit course for 10 graders; there are five sections of 115 students total currently. It is lab based and taught at a faster pace than the college prep version. - Mrs. McInerney noted that the college prep and advanced placement versions were approved last month. Mrs. Faulenbach moved to bring the Honors Biology curriculum to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. Sarich. Motion passed unanimously.	Discussion and Possible Action A. Review and Approval of Curriculum 1. Honors Biology Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the Honors Biology curriculum to the full Board for approval.

	B. Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2022-2027) • Ms. Hollander said curriculum guides all instruction and the district continues to have a clear plan for revision through a thorough process of writing and review. • Mrs. McInerney asked when the Board will see the first curriculum for approval this year. Ms. Hollander said in the spring. • Mrs. Faulenbach noted that this is a fluid document and movement takes place as needed. She asked what the timeframe is for revision. • Ms. Hollander said it is 12-16 weeks altogether. Mr. McCauley moved to bring the Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2022-2027) to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. Sarich. Motion passed unanimously. C. Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Waiver • Ms. Hollander said the state offered flexibilities this year as they did last year while they work out the final evaluation guidelines at the state level. The Professional Development and Evaluation Committee met and unanimously agreed to recommend approval to implement the flexibilities offered. Actionable feedback to enhance student learning is still the goal. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked if this is in line with what other districts are doing and Ms. Hollander said it is. Mr. McCauley moved to bring the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Waiver to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mrs. Sarich. Motion passed unanimously.	B. Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2022-2027) Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the Five-Year Curriculum Plan (2022-2027) to the full Board for approval. C. Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Waiver Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Waiver to the full Board for approval.
4. A.	Items for Information and Discussion Presentation: Supporting Student Success 1. Science of Reading K-5 2. K-12 Math: Ensuring Coherence 3. Universal Screener: iReady	Items for Information and Discussion A. Presentation: Supporting Student Success 1. Science of Reading K-5

	• Ms. Hollander said this is a collaborative effort and is designed to make sure all district systems align and that professional learning is provided to support students. • They are looking at how our students are performing now and what they will need for future success. • Ms. Ziu-Pires and Mr. Manciero presented regarding Math K-12. Here the goal is to review where we are now through historical data analysis, curriculum review and visits with staff to determine what factors contributed to the positive and negative trends in growth in achievement; what possible indicators/processes in curriculum and instruction could have room for growth to maximize the district's potential; what does research in teaching and learning show; and what goals are the district aiming to achieve. • They want to connect to the district strategic planning done last year and provide instruction for deep learning. • Ms. Hollander said they recognize that there is a lift to be done here to build success. The goal is to restructure as needed while maintaining the path towards the goal. • Mrs. McInerney asked if they will be looking at the sequencing of courses at the middle school level as part of this. Ms. Hollander said that is part of the work. • Mr. McCauley said he sees a loss of motivation on the part of students too which is a harder hurdle. • Mr. Manciero said they are starting to address that in professional development: how to create that itch to learn in students again. • Ms. Sylvester presented regarding ELA "Right to Read" legislation and its effect on instruction. As part of this, the state will choose five approved programs, PK-3, and districts will have to choose their curricula or apply for a waiver that explains how they will update their current curriculum. We have begun the process for the waiver. We are attending Science of Reading master classes to help us with implementation.	2. K-12 Math: Ensuring Coherence 3. Universal Screener: iReady
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	• Ms. Bosco presented on a change to the assessment tool that the district uses. We will no longer use NWEA MAP and have switched instead to iReady. iReady is both a universal screener, like MAP, and also a diagnostic tool. It will provide specific data in individual domain areas; align to the Science of Reading; and provide grade level and scaled score baseline and current level data. This will offer the same assessment K-8, unlike MAP which had three different assessments over K-8. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked what timeframe iReady uses. • Ms. Hollander said it is three times a year, the same as MAP. She said it is very user friendly, both for students, parents and teachers. They have been meeting with small groups of teachers since last year on the roll out. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked when parents will be made aware, since their understanding is crucial. • Ms. Hollander said information will go out from her office prior to testing. • Mrs. Faulenbach asked when the first data will be available. Ms. Hollander said by the second week in October. • Mrs. McInerney asked that this evening's presentations be sent to the full Board.	
5.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley, and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



**Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
Committee on Learning**