

**New Milford Board of Education  
Committee on Learning Special Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2022  
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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NEW MILFORD, CT

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| Present:      | Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson<br>Mr. Brian McCauley<br>Mrs. Olga I. Rella, Alternate<br>Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach, Ex Officio                        |
| Absent:       | Mrs. Leslie Sarich<br>Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.                                                                                                      |
| Also Present: | Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Interim Superintendent of Schools<br>Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent<br>Ms. Karen Bosco, District Data Coach |

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Call to Order</b><br><br>The special meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney. Mrs. Rella was seated in the absence of Mrs. Sarich. Mrs. Faulenbach was seated in the absence of Mr. Swanhall.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Call to Order</b>                                                                     |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Public Comment</b><br><br>• There was none.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Public Comment</b>                                                                    |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Items for Information and Discussion</b><br><br><b>A. District Assessment Results</b><br><br>• Ms. Hollander said this is an update through 2021-22 that reviews where we are and starts to look at opportunities for growth. For perspective, the last “normal” year for comparison purposes was 2018-19 and that is where the state looks as well. With the reality of COVID, the district wants to be thoughtful about the kinds of assessments given to students so that we value what is assessed and use it to address needs.<br><br>• Ms. Hollander said momentum gained in SBAC ELA was lost during the pandemic. That is the case with SBAC Math as well, but at a greater level. We are aware that this is an area that must be addressed and we will be looking | <b>Items for Information and Discussion</b><br><br><b>A. District Assessment Results</b> |

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|  | <p>at it from a K-12 totality. Ms. Hollander said the new universal screener, iReady, aligns with SBAC but provides more immediate feedback to teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Bosco discussed the SBAC “21” Cohort group which is now our grades 5-9 to demonstrate that some cohorts are showing growth within areas of results.</li><li>• Mr. McCauley said he found it interesting that the most growth is in grades 3 and 4 and that those students would have been kindergarteners during COVID.</li><li>• Ms. Hollander said they approach all data as information, not as a “gotcha” moment, but for how to use it for growth. Teacher professional learning is tremendously important in this area.</li><li>• Ms. Bosco said they did a comparison with like population DRG districts and with four towns in the surrounding area, as well as to the state benchmark.</li><li>• In ELA, 44 % of New Milford students reached state level benchmarks in 3rd-8th grade which is 10.8 percent below pre-pandemic and 4.1 percent lower than the state average. Growth rates are similar to years past, however continue to fall just shy of the average growth rates in the state. The gap in students' meeting proficiency is widening between New Milford and the DRG. The gap in students' meeting proficiency is staying consistent in relationship to local districts. Certain cohorts of students are showing growth.</li><li>• In Math, 35 % of New Milford students reached state level benchmarks in grades 3rd-8th which is an increase of 5.1 percent from last year but 17.4 percent below pre-pandemic and 5.4 percent lower than the state average. Growth rates are similar to years past, however continue to fall just shy of the average growth rates in the state. The gap in students' meeting proficiency is widening between New Milford and the DRG. The gap in students' meeting proficiency is widening between New Milford and local districts. Certain cohorts of students are showing growth.</li></ul> |  |
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|                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the area of NGSS (Science), Ms. Hollander said they are meeting with teachers to review the data and talk about what skills they should be looking for in day to day teaching as a result.</li> <li>• Regarding the SATs, Ms. Bosco said we are making gains here to the pre-pandemic level. Regarding the PSAT, all grade levels are above the state average and exceeding benchmark in literacy, while running just shy in math. AP data is similar to previous years in the number of students taking classes, with a slight increase in the number of tests taken. The passing percentage is similar to historical data.</li> <li>• Ms. Hollander said the next steps will be to identify Science of Reading needs and align them with our ELA units of study; ensure coherence of K-12 math including review of K-5 curriculum; use data teams to assess and address; continue to focus on Tier 1 instruction; and use the diagnostic assessment i-Ready data to drive instruction.</li> <li>• Mr. Hollander said there is work to be done and some of it will have a budgetary impact. She will continue to inform the Board going forward.</li> <li>• Mrs. McInerney said it is obvious that progress is needed. She asked that the presentation be sent to the full Board.</li> <li>• Mrs. Faulenbach said numbers don't lie and she is very concerned that the gap between New Milford and the DRG is getting larger.</li> <li>• Ms. Hollander said there is work already in progress. They are building shared ownership and compliance.</li> </ul> |                                                      |
| <b>B. Sports Literature: Adjustment of Resources</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Hollander said this curriculum was just approved. In practice, some of the resources turned out not to be accessible to students under the district's use policy so adjustments are being made and the instructors are pivoting and revising to using other tools. The course itself is full and very well received.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>B. Sports Literature: Adjustment of Resources</b> |

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Page 4

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| 4. | <b>Public Comment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There was none.</li></ul>                                            | <b>Public Comment</b>                                                                               |
| 5. | <b>Adjourn</b> <p>Mrs. Faulenbach moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m., seconded by Mr. McCauley, and passed unanimously.</p> | <b>Adjourn</b> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.</b></p> |

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson  
Committee on Learning