

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Minutes
September 5, 2017
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
Mr. J.T. Schemm
Mr. Brian McCauley, alternate

Absent: Mr. Bill Dahl
Mr. Dave Littlefield

Also Present: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Jennifer Amodeo, Art teacher
Mrs. Susan Waldman, Art teacher

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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 7:32 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney. Mr. McCauley was seated in the absence of Mr. Dahl.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Review of Curriculum Writing Process/Training - Ms. DiCorpo reviewed the curriculum writing process and training that took place last June. She said the new template utilizes three stages of development. Stage 1 focuses on desired results and key understandings. To “understand” has two general connotations: applying understanding, knowledge, and skill effectively in new situations, which results in successful transfer; and making inferences and grasping connections, to culminate in understanding. Stage 2 focuses on evidence, both evaluative criteria and assessment evidence, as well as performance tasks, formative and summative assessments. Stage 3 is the actual learning plan, the summary of key learning events and instruction. - The training plan included a full day of	Review of Curriculum Writing Process/Training

	professional development on June 15 where facilitators were trained with help from SERC consultants to guide the work of the standards by subject area, and ensure integration of CT core standards cross content. The writers also had three half days of training on June 26-28. • Ms. DiCorpo said there were approximately 33 curricula written this summer in the areas of PE, Health, Art, History, Science and English. • Mrs. McInerney thanked Ms. DiCorpo and all others involved for their wonderful work on the new template and on the curriculum.	
4.	Discussion and Possible Action	Discussion and Possible Action
A.	Review and Approval of Curriculum	A. Review and Approval of Curriculum
	1. Kindergarten Art 2. Art Grade 1 3. Art Grade 2 4. Art Grade 3 • Mrs. Amodeo presented, saying she wrote the K-3 Art curriculum in conjunction with Mrs. DuVerger and Mrs. Beddows. They were thankful to have attended professional development at CCSU regarding the CT Arts Standards. The newly written curriculum is aligned with the National Visual Arts Standards and common core. They are based on four artistic processes: create, present, respond, and connect. The curriculum is grade specific and content based and includes work in two and three-dimensional art. They are designed to allow for great individual choice within the standards. Mrs. Amodeo said the instruction design is a shift in focus from “what” you want students to be when they grow up to “how” you want them to be. • Mrs. Waldman said the specificity of the new curriculum is very helpful. She said it aligns with instruction that has been ongoing but is more detailed in description. • Ms. DiCorpo said she wanted to commend the	1. Kindergarten Art 2. Art Grade 1 3. Art Grade 2 4. Art Grade 3

	writers who took on the task of pioneering the connection with alignment to standards. • Mrs. McInerney asked if there was a set timeframe as to when curriculum must be tied to standards. Ms. DiCorpo said only in tested areas primarily. • Mrs. McInerney said she finds the multitude of artwork displayed in our schools to be visually impactful and very impressive. • Mr. Schemm said he appreciated the four domains and thought the same terminology would echo in other subjects such as his area of Science. Mr. Schemm moved to bring the following curricula: 1. Kindergarten Art 2. Art Grade 1 3. Art Grade 2 4. Art Grade 3 to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curriculum to the full Board for approval: 1. Kindergarten Art 2. Art Grade 1 3. Art Grade 2 4. Art Grade 3
5.	New Teacher Induction • Ms. DiCorpo said this year's new teacher induction format was tweaked as a result of feedback from last year's participants. The orientation was a three-day process. Day one included a general welcome by administration; presentation of Theories of Action by Mr. Smith; overview of curriculum writing and how to read it and find it in the district; special education overview from Mrs. Olson; technology instruction from Ms. Pratt; and TEAM information and/or Best Practices discussion as pertinent. The Best Practices segment was led by Mr. Jeffrey Bronn, a participant in the district's new Aspiring Leadership Program. Ms. DiCorpo said day two included a review of district policies by Ms. Baldelli; a visit by the Director of the New Milford Public Library who discussed access and linked staff to databases; a presentation on Ed Reflect, the teacher evaluation system; Facilities green cleaning protocol and ID photos; a self-inventory	New Teacher Induction

	regarding the teacher evaluation rubric; and Gradebook training. Day three included how to access student data and create reports; NMEA membership presentation; expectations regarding parent communication; and school visits. • Ms. DiCorpo said, going forward, there are already dates set for school-level new teacher meetings. • Mr. Schemm asked how many new teachers were at orientation. Ms. DiCorpo said there were 27. • Mrs. McInerney asked if the district had filled all openings and Mr. Smith said yes except for two certified staff who had resigned and were currently under a "30-day hold" until new staff could be hired.	
6.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
7.	Adjourn Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Schemm and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
Committee on Learning