

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Minutes
September 20, 2016
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mr. William R. Dahl, Chairperson
Mr. Dave Littlefield
Mr. Brian McCauley
Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Also Present: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology
Mr. Michael Clyne, Data Coach
Ms. Karen Brenneke, Literacy Coach

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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 7:35 p.m. by Mr. Dahl who welcomed new Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Items of Information A. 2016 Assessment Update - Ms. DiCorpo and Data Coach Michael Clyne presented 2016 assessment results, illustrating district strengths and where effort is needed. - In summary of Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) testing for Math, Ms. DiCorpo and Mr. Clyne reported that the district is beginning to see the positive effect of the new math program at all levels; more total number of students are meeting goal with 287 less exams taken; climbing in District Reference Group (DRG) ranks; all subgroups saw improvements; cohort improvements in 5 of the 6 grades; averaged 43rd percentile statewide up from the 31st last year. On the SBAC reading exam, there were slight increases overall from last year;	Items of Information A. 2016 Assessment Update

	cohort improvements in 5th and 7th grade; and averaged 31st percentile statewide, 31st last year as well. • In summary of CMT/CAPT, the district exceeded state averages at all three grade levels assessed; there were two students who achieved perfect scores, one in grade 5 and one in grade 10; the number of exceeds (level 5) students in grade 5 increased by 62%, up from 37 last year to 60 this year; grade 5 had the highest goal rate since 2012, and outpaced the state average; over 33% of the 10th graders exceeded (level 5); as a district we had 234 students exceed (level 5) between the three grade levels. • The SAT was used as the new assessment tool in grade 11 with all students taking. This was the first year of the current version, so there is no trend. In summary, students overall averaged a score of 1077, with about 50% of the students above the 50% percentile; we outperformed state averages in both reading and math; ranked in the 58th percentile statewide for a composite score; of the 61 students who scored at a 1200 or higher, 50 (82%) took AP courses; of the 127 students who scored from a 1190-1000 only 30 (24%) took AP courses. • In summary of NWEA MAP testing, growth was seen even when students did not make it to the goal threshold; data correlates to weaknesses in curriculum; the information supports our known areas for growth and the changes we have instituted; looking at student growth through multiple data points is helping teachers better meet the instructional needs of students; testing results are allowing the district to make predictive models of student success due to correlation of normed percentiles and achievement on other assessments. • In summary of Advanced Placement (AP) testing results, statewide participation rate rose by 2%, in New Milford it rose by 19%.	
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	Over the past five years, Connecticut participation has risen by 19% and New Milford has risen by 72%; we had our highest participation rate to date and the highest number of exams passed; we continued to attain an 81% passing rate, even as the number of exams taken increased from 401 to 504 and number of students participating increased from 233 to 267; the sophomore and junior classes had new highs in test participation and last year's seniors had higher participation and pass rates than any previous graduating class. AP testing results are having a positive effect on New Milford's college readiness score. • Mr. Smith said the district paid 50% of the cost of each AP test last year and fully funded the PSAT. • Mr. Littlefield asked to see PSAT results. • Mrs. McInerney asked if additional funding was given in cases of hardship and Mr. Smith said yes, as tied into Free and Reduced eligibility. • Mr. Smith said previous to last year only one Free and Reduced eligible student took an AP class; last year 13 Free and Reduced eligible students passed AP tests. • Mrs. McInerney asked if any student could sign up for an AP class and Mr. Smith said yes, if they wished. • Ms. DiCorpo said going forward the district will focus on improvement initiatives such as: the addition of more AP courses in various content areas; creating additional pathways of access in mathematics in grades 6-8 so more students have access to algebra in grade 8; having professional learning dedicated to the creation of rigorous summative assessments in each content area; aligning curriculum 6-12; implementing units of study in science aligned with new science standards with a focus on inquiry; possibly expanding PLTW to incorporate all	
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	grades K-8; continued implementation of Connected Math and Investigations Math programs, piloting Columbia Teachers College Reading and Writing Units of Study; continued instructional coaching in ELA and Mathematics; summer enrichment program; continued creation of common assessments and curriculum aligned to standards; professional development tied to teacher needs. • Mr. Dahl asked if summer school helped students and Mr. Clyne said for the majority (95%) yes. There was a 5% increase seen in math and a 6% increase seen in reading; no summer slide. • Ms. DiCorpo said administrators and co-teachers are being utilized for additional teacher support. • Mr. Dahl asked if co-teachers are able to plan for how they work together as it can be a delicate “dance routine”. Ms. DiCorpo said she can say for certain there is extra planning time at SMS presently, but would look into how SNIS manages the partnership. • Ms. DiCorpo said they are looking at absenteeism and its effect on student testing results as part of the analysis.	
B. Teacher College Pilot Presentation	• Ms. Karen Brenneke, Literacy Coach, discussed assessment results and their use in pinpointing specific holes seen in student work. She said the district is piloting Columbia Teachers College Reading and Writing Units of Study. The units are showing results we want so the pilot is expanding. She distributed a handout “Learning Progression for Opinion Writing” as an example. The handout illustrates what steps a student needs to have shown to prove that they are writing at a certain grade level. It is a useful tool for teachers, parents and	B. Teacher College Pilot Presentation

	students. • Mr. Dahl said it was a comprehensive checklist of a sort but that it appeared to be a lot of work for the teacher. Ms. Brenneke said it is work, but it also provides very precise feedback so it is very helpful to both student and teacher and very useful when conferencing with students and parents. • Ms. Brenneke said the program is creating a common language in the district over all grade levels for the first time regarding writing. • Mrs. McInerney said it was a very powerful document for parents too as it ties into standard based report cards and conference discussions. She said she would find it very helpful as a parent. • Mr. Smith said conferences are scheduled later in the year this year to assist development as well. • Mr. Dahl said it was great to see the data all connecting. • Mr. Littlefield said he thought the district needed to work to figure out how best to get data presentations such as these out to parents and the community at large. • Mr. Smith said they are working on capturing instructional video clips as part of the process.	
4.	Public Comment • There was none.	Public Comment
5.	Adjourn Mrs. McInerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

William R. Dahl

William R. Dahl, Chairperson
Committee on Learning