

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Minutes
February 28, 2017
Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

Present: Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
Mr. Bill Dahl
Mr. Dave Littlefield
Mr. Brian McCauley, Alternate

Absent: Mr. J.T. Schemm

Also Present: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology
Mrs. Deborah Clark, Teacher, New Milford Public Schools
Mrs. Alison Huntington, Content Coach
Mr. Michael Abraham, Teacher, New Milford High School
Mrs. Deb Knipple, Teacher, New Milford High School
Ms. Gloria Capone, Teacher, Sarah Noble Intermediate School
Ms. Diane Taylor, Teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School
Mr. David Syzdek, Teacher, New Milford High School

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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. Schemm.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
3.	Presentation A. Early Childhood Council - Ms. DiCorpo said Kindergarten Orientation for parents is tomorrow evening, so it seemed like a good time for a presentation by the Early Childhood Council. - Mrs. Clark said the mission of the Council is to improve the transition to kindergarten for all New Milford children by ensuring that they receive developmentally appropriate literacy skills interaction before attending New Milford Public Schools. They do this with grant assistance from the Connecticut Community Foundation. New	Presentation A. Early Childhood Council

	Milford has been a recipient since 2009 and has received more than \$55,000 since that time to strengthen the link between preschool and public school teachers ensuring the success of young children as they enter kindergarten in NMPS. The Council is a collaboration of members from NMPS, directors and staff from area preschools and daycares, staff from Literacy Volunteers, the New Milford Public Library children's director Sue Ford, Head Start staff, teaching staff from the NMHS Child Development class, NMPS Literacy Coach and Department Chair of Special Education. The focus each year is on literacy standards. • Mrs. Huntington said each year's standard is chosen based on need as identified by data from incoming kindergarteners. • Mr. Littlefield asked how that is measured and Mrs. Huntington said the students are tested in the fall as soon as they arrive in NMPS. • Mrs. Clark said the grant allows the Council to provide resources to preschool programs and present parent nights. • Mrs. McInerney said she loved the tie in with the public library and asked how the Council reaches out to at-home care centers and Mrs. Clark said they use 211 information and the website for advertising. She said the Literacy Volunteers were very helpful with the tie in to ELL. • Mrs. McInerney asked how many parent evenings are offered per year and Mrs. Clark said usually just one as the grant is relatively small for the scope of the program. • Mr. Dahl asked how the Council reaches the non-preschool children. Mrs. Clark said that is a difficult demographic to reach and that Mrs. Ford is a good resource, as well as the high school program. • Mrs. McInerney said she is always pleased to see the preschool directors attend Kindergarten Orientation as it is a nice tie in. • Mrs. Clark said they appreciate the high school students who volunteer to stuff the literacy bags that are distributed at the event.	
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4.	Discussion and Possible Action	Discussion and Possible Action
	- Ms. DiCorpo said she had provided a template to tonight's presenters to aid discussion and address commonly asked questions. A. Review and Approval of Curriculum 1. Middle East Studies - Mr. Abraham said he wrote this new curriculum that is offered for 0.5 credits at the Honors level. There is no prerequisite. Enrollment is at 25. The course offers an introduction to conversational and written Arabic. Students study culture and the dynamics of the region in depth. 2. Marketing I - Mrs. Knipple said this is a revision to this full year course offered to grades 10-12. Sophomores are required to have taken Introduction to Business as a prerequisite. Students study all aspects of Marketing and are required to present an authentic project at the end of the course. Other students use their acquired knowledge to judge the presentations. DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) competition is also involved. There are 77 students in the club this year. The revision includes an update to the title of the course and alignment to CT performance standards. Mrs. Knipple said she collaborates with other districts through DECA, which enables her to make comparisons between the courses. 3. Marketing Work Program - This is a revision to a full year course offered to seniors. The prerequisites are Marketing I and Marketing II. Students go out to work in the real world, get paid, and receive credit for the experience. She said this course is very helpful to those students who need to work. The experience provides interview and communication skills and work ethic. The revision includes more required	A. Review and Approval of Curriculum 1. Middle East Studies 2. Marketing I 3. Marketing Work Program

	reflection and journal writing. • Mrs. McInerney asked when students do the work and Mrs. Knipple said after school and/or during the last block if students have study hall. • Mr. Dahl asked if the class meets regularly or if it is more of an internship set-up. Mrs. Knipple said it is not an internship as students are paid. She manages the students through email and appointments and employer evaluation. Students also share a project at the end. • Mrs. McInerney asked how many students are in the course. Mrs. Knipple said no one now but it changes by semester; the range is usually four to seven students. • Mr. McCauley asked if students are placed in their jobs. Mrs. Knipple said they usually come in with jobs. She said students are sometimes referred by guidance counselors who know the students are working and see this as a good fit. • Mr. Littlefield asked what types of jobs the students have. Mrs. Knipple mentioned Agway and the Feed Barn but said almost any job has marketing applications. 4. Sports & Entertainment Marketing • Mrs. Knipple said this is a new half-year course for grades 11 and 12. The prerequisite is Marketing I. Students apply the concepts they learned there to the sports and entertainment field. • Mrs. McInerney asked about enrollment. Mrs. Knipple said it was 24 in the fall and 18 this spring. 5. Grades 3-5 Choral Music • Ms. Capone said this is a full year course for mixed chorus grades 3-5. Enrollment is approximately 200 students. The students perform two concerts: one in December and one in May. The students also perform out in the community and Ms. Capone said she is working to have more community outreach for performances. The curriculum is new and infused with the knowledge of singing. The focus for grade 3 is on proper breathing, standing properly, blended sound and behavior in a large	
		4. Sports & Entertainment Marketing 5. Grades 3-5 Choral Music

	group. Grades 4 and 5 continue the concepts of good singing, harmony, ear training and music theory. By grade 5, students should be able to read lines of music. Ms. Capone said her main goal is to instill a love of singing that students will want to continue throughout their lives. • Mrs. McInerney said she appreciates the improvement she sees as students progress from year to year. 6. Choral Performance Grades 6-8 • Ms. Taylor said this is a revision to the curriculum with an eye on the new national standards of music education. It is a full year, graded course that meets twice a week in the six-day rotation and once a week in smaller group sectionals. She said the goal is to make students music literate so that they understand the theory behind music and are ready for high school. They work on vocal technique and group behavior. There are approximately 180 students currently. 7. Grades 4-5 Instrumental Music 8. Grades 6-8 Instrumental Music 9. Grades 9-12 Instrumental Music • Mr. Szydek said the revision for these courses was done collaboratively between Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Gregory and himself. They wrote the curriculum together in the same room, which provided a great opportunity to streamline the units so that one flows into another. At the lower grades, instrumental music consists of band and orchestra. At the high school, students may also participate in concert band and wind ensemble. All levels stress the four principles of instructional techniques, ensemble skills, music literacy and aesthetics. The revisions align with the national standards for music education. • Mr. Dahl commended the outstanding music program at all levels. • Mrs. McInerney said she particularly appreciated the efforts made to pair younger students with older	6. Choral Performance Grades 6-8 7. Grades 4-5 Instrumental Music 8. Grades 6-8 Instrumental Music 9. Grades 9-12 Instrumental Music
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	students in performance as it gives them inspiration. - Mr. Szydek said he is continuing to offer additional performance opportunities such as the band's trip to California next year and the winter percussion's participation in the national competition in Ohio. These events help build the program's resume for future consideration for such well-known events as the Rose Bowl Parade and Macy's Thanksgiving Parade. Mr. Dahl moved to bring the following curricula: 1. Middle East Studies 2. Marketing I 3. Marketing Work Program 4. Sports & Entertainment Marketing 5. Grades 3-5 Choral Music 6. Choral Performance Grades 6-8 7. Grades 4-5 Instrumental Music 8. Grades 6-8 Instrumental Music 9. Grades 9-12 Instrumental Music to the full Board for approval, seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the following curriculum to the full Board for approval: 1. Middle East Studies 2. Marketing I 3. Marketing Work Program 4. Sports & Entertainment Marketing 5. Grades 3-5 Choral Music 6. Choral Performance Grades 6-8 7. Grades 4-5 Instrumental Music 8. Grades 6-8 Instrumental Music 9. Grades 9-12 Instrumental Music
5.	Public Comment There was none.	Public Comment
6.	Adjourn Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
 Committee on Learning