New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Meeting Motion & Minutes
October 6, 2026
Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
2026 OCT -9 A 11:14
NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Sarah Herring, Chairperson Mr. Joseph Failla Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal, New Milford High School Dr. Meg Dwyer, Assistant Principal, New Milford High School Mrs. Claudia DeMoura, School Counselor, New Milford High School
Absent:	

1.	**Call to Order** The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mrs. Sarah Herring.	**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.
2.	**Public Comment** None	**Public Comment** None
3.	**Items of Information**	**Items of Information**
A.	**District Beliefs About Learning** Dr. Parlato presented the District Beliefs about Learning document, noting its alignment with the Portrait of a Lifelong Learner. The document represents the culmination of a collaborative meeting where teachers and staff shared experiences and identified key characteristics of effective learning environments. Discussions centered on beliefs about learning and educational best practices, focusing on supporting student knowledge acquisition, developing interview questions, guiding teacher feedback, and establishing a unified vision for teaching and learning.	**A. District Beliefs About Learning**
B.	**New Milford High School: Student Success Plans Update** Mr. Manka discussed the Student Success Plan (SSP), emphasizing its focus on academic achievement, emotional learning, and career readiness to foster positive student habits. He noted that the state has recognized New Milford for developing its own SSP. Dr. Dwyer outlined the alignment of SSP goals with the Portrait of a Lifelong Learner (PoLL), starting full	**B. New Milford High School: Student Success Plans Update**

	implementation with the Class of 2030, and higher grade levels still receiving exposure. Currently 208 students are enrolled in the Freshman Academy, a very high percentage of the freshman class. The district plans to expand SSPs beyond high school, to middle school students utilizing Naviance. Dr. Dwyer confirmed middle school usage of Naviance, noting efforts to prevent duplicate tasks, while Mr. Manka added that IT monitors student account activity. Dr. Dwyer reviewed the progression of SSPs across three categories: Academic Domain, Career Domain, and Social-Emotional/Intellectual Domain. Students must complete tasks for credit, with benchmark checklists tracked each year. An alternative credit pathway is available for students not in Freshman Academy. In response to Mrs. McInerney's suggestion to make Freshman Academy mandatory, Mr. Manka and Dr. Dwyer noted scheduling considerations, such as freeing up spring terms for career courses, but agree it is a good idea given its popularity. Benchmarks increase in depth each year, incorporating deeper career experiences, PSATs, and SATs via grade-specific Naviance deadlines. Mrs. DeMoura noted that certain tasks are waived for transfer students joining the district. Addressing Mrs. McInerney's question regarding the Peer to Peer program, Mr. Manka explained that it offers 1:1 support, particularly benefiting multilingual learners. Dr. Parlato stated that New Milford is well-positioned relative to state and gubernatorial blue-ribbon pathway initiatives.	
4.	**Public Comment** None	**Public Comment** None
5.	**Adjourn** *Mrs. McInerney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm., seconded by Mr. Failla and passed unanimously.*	**Adjourn** Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Sarah E Herring

Sarah Herring, Chairperson
Committee on Learning