

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes  
 February 4, 2025  
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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 2025 FEB -6 P 1:37  
 NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Sarah Herring, Chairperson Mrs. Tammy McInerney Mr. Randall Scofield Mr. Dean Barile
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. Linda Scoralick, Principal Schaghticoke Middle School
Absent:	

<b>1.</b>	<b>Call to Order</b> The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:15 pm by Mrs. Sarah Herring.	<b>Call to Order</b> The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Public Comment</b> None	<b>Public Comment</b> None
<b>3.</b>	<b>Items for Discussion and Approval</b>  A. ECE Calculus B. ECE Statistics C. ECE Microeconomics D. ECE Chineses Studies E. ECE Middle Eastern Studies F. ECE US History Since 1877 G. ECE English H. ECE Intermediate Marketing I. ECE Exercise Physiology  Mr. Manka explained that Early College Experience (ECE) is a dual enrollment program that will also count towards high school graduation credit. It allows students to take college classes, while still within the safety and comfort of our schools.  Mr. Manka stated it requires partnering with an Institute of Higher Education (IHE). NMHS is looking to partner with Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), Sacred Heart University (SHU) and University of Connecticut (UCONN). Mr. Manka stated there are 9 new curricula being proposed and 2	<b>Items for Discussion and Approval</b>  A. ECE Calculus B. ECE Statistics C. ECE Microeconomics D. ECE Chineses Studies E. ECE Middle Eastern Studies F. ECE US History Since 1877 G. ECE English H. ECE Intermediate Marketing I. ECE Exercise Physiology

that are returning. One highlight is the fee for an ECE course. WCSU is free through 2025, UCONN is \$50/credit, SHU is \$45/credit, Connecticut State Community College (CSCC) is free through 2025. After 2025 they may no longer be free. Proposed ECE courses include: Calculus, Statistics, Microeconomics, Chinese Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, US History Since 1877, English, Intermediate Marketing, Exercise Physiology, Early Childhood, Childhood Development and Allied Health Careers.

Mr. Manka gave a brief overview of each ECE class and noted that Early Childhood, Childhood Development and Allied Health Careers would be returning, but not until 25/26 or 26/27. Mr. Barile asked if it would make sense for all students to take the college credit classes since some are currently free. Dr. Dwyer stated it would, but it may not be free in the future. Mrs. McInerney noted the cost for AP exams is higher than the cost for many of the ECE classes. Mr. Manka stated that that should be taken into consideration, and there will be times when an ECE student will co mingle with an AP student. If an ECE student would like to, they can sign up for the AP test.

Mrs. McInerney stated some students may enjoy the subject, but not want the rigor of a college course, and choose not to take the class. Mrs. McInerney then asked about the ECE vs. the high school credit, noting the high school credit is a .5 but it is a full 3 credits at college. Dr. Dwyer stated the classes may be a half credit for high school, but if approved by the IHE, then it is considered a completed college course.

Mr. Manka noted many of the classes will be co-seated given the fact they are limited in the number of staff that are adjunct professors. There will be a need to build the number of staff who can teach ECE courses. Mrs. McInerney asked about co-seating with the AP level. Mr. Manka stated that it depends, and there may be some instances where they cannot co-seat a class.

Mrs. McInerney noted that the AP US History class is very popular and it may make more sense to put the AP

and ECE students together rather than the Honors and ECE students together. Ms. Hollander stated there's only so many opportunities where it can work and try to make as much as they can possible. The person teaching it has to be skilled enough to teach both levels as well as differentiate in the classroom. Mr. Manka also stated that there needs to be efficiency with scheduling so classes are full. If there is the opportunity to co-seat an Honors class and an IHG class together, with the IHG giving the "okay," then they will try and do that. Mr. Barile asked how they sourced the staff who are now going to teach the ECE courses. Mr. Manka stated they had teachers come forward that showed initial interest. Some did not meet the requirements to teach an ECE course, and the list was decided from that.

Mr. Manka stated next steps include:

- Adopting curricula from "sister schools," or writing curriculum if needed.
- Creating a 2025-2026 program of studies, which is currently still tentative based on approval from the board.
- Ongoing training for counselors to help them understand the college registration process for students.
- There was a thought to offer an "ECE Night" for parents and students, but with the limited number of sections and teachers, it is thought a soft launch is better.
- Scheduling, which has already begun.

Dr. Dwyer noted that of the 64 students enrolling in an ECE course, 40 of them have already registered with WCSU.

Mr. Manka stated some factors to consider is that ECE enrollment will most likely have an impact on AP enrollment. If an ECE teacher retires, they will need to make sure there is someone to take that person's place. To alleviate this, Mr. Manka stated UCONN has a program for teachers that are close to being certified to teach an ECE course, and can finish their certification for a small fee. It's a great way to cultivate our own

	<p>talent. The cost for ECE classes will add up over time but still will cost less than an AP test.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked if the curriculum had to be written for these ECE courses. Mr. Manka stated most of the courses have a curriculum they were able to utilize through a “sister school,” with the exception of Chinese Studies. Ms. Hollander added that they are working hard to be ready for the June Committee on Learning meeting. Dr. Dwyer stated they will have to allow time for the IHG to approve the curriculum as well.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked how it would be determined if a student passes an ECE course. Dr. Dwyer stated it is a grey area. It could be an exam or a final project. It’s decided by each department and may vary per class.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato stated, when she presented the accountability indicators to the board, Career and College Readiness percentage of students passing exams was low. This will now help bolster that number.</p> <p><i>Mrs. McInerney moved to bring the above curricula to the full board for approval. Seconded by Mr. Barile. Motion passed unanimously.</i></p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to approve the above curricula to the full board for approval.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Items of Information</b></p> <p><b>A. Pilot Course at SMS - Cultural Connection</b></p> <p>Mrs. Scoralick stated Cultural Connection is being proposed because some students at the 8th grade level need more support in foundational ELA skills. Even among proficient 8th graders, they’re not all quite ready for a world language class. This course is being proposed to give more choices. It is intended to serve students who are not meeting benchmark standards for iReady diagnostic, SBA and DIBELS. It will also take into consideration teachers' input. Cultural Connection is designed to serve students not ready for a world language, or do not want to study a world language at an 8th grade level.</p> <p>Mrs. Scoralick explained that Cultural Connection is designed to bolster ELA skills, as well as give basic</p>	<p><b>Items of Information</b></p> <p><b>A. Pilot Course at SMS - Cultural Connection</b></p>

	<p>language and culture for Spanish, French and German. The hope is it will help students make an informed decision for language selection as they enter high school. The course focuses heavily on informational text and the curriculum will be research and project based.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked for more clarification on the course. Mrs. Scoralick replied that at SMS they offer a remedial reading comprehension class, French 1 or Spanish 1. Cultural Connection provides a world language class at a basic level. It's designed to give students a taste for what they may like. The cultural aspect is a larger point of emphasis. The primary audience are students struggling with ELA skills in English, giving an exposure to language and shoring up needed skills.</p> <p>Mrs. Herring asked what kind of certification will be needed to teach this course. Mrs. Scoralick stated the teacher that is lined up is certified in French and ELA. Mrs. McInerney noted that this also ties in with social studies, with the cultural aspect.</p> <p>Mrs. Herring asked if it is geared toward students who may qualify to take a language but do not want to take it in 8th grade. Mrs. Scoralick stated yes, exposure to all 3 languages gives a better sense of what to pick in high school. Mrs. McInerney asked if teachers can recommend it to students. Mrs. Scoralick stated they can, but only for students who need the support. Mr. Barile stated exposing students to the culture will help pique their interest in the language.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked if there is a written curriculum. Mrs. Scoralick stated not yet. Ms. Hollander followed up by stating they will do a course proposal, then curriculum.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b> None</p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b> None</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b> <i>Mr. Scofield moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Barile, with all voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.</i></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b> The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.</p>

**New Milford Board of Education  
Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes  
December 3, 2024**

**Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**  
Respectfully submitted:

**Page 6**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah E. Herring". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'S'.

Sarah Herring, Chairperson  
Committee on Learning