

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
 October 3, 2023
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson Mrs. Sarah Herring Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Leslie Sarich
Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Ray Manka, Principal NMHS Mrs. Linda Scoralick, Principal SMS Mrs. Gavi Ziu-Pires, 6-12 Math Coordinator Mrs. Claudia DeMoura, Department Chair NMHS Counseling Department
Absent:	

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mrs. McInerney.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment None	Public Comment None
3.	Items for Discussion and Approval A. Course Proposals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications Arts I 2. Communications Arts 2 3. Computer Science I 4. Computer Science II 5. Introduction to Acting 6. STEM 6 7. 6th Grade Introduction to Digital Media 8. Criminal Justice 9. English 9 for MLL Students 10. ESL 1 11. ESL 2 12. Art Appreciation <p>Mrs. McInerney noted that approval of the curricula is allowing the course to be written, and not about approving funding for personnel, etc.</p> <p>Mrs. Hollander proceeded to give an overview of her presentation. The presentation included an update on</p>	Items for Discussion and Approval A. Course Proposals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications Arts I 2. Communications Arts 2 3. Computer Science I 4. Computer Science II 5. Introduction to Acting 6. STEM 6 7. 6th Grade Introduction to Digital Media 8. Criminal Justice 9. English 9 for MLL Students 10. ESL 1 11. ESL 2 12. Art Appreciation

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Naviance, an update on K-5 math work, the new Kindergarten Entry age, and a new grant secured with the school system.

Communications Arts 1 and 2: Mrs. Hollander stated Communications Arts 1 is for 7th graders and Communications Arts 2 is for 8th graders. These were put in place for the courses the district could not run. Curriculum is currently being written. Next year there will be an updated curriculum for 8th grade so this year's 7th graders avoid repetition. Mrs. McInerney noted that the courses do not have to be implemented next year but are there if needed. Mrs. Scoralick stated the courses are very relevant, and important given the student needs following the pandemic.

Computer Science I and II: Ms. Hollander stated Computer Science I and II are written so it is multi-aged and not specific to grade level. Mrs. Scoralick stated it is critical to the success of the program.

Introduction to Acting: Mrs. Scoralick stated the middle school is implementing Introduction to Acting as a way to cut down on the amount of study halls some students have. Eighth graders are not required to take a music course and if a student doesn't take chorus, band, or orchestra they are given a study hall. Introduction to Acting will fill that void. Mrs. Herring asked what is the certification necessary to teach the class. Mrs. Scoralick stated it would be someone with an acting background.

Stem 6: Ms. Hollander stated STEM 6 is geared towards students that need a different option for STEM learning. Students are seeing it as an opportunity to take risks, and not worry about being wrong or right. Mrs. McInerney stated it helps students be more hands on and consider pathways in high school.

6th Grade Introduction to Digital Media: Mrs. Scoralick stated this covers emerging technologies using team building, communication and problem solving. It creates an ability to communicate and problem solve as a foundation for other subjects.

Criminal Justice: Mr. Manka stated the course allows for experiential opportunities to work with court

systems, paralegals, and lawyers. It gives students a guide toward possible careers. The hope is to partner with institutions of higher education. Mrs. McInerney asked if it was a semester course. Ms. Hollander stated yes.

English 9 for MLL Students: Ms. Hollander stated it is to support students where English is not their first language. Mrs. Herring asked if it is for MLL students in various phases. Ms. Hollander stated that is one of the things being looked into. There are level 1's and 2's. ESL 1 and 2 will work on spoken English. Mr. McCauley asked what the enrollment is. Mr. Manka stated they try to cap at 15 and they are at their cap. Mrs. Herring asked if it was taught by an English teacher. Ms. Hollander stated the teacher at the high school is certified in both, or it can be co-taught with an ESL teacher.

ESL 1 and ESL 2: Mr. Manka stated it is offered both semesters.

Art Appreciation: Mrs. McInerney asked if it is a full year course and Ms. Hollander answered it is supposed to be a semester class. Mrs. McInerney asked if it will be CP or Honors. Mr. Manka stated they wanted to offer a class to students who are CP and Honors level but not make them committed to an AP class. It will be designed as a CP course. It gives an opportunity to become a stepping stone or feeder into the AP art class.

Ms. Hollander stated she would like to come back with other proposals later in the year, they will not have budget implications.

Mrs. McInerney moved to bring the following Curricula for the full board for final approval, seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.

1. Communications Arts I
2. Communications Arts 2
3. Computer Science I
4. Computer Science II
5. Introduction to Acting
6. STEM 6
7. 6th Grade Introduction to Digital Media
8. Criminal Justice
9. English 9 for MLL Students

Motion made and passed unanimously for the full board to review the following curricula:

1. Communications Arts I
2. Communications Arts 2
3. Computer Science I
4. Computer Science II
5. Introduction to Acting
6. STEM 6
7. 6th Grade Introduction to Digital Media
8. Criminal Justice

	<p>10. ESL 1 11. ESL 2 12. Art Appreciation</p>	<p>9. English 9 for MLL Students 10. ESL 1 11. ESL 2 12. Art Appreciation</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Items of Information</p> <p>A. Naviance-New Milford High School Mrs. DeMoura stated Naviance is a college and career readiness platform. It helps districts and schools align student strengths with post secondary goals using: self discovery, career explorations, success planning (college prep or other career planning), and post secondary preparation. Through Naviance, students navigate their own page to add criteria, create a college list and more. Students begin using it Freshman year, starting with creating their own resume. As students move through high school, they can see when college reps visit, request transcripts, etc. As students look towards career paths, Naviance will show base salaries for those careers, the schooling needed, and more.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney pointed out that since students are using it starting as Freshman, by the time they are seniors they have a clear idea of it.</p> <p>Mrs. DeMoura stated that parents can access their students' Naviance, but they have to be on the students' gmail, which is something being worked out with the IT department.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked if students will have an opportunity to get help at the career center. Mr. Manka stated yes, someone is coming on board shortly. Naviance is not new, but it is the first time school counselors have a plan that is thoughtful and delivers.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney stated that it is something that has been needed and asked for continued updates.</p> <p>B. Kindergarten Entry Age Ms. Hollander stated the entry age has changed. The district needs to think about the needs of the community and parents who are now waiting another year. Ms. Hollander stated she is working with The Youth Agency and local preschools on a plan. The district should prepare for smaller class sizes. Dr. Parlato commented that the state is putting together</p>	<p>Items of Information</p> <p>A. Naviance-New Milford High School B. Kindergarten Entry Age C. K-5 Mathematics Update D. Internet Safety: Collaborative Grant with the Town of New Milford</p>

	<p>information and she will be sending it out.</p> <p>C. K-5 Mathematics Update Mrs. Ziu-Pires stated the district wanted a strong implementation for iReady. It first rolled out at the beginning of January 2022 and anticipates about 2-3 years for full integration. It began by building a system of support with a launch starting with Kindergarten through 5th grade. The focus is for students to use mathematics as a habit of mind and help develop conceptual understanding of problem solving.</p> <p>During pre-roll out, there was vast training including historical background in mathematics, instructional routines, language routines, data to instruction, and manipulative needs. Going forward, the coaches will go in for individual coaching and model lessons with focus in special education.</p> <p>As the district gains a better understanding of how the data feeds into instructional planning and how it goes into the classroom, it becomes better at planning and more effective. This allows for running changes, while keeping in mind student engagement. The iReady program is not only helping students to become math and problem solvers but also with comprehension and confidence.</p> <p>D. Internet Safety: Collaborative Grant with the Town of New Milford Ms. Hollader stated the district received a \$20,250 grant. It will go towards community conversations, and internet safety.</p> <p><i>Mr. Brian McCauley left the meeting at 8:21.</i></p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Public Comment None</p>	<p>Public Comment None</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Adjourn <i>Mrs. Sarich moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Herring with all voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.</i></p>	<p>Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.</p>

Respectfully submitted:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tammy McInerney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
Committee on Learning