


**New Milford Board of Education  
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes  
 April 2, 2024  
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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 2024 APR -4 A 9:43  
 NEW MILFORD, CT  


Present:	Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Sarah Herring
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 Mrs. Claudia DeMoura, Department Chair NMHS Counseling Department Mrs. Jill Strub, Head Teacher School Counseling Schaghticoke Middle School Mrs. Ashley Kivela, co-head teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School Social Studies Department Mr. Dan Savo, co-head teacher, Schaghticoke Middle School Social Studies Department
Absent:	Mr. Dean Barile

1.	<b>Call to Order</b> The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mrs. McInerney.	<b>Call to Order</b> The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.
2.	<b>Public Comment</b> None	<b>Public Comment</b> None
3. A.	<p><b>Items of Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. High School Alternate Programming Pilot</li> <li>B. Social Studies - 6-8</li> <li>C. Naviance 6-12</li> <li>D. Curriculum/Course Proposal and Development Process</li> </ul> <p><b>High School Alternate Programming Pilot</b> Ms. Hollander stated the High School Alternate Programming Pilot has been thought about for some time. Mr. Manka stated the work was done prior to Covid but never materialized, and is now being revisited. Dr. Dwyer stated the program will have all the learners follow the mission of the district with standards and expectations for each student. The goal is to support positive relationships, encourage participation, while still earning credits. Dr. Dwyer stated they looked at what other schools are doing for an alternative high school program to see how it can be applied to New Milford. It came about because not all students in New Milford are meeting expectations in the current environment. This was based on data for</p>	<p><b>Items of Information:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. High School Alternate Programming Pilot</li> <li>B. Social Studies - 6-8</li> <li>C. Naviance 6-12</li> <li>D. Curriculum/Course Proposal and Development Process</li> </ul>

attendance, students who are not meeting success in 9th grade, the number of students in summer school, and tracking students who are receiving consequences but not changing behaviors.

Mr. Manka stated with the alternative high school, students will have an abbreviated schedule and it will operate as its own entity.

Dr. Dwyer walked through two options for an alternative high school schedule, stating cost of transportation, staffing, etc., are all factors. The location will be in a separated area of the building, when it is on site at NMHS. There will be planned out activities, core classes, electives, and possible work study.

Mr. Manka stated Option A follows the current bell schedule where the students work at their own pace. Option B is a later start, allowing students to participate in after school sports and activities. Both options would require an extra bus run. For budget implications, it would mostly include repurposing existing rooms in school buildings.

Mr. McCauley asked if there is extra counseling for these students. Dr. Dwyer stated yes, and the extra support will be utilized by current staff. These are students behind on credits, chronically absent and/or have behavioral challenges. The district is recognizing the need for support in a smaller environment.

Mrs. Herring asked who the program would be offered to and how. Mr. Manka stated there will be an application process, including an interview, etc. The program will not take on out of district students, and there will still be the same number of students in the building. It also will not discontinue services for other students.

Mrs. Herring asked how many students are anticipated for the program. Mr. Manka stated they could handle a max of 24 students, split into two sets of 12. It would not be open to incoming 9th grade students. Dr. Dwyer added that this is an opportunity to be proactive. She suspects it will help students who would have eventually ended up in the Adult Education program. Mrs. Herring asked if the students will meet all credit obligations in the same period of time. Dr. Dwyer

stated yes, and the students will still get direct instruction from credited teachers.

Mr. McCauley noted the later start is probably a better idea for the students since they are teenagers.

Mrs. McInerney asked what the budget impact will be. Mr. Manka stated, if following a/b schedule, it would mean paying teachers a stipend for an additional period since they are utilizing the current staff. Outside of that, it is materials, supplies and transportation. Dr. Parlato added that it has to be investigated more fully and eventually presented to the full Board.

Mrs. McInerney noted this will help students who cannot function in a large space. Mr McCauley asked when the program would launch. Mr. Manka stated they hope to have it running by the fall as a pilot program. Mrs. Herring noted to anticipate possible parental issues for students not being accepted.

Mrs. McInerney asked what the next steps will be. Dr. Parlato stated teachers can sign up for the 7th class as part of this program. Other factors are furniture and materials, and deciding the curriculum that will be used.

**Social Studies 6-8**

Ms. Hollander stated Mrs. Kivela and Mr. Savo are rewriting and modernizing the current Social Studies curriculum. They are working with the high school to ensure a seamless transition from SMS to NMHS. Mr. Savo stated he wrote the standards in 2022 and the goal of Social Studies State Standards is to provide a heavy emphasis on critical thinking, problem solving, communication, and evaluation of resources. This is all done while keeping in mind the state's framework and foundation of standards.

Mrs. Kivela stated they worked to rewrite the curriculum to reflect the new standards. In 6th grade, Unit 1 will be focused on culture and geography of world regions and regional studies. It will include an Intro to World Studies. Unit 2 will cover the Middle East & Africa. Unit 3 will cover South & East Asia. Unit 4 is Europe. Unit 5, Latin America. This updated curriculum is essentially taking the 7th grade curriculum and putting it in the 1st half of the year, then combining with what 6th grade is currently doing.

Mr. Savo stated 7th grade will take those foundations and further expand on the thematic, set by the new standards. Unit 1 will review Culture and Geography. Unit 2, World Religions and Cultural Diffusion. Unit 3, Economics and Globalization & Imperialism. This will incorporate critical thinking, discussion, and debate building on what students learned in 6th grade. Unit 4 will cover Governance & Human Rights. Unit 5, Modern Issues & a Model UN. This will focus on conflicts and problem solving.

Mrs. Kivela stated 8th grade will continue through U.S. History and Colonial America until Reconstruction. Unit 1 will cover Native & Colonial America. Unit 2, the Origins of U.S. Democracy & National Identity. Unit 3, Expansion, Influence & Economic Growth. Unit 4, Civil Unrest, Civil War & Reconstruction. The curriculum ends where the high school will begin.

Mrs. Herring asked how the teachers will work to separate fact from opinion, the resources available for students may be skewed with personal opinion. Mrs. Kivela stated it is already being done. The staff works with students on how to adequately find and vet resources. They also work in tandem with other faculty, for example, ELA in 7th grade does argument work, which pairs with what they focus on in 7th grade Social Studies, allowing for interdisciplinary work.

**Naviance 6-12**

Mrs. Strub began by giving an update on how the Naviance program will now be utilized starting in 6th grade. The focus in middle school is on self discovery and early career exploration. Mrs. DeMoura stated the information collected in middle school will be utilized in high school to understand a student's learning style and strengths along with college and career exploration.

Mrs. Strub stated the Naviance experience in middle school will deliver curriculum and assessments. School Counselors will utilize it to help students with academics as well as career exploration, and develop secondary options.

The Naviance experience for grade 6, 7 and 8 is about discovering talents, developing good habits, and creating a career path using gathered information. This

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	<p>information becomes a natural segway into the Pathways at the high school.</p> <p>Mrs. DeMoura stated, because of this, by the time the students enter high school, they are familiar with Naviance. It helps students understand strengths and explore career options. At this point, they begin to build their resume and identify colleges they want to apply to. The college tab has everything they will need. Freshman Academy classes are using Naviance and they are working with the IT department so parents can also have access to Naviance. Next steps include having special education students engaging with Naviance.</p> <p>Next year, 9th graders will explore strengths, begin a resume and write goals; 10th graders will explore different careers, connected with the courses they are taking; 11th graders will complete Cluster Finder and explore the top four cluster matches; and 12th grade students will schedule appointments for college rep visits, request letters of recommendation, request their high school transcript, review the scholarship lists, finalize resumes, and complete the Senior Exit Survey.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney stated the work they are doing with exposing students to Naviance is great and she is glad it is starting as early as 6th grade.</p> <p><b>Curriculum/Course Proposal and Development Process</b></p> <p>Ms. Hollander distributed the NMPS Course Proposal Protocol and stated that while this is a process that has always been followed, it is now documented.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Public Comment</b> None</p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b> None</p>
5.	<p><b>Adjourn</b> <i>Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Herring with all voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.</i></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b> The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson

