

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes  
 December 6, 2022  
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

<b>Present:</b>	Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Leslie Sarich Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.
<b>Also Present:</b>	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Interim Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Megan Dwyer, New Milford High School Assistant Principal Mrs. Kristie O’Neill, New Milford High School Business Teacher Mrs. Claudia DeMoura, Head Guidance Counselor Mr. Raymond Manka, New Milford High School Principal

<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 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney.	<b>Call to Order</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was none.</li> </ul>	<b>Public Comment</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Items for Information and Discussion</b>  <b>A. Pathways</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Freshman Seminar Update</b></li> <li>2. <b>PLTW Update</b></li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Hollander asked Dr. Dwyer, Mrs. O’Neill and Mrs. DeMoura to introduce themselves and said the Pathways work has blossomed with their input and collaboration.</li> <li>• Dr. Dwyer said she became involved in the Pathways work in January and saw right away the opportunities it provides to students. She said the Perkins grant is very helpful in this area. The group receives continued coaching and guidance from the NC3T/YouScience program and the CSDE.</li> <li>• Dr. Dwyer said they focus on the district’s mission statement and vision of a graduate when looking at essential skills and vision of deep learning for students.</li> </ul>	<b>Items for Information and Discussion</b>  <b>A. Pathways</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Freshman Seminar Update</b></li> <li>2. <b>PLTW Update</b></li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Pathways work is important because of several factors: the identified disconnect between current education and the workforce; the skills gap for hard to fill jobs; the lower completion rates and slower rates at the higher ed level; and the problem of disconnected youth who are not working or going to school. Dr. Dwyer said several contributing factors have been identified including the fact that many students don't feel engaged in learning; that most school systems don't deliver impactful career development; and that most school systems don't connect students with meaningful employer experiences. Pathways career connected learning is designed to help students connect learning to the real world and develop the knowledge, skills, and mindset to successfully enter the adult world of work, careers and community life. The core premise is that career exploration and career-relevant learning is good for all students.</li><li>● Mrs. Sarich asked if there is an alumni program set up at the high school.</li><li>● Dr. Dwyer said there are some opportunities within Naviance but it is not well developed.</li><li>● Mrs. DeMoura said it is clear from the planning sessions held with juniors and seniors that many students are undecided about future plans and more work is needed with career explorations, even beginning at the middle school level.</li><li>● Dr. Dwyer said Career Pathways progress at NMHS is in three areas: professional development focused on pathway programs, the establishment of a Freshman Academy course, and working on the vision for the future of the program.</li><li>● Mrs. O'Neill said she and Dr. Dwyer were able to attend the CT Pathways System Institute in Nebraska in the fall through Perkins funding. They visited Grand Island Senior High School which is a "wall to wall" school for pathways. It was amazing to see a full-fledged program in action.</li><li>● Mrs. O'Neill said she wrote the curriculum for NMHS' new Freshman Academy course and is teaching a pilot this year. It is designed as a</li></ul>	
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	<p>hands-on/project based class to provide students with many of the skills they need to thrive in high school and beyond. Students make connections between their choices now and how these affect their future success. It focuses on the high school transition; digital literacy; critical thinking, communication and organizational skills; self-reflection and discovery; and career readiness and exploration. So far, the feedback has been excellent. Students report receiving both enjoyment and value from the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Dr. Dwyer said moving forward with career connected learning will include increasing relevant field trips, marketing and expanding on current courses that align with pathways, and upgrading Project Lead the Way which is an engineering pathway. This year that program has had all computers upgraded. In addition, the Pathways team will be looking to build partnerships within the community and increase work related experiences, job shadowing, and internships.</li><li>● Mrs. McInerney thanked the team for the presentation and said it is exciting to see this work. It is an area that has been lacking in the district. She asked that the presentation be shared with the full Board. She asked if there were plans to make the Freshman Academy course mandatory for freshmen and if Naviance training will be incorporated into the course so that students will be able to use the system much earlier in their high school years.</li><li>● Ms. Hollander said they are reviewing the data for now and have identified that there is room in student schedules should that happen in the future. They will come back to the committee in the spring to discuss it further. Dr. Dwyer said they have been discussing adding Naviance exposure for freshmen so they can begin utilizing the system earlier in their high school years.</li><li>● Mr. McCauley said he works at the Waterbury Career Academy and in his opinion, these pathway programs are where education is going. He is excited to see it becoming the norm.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mrs. Sarich agreed, saying she was thrilled to see this development.</li> <li>● Mr. Manka said he is excited about the passion of the educators involved. It is very valuable for students to be focused on experiential learning early on.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Science of Reading Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ms. Hollander said they continue to keep the Board updated since there are many factors, including legislation, involved in this endeavor. The district has requested a one-year extension from the state as to its final selection. At some point there will be budget implications. She said the iReady tool is already helping us do the work while final choices are being made.</li> <li>● Mrs. McInerney said it will be important to keep both the Board and the community updated since there will be a price tag to any program instituted.</li> </ul>	<p><b>B. Science of Reading Update</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There was none.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Sarich, and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.</b></p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson  
 Committee on Learning