

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
 February 6, 2024
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

RECEIVED
 TOWN CLERK
 2024 FEB - 8 P 3:52
 NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson Mr. Dean Barile Mrs. Sarah Herring Mr. Brian McCauley
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:	

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 The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.
2.	Public Comment None	Public Comment None
3.	<p>Items for Discussion and Approval:</p> <p>A. Curriculum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AP Government 2. AP Psychology 3. Advanced Chorus Honors 4. Criminal Justice 5. Kindergarten Health 6. Grade 1 Health 7. Grade 2 Health 8. Grade 3 Health 9. Grade 4 Health 10. Grade 5 Health 11. Introduction to Business 12. Russian Studies Honors <p>AP Government: Ms. Hollander stated AP Government is for juniors and seniors. It is a fast paced course that includes civic projects. Mrs. McInerney asked why AP Government is not offered every year. Students were looking to take AP Government, after finishing AP U.S. History, and were disappointed that it was not offered. Mrs. McInerney stated it interrupted their AP path and asked if it would happen again. Mr. Manka replied, stating</p>	<p>Items for Discussion and Approval:</p> <p>A. Curriculum</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AP Government 2. AP Psychology 3. Advanced Chorus Honors 4. Criminal Justice 5. Kindergarten Health 6. Grade 1 Health 7. Grade 2 Health 8. Grade 3 Health 9. Grade 4 Health 10. Grade 5 Health 11. Introduction to Business 12. Russian Studies Honors

having numerous course offerings is a blessing and a curse. He only has so many staff and can only offer so many sections. Not all classes can run at the same time. To accommodate, certain classes are offered every other year in the selection process and alternate/cycle with another AP class.

Mr. Barile asked to confirm it is not offered continuously every year. Mr. Manka stated that was correct. Mrs. McInerney asked for assurance that will not happen with AP U.S. History, as it is a highly prescribed course. Mr. Manka agreed and mentioned one way to potentially resolve this is having the staff, then they would be able to offer as many AP classes as they can. Dr. Dwyer noted that AP Government currently rotates with AP Microeconomics.

AP Psychology:

Ms. Hollander continued by stating AP Psychology is a revision and is a full year. Mrs. McInerney noted these curricula are robust and extremely detailed and stated, to get a good handle on the course, she looks at the page that describes the class, as well as the pacing guide because it shows the units being taught. Then she looks at books included. Ms. Hollander stated the curricula are always vetted by a process, but getting a big picture is a great idea.

Mr. Barile stated he tends to look at the texts offered for curriculum and noted that AP Government has a resource that is "Required by AP." He asked if the board gets a copy of that. Dr. Parlato stated yes, there are some textbooks that are required. Mr. Barile noted there is one book listed that he has a concern with. Ms. Hollander stated she will reach out to the Department Chair. Dr. Parlato noted that she can also talk to the College Board. Mrs. McInerney added that if the district removes a book, there might be something on the test that is covered in the book and missed by the students. Mr. McCauley stated these are AP courses, not designed by the district but designed by the College Board. Mrs. McInerney stated the district can pick and choose the AP courses they wish to provide. Many that they offer are the more popular ones students want.

Mr. Barile stated the book "American Government: Stories of a Nation" by Karen Waples and Scott

Abernathy is the book he is concerned with. In his view, it is very biased and he has notes with his concerns that he will email to Dr. Parlato.

Advanced Chorus Honors:
Ms. Hollander stated it is a new offering. Mrs. McInerney asked about a student taking Honors Chorus, if they can continue on to the more rigorous option. Mr. Manka explained, given the schedule offered at the high school, halfway through the year you may have eight new kids. They want to keep the students at the same level, and give continuity, since it involves performances and competitions. Mrs. McInerney asked when it was approved. Ms. Hollander stated it was done in the fall.

Criminal Justice:
Ms. Hollander stated Criminal Justice is a 1/2 year elective for juniors and seniors. It is an introduction to the criminal justice system, structure, and functioning. It provides insight into laws, police, courts, and corrections.

Kindergarten through Grade 5 Health:
Ms. Hollander stated K-5 health is revised for the six-day cycle. Kindergarten and first grade cover basic health concepts such as being safe, making smart choices with medicines, and emergency decisions. Second grade is about the body, with lessons on how the heart, lungs, etc. work. Third grade focuses on the respiratory system. Fourth grade is how the body is affected by smoking, peer pressure, etc. Fifth grade is about disease prevention units and healthy choices.

Introduction to Business:
Ms. Hollander stated this is a revision and open to all students. It covers basic business and economic concepts.

Russian Studies Honors:
Ms. Hollander stated the focus is on the 19th and early 20th centuries, covering political, social, and current Russian history.

Mr. McCauley moved for the above Curricula to be approved. Seconded by Mrs. McInerney.

Motion made and passed unanimously for the above Curricula to be approved.

<p>B.</p>	<p>Course Proposals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Art Appreciation2. Basic Life Support in CPR/AED/First Aid3. Explorations in Science4. French IV/V College Prep5. Concert Chorus6. Exercise Physiology7. Nutrition and Wellness8. PE Boot Camp <p>Basic Life Support in CPR/AED/First Aid: Ms. Hollander stated Basic Life Support has to do with exercise and wellness. Mrs. McInerney asked if it would require staffing. Ms. Hollander stated they are looking to cycle it. Mrs. McInerney asked about the cost of writing the curriculum. Ms. Hollander stated it is already covered in the budget, a call goes out for the curricula in the cycle and not all of them get picked up. The goal is to see if some can be written and approved by the end of the school year so they can be offered next year. Mrs. McInerney stated they seem like they are important for the new Pathways being created because it is providing more offerings. Mr. Manka stated it also supports the plan to have other considerations rather than just Health 1 and Health 2. There is no need for an additional teacher; it can shift the new class to a current teacher.</p> <p>Concert Chorus: Ms. Hollander stated Concert Chorus is in high demand. Mrs. McInerney stated it is a testament to how well they are growing the program and asked about budget impact. Ms. Hollander stated, after development there would not be additional materials. Mrs. McInerney asked for it to state that in the curriculum so the Board can understand that. Ms. Hollander stated she would make the clarification.</p> <p>Exercise Physiology (EP): Mr. Manka stated EP is an opportunity for students to do something outside of the box. It can lead into anatomy, physiology courses, and creates a pathway for OT and PT. Dr. Dwyer added that they have a teacher with a masters in EP.</p> <p>Explorations in Science: Ms. Hollander stated it is a science credit on a college</p>	<p>B. Course Proposals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Art Appreciation2. Basic Life Support in CPR/AED/First Aid3. Explorations in Science4. French IV/V College Prep5. Concert Chorus6. Exercise Physiology7. Nutrition and Wellness8. PE Boot Camp
------------------	--	--

	<p>prep level. Dr. Dwyer added that this is an overview of different physical and biological sciences for the students.</p> <p>French IV/V College Prep: Dr. Dwyer stated French IV was seeing a drop off of students not going into AP French and wanted to offer French V. Going from French IV to AP French is a big jump. Mrs. McNerney stated these students are taught in the same class. Also there is no credit recorded on the proposal and asked if they take it at level IV for one credit and level V for one credit. Dr. Dwyer stated yes. French V uses lots of the same materials but is taking it to another level. Dr. Dwyer stated they gave this a lot of thought. They lost 17 students who did not jump from French IV to AP French. Mrs. McNerney asked how many French teachers are at the high school. Dr. Dwyer stated there are two and are both willing to take this on. Mrs. McNerney asked why the curriculum writing cost is higher. Ms. Hollander stated because it's new and it's a full year course.</p> <p>Nutrition and Wellness: Mr. Manka stated it looks to micronutrients, agriculture and the science behind what we ingest and how it becomes part of our body. It can be used as a transition for someone wanting to look at internal medicine. Ms. Hollander stated the cost would be a ½ year new course curriculum writing. Mrs. McNerney asked if it would require an additional health teacher. Hollander stated it would be cycled.</p> <p>PE Boot Camp: Dr. Dwyer stated this helps kids to understand what it means to be PD, fire fighter, etc., and exposes students to what it takes to be part of these professionals.</p> <p><i>Mr. McCauley moved for the above Course Proposals to be approved. Seconded by Mr. Barile.</i></p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously for the above Course Proposals to be approved.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Items of Information A. Schaghticoke Middle School Course Selection Mrs. Scoralick began by stating SMS is trying to adopt a model of choice. There are still required classes, but the idea is to have students select electives and designate alternates. At SMS they are focusing on social and emotional learning, and promoting decision</p>	<p>Items of Information A. Schaghticoke Middle School Course Selection</p>

making. They are trying to make it so students do not have to choose between certain courses. Mrs. Scoralick explained that this allows for personalized scheduling for UA courses, even for students who have limited slots in their schedule.

Mrs. Scoralick went on to explain the available UA course options per grade. Mrs. McInerney asked about STEM 6. Mrs. Scoralick stated it is a new course that is focused on problem solving and is team based. It's different from Project Lead The Way (PLTW) because it is less academic and more hands-on. Mr. Barile asked what is less academic about it. Mrs. Scoralick explained PLTW has academic vocabulary, STEM 6 uses materials and problem solving, sometimes in groups. PLTW is an engineering course where STEM 6 is more hands-on.

Ms. Hollander clarified it is teacher assessed but not utilizing standardized tests. Mrs. Scoralick added it is about working on collaboration, but with a problem solving and perseverance piece.

Mr. Barile asked how credit is attributed to a student if it is done in group settings and noted one student may do more work than another. Mrs. McInerney added by asking if it is project based. Mrs. Scoralick stated yes. Ms. Hollander also answered by stating there are pieces that students have to do on their own. Some of it is in groups but also individual, so one student isn't doing all the work. Ms. Hollander stated, with PLTW, some kids liked it, but not all, and SMS wanted to give alternatives for those students.

Mrs. McInerney asked if Computer Science 1 and 2 are different courses and if they are mixing grades. Mrs. Scoralick stated yes, and mixing grades could happen. They offer Computer Science all 3 years, but this is redesigned to provide a sequence to build on students' knowledge. Ms. Hollander clarified the effort is still to keep the grades separated. Mrs. Scoralick added that it is like the ESL classes, it's difficult to differentiate per grade because of the class load or skill level. Mrs. McInerney asked if you could have a 6th grader with an 8th grader in Digital Media. Mrs. Scoralick stated yes because it is about management and community building within the classroom and the school. Mrs. McInerney asked if the curriculum had been written

	<p>yet. Mrs. Scoralick stated yes, the STEM 6, Computer Science 1 and Intro to Digital Media course proposals were approved and will be offered next year.</p> <p>Dr. Parlato added that Mrs. Scoralick asked for more teachers in her proposed budget, but she had to say no to more hires. If she had said yes, that would have expanded these offerings. Dr. Parlato wanted to make sure it was understood how curriculum and offerings are connected to the budget.</p> <p>B. Science of Reading Update</p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated she continues to build systems of support for Science of Reading (SOR) with top quality instructions in each tier. The district is seeing growth in student performance. The success has been because of a multifaceted support of teacher leadership. It's all the items to help students: comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, phonics, and phonological awareness. The process of providing support is becoming seamless and teachers are building their skills while moving forward.</p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated she will continue as planned with UFLI, Heggerty, and the New Milford Units of Study (getting a revision). To show the impact, Ms. Hollander showed data that displays growth in phonological awareness and phonics for 1st and 3rd graders.</p> <p>Mr. Barile asked if Ms. Hollander's data takes into account the pandemic and asked if we should be looking back farther because of Covid. Ms. Hollander stated that they have taken that into consideration. The students in 5th grade showed a big gap in phonics, thanks to iReady, and because of that they were able to alert the 6th grade staff and address the need for phonics. Without the iReady data, they would never have known.</p> <p>Ms. Hollander stated on March 21st there will be a Family Literacy Night. Dr. Parlato stated she will write to the Board tomorrow with more information.</p>	<p>B. Science of Reading Update</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Public Comment None</p>	<p>Public Comment None</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.</p>

**New Milford Board of Education
Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2024**

Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

Page 8

	<i>Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. McInerney with all voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.</i>	
--	---	--

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
Committee on Learning