

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes  
 February 1, 2022  
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

<b>Present:</b>	Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson Mr. Brian McCauley Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr. Mrs. Olga I. Rella, Alternate
<b>Absent:</b>	Mrs. Leslie Sarich
<b>Also Present:</b>	Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Jason O'Connor, Executive Director, New Milford Youth Agency Mr. Raymond Manka, New Milford High School Principal Ms. Megan Dwyer, New Milford High School Assistant Principal Ms. Gavriela Ziu-Pires, Math Coordinator

<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. Mrs. Rella was seated as an alternate in the absence of Mrs. Sarich.	<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>Discussion and Possible Action</b>  <b>A. Attitudes and Behaviors Survey</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Hollander said this survey was discussed last meeting. Since then, she and Mr. O'Connor have been mapping out the process of implementing the survey and communicating about it ahead of time. Implementation is planned for the week of March 15.</li> <li>Mrs. McInerney asked what grades will take the survey. Mr. O'Connor said grades 8, 10 and 12, which is the same as the previous times the survey has been given. This survey also includes vaping questions.</li> <li>Mrs. McInerney asked if parents can review it ahead of time. Mr. O'Connor said they will be</li> </ul>	<b>Discussion and Possible Action</b>  <b>A. Attitudes and Behaviors Survey</b>  <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>RECEIVED        TOWN CLERK        2022 FEB -3 A 9 18  <i>JHP</i></p> <p>NEW MILFORD, CT</p> </div>

	<p>able to if they wish. There is also an opt out option but Mr. O'Connor said he hopes most will not use it because the data is very valuable in informing future programming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Mrs. McInerney asked how long the survey is and when it will be given within the week. Mr. O'Connor said it is scheduled for 45 minutes total. They are collaborating with each school to see how best it fits their schedule.</li><li>● Ms. DiCorpo said she has shared the previous process with Ms. Hollander to inform the planning.</li><li>● Ms. DiCorpo said a question had been asked at the last meeting regarding cost. Ms. Hollander said it is approximately \$2,500 total to be split between the two organizations. The exact cost is dependent on the number of participants.</li></ul> <p>Mr. McCauley moved to bring the Attitudes and Behaviors Survey to the full Board for approval.</p> <p>Motion seconded by Mrs. Rella.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>B. New Course Proposal</b></p> <p><b>1. Freshman Seminar for CTE Pathways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ms. Hollander said this topic was discussed last meeting. She said they are very excited about the great work done to establish pathways. This course will be a half-year elective pilot for freshman exploration. The plan is to work backwards into the middle school eventually as well to start a sister course there.</li><li>● Mr. Swanhall asked for a brief overview of the course since he was not on the committee when it was discussed previously.</li><li>● Mr. Manka said it will be a freshman level seminar to introduce essential skills work around the transition from middle school to high school and to explore the clusters offered in the Program of Studies and what career paths they might lead to. The goal is for students to</li></ul>	<p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the Attitudes and Behaviors Survey to the full Board for approval.</b></p> <p><b>B. New Course Proposal</b></p> <p><b>1. Freshman Seminar for CTE Pathways</b></p>
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	<p>explore various areas and see work in action both in school and through field trips.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mrs. Rella said she loves the idea and feels we lack opportunities in the district for hands-on learners.</li> <li>● Ms. DiCorpo said this originated with the SDE and labor statistics regarding the future of the economy. They had begun work to set up shared internship experiences in the community prior to the pandemic. Now they are looking to reinvigorate that work. It is intended for all students long term to explore existing pathways and provide opportunities for cross content over their high school career to get where they want to be.</li> <li>● Mrs. Rella said she would like to see the high school offer more certifications of a practical nature.</li> <li>● Ms. DiCorpo said these are good conversations to have in relation to strategic planning and budgeting.</li> </ul> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to bring the New Course Proposal: Freshman Seminar for CTE Pathways to the full Board for approval.</p> <p>Motion seconded by Mr. Swanhall.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the New Course Proposal: Freshman Seminar for CTE Pathways to the full Board for approval.</b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p> <p><b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>Item for Information and Discussion</b></p> <p><b>NWEA at NMHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ms. Hollander said they are looking to add a common assessment to help beyond K-8 that aligns with what we currently have and continues vertically into the high school. This will provide another piece of data driven information to inform instruction and common conversation among teachers.</li> <li>● Ms. Zui-Pires said it will guide differentiation and practice as well. Going forward, the</li> </ul>	<p><b>Item for Information and Discussion</b></p> <p><b>A. NWEA and NMHS</b></p>

	<p>multiple testing during the year will provide three snapshots of data points annually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mrs. McInerney asked if this assessment will be for grades 9 and 10.</li> <li>● Ms. DiCorpo said it will be administered to on-level math students in those grades.</li> <li>● Mr. Manka said the testing opened last week and will close on February 11. There will be another assessment in the spring.</li> <li>● Ms. DiCorpo said the assessment is not just about the instruction and any needed interventions, it is also about curriculum alignment and making sure freshmen are correctly placed in the right course. It will inform the math trajectory going forward by providing data to help map courses and make future decisions about curriculum.</li> <li>● Ms. DiCorpo said the math scores presented at budget show work is needed. She wants the Board to know that the data shows tremendous growth already this year since that data point.</li> <li>● Mrs. Rella asked if adding the assessment impacts budget. Ms. DiCorpo said it is captured in the DOI budget.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.</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>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mrs. Rella moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. seconded by Mr. McCauley and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m.</b></p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson  
 Committee on Learning