

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Revised Minutes
 June 6, 2023
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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 Mrs. Gavriela Ziu-Pires (Math Coordinator K - 8) Mrs. Cortni Muir (Coach 3 - 5) Mrs. Carrie Allen (Coach K - 2) Mrs. Linnea Leclair (Grade 5 Teacher) Mrs. Diane Beddows
Absent:	

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 NEW MILFORD, CT

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:34 pm by Mrs. McInerney.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment None	Public Comment None
3.	Items for Information and Discussion B. i-Ready Data Share Ms. Hollander said the presenters have been very invested in this work and introduced each of them. Mrs. Ziu-Pires explained the presentation is meant to show the i-Ready Classroom Math journey from start to finish, giving testimonials, and displaying live work in the classroom. The presentation detailed the collaboration methodology, and how the structure and materials have impacted the way forward. Mrs. Ziu-Pires demonstrated how teachers and students interacted along with testimonials from school psychologists, other teachers, and students stating the i-Ready program gives them “confidence” and “knowledge.” In particular, Mrs. Leclair stated how the i-Ready program has helped students focus and move forward in concepts. Mrs. Leclair said she liked	Items for Information and Discussion

<p>4.</p>	<p>the routines and how students can take the lead, giving them a sense of being in charge. Mrs. Leclair said it is a great way to connect ideas to skills. Mrs. Ziu-Pires said the team tried to capture all the materials at different grade levels. Mrs. Ziu-Pires pointed out 5th grade saw a significant change in having conversations, using the tools provided, and talking about mathematics. Ms. Hollander reinforced it was a very thoughtful rollout, including a vetting process and a soft launch. Feedback from teachers and administrators is very positive and care will be taken with each step moving forward. Mrs. Leclair said students enjoy the program. Once students are comfortable, they are the ones up at the smartboard teaching. It drives them to become goal oriented and they feel empowered. The students are now loving math and in a short period of time they have changed how they feel about the subject and about themselves. Mrs. McInerney said it is great to see peers helping peers. Mrs. Allen stated the program gives the students three or four ways to solve problems, creating a wide net for all different kinds of learners. Ms. Hollander stated she is working with 6th grade colleagues to ensure they have the tools to support 5th graders transitioning to 6th grade. Ms. Hollander said she is grateful for the teacher leaders. Mrs. McInerney thanked everyone for their efforts in implementing the program.</p> <p>Items for Discussion and Approval</p> <p>A. Curriculum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. AP Microeconomics2. CP Chemistry3. Honors Chemistry4. Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry5. Honors Statistics6. CP Geometry7. Honors Geometry8. Business and Personal Law9. Algebra III10. Modern America11. CP Economics12. Chorus Grade 613. Chorus Grade 714. Chorus Grade 8 <p>Ms. Hollander introduced Mrs. Diana Beddows and explained that for the curriculums being presented, the vetting process was rigorous and the people writing</p>	<p>Items for Discussion and Approval</p>
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them are well trained. Dr. Parlato stated it is important to have curriculum processes in place, otherwise two of the same classes can be entirely different. Ms. Hollander said AP Microeconomics is rigorous and fast paced. Mrs. McInerney stated all the curriculum packets have “revision” on them but some are new. Ms. Hollander stated she did that so people know it is not approved yet. Ms. Hollander stated that materials are aligned to meet district policies and are vetted before being reviewed by department chairs. Mrs. Beddows said the resources for all the courses have a specific language. For example, there is a substantial difference between CP (College Prep) Chemistry and Honors Chemistry, and it is written so it is understood why one is considered Honors. The same is done for CP Geometry and Honors Geometry. Ms. Hollander said for some courses, a CP class can have an Honors component to meet the needs of certain students who may want more rigor. Mrs. McInerney said she was glad that this is an option. For Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry, Mrs. Beddows said there are distinctions between CP and Honors. Should it apply to a science class, the Honors might have more lab work. Mrs. McInerney asked if Advanced Algebra & Trigonometry is still a CP level course, even though it is labeled “Advanced.” Ms. Hollander said yes. Ms. Hollander said Honors Statistics is a new course where before only CP and AP levels were offered. Mrs. McInerney stated she was glad this level was added as it will fill a need for those who may want more rigor than CP but not have to jump into AP. Ms. Hollander stated CP Geometry and Honors Geometry are also new and there is forward thinking to ensure core curriculums are not missed. With rising pathways, a 5th grader can start a pathway to what eventually becomes a path through high school. Dr. Parlato stated this was another benefit of i-Ready. Ms. Hollander agreed. Mrs. Beddows stated that the Vision of a Graduate is what helped serve as a role model for Business and Personal Law. Mrs. McInerney asked how it works if a course is offered as CP but a student wants the Honors credit. Ms. Hollander said if the honors credit is offered for that course, the student has to make that change with their counselor. To elevate to Honors it usually means the addition of projects for those students wanting the honors credit. Ms. Hollander said Algebra III is a new class and Modern America also has the option for Honors. CP Economics

is a revision and offers students the option to take it at the Honors level. Mrs. Beddows described the chorus curriculums and said they dovetail and mesh with what is going on in the high school. In middle school, it is a warm climate that builds students' character. Mrs. Beddows stated she piloted the curriculum this year and it worked well. Mrs. Beddows had the 8th grade students write a note about chorus to the incoming 8th grade class and one student wrote "chorus is a place where you're not judged. You will be safe and comfortable here." Mrs. Beddows said this curriculum is new for grades 6-8. Mrs. McInerney pointed out that the title and grade level were not updated on the description pages of the 7th and 8th grade chorus curriculums. Ms. Hollander said she would update them.

Mr. McCauley moved to bring the following Curriculums for the full board for initial review, seconded by Mrs. Sarich and passed unanimously.

Curriculum:

1. AP Microeconomics
2. CP Chemistry
3. Honors Chemistry
4. Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry
5. Honors Statistics
6. CP Geometry
7. Honors Geometry
8. Business and Personal Law
9. Algebra III
10. Modern America
11. CP Economics
12. Chorus Grade 6
13. Chorus Grade 7
14. Chorus Grade 8

3.

A.

Science of Reading

Ms. Hollander said Science of Reading is working on addressing gaps in the older elementary students and materials have been rewritten specific to New Milford addressing all five pillars of literacy. The phonics program has goals for Plan Year 2, including a Summer Learning Lab. There is a continued focus on phonics and vocabulary. The middle school is still working on the vetting process. The high school is working on discipline literacy which helps students focus on reading like a historian or scientist, which requires

Motion made and approved for the following policies to the full board for initial review:

Curriculum:

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Science of Reading

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	<p>reading charts and data. There is also clear communication between staff and families. Ms. Hollander said there is improvement with the focus work happening in kindergarten through 3rd grade. In 5th grade, the study shows students are compensating when they cannot decode a word, but she is seeing movement with students going up and explicit instruction moving forward.</p> <p>Ms. Hollander said the Summer Learning Lab has 60 students enrolled, all rising 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders.</p> <p>UFLI phonics is a foundation for kindergarten through 5th grade, and the work has given coherence with tiered levels of support. This has allowed us to build a system of interventions that are consistent across the school. There is continued training and onboarding of new employees.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked that tonight's presentation be sent to the full Board and Mrs. Sarich said the work being done was promising. Ms. Hollander said it was satisfying to see the teachers do what they are passionate about. Dr. Parlato said that New Milford is moving miles ahead of other districts.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Public Comment None</p>	<p>Public Comment None</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Adjourn <i>Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Sarich with all voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.</i></p>	<p>Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McInerney, Chairperson
 Committee on Learning