

**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes
 September 3, 2024
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

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 2024 SEP -5 A 10:40
 NEW MILFORD, CT

Present:	Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson Mr. Brian McCauley <i>arrived at 7:31pm</i> Mrs. Sarah Herring Mr. Dean Barile
Also Present:	Dr. Janet Parlato, Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Christy Martin, Adult Educator Facilitator Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal New Milford High School Dr. Megan Dwyer, Assistant Principal New Milford High 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. Tammy McInerney.	Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.
2.	Public Comment None	Public Comment None
3.	Items for Discussion and Approval <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adult Education Presentation 2. Credit Recovery 2024-2025 3. GPA Calculation Update 4. Alternative Education Update <p>Adult Education Presentation: Ms. Hollander began by stating it is important as to how they support individuals through Adult Education. It's not just about getting a diploma but also supporting a transition to the workforce.</p> <p>Ms. Martin began her presentation by stating Adult Education has changed since Covid. It is about helping students get on a pathway to a career. In the past it was only offered in person but has now expanded to online classes. There is also the option for people to receive their GED, in English, with an expansion into Spanish next month. Adult Education offers multiple levels of English as a second language, citizenship programming, career & life counseling, and social opportunities. It is an opportunity for students to reset their educational process. They also offer workforce readiness such as OSHA 10 training for workplace</p>	Items for Discussion and Approval <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adult Education Presentation 2. Credit Recovery 2024-2025 3. GPA Calculation Update 4. Alternative Education Update

safety.

Mrs. McInerney asked if they are having success finding someone to help with leading the Spanish GED prep. Ms. Martin stated they could not find an individual, so they are partnering with Danbury, who already has a Spanish GED teacher.

Ms. Hollander reviewed the staff structure of the Adult Education program. She stated many teachers that teach during the day come in and teach at night. It's a very stable and dedicated group. The program runs from 5:00-9:00 pm four days a week.

Ms. Martin stated it is important to make aware that the Adult Education program has the same expectations as a workplace. There is training for the future and an understanding that there are boundaries.

The newsletter offers information for those who need extra support, such as a place to stay, personal hygiene supplies, and school supplies. The student advisory and leadership is a big piece of the program because it helps socialization and communication with activities such as board games and potluck dinners. Last year the program offered 1,956 hours of instruction for their students. Of the 40 high school students, there were 458 enrollments in various modules over the course of the year. The program tries to provide lots of avenues and opportunities for the students.

Ms. Hollander stated Ms. Martin is a forward thinker and discussed the focus for the 24/25 school year, which includes hands-on projects and students having a voice. Ms. Martin stated the future forecasting is looking to bring in CTE (Career and Technical Education). It is not currently an option. CTE teachers are hard to find. Lots of students are interested in avenues such as cosmetology, culinary, auto mechanics, etc. She is waiting on federal grants that have been applied for, to connect with eDynamic. This connection will allow a CTE teacher to be assigned and offer classes online. Also, Career Connect offers \$4,000 to each student in Connecticut that qualifies for it. This will pay for a cosmetology license, a culinary certification, or certifications for other trade options.

Ms. Martin stated she is struggling with getting the students to seek certification following their graduation. If she can bridge a career pathway with a CTE class, then to Career Connect, that would pave the way for a certification they do not have to pay for. The American Jobs Center and Career Connect will provide child care money, a gas card, money for a uniform, and more. She is hoping with the CTE classes and with the relationships built, more students will make that transition. Ms. Hollander stated it mirrors the career pathways at the high school. She encouraged board members to attend graduation in June.

Mrs. McInerney thanked Ms. Martin for all her hard work and stated she loves attending the Adult Education graduation every year.

Credit Recovery 2024-2025:

Ms. Hollander stated each summer since Covid, they have offered credit recovery at no cost. She is looking to change the summer program to an after school opportunity. The funding will come from grants. If a student needs to recover a class, they will stay after school, attend the course, and utilize the late bus. This will be in lieu of summer school and is designed to help students stay on track and graduate with their cohort. It is for students who do not have an IEP. It is a tutor setting and students take one class at a time, rotating seats throughout the year. To be eligible, students have to have exhausted all daytime scheduling options and have to be recommended by a counselor. Each course is assigned a certain number of weeks and it will be a rolling experience.

Mrs. McInerney asked if a student is short a credit for graduation, can they walk with their cohort. Mr. Manka stated no, and previously the only option was summer school. This option allows students to get up to three credits during the year whereas with summer school they could only get one credit.

Ms. Hollander stated there are expectations for attendance and rules that must be followed, including the phone policy. Any behavioral issues will be documented. The design is that one person oversees the process and is the point of contact for families. Certified teachers will oversee the classes.

<p>GPA Calculation Update: Dr. Dwyer stated they were originally reporting weighted GPA and simple GPA. They then added in CAPP GPA. Simple was not weighted as much as CAPP. The plan is to remove Simple GPA. CAPP is based on college board 4.0 and is better for the district. The district will use CAPP and weighted GPA moving forward.</p> <p>Mr. Manka stated they are looking at changing class ranking. Students put a lot of stress on themselves and one rank vs. another can be based on a very small percentage. Students look at rank very seriously and it can cause deep sadness to not make a certain rank given the effort they are putting in. They are exploring to find a better way. Mrs. McInerney noted colleges are not necessarily looking at rank. Dr. Parlato stated they tend to look at students based on where they are in the group, i.e. the first $\frac{1}{3}$, second $\frac{1}{3}$, etc.</p> <p>Alternative Education Update: Dr. Dwyer stated the program is being called The Summit. The application process began in summer 2024. There are currently seven students, with five additional applicants that have come in. The Summit has an administrator, counselor, psychologist, content managers, and a case manager. All required classes are covered and it is designed for students falling behind in credits. There is a daily schedule with direct instruction and just-in-time instruction.</p> <p>Mrs. McInerney asked what grade levels they are accepting, noting most are sophomores. Dr. Dwyer stated they are not letting in freshmen. When students come in, they stay. Mrs. McInerney asked if they will be able to admit as many kids into the program next year since they already have seven. Dr. Dwyer stated it would be a rotation. Dr. Parlato stated they would not go over 12 students.</p> <p>Dr. Dwyer stated there are two workstation areas and bathroom facilities are available within the area. The students do not have to leave the room, which keeps them from roaming the hallways and cutting classes. Lunch is brought in and there is a locker area. There is advisory and push-in support from school</p>	
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	<p>psychologists. There are class jobs and the students have begun ending the day with circle time for reflection. Mrs. McNerney asked about the timing. Dr. Dwyer stated most students utilize the buses and stay all day.</p> <p>Mrs. McNerney asked if any students were participating in sports. Dr. Dwyer stated there is interest and some students cannot because they work after school.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Comment None</p>	<p>Public Comment None</p>
5.	<p>Adjourn <i>Mr. McCauley moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Barile, with all voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.</i></p>	<p>Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:



Tammy McNerney, Chairperson
 Committee on Learning