New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning Meeting Minutes February 7, 2023 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center

Present:	Mrs. Tammy McInerney, Chairperson Mr. Brian McCauley Mrs. Leslie Sarich
Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Interim Superintendent of Schools Ms. Holly Hollander, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Gavi Ziu-Pires, K-8 Math Coordinator

1.	Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mrs. McInerney.	Call to Order
2.	Public Comment None	Public Comment None
3.	Review and Approval of Curriculum Revision A. Sports Literature Ms. Hollander read a commentary by a student who took the course in the fall. The student shared that it was his favorite class and he elaborated about why it was his favorite class: the teacher was great, and the content was exciting. Ms. Hollander reported the curriculum has been revised to align the use of online materials with district policies. She shared that there were two sections of the class in the fall and two sections offered this semester. It is a half-year course and students earn .5 credit. Approximately 50 students were enrolled in the first semester and the same number this semester. Motion made by Mrs. McInerney, seconded by Mr. McCauley, to bring the revision of the Sports Literature curriculum to the full Board for approval. The motion passed unanimously.	Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the revision of the Sports Literature curriculum to the full Board for approval.

4. Items of Information

A. Anonymous Alert

Ms. Hollander shared there have been ongoing conversations with the Town to provide a pathway for students to share concerns. Anonymous Alert aligns with the Safe School Climate Committee.

There will be a pilot at NMHS with a launch date of February 21. There was a big lift to get the school ready. It involved careful planning and communication with students, faculty, and families. A team from NMHS including Ms. Hollander visited Newtown.

Mr. Manka rolled the information out at a faculty meeting this afternoon. There is a learning curve, students have to be taught how to use Anonymous Alert. Notifications will be sent to Administrators by students' alpharange and to Mr. Manka. There will be specific time periods when the alert is monitored.

Ms. Hollander shared there is a program for supporting students at the K-8 level. Parents submit the form on the district website, under the tab "Parents". The form is routed to Principals.

The Committee on Learning will receive an update in May about Anonymous Alert.

C. Middle School Math Acceleration Update

Ms. Hollander shared that the district looked at several data points to develop recommendations regarding students who should be accelerated. They used internal and external data or multiple measures to make this determination.

It was noted there are several pathways to enter an accelerated pathway. There are different entry points depending on a student's performance during the school year. There are opportunities for students to move forward as long as they have the skills to be successful.

Anonymous Alert

Middle School Math Acceleration Update

Mrs. McInerney was pleased to know there are various measures to view eligible students and that students can enter at different points.

B. Science of Reading

Ms. Hollander explained the district is taking a very thoughtful approach to address the Science of Reading (SOR). The department has completed a curriculum audit to understand where the district is with respect to SOR. The District Literacy Plan includes the planning of professional learning, the development of a District Literacy Team, and curriculum development to support the five pillars of literacy. We have seen improvement in our scores. Communication is key and it is important to keep everyone in the literacy loop. Summer school will be offered and it will include literacy programming and problem solving.

Next steps: planning meaningful professional development along the way.

D. Middle School French Program Update

The middle school French teacher left in the fall. Since that time, two high school French teachers shared the planning and grading responsibilities for the middle school students. They are unable to continue that schedule and the district has been looking earnestly for a French teacher. This is a shortage area position and after contacting all teachers certified in French throughout the state – both active and retired teachers – no one has contacted us. In addition, the position was posted and shared with CT colleges and universities; contact was made with area districts and private schools. There simply are no applicants.

Ms. Hollander contacted the CT State Department of Education to discuss options. The district will be following the guidance described below.

- Hire a teacher with a secondary certification to be the teacher of record.
- Purchase Rosetta Stone.

The district will continue to engage the substitute who speaks French to provide students with exposure to a

Science of Reading

Middle School French Program Update

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French speaking adult while receiving instruction on Rosetta Stone.

The district is in the process of finalizing the costs associated with this plan. Funds from the exiting teacher's remaining salary and Title I will be used to support the plan.

Mrs. McInerney requested the presentations be made available to the full Board and to the public via the district's website.

5. Public Comment

• None

Adjourn

Motion made by Mr. McCauley, seconded by Mrs. Sarich to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m..

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Tammy McInerney, Chairperson

Committee on Learning