

**New Milford Board of Education  
 Committee on Learning Minutes  
 September 16, 2014  
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

**Present:** Mr. David A. Lawson, Chairperson  
 Mrs. Angela C. Chastain  
 Mrs. Daniele Shook  
 Mr. Dave Littlefield, Alternate

**Absent:** Mr. John W. Spatola

**Also Present:** Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools  
 Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
 Mr. Marc Balanda, Assistant Principal, New Milford High School  
 Ms. Linda Scoralick, Math Department Chair, New Milford High School  
 Mr. Michael Clyne, Data Coach

RECEIVED  
 2014 SEP 18 2 3:27  
 NEW MILFORD, CT

|              |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|
| 1.           | <b>Call to Order</b><br>The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Lawson. Mr. Littlefield was seated in the absence of Mr. Spatola.  | <b>Call to Order</b>   |
| 2.           | <b>Public Comment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There was none.</li> </ul>  | <b>Public Comment</b>  |
| 3.<br><br>A. | <b>Items for Information and Discussion</b><br><br><b>NEASC Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Smith said the NEASC visit is happening in May 2015 and the NEASC co-chairs for the high school, Assistant Principal Marc Balanda and Math Department Chair Linda Scoralick, were here to give a PowerPoint overview.</li> <li>Mr. Balanda said they were appointed co-chairs in the spring of 2012 for the visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), which is a public school accrediting association, and they have been working on the self-study process since then. The Visiting Team consists of approximately 18 educators who spend three days reviewing the self-study reports and evidence. The self-study is a reflection on the high school's competency regarding seven standards in the areas of learning and support services. After review, the NEASC Visiting Team will report their</li> </ul> | <b>Items for Information and Discussion</b><br><br><b>NEASC Update</b> |

|                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
|                  | <p>findings. They will suggest areas of improvement where they see fit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Scoralick said the self-study is almost complete and committees are writing final reports by standard.</li> <li>• Mr. Balanda said as part of the process the high school has developed 21<sup>st</sup> century learning expectations that apply across all courses and are currently developing rubrics for measurement.</li> <li>• The visit will take place this spring from May 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>. Board members are invited to and encouraged to attend the opening events on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and to the Faculty Meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> where the Visiting Team will highlight their findings.</li> <li>• Mr. Smith said much of the high school professional development has been focused on this area. There will be another update to the Committee on Learning prior to the event.</li> <li>• Mr. Littlefield asked what authority NEASC has. Mr. Lawson said it is a professional community similar to the American Bar Association. Mr. Smith said every region of the country has a similar counterpart.</li> <li>• Mr. Littlefield asked if there is a pass/fail grade given. Mr. Balanda said each committee self-rates each indicator and the Visiting Committee will validate that rating or not with justifications given. In extreme cases, warnings may be issued.</li> <li>• Mrs. Chastain asked to see the report from 2004. Dr. Paddyfote said she would provide it.</li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>B.</b></p> | <p><b>Review District Assessment and Testing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Smith provided a PowerPoint summary of district assessment and testing results. The presentation included data on the national SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement testing results, the Connecticut CAPT and CMT Science results and the NWEA Map Assessment data. He said the Data Coach, Mr. Michael Clyne, had reviewed the data systematically and is now in the schools talking about the data with teachers and administrators.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Review District Assessment and Testing</b></p> |

- Mr. Smith said an SAT Prep Course in Math and English has been added for all juniors. Mrs. Chastain asked how that fit in the schedule and Mr. Smith said it was made possible through the increase in graduation requirements.
- PSAT participation will be addressed in the upcoming budget with the plan being for all sophomores to take the test during school hours.
- Mr. Smith said that while the district's AP scores were comparatively positive, New Milford lags behind other districts in participation. He said the district is currently identifying roadblocks and looking at how to offer additional classes since it is widely accepted that participation in an AP class increases college readiness in students.
- Mrs. Chastain said she believed scheduling was currently an issue.
- Mr. Littlefield asked what the fee was to take the AP test and Mr. Smith said it is \$90 each test and that the money goes directly to the College Board for scoring and administration.
- Mr. Lawson asked what the cost would be to fund AP testing for those enrolled this year.
- Mrs. Shook estimated the cost at \$36,000.
- Mr. Smith said the CMT/CAPT test for Science is the only one left and is staying as an assessment under No Child Left Behind.
- Mr. Littlefield asked about grade 5 science instruction. Mr. Smith said the teachers at that level are "generalists" though the district and we are fortunate to have some teachers at that level with a strong science aptitude.
- Mr. Clyne and Mr. Smith discussed the data coming out of the first year of MAP assessments. Mr. Clyne said it is a very valuable remediation tool that identifies areas for individual student support.
- Mr. Smith said the new Math program is designed to address the lower scores in Math performance at the elementary level.
- Mr. Littlefield asked what the numbers of students were at each level that were identified

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
|    | <p>for remediation. Mr. Clyne said he could provide that information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Smith said two intervention teachers have been added to provide the specific remediation identified.</li> <li>• Mr. Lawson asked for future updates as well as cost estimates for any initiatives suggested.</li> <li>• Mr. Lawson suggested that NEASC and District Assessment and Testing results be distributed to all Board of Education members.</li> </ul> |   |
| 4. | <p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mrs. Shook moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. seconded by Mrs. Chastain and passed unanimously.</p>   | <p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.</p> |

Respectfully submitted:



David Lawson, Chairperson  
 Committee on Learning