


**New Milford Board of Education
 Committee on Learning Minutes
 March 17, 2015
 Lillis Administration Building, Room 2**

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

Absent: Mr. David R. Shaffer

Also Present: Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. Joshua Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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1.	<p>Call to Order The meeting of the New Milford Board of Education Committee on Learning was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mrs. Shook. Mr. Lawson was seated in the absence of Mr. Shaffer.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
3. A.	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>2015-2016 Curriculum Plan Adjustment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 6 Math K-5 Social Studies K-2 Developmental Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said the Grade 6 Math program CMP3 (Connected Mathematics Program) is being piloted this year. The program follows the same concepts as the K-5 program. The district is starting to collect data comparing this year to last year's program and it is trending well. Parents who did a math visitation this year gave favorable feedback. The full curriculum will be written internally next year. • Mr. Smith said the state adopted new standards for social studies in February so curriculum work can begin in the spring and summer and be brought to the committee in the fall. • Mr. Smith said K-2 Developmental Guidance was implemented as a special this year similar 	<p>Discussion and Possible Action</p> <p>A. 2015-2016 Curriculum Plan Adjustment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 6 Math K-5 Social Studies K-2 Developmental Guidance

	<p>to other elementary specials so students are having more regular lessons versus the previous push-in model we use for health and the current curriculum is very dated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Littlefield asked what types of topics are covered. Mr. Smith said the focus is on age appropriate social/emotional connections e.g. what to do when you are angry, appropriate touching etc. <p>Mr. Lawson moved to add Grade 6 Math, K-5 Social Studies, and K-2 Developmental Guidance to the 2015-2016 Curriculum Plan to the full Board for approval. Motion seconded by Mrs. Chastain. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>B. Middle School Project Lead the Way Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith said this is a follow up to last month's discussion. He provided additional information regarding the specific PLTW curriculum, which is broken down into understanding of general themes, knowledge, and skills, which are performance tasks.• Mr. Littlefield asked if the actual design aspect is only in 8th grade and Mr. Smith said there is some design in 7th grade and multiple ones in 8th grade.• Mr. Smith distributed a listing of suggested items needed to support the program, broken down into consumables, equipment/hardware, and digital equipment and software. New Milford already has much of the heavy equipment required so that is a plus for implementation.• Mr. Lawson said he was in favor of this program when it was presented during budget hearings but was concerned that it meant wood shop would not be offered. In looking at this new material presented, he is even more in favor of the program because he views it as a 21st century version of wood shop but requiring higher-level skills to create concrete projects.	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to add Grade 6 Math, K-5 Social Studies, and K-2 Developmental Guidance to the 2015-2016 Curriculum Plan to the full Board for approval.</p> <p>B. Middle School Project Lead the Way Survey</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Smith presented survey results that outlined which region and DRG D towns offer shop, a PLTW version program or neither.• Mr. Lawson said PLTW is a standard that other towns and states recognize and noted that the middle school program will feed directly into our high school program.• Mrs. Chastain said she was all in favor of the PLTW course but that woodworking and PLTW skills are very different in her opinion and some students may be turned off by PLTW. She has real concerns about losing the woodworking program.• Mr. Littlefield said he fully supports PLTW but he echoes the concerns of Mrs. Chastain. He is also concerned about the students who have study halls because there is nothing else to offer them. What else can be offered to students who opt out of music?• Dr. Paddyfote said a new SMS schedule is being built from the ground up in conjunction with the software provider and they would know more about options once that is complete in May or June.• Mr. Smith said the current budget does not support having both programs. He said that many students actually want study halls to help them complete their work before they start other after school activities.• Dr. Paddyfote said the room is already fully scheduled so space is also an issue.• Mrs. Chastain asked if science rooms could be utilized. Mr. Smith said the current design has equipment and computers in one room for ease of use. Dr. Paddyfote said space is tight at SMS under the current transition plan and if a science room is open at all, the teacher is usually setting up for the next lab.• Mr. Lawson said he disputed the non-validity of study halls. He feels they are of value to some students. He said the woodshop option is available in high school for interested students.• Mrs. Shook said she sees woodshop like a craft store where you pick out materials and	
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	<p>assemble a project. She feels PLTW would use the same tools only in a more creative, hands on manner and thinks it is applicable to all students at all levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said for now it would be helpful to separate the discussion of the need for more options from the question of offering PLTW, as it would help to know what qualifications would be needed for a new hire. <p>Mr. Lawson moved to bring the Middle School Project Lead the Way program to the full Board for approval. Motion seconded by Mr. Littlefield. Motion passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Motion made and passed unanimously to bring the Middle School Project Lead the Way program to the full Board for approval.</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>A.</p>	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>Assessment Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith distributed a copy of the letter sent home to parents regarding the district assessments in grades 3 through 11. He said the SBAC has been officially adopted as of this year by the state of CT. • Mr. Littlefield said he had heard that opting out was now allowed. Mr. Smith said the state says that the district must offer the assessments and there is no structure to opt out. Student/family can refuse to take the test but there is no official opt out. • Mr. Littlefield asked if there was a negative impact to refusing to take the test. Mr. Smith said not to grades but results will not be in student record so that may have an effect down the road. Parents will also not receive assessment feedback that other parents are getting with students who take the test. • Mrs. Shook said as a teacher she feels it is unfortunate not to have the results to use, as they are often very helpful. • Mrs. Chastain said she had heard there was a presentation by the data coach recently. Mr. Smith said the coach gave a presentation to parents on how to interpret MAP data for 	<p>Items for Information and Discussion</p> <p>A. Assessment Schedule</p>

<p>B.</p>	<p>success going forward. The invitation went out district-wide by School Messenger but only six parents attended the evening presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Chastain asked if the presentation could be put on the website and Mr. Smith said it was not recorded but that the slides could be put on the website. • Mr. Littlefield suggested that an updated presentation be made at the May Board meeting so the entire Board could hear results. <p>Grade 7 Math Pilot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith said the Grade 7 Math pilot will begin next year as a progression to the current program. Materials and professional development will be available to teachers in May and June of this school year with structured support continuing throughout the new school year. 	<p>B. Grade 7 Math Pilot</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was none. 	<p>Public Comment</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Mr. Lawson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.</p>

Respectfully submitted:

Daniele Shook

Daniele Shook, Chairperson
 Committee on Learning