

**New Milford Board of Education  
Wellness Advisory Committee Minutes  
October 8, 2014  
Lillis Administration Building, Meeting Room 2**

Present: **Committee Chairs:** Mr. Joshua Smith, Mrs. Laura Olson  
**Committee Members:** Mrs. Christine Benson, Mrs. Susan Brofford, Mr. Emmett Cole, Dr. Diane D'Isidori, Dr. Anne Diamond, Mrs. Marianne Durkin, Mrs. Jane Harrison, Mrs. Ann Hartman, Mrs. Lynn Holmes, Mrs. Julie Morin, Mrs. Michelle MacDonnell, Mrs. Susan Murray, Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Mrs. Mariann Schirizzo, Mr. Greg Shugrue, and Mrs. Diane Swanson.

2014 OCT 10 10:02 AM  
 NEW MILFORD, CT

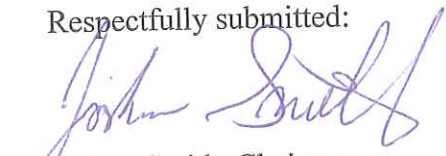
<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wellness Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m. by Mr. Smith.</li> <li>• Mr. Smith told the committee that all meetings will now be structured as the other committee meetings and the same rules will be followed. Agendas/minutes will be posted at town hall and the district website. All agenda items must be sent by e-mail to Mr. Smith for possible discussion at future meetings. Once the regular meeting agenda is posted, any changes to the agenda will then make it a special meeting and further changes/additions cannot be made.</li> <li>• Mr. Smith told the committee that we will have a presenter at each Wellness Committee meeting to speak about a topic specific to health and wellness.</li> <li>• A copy of the draft agenda topics for the remaining meetings will be sent to the committee.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>
<p><b>3.</b> <b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Role of the Social Worker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Smith introduced Mrs. Julie Morin, Social Worker at New Milford High School who presented on the role of the social worker in our schools.</li> <li>• Mrs. Morin told the committee that New Milford Public Schools has five social workers. Two full-time and one part-time at New Milford High School, one full-time at Schaghticoke Middle School, one full-time at Sarah Noble Intermediate School and a part-time for the elementary schools. They are all trained mental health professionals with a</li> </ul>	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p><b>Role of the Social Worker</b></p>

	<p>master's degree in social work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The social worker is often seen as the link between the student, home, school, and community providing direct and indirect services to promote and support student's academic and social success.</li><li>• Some of those services include student counseling, mental health services, crisis intervention, conflict resolution and anger management, social skills training, and substance abuse counseling/prevention. They assist families with school/community programs and resources and make home visits as needed.</li><li>• Social workers work closely with special education staff. They participate as a member of PPT's, provide counseling services at part of an IEP, and assist in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies and out-placement referrals.</li><li>• They also work closely with school personnel to provide information and support, assess students with mental health concerns, assist teachers with emotional/behavioral management, collaborate with administrators to address truancy issues and they develop "mental health forums" and "mental health minutes" as training programs for staff.</li><li>• They are school/community liaisons and work closely with local organizations and agencies to meet the needs of our students. Some of those organizations include the Youth Agency, DCF, New Milford Social Services, Family and Children's Aid, and the New Milford Substance Prevention Council.</li><li>• Mrs. Morin also told the committee about NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance). NOVA is a Regional Crisis Team she and Ms. Jody Bayer (Social Worker at SMS) are members of. The NOVA Crisis Response Team is a group of individuals trained to provide trauma mitigation and education in the aftermath of a critical incident, either small-scale or mass casualty, scaling the response to the need from one individual to thousands.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOVA CRT participants have a minimum of twenty-four hours of skill based, field tested training. The team meets on a monthly basis and is available to provide guidance, support, and assistance with serious crisis situations within the region if needed.</li> <li>• Other area school districts participating include Brookfield, New Fairfield, Danbury, Bethel, Sherman, Ridgefield and Redding.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.</b></p> <p><b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>Items for Information</b></p> <p><b>Preparation for Seasonal Viruses/Enterovirus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Smith introduced Mrs. Lynn Holmes, School Nurse at New Milford High School to give an update on Enterovirus/ED68.</li> <li>• Mrs. Holmes had copies of a letter that went home to all parents making them aware of Enterovirus and the symptoms. A copy of the letter was made available to the committee.</li> <li>• Mrs. Holmes told the committee that they have been monitoring medical information from the CDC and that the district has plans in place in case of any major outbreaks of this virus or any other illnesses.</li> <li>• Mrs. Holmes talked about the importance of children not coming to school with early symptoms of an acute illness and to keep them home until they are fully recovered (at least 24 hours).</li> <li>• Mrs. Holmes and our other school nurses are working hard to inform students/staff about preventive strategies and hand washing to help minimize the spread of flu and flu-like illnesses. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed in all schools where sinks are not available and hand washing posters have been placed around the schools.</li> <li>• Mrs. Holmes has started monitoring daily student absences for any specific trends and attendance has been good so far. She mentioned that with the new student attendance policy, attendance rates have been trending well.</li> <li>• Mrs. Hartman wanted to take a minute to thank Mr. Smith for his work with the allergy plan in</li> </ul>	<p><b>Items for Information</b></p> <p><b>Preparation for Seasonal Viruses/Enterovirus</b></p>

	<p>our schools. She was pleased that the schools were adhering to the non-food items for celebrations in school and that it was part of the presentation by teachers at curriculum night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transition planning/lunch at SMS and school start times were future agenda items requested by Mrs. Hartman.</li><li>• Mr. Smith said he would look into the sub-committee procedures and what the committee would need to do to bring specific agenda items to one of the Board sub-committees.</li></ul>	
5.	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p>Mr. Greg Shugrue moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 pm seconded by Mrs. Mariann Schirizzo and passed unanimously.</p>	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:50pm</b></p>

Respectfully submitted:



Joshua Smith, Chairperson  
Wellness Advisory Committee