

New Milford Board of Education
 Wellness Advisory Committee Minutes
 November 12, 2014
 Lillis Administration Building, Meeting Room 2

Present: **Committee Chair:** Mrs. Laura Olson
Committee Members: Mrs. Christine Benson, Mrs. Susan Brofford, Dr. Diane D'Isidori, Mrs. Dana Ford, Mrs. Ann Hartman, Mrs. Susan Murray, Mrs. Lynn Nissenbaum, Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, and Dr. Len Tomasello

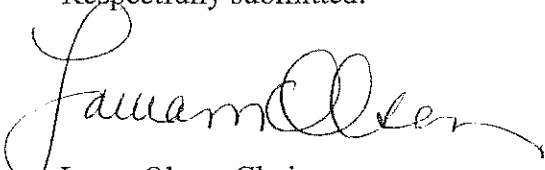
1.	<p>Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Wellness Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 3:49 p.m. by Mrs. Laura Olson. 	<p>Call to Order</p>
2.	<p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Kathy Flynn, who has children at New Milford High, Schaghticoke, Sarah Noble, and Hill and Plain, spoke about her concern with the arrival time of the buses at Schaghticoke Middle School. Mrs. Flynn said that buses arrive as early as 7:05 a.m. Students then sit on the buses breathing in fumes as they are not allowed off the buses until 7:25 a.m. She would like to see students be allowed to get off the bus when they arrive and wait in a designated area in the school or bus times be changed so that they are not getting to school so early. Mrs. Flynn also spoke about all the policies and procedures we have in place for non-food celebrations in our schools. We still continue to sell cookies and ice cream in the cafeteria during lunch. She would like to see the same steps put in place so that we are not selling these items in our cafeterias. Mrs. Sandi-Jo Giancaspro, who has children in Sarah Noble and Northville, spoke about her concerns for middle school lunch next year. Currently Schaghticoke has four lunch waves and just recently added an extra line to accommodate the overflow of students. With sixth grade added to the current lunch waves, she cannot see how children will be able to buy lunch, walk to the proposed new dining area and eat their lunch in 25 minutes on a full day and in 20 minutes on an early dismissal day. Mrs. Giancaspro would like to see our 	<p>Public Comment</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECEIVED TOWN CLERK 2014 NOV 14 P 1:15 NEW MILFORD, CT</p>

	<p>incoming sixth grade students allotted more time for lunch and to possibly have their own lunch wave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal at Schaghticoke Middle School, said that the new dining hall was no longer being considered and that there would be six lunch waves next year. • Mrs. Julie Learson, who has children in Sarah Noble and Schaghticoke spoke about her concerns about recess and the music program at Schaghticoke. She feels at this point a lot of attention has been given to the K-3 schools in the transition process and she wanted to raise some concerns for our incoming sixth grade students. Mrs. Learson said she is concerned that there will be no recess built into the schedule for our sixth grade students entering Schaghticoke. There is a lot of research that shows recess is such an important part of the day for students at this age both cognitively, socially, and physically. Mrs. Learson said that a 2012 school report showed that 50% of our middle school students did not pass their physical fitness test. Mrs. Learson asks that we consider adding recess to the schedule. • Mrs. Learson also spoke about music education and what a great job Sarah Noble has done with their program. Currently every student participates in a music class and students can choose to participate in both chorus and band. At Schaghticoke, they will only be given a choice. She would like to see sixth grade students have the same option and not be forced to choose one over the other. We should let the students have the same opportunities they would have as six grade students at Sarah Noble. 	
<p>3. A.</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <p>Role of the School Psychologist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Olson introduced Mrs. Lynn Nissenbaum, School Psychologist at Northville Elementary School. Mrs. Nissenbaum presented on the role of the school psychologist. • Mrs. Nissenbaum told the committee that New 	<p>Presentation</p> <p>Role of the School Psychologist</p>

	<p>Milford Public Schools has six school psychologists. Mrs. Nissenbaum works at Northville Elementary School (5 days a week); she also works with the private schools and out of district placements. We have one full-time and one part-time (two days a week) at New Milford High School, one full-time at Schaghticoke Middle School, one full-time and one part-time (two days a week) at Sarah Noble Intermediate School and a part-time at Hill and Plain and John Pettibone Elementary Schools (three days a week). They are all highly trained professionals with a master's degree in psychology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the roles of the school psychologist are assessment, intervention, mental health, parent and student education, and research and program development. • Some of the services they provide include assisting students with learning and behavior difficulties, depression and other mental health issues, and coping with crisis, trauma or life-changing events. They are advocates of student's learning and mental health needs. • School psychologists work closely with school personnel to provide information and support, deliver school-based mental health services such as group, individual and crisis counseling and assist teachers with emotional/behavioral management techniques. • School psychologists work closely with children and parents to determine academic skills, learning aptitudes, personality and emotional development, social skills and behavioral skills. They assist parents to develop skills to help their children succeed at home and in school. • They coordinate with community resources and health care providers to provide students with complete seamless services. 	
<p>4. A.</p>	<p>Items for Information</p> <p>Seasonal Viruses Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Olson gave an update for Mrs. Lynn Holmes, School Nurse at New Milford High 	<p>Items for Information</p> <p>Seasonal Viruses Update</p>

	<p>School, who was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Olson distributed a letter from Mike Crespan, Director of New Milford's Health Department on Ebola information for the public. This information went home to all parents and staff and is also posted on our district website. It gives facts about Ebola, how it is spread, symptoms, and information on the Ebola Preparedness Planning.• Mrs. Olson said at this time there are no cases of Ebola in Connecticut. Mrs. Olson, Mrs. Baldelli and three school nurses will attend a meeting on Monday, November 17 at New Milford Hospital to learn more information on what we need to be doing and how to be prepared and ready if an outbreak was to occur.	
5.	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm.</p>	

Respectfully submitted:



Laura Olson, Chairperson
Wellness Advisory Committee