

**New Milford Board of Education
 Board Workshop Meeting Minutes
 November 10, 2015
 Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library Media Center**

Present:	Mrs. Angela C. Chastain, Chairperson Mr. Robert Coppola Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach Mr. David A. Lawson Mr. Dave Littlefield Mr. David R. Shaffer Mr. John W. Spatola
Absent:	Mrs. Daniele Shook Mrs. Theresa Volinski

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Also Present:	Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools Mr. Joshua Smith, Deputy Superintendent of Schools Ms. Ellamae Baldelli, Director of Human Resources Mr. Jay Hubelbank, Director of Fiscal Services and Operations Mr. Kevin Munrett, Facilities Manager Mrs. Laura Olson, Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services Ms. Roberta Pratt, Director of Technology
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1.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance The Board Workshop of the New Milford Board of Education was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed the call to order.	Call to Order A. Pledge of Allegiance
2.	PRESENTATION Deputy Superintendent Joshua Smith will present information regarding 2015 assessment results. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Smith presented the 2015 assessment results for the various assessments taken throughout the school year. • He started with the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessment noting that it is aligned with the Connecticut Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, for grades 3-8 and grade 11. These assessments were taken in the spring of 2015. • The SBAC replaced the CMT and CAPT tests. It is an adaptive test as the difficulty of the test questions adjusts as the student answers the questions. 	PRESENTATION Deputy Superintendent Joshua Smith will present information regarding 2015 assessment results.

- The scoring is based on a scale in each grade level so a student can slide along the scale and show improvement.
- Mr. Smith explained the levels for scoring - one means does not meet achievement level, two means approaching achievement level, three means expected achievement level and four means exceeds achievement level.
- According to the SBAC math scores New Milford averaged slightly higher than the state but several points lower than the DRG.
- In the math subgroups New Milford outperforms every equivalent category in the state.
- In the reading scores, New Milford underperformed the state average in grades six through eight but the subgroups outperformed the state.
- The SBAC data can provide a comparison to the state and DRG because everyone takes the same test. The SBAC results show that New Milford is moving towards the mastery of the standards.
- Mr. Smith reported on the CMT/CAPT science tests. He said the shift to core standards impacted the science instruction in the elementary schools which showed a downward trend. Now the state is working on the new science standards.
- The CMT eighth grade results have held steady over the last few years. Over the 2014 and 2015 test years, New Milford scores dropped at 1.2% but the state dropped more than 4.2%.
- Mr. Smith reported on the MAP Math Assessment scores. He said the takeaway for the MAP and SBAC testing was that if a student performed better than 70% that correlated to a level three or better.
- Mr. Smith noted that having multiple data points helps teachers meet the instructional needs of students and shows the weaknesses in the curriculum which the district is working to address.
- Mr. Lawson asked what changes in the curriculum were happening and Mr. Smith said

specifically the new math program for K-5 which allows for much more rigor. The approach is also more student centered and student led with a push to advance.

- Mr. Lawson asked what happens if the student didn't get the concept the first time around and Mr. Smith said the school has a WIN block – What I Need – which is an intervention and enrichment program to help them relearn and restructure how they learn before putting them back in the stream of students.
- Mr. Smith said that the NWEA MAP summary shows the number of students meeting their projections has improved from 2013-14 to 2014-15.
- Mr. Smith moved onto the SAT's noting they are a reflection of a student's academic readiness for college.
- Mr. Coppola noted the SATs are an assessment of readiness for college and not over all. Mr. Smith said the SATs specifically are not mandated, though federal law mandates at least one assessment in high school. Last year the state chose SBAC testing.
- Mr. Coppola said to assess for college readiness is wrong if all students are not planning on going to college or are not capable of it.
- Spring 2016 is the new format for the SATs. Overall the SAT participation rate has been increasing in New Milford.
- Mr. Lawson noted the SAT performance chart showed averages but was curious as to the ranges. Mr. Smith said there were ranges and Mr. Clyne, the data coach, can give more information on the ranges.
- Mr. Shaffer said in 2009 the math SAT scores were in the 550 range and now they are dropping. Mr. Smith said that was partially due to the increased participation but he also said the downward trend in math is true locally, in Connecticut and globally.
- The new SATs which will begin in Spring 2016 are more aligned with the curriculum and state standards. The decline of scores is due in

part to the growing gap between curriculum and the assessments.

- Mrs. Chastain asked when the writing portion started with the SATs and wondered if that was the start of the decline because the writing portion was first and took the attention of the students.
- Mr. Smith said the new SATs are more algebra heavy.
- Mr. Lawson noted that New Milford does Algebra in grades nine and eleven and so they would not have finished the course before the tests. Mr. Smith said they are discussing now moving geometry to the junior year and algebra to the sophomore year.
- Mr. Lawson noted that was teaching to the test and Mr. Smith said it was aligning student knowledge to what is being tested.
- Mr. Smith moved to ACT testing noting the colleges in the south and west use ACT testing more.
- Mr. Coppola asked of the 160 students taking ACT how many also take the SATs and Mr. Smith said 360 took the SATs and probably a large percentage were duplicated in the ACT test number.
- Mr. Lawson asked about results from the SAT IIs and Mr. Smith those are reported out differently and fewer students take them.
- An ACT score of 22 suggests college readiness and the district performs above the college readiness score on all of the components.
- Mr. Shaffer said he read an article on ACT and SATs noting that students that like science and math do better on the ACT tests and those that like reading do better on the SATs, in general.
- In summary, the number of students taking ACT tests varies but the scores did rise in four out of the five areas being tested for New Milford.
- Mr. Smith moved onto the Advanced Placement testing noting that they are college level courses taught in high school and New Milford's participation rate continues to rise as more AP offerings occur.

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- He also noted that since more students are taking the AP tests the corresponding pass rate should be lower but it is actually increasing which is a good indicator. US News and World Report suggests that a way to gauge preparedness for college is in part due to the AP enrollments.
- Mr. Coppola referenced the chart with enrollments, tests taken, and percent passing and asked why some passing rates dropped. Mr. Smith said more students are taking the tests including the calculus, physics and computer science. He noted the computer science AP test is extremely difficult and has more to do with math differences including whether a student takes Trigonometry versus Algebra II.
- The percent of students in New Milford scoring three or better on AP tests remains above 80%.
- Mr. Smith attributed the increase in AP participation to the Board's decision to subsidize the AP exam cost.
- In summary, while the statewide participation in AP courses rose 6% in Connecticut, it rose by 12% in New Milford.
- Mr. Smith said the alignment of the ACT, SAT and Smarter Balanced testing will allow for instruction to better align with college readiness expectations.
- For the first time this year all grade 10 students participated in the PSAT as it was offered during the school day.
- Mr. Smith noted this is the second year of the K-6 math program and they continue to pilot the grade 7 version of the math program.
- Mr. Coppola asked about the WIN program and Mr. Smith said it is basically providing students what they need when they need it in instruction.
- Mr. Clyne gave the SAT ranges saying there were three scores in the 1500s and seven in the 600s. He said there were some who scored 800 on reading and 760 on writing.
- Mr. Coppola thanked the Chair for scheduling the interesting workshop and the opportunity to

	receive this information.	
3.	Adjourn Mr. Coppola moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m., seconded by Mr. Littlefield and passed unanimously.	Adjourn Motion made and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Wendy Faulenbach
Secretary
New Milford Board of Education