

Milford Board of Education

Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2017

Board members present:

Claire Casey (7:05)
Michael DeGrego
Suzanne DiBiase
Jennifer Federico
Susan Glennon, Chair
Dr. Jess Gregory
Walter Hagedorn
Tom Jagodzinski
Susan Krushinsky
Earl Whiskeyman

Administration present:

Dr. Elizabeth Feser
Jeffrey Burt
James Richetelli
Mrs. Carole Swift

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Glennon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT DATA UPDATE

Mr. Burt delivered a PowerPoint presentation (on file) which included a midyear update of MPS student's progress on the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA/MAP) and Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) assessments. The presentation provided a review and analysis of winter results in NWEA in grades kindergarten through 8th grade, and fall PSAT results in grades 10 and 11. The NWEA assessment focuses on individualized student growth in reading and mathematics and is a computer adaptive test allowing for students to answer questions at, above or below grade level. For example, a 4th grade student can answer questions which progress up to an 8th grade level of understanding. In other words, there is no ceiling on the assessment. The assessment provides the teacher with the expected growth for each student based on the individual starting point of that student, which allows teachers to individualize instruction. The PSAT is a College Board assessment administered to grades 10 and 11 and it assesses mathematics and reading skills. Comparative data could only be made for two years as the PSAT assessment was reconfigured in 2015.

Following the presentation, the Board requested the following information.

1. Provide the testing window for fall and spring.
2. How will parents be informed of the timing difference of the NWEA testing?

III. NEW SMARTER BALANCED GROWTH REPORT

Mr. Burt then gave a presentation on Connecticut's Growth Model for the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments. The Smarter Balanced assessment shows a growth model in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. It provided individual student growth targets for all students in grades four through eight. The combined results are used as a key component of Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System for districts and schools.

Connecticut's growth model measures the change in achievement for the same student over two or more points in time based on scales developed for ELA and Math. In effect, this growth model sets appropriate student achievement targets, monitors student growth in achievement toward those targets, and identifies students who are not growing at an adequate rate. The state grades the school districts on two indicators, one for the percentage of students meeting their individual target and one related to the percentage of growth achieved for all students. The report does not separate students who qualify for free and reduced lunch from typical students. The report should be released soon.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. ADJOURN

Ms. DiBiase made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Federico seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Recording Secretary: _____
Mrs. Pam Griffin

Corresponding Secretary: _____
Ms. Suzanne DiBiase