



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes from March 6, 2017 New Britain Educational Administration Center

Call to Order and Roll Call

Call to Order

Mr. Nicholas Mercier, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Board Members Present

Ms. Grisselle Aponte, Ms. Beloin-Saavedra, Ms. Mallory Deprey, Mr. Merrill Gay, Ms. Miriam Geraci, Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Ms. Nicole Rodriguez, Ms. Daisy Sanchez, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly, Ms. Elaine Zottola

Board Members Absent/Excused

None

Public Participation

Christine Jeffries

Ms. Jeffries said that she is having issues with Gaffney School, specifically the administration at Gaffney. She said that her son has never done well academically and has had behavior issues. She stated that the administration at Gaffney has not been supportive and has done nothing to help her son. Ms. Jeffries would like someone to follow-up to make sure her son gets the help he needs.

Sal Escobales

Mr. Escobales said that on behalf of Local 871, he would like to say that the members believe in the Superintendent's overall vision for the district. He said they do recognize the needs of the students and that must always be a priority. Mr. Escobales said the outreach tonight is to express disappointment and disagreement with the decisions that have been made in regards to involuntary transfers.

Andrew Zink

Mr. Zink congratulated Mr. Shane Clark and the Robotics Club for winning numerous awards at their most recent competition. He thanked the Board for listening in regards to involuntary transfers. Mr. Zink quoted various research and data points that talk about how involuntary transfers do not work. He said that it is an honest disagreement in approach and he would like the district to re-consider the involuntary transfers.

James Gomulinski

Mr. Gomulinski said that the concerns of the teachers are the students in New Britain. He said they respect this process and that it's great we can come together and have an honest disagreement without fear of retribution. He said that he and other teachers look forward to working with Superintendent Sarra and not against her. Mr. Gomulinski said it was a philosophical difference and one in which they don't see eye-to-eye on this process. He is asking Superintendent Sarra to re-think the involuntary transfers and consider all points before making the final decision.

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Awards/Recognition

The Board of Education recognized Sarah Farley, senior at New Britain High School, for earning the highest score in the state of Connecticut on the Career and Technical Education Career Assessment Exam.

Superintendent's Report from Ms. Nancy Sarra

Ms. Nancy Sarra, Superintendent, reported the following:

- A. The Professional Development Evaluation Committee** has been meeting regularly to revise the current teacher evaluation plan. The CSDNB PDEC/TEVAL team is headed to Tennessee next week to meet with Software team creating our on-line platform. The team includes Jeff Prokop, Sal Escobales, Meg Shea, John Taylor and Johanna Robles.
- B. The Talent Office** will be participating in a variety of education based career fairs. The New Britain recruitment team is comprised of Jessica Leon, Manny Zaldivar, Sal Escobales, Trish Putnam and Nicole Sanders. We will be receiving \$4,000 from CAS for curriculum development in our Fine Arts Program.
- C. The CT State NAACP Great Debate** will be held April 19 in Bridgeport, CT. Debate teams this year hail from Howard University and Yale. A group of NBHS students will be attending this event exposing them to the Art of Debate and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).
- D. ACES in partnership with Southern CT State University** will host its annual Future Educators Symposium focusing on male students of color. This daylong event highlights the education as a potential career for high school males of color. Panelists, workshops and a tour of SCSUs campus will occur that day. NBHS will have a group of males participating this year.
- E. Meeting with State Representative** - Kevin Kane and I, along with some board members, will be meeting with our State Representatives (Robert Sanchez and Rick Lopes) on Tuesday, March 7 at 10:30 AM at the LOB to discuss and ask questions regarding the proposed Governor's budget.
- F. Nellie Mae Partnership** - Since the acceptance of the Nellie Mae grant, our three year partnership with Everyday Democracy and Great Schools Partnership began. Next week, one of our coaches, Trudi Lebron, will work with our team to analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of our existing FRC's. With the upcoming state budget proposal, the funding for these programs are at risk. The onset of this partnership is timely and we look forward to working with Everyday Democracy and Great School Partnerships.
- G. Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) "High Schools That Work"** school improvement design showcase SREB March 13-14 Gwinett County, Georgia. Sondra Sanford, Jim Brasile and I will be attending as we begin to develop our proposal for the Commissioner's Network for NBHS. It is focused on the critical role CTE plays in school improvement ensuring all students see high school leading to a career. It is an authentic project-based learning professional development and is by invitation only (recommended by State Partner Leslie Carson).

Committee Reports

- Ms. Sanders-Connolly stated that the **Finance Committee** had a busy meeting in February. She said that all items discussed are on the agenda for the evening.
- Ms. Sanchez stated that the **Personnel Committee** also had a busy meeting. She said that most of the items discussed are on the agenda for the evening.

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- Ms. Aponte stated that the **Curriculum Committee** had a productive meeting and heard several presentations, which included the NBHS Mindset Academy, Preschool Re-Imagined and improvements to Sex Education Curriculum.
- Ms. Rodriguez stated that the **Policy Committee** spent the bulk of their meeting discussing the Drug and Alcohol Policy. She said that Ms. Melony Brady-Shanley, Assistant Chief Talent Officer, was refining the policy and making a few minor edits. The completed draft of the policy will be presented to the full board at the meeting on March 20. Ms. Rodriguez also stated that the policy in regards to school volunteers was being refined and would be available for review within the coming weeks.

Board Reports

- Ms. Beloin-Saavedra said that the New Britain High School Parents' Music Association did a great job with the Annual Gala. She commended all those who helped put the event together. She also reported that she was able to read to students at Gaffney and Smalley Elementary Schools for Read Across America Day. Ms. Beloin-Saavedra said in regards to those who spoke during public participation, the Board could not comment on pending grievances and that their concerns were not being ignored.
- Ms. Sanders-Connolly reported that there were a lot of great things happening at New Britain High School. She attended the latest PTO Meeting and said she would have a more detailed report at the March 20 meeting.
- Ms. Rodriguez said the Board of Education was honored by Grace Church at the Connie Wilson Gala. The Board received individual awards and also an award to display in the Board Room at Central Office.
- Mr. Mercier thanked all those who came out during public participation and taking part in the process.
- Mr. Paul Salina, Chief Operations Officer, said that there will be a Unified Sports Basketball Tournament on Wednesday. There will be about 20 schools represented throughout the region, including NBHS. He also reminded all that the Little Mermaid will be held at NBHS on March 17 at 7 PM and March 18 at 2 PM and 7 PM.
- Ms. Rodriguez stated that the Middle School Basketball Championship Games will be held on Tuesday, March 7 at New Britain High School at 3:30 PM (Girls) and 4:30 PM (Boys).

Legislative Report

- Mr. Gay stated that the Education Committee had another hearing and more details will be coming out in the next few weeks.
- Ms. Beloin-Saavedra said that New Britain is taking its advocacy to the Capital and we will be fighting for what we believe we deserve.

Presentations

Mindset Academy at New Britain High School

Mr. Joseph Pinchera, Principal of New Britain High School, along with the other administrators at NBHS, talked about the new Mindset Academy, which will begin with the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Pinchera answered all questions from the board. A copy of the presentation has been attached.

Fiscal Impact of Governor's Proposed 2017-2018 Budget

Mr. Kevin Kane, Chief Financial Officer, presented the fiscal impact of the Governor's Proposed 2017-2018 Budget. Mr. Kane answered all questions from the board. A copy of the presentation has been attached.

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Consent Agenda

The following items were removed from the consent agenda:

- Item B - Approve Personnel Transactions
- Item C - Accept Attendance Report
- Item D – Accept Class Size Reports
- Item P - Bid Waiver and Purchase Order Approval for library books throughout CSDNB
- Item Q - Bid Award for Science Classrooms ADA Casework Modifications at New Britain High School
- Item U - Grant approval for Gaffney Elementary School Greenhouse Composting Program in the amount of \$1,500
- Item V - Grant approval for Partnership Office from Nellie Mae Education Foundation in the amount of \$20,000

All were in favor of pulling these items off the Consent Agenda.

Approve minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on February 6, 2017

The minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting from February 6, 2017 can be found online at www.csdnb.org.

Accept Monthly Financial Report – January 31, 2017

The monthly financial report ending January 31, 2017 can be found online at www.csdnb.org.

Memorandum of Understanding: Adding Grade 5 to the HIIP Training at Northend, Lincoln, Smalley and Smith Submitted by Tricia Putnam | Reviewed by the Curriculum Committee on February 27, 2017

The Consolidated School District of New Britain employs a substantial number of teachers who implement their daily instructional practices with varying degrees of consistency and effectiveness. As the focus of our District Strategic Plan to increase student engagement, language-focused instruction to support the skills necessary for students to read with comprehension and write academically at or above grade level will be rolled out to four elementary buildings who have are in the second year of Well-Managed Classroom professional development whose student population represents high percentages of EL students: Lincoln, Northend, Smalley and Smith.

The targeted audience will be the building administration and our 3rd, 4th grade teachers and the addition of the 5th grade teachers. Over the last four years, the district has made substantial strides in working to implement high level English Language Development (ELD) classes and has increased its reclassification rates. While the growth among ELD classrooms is laudable, the district seeks to prioritize improving achievement for all students. In order to accomplish this, the district has identified the need to extend language support into our reading and writing classes with High Impact Instructional Principles.

This contract proposal describes in more detail the proposed 2016-2017 Principled Instructional Initiative, High Impact Instructional Principles: Production and Push, including the scope of consulting services to be provided related to its design, implementation and evaluation. By definition, Production is the high leverage instructional practice to increase student discourse with a target of students talking 80% of the time. Push, another high leverage instructional practice, builds the teacher's capacity to increase the level of questioning as it relates to the objective.

This proposal details the addition of grade 5 at Northend, Lincoln, Smalley and Smith to the scope and duration of services to be provided by Clark Consulting and Training, Inc. to the Consolidated School District of New Britain. The duration of this contract is from January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017.

For addition of grade 5 and the services described, the total consulting fee is \$26,874.20, which includes all consultant preparation, development, travel and overhead. Billing is monthly - after the completion of scheduled services for the contract period and upon the final day of the training progression. All services are guaranteed to meet the quality standards of the district. The funding source is Alliance Carryover and Title II Carryover.

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Memorandum of Understanding: High Impact Instructional Practices: Production and Push - DiLoreto: Building-Wide
Submitted by Tricia Putnam | Reviewed by the Curriculum Committee on February 27, 2017

The Consolidated School District of New Britain employs a substantial number of teachers who implement their daily instructional practices with varying degrees of consistency and effectiveness. As the focus of our District Strategic Plan to increase student engagement, language-focused instruction to support the skills necessary for students to read with comprehension and write academically at or above grade level will be rolled out to four elementary buildings who have are in the second year of Well-Managed Classroom professional development whose student population represents high percentages of EL students: DiLoreto.

The targeted audience will be the building administration and the K-8 teachers. Over the last four years, the district has made substantial strides in working to implement high level English Language Development (ELD) classes and has increased its reclassification rates. While the growth among ELD classrooms is laudable, the district seeks to prioritize improving achievement for all students. In order to accomplish this, the district has identified the need to extend language support into our reading and writing classes with High Impact Instructional Principles. This contract proposal describes in more detail the proposed 2016-2017 Principled Instructional Initiative, High Impact Instructional Principles: Production and Push, including the scope of consulting services to be provided related to its design, implementation and evaluation. By definition, Production is the high leverage instructional practice to increase student discourse with a target of students talking 80% of the time. Push, another high leverage instructional practice, builds the teacher's capacity to increase the level of questioning as it relates to the objective.

This proposal details the K-8 implementation of HIIP at DiLoreto as well as the scope and duration of services to be provided by Clark Consulting and Training, Inc. to the Consolidated School District of New Britain. The duration of this contract is from January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017.

For addition of grade 5 and the services described, the total consulting fee is \$85,375.00, which includes all consultant preparation, development, travel and overhead. Billing is monthly: after the completion of scheduled services for the contract period and upon the final day of the training progression. All services are guaranteed to meet the quality standards of the district. The funding source will be the Commissioner's Grant.

Bid Waiver and Purchase Order Approval for the purchase of Core Novels

Submitted by Liz Crooks | Reviewed by the Finance Committee and Curriculum Committee on February 27, 2017

In the past, many novels have been purchased at the middle schools; however, the process in which they were chosen was often absent. Even when processes were in place, some novels currently owned may have been acquired many years ago. This has resulted in the same texts being taught in a variety of grade levels from school to school, causing frequent overlaps for a student population where many are not avid readers, thus limiting the scope of their exposure to literature.

It has also resulted in texts that span lexile levels from grade three to grade eleven, all housed in our middle schools. While some range is desirable to accommodate a variety of students, that wide of a range may be more appropriate for classroom libraries and choice reading, rather than texts actually taught as part of the curriculum.

Being literate and measuring student achievement in literacy is critical to the success of CSDNB students. The district is measuring student achievement in literacy, not only through NWEA scores, but also through CFA's (common formative assessments). CFA's provide data through calibrated scores, but more importantly, through examining student work in a systematic process in order to identify overarching strengths and needs to inform instruction and curriculum revision. CFA's give more specific data than we can obtain from NWEA scores. In order to be most effective in driving curriculum and instructional revisions, the CFA's should be grounded in what students are doing on a daily basis in class, rather than stopping to do a standalone assessment that is not an integrated part of the curriculum. This requires better alignment in what is being taught district-wide across grade levels.

Literacy experts recommend that students must read often in order to become better readers. We must have enough novels that books can go home to encourage students to read often. When the novels remain only in the class environment (due to the limited number), this harbors a threefold detriment for students. First, students have limited ability to develop a love for reading,

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second, if all reading is done in class, little time is left for instruction, discussion, and deeper comprehension, and third, students are missing opportunities to develop habits that will enable them to be successful beyond high school. Developing the whole child, particularly habits of mind, is directly connected to the strategic plan.

Core texts were chosen with specific attention to appropriate challenge for each grade level. They were chosen with attention to possible controversial issues, while still being cognizant of student interest. Each core is highly engaging and appropriate for the grade level chosen. The texts are well known, commonly taught texts that are core in many districts across Connecticut.

The total cost is \$42,883 and the funding source is the Local Budget – Academics, Textbook 101096122004-56410.

Bid Waiver and Purchase Order Approval for Chromebook Cart at New Britain High School
Submitted by Joseph Pinchera | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017

New Britain High School is continuously working toward improving classroom technology that will eventually provide each student with the capacity to have their own device or chrome book in every class. This access will allow students to work on various platforms such as Google to ensure that their academic experience with these devices accelerates their learning so they can compete with 21st Century technological skills. The 1:1 ratio of device to student provides the necessary technology for online curriculum support, access to latest applications, and it will enhance classroom instruction. Students will also be able to continually upload SSP and Capstone requirements for graduation credit. The total cost is \$17,740, which will come from Local Funding, NBHS, Non-Instructional Equipment New 10100610001-57346.

Bid Waiver and Purchase Order Approval for Chromebook Cart
Submitted by Jeff Prokop | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017

This is a purchase of a chromebook cart as a result of our recent chromebook contest. One particular entry was a team effort by the specials teachers at Lincoln Elementary. I want to use them as an example for the other schools in how technology and chromebooks can be effective in specials classes. This initiative aligns to the district goals for Academics as well as Talent Development. The total cost is \$8,870.00, which will come from Local Funding, MIS, Instructional Equipment New 101092125800-57346.

Purchase Order Approval for Destiny Library Media Center Resource Software
Submitted by Jeff Prokop | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017

The school district uses Destiny for its library book circulation. This software also provides additional online resources for the students and is integral to the proper functioning of the media center. Please note there are two quotes in this renewal in order to rectify the Roosevelt Campus being left off of the renewal. The Destiny software is essential to supporting the academics pillar of the district improvement plan. It provides the media centers with the essential tools to provide students the ability to locate and borrow resources. The total cost is \$17,436.78, which will come from Local Funding, MIS, DP and Coding Services 101092110000-53510.

Purchase Order Approval for Follett Resource Manager
Submitted by Jeff Prokop | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017

Currently, the district uses Destiny for its media center circulation software, and we use a separate system (Leaf) for textbook and resource management. We want to consolidate these services in order to have a singular system for both media center materials and district resources. After the initial deployment, renewal for the Follett Resource Manager will be half the cost of the current system's renewal. This initiative aligns to the district goals for Academics as well as Talent Development. This proposal aligns with both improvement in district operations and budgeting as well as providing schools with the academic resources they need to succeed. The total cost is \$35,534, which will come from Local Funding, MIS, DP and Coding Services 101092110000-53510.

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Bid Waiver and Purchase Order Approval for NWEA Map**Submitted by John Taylor | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017**

NWEA MAP is a web-secure, adaptive assessment of Reading, Mathematics and Language Usage. As students take this assessment, the program adjusts the difficulty level so that an accurate level of reading, language usage and mathematics performance is available. The District has successfully used the MAP to assist in instructional decision-making. MAP has proven to be an important and highly reliable formal, formative assessment. Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) is the sole provider for this program. NWEA MAP assessments build capacity in the system and the subsystems to more effectively increase student achievement and allows the system to monitor adding a year or more of value to all students' learning every year, to improve teaching and learning and to foster a culture of continuous improvement. The total cost is \$87,400 and the funding source is Title I, DW, Instructional Supplies 201196910001-56110.

Bid Waiver and Purchase Order Approval for technology upgrades in NBHS CTE Computer Lab (Room 535)**Submitted by Sondra Sanford | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017**

The Connecticut State Department of Education Carl D. Perkins Grant provides use of funds to strengthen the academic, career and technical skills of students participating in CTE programs. The 2016-2017 Perkins School Year grant allows NBHS to implement and update equipment in CTE. The Computer lab is in need of updated technology as stated in the compliance review. The updated equipment is for an Academy of Information Technology & Engineering, Room 535 at NBHS. The Lab at NBHS will be utilized by CTE students. The total cost is \$40,707 and the funding source is the Carl D. Perkins Grant, NBHS, Instructional Equipment New 202896910001-57346.

Bid Waiver and Purchase Order Approval for technology upgrades in NBHS CTE Computer Lab (Room 129/535)**Submitted by Sondra Sanford | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017**

The Connecticut State Department of Education Carl D. Perkins Grant provides use of funds to strengthen the academic, career and technical skills of students participating in CTE programs. The 2016-2017 Perkins School Year grant allows NBHS to implement and update equipment in the CTE. The Computer lab is in need of updated technology as stated in the compliance review. The updated equipment is for an Academy of Finance Computer Lab, Room 129 at NBHS and the Academy of IT/Engineering Lab 535. These labs are used by CTE students. The total cost is \$9,869 and the funding source is the Carl D. Perkins Grant, NBHS, Instructional Equipment New 202896910001-57346.

Bid Award for NBHS Air Balancing in Academic Classrooms (1971 and 1999 Structures)**Submitted by Ray Moore | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017**

In an effort to provide the best education experience for our students, the district needs to regularly update buildings and grounds to support this experience. Air balancing is an important component to ensure building comfort. An invitation to Bid was advertised in the Hartford Courant. Two bids were opened on February 22, 2017 and the lowest responsible bidder was Environmental Testing & Balancing (North Haven, CT) for \$69,400.00. The total cost of equipment is \$69,400. Funding will come from the Alliance Grant, Capitol Projects, Non-Instructional Equipment Replacement 234206110002-57300

Approval to create Student Activity Fund at Roosevelt Early Learning Center**Submitted by Terry Turcotte | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017**

Roosevelt Early Learning Center is requesting to create a Student Activity Fund. This account will be used to deposit and withdraw money for parent and community evenings, as well as provide activities to enrich our Kindergarten students' learning experience. The team already has \$200 ready to deposit into the account

Approval to create Student Activity Fund at New Britain Transitional Center**Submitted by Susan Girolomoni | No Committee Review**

The New Britain Transitional Center is requesting to create a Student Activity Fund. This account will be used to deposit and withdraw money for parent and community evenings, as well as provide activities to enrich our students' learning experience.

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New Business

The following items had been removed from the consent agenda and were opened for discussion:

Approve Personnel Transactions

Submitted by Dr. Shuana Tucker | Reviewed by the Personnel Committee on February 28, 2017

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to approve the personnel transactions, seconded by Ms. Zottola. Ms. Beloin-Saavedra wanted to recognize those who were retiring. Mr. Todd Verdi, Principal at Slade, answered all questions from the board in regards to stipend positions at Slade Middle School. Motion carried unanimously.

Accept Attendance Reports

Submitted by Jeff Prokop | No Committee Review

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to approve the attendance reports, seconded by Ms. Geraci. Ms. Beloin-Saavedra commended Mr. Jeff Prokop, MIS Director, for providing this information to the board. Mr. Prokop answered all questions from the board. Motion carried unanimously.

Accept Class Size Reports

Submitted by Paul Salina | No Committee Review

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to approve the class size reports, seconded by Ms. Sanchez. Mr. Salina answered all questions from the board. Motion carried unanimously.

Bid Waiver and Purchase Order Approval for library books throughout CSDNB

Submitted by Christi Tilton | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to approve the bid waiver and purchase order approval for library books throughout CSDNB, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly.

The Department of Academics is working to expand the library collections throughout CSDNB to include resources for social emotional learning, K scenarios, and build the eBook collection. A need for additional classroom libraries and guided reading books has been identified for Smalley Kindergarten classrooms currently housed at Roosevelt Early Learning Center.

The district's focus on the whole child will be supported through the library media centers by providing staff and students' resources that address social emotional learning and aligns with Culture and Climate and Academics pillars. Building an eBook library within each school with "unlimited access eBooks" will allow teachers to utilize eBooks with their students on chromebooks or interactive boards and will align with the Culture and Climate, Academics, and Operations pillars.

Providing classroom libraries and guided reading books for the Smalley Kindergarten classrooms will promote literacy and provide students and staff the necessary materials to meet students' needs and will align with the Culture and Climate and Academics pillars.

The total cost is \$50,000: \$37,000 Follett (Library Books), \$10,000 Heinemann (Classroom Libraries), \$3,000 Houghton Mifflin (Guided Reading Books), which will come from Alliance Carryover, DW, Instructional Supplies 234196910002-56110.

Ms. Amy Anderson, District Coordinator of Curriculum (K-5), answered all questions from the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

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Bid Award for Science Classrooms ADA Casework Modifications at New Britain High School

Submitted by Ray Moore | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to approve the bid award for science classrooms ADA casework modifications at New Britain High School, seconded by Ms. Geraci.

In an effort to provide the best education experience for our students, the district needs to regularly update buildings and grounds to support this experience. An invitation to bid was advertised in the Hartford Courant on January 11, 2017. Two bids were opened on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 and the lowest responsible bidder was MA&M DBA Aresco Construction: Base bid Casework modifications \$89,600, Alt#1 MEP for base bid \$16,000 and ALT#4 Replace two fume hoods \$38,000 total bid award - \$143,600. The total cost of equipment is \$143,600. Funding will come from Local Funding, Facilities, Facilities Improvements 101093126000-57969.

Mr. Ray Moore, Facilities Director answered all questions from the board. Motion carried unanimously.

Grant approval for Gaffney Elementary School Greenhouse Composting Program in the amount of \$1,500

Submitted by Nancy Puglisi | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to approve the Grant for Gaffney Elementary Greenhouse Composting Program in the amount of \$1,500, seconded by Mr. Gay. Ms. Sanders-Connolly said she wanted to publicly acknowledge the grant.

The District has been working with New Britain ROOTS (formally Urban Oaks) on Farm to School education programs for over five years. New Britain ROOTS have been providing students at Gaffney Elementary School Garden Club programing utilizing our new greenhouse since its debut at the school. Through this partnership the District has been able to provide out of school time enrichment activities aligned with our classroom curriculums. The grant funding will purchase a compost tumbler, curriculum books and supplies for composting projects. This grant from Recycle CT Foundation supports District Farm to School education programs. The total amount of the grant is \$1,500 and the funding will come from the Recycle Connecticut Foundation

Motion carried unanimously.

Grant approval for Partnership Office from Nellie Mae Education Foundation in the amount of \$20,000

Submitted by Sondra Sanford | Reviewed by the Finance Committee on February 27, 2017

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to approve the grant for the Partnership Office from Nellie Mae Education Foundation in the amount of \$20,000, seconded by Ms. Deprey. Mr. Mercier wanted to thank the Nellie Mae Education Foundation for their generous grant approval.

Nellie Mae Education Foundation proposed a grant to enhance community partnership. In March of 2016, we applied for this grant program to enhance the partnerships we have and develop a sustainability plan that ensures we have all partners and voices in the plan. In addition, using the information gathered during this time to drive the action. The partnership developed with Nellie Mae leads to partnerships with Everyday democracy and Great Schools Partnership. In addition to the funds, Nellie Mae provides coaches over the course of three year to develop a sustainability plan. This aligns directly to the Partnership Pillar and the vision of the district because we are working collaboratively with community members. The total amount of the grant is \$20,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

Recess

Mr. Mercier called a recess at 8:23 PM. The meeting resumed at 8:33 PM.

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Contract Amendment between CSDNB and Community Health Center, Inc.
Submitted by Janet Mathly (CHC) | No Committee Review

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to approve the contract amendment between CSDNB and Community Health Center, Inc., seconded by Ms. Sanchez. Ms. Janet Mathly from spoke about the Community Health Center and answered all questions from the board. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Calendar for 2017-2018 School Year
Submitted by Nancy Sarra | No committee review

Ms. Aponte motioned to approve the calendar for the 2017-2018 school year, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Ms. Sanchez asked if there was another option for the calendar. Ms. Sarra and Mr. Salina answered all questions from the board as to why there was only one option, explaining that CSDNB, along with other school districts, are required to follow the CREC calendar. Mr. Salina also explained that it had to do with how vacations are placed according to the calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

Non-Lapsing Account
Submitted by Kevin Kane | Reviewed at Finance Committee Meeting on February 28

Mr. Gay motioned to approve the resolution for the non-lapsing account to be forwarded to the Mayor's Office and New Britain Common Council, seconded by Ms. Geraci. The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 10-248a, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year thereafter, the City of New Britain Common Council (the "Common Council") may deposit into a nonlapsing account any unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year from the budgeted appropriation for education for the City of New Britain (the "City"), provided such amount does not exceed one per cent of the total budgeted appropriation for education for such prior fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Britain Board of Education (the "Board of Education") may, from time to time, have such unexpended funds in a fiscal year and may request that the Common Council approve the deposit of all or a portion of such unexpended funds into such nonlapsing account.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby establishes the Unexpended Education Funds Account (the "Account") which shall be a nonlapsing account pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 10-248a; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council may deposit into the Account all or a portion of any unexpended funds from a prior fiscal year from the appropriation for education received from the City, provided that such amount shall not exceed one per cent of the total budgeted appropriation for education for said prior fiscal year. The Common Council may authorize deposits into the Account in each fiscal year such that the total amount in the Account may accumulate over time if not expended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that funds in the Account may be used by the Board of Education in its sole discretion for any operating expenses, capital projects or for any expenses of maintaining public schools in the City as provided for in § 10-248 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education shall provide the Common Council with a written report on an annual basis of all revenues and expenditures of the Account.

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to postpone this discussion indefinitely, seconded by Ms. Aponte. Motion carried unanimously.

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Board action to certify that all food items sold to students will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards

Submitted by Ann Alfano | Reviewed at Policy Committee Meeting on March 1

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to approve both considerations to certify that all food items sold to students will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, seconded by Ms. Aponte.

The CSDNB Wellness Policy – 6142.101 – states that the Consolidated School District of New Britain’s Board of Education believes that children’s health is essential to their success in school. The Board of Education believes that its district schools and programs must engage students, parents and school staff members, and its greater school community to develop and implement practices that will enhance its health education, nutrition programs and physical activity/education programs in ways that will augment our student’s overall health, behavior and overall achievement.

Under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), healthy food certification (HFC) requires each board of education or governing authority for all public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to certify annually to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) whether they will follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards for all foods sold to students separately from a reimbursable school breakfast or lunch in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs.

The Connecticut Nutrition Standards apply to all a la carte foods offered for sale to students at all times, in all schools and from all sources including school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, fundraising activities on school premises and any other sources of food sales.

The two considerations for the vote by the board of education/governing authority are whether to implement the healthy food option and whether to allow food exemptions.

Consideration 1 – Healthy Food Option: Pursuant to Section 10-215f of the C.G.S., the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

Consideration 2 – Exemption for Food Items: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

Motion carried unanimously.

Approve New Position Request – 1.0 FTE English Teacher for NBHS Satellite Careers Academy

Submitted by Michael Foran | Reviewed at Personnel Committee Meeting on February 28

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to approve the new position request - 1.0 FTE English Teacher for NBHS Satellite Careers Academy, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. The purpose of the new position is to increase the capacity at the Satellite Careers Academy by 25 additional students. The number of applicants is far greater than the capacity of the program. Increasing the capacity at SCA will increase the number of students graduating. The total cost for the remainder of the school year is \$12,000

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and the funding source is local budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Job Description: Athletics Student Athlete Development and Community Outreach Liaison
Submitted by Len Corto | Reviewed at Personnel Committee Meeting on February 28

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to approve the job description for Athletics Student Athlete Development and Community Outreach Liaison, seconded by Ms. Aponte. Mr. Len Corto, Athletic Director, answered all questions from the board. Motion carried unanimously.

New Job Description: Preschool/Special Education Teacher
Submitted by Kelly Grant | Reviewed at Personnel Committee Meeting on February 28

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to approve the new job description for Preschool/Special Education Teacher, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Ms. Kelly Grant, Director of Pupil Services, answered all questions from the board. Motion carried unanimously.

Job Description Revision: School Social Worker
Submitted by Kelly Grant | Reviewed at Personnel Committee Meeting on February 28

Ms. Zottola motioned to approve the job description revision for School Social Worker, seconded by Ms. Sanchez. Ms. Grant answered all questions from the board. Motion carried unanimously.

Accept Donations
Reviewed at Finance Committee Meeting on February 27

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to accept the following donations, seconded by Mr. Gay.

A. Community Foundation of Greater New Britain in the amount of \$17,556 for CSDNB Family Resource Centers
Submitted by Kim Jackson

The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain has continued funding for three part-time parent educators in the Family Resource Centers (FRC) in the district. For many years this foundation has supported projects in the New Britain area. We have been selected to receive the funding to cover salaries for the three staff as Parents as Teachers certified parent educators who provide the home visitation model to New Britain families with children under the age of kindergarten entry district wide.

The Consolidated School District of New Britain Family Resource Centers provide New Britain families with children under the age of kindergarten entry with opportunities to enhance their advocacy skills; to support their child's development and academic success; and, to strengthen their partnership with the school and community. This funding will increase the capacity of FRC staff to provide PAT home visitation services to more New Britain families in support of these goals.

B. Community Foundation of Greater New Britain in the amount of \$2,800 for the NBHS Satellite Careers Academy
Submitted by Idalia Crespo-Villarini

This grant has been awarded to the NBHS Satellite Careers Academy by the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain. The grant was approved to provide programs and projects for young Latina women in a Youth Leadership and Empowerment Group at the school.

C. Stanley Tools in the amount of \$2,500 for the NBHS Robotics Club
Submitted by Shane Clark

The Robotics Club and Stanley Tools have developed a relationship over the last few years. The Robotics Club has grown from just 10 students to over 40 in just two years and has become a class here at NBHS this year. The class and club

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provide a place for students of all grades and abilities to explore their creativity with VEX Robotics materials. The club goes to several VEX tournaments each year as a culmination of students efforts.

D. Stanley Black and Decker in the amount of \$2,000 for the NBHS Stem Club
Submitted by Eric Nelson

This is a donation from Stanley Black and Decker to support the NBHS STEM Club. The students will use the funds to improve their car to make it energy efficient

E. Mr. Peter Niro in the amount of \$1,000 for the New Britain Transitional Center
Submitted by Sue Girolomoni

Mr. Peter Niro is a successful New Britain business man who donated this money after finding out we needed a backpack for one student. Instead of donating just one backpack, he donated \$1,000 for our school. I am happy to forge a professional relationship with this stakeholder, recognizing his interest in providing support to New Britain students. Student/family engagement is a district and school goal. These funds will be helpful in supporting our building incentives relating to use of Specialized Classroom Management (Well Managed), and our family engagement activities such as Family Fun Day (held 3 times per year).

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to go into Executive Session at 9:17 PM, seconded by Ms. Sanchez. The purpose of the Executive Session is to discuss pending litigation, employee contract status/update, and non-renewals. The following staff members were invited into Executive Session: Ms. Sarra and Dr. Shuana Tucker, Chief Talent Officer

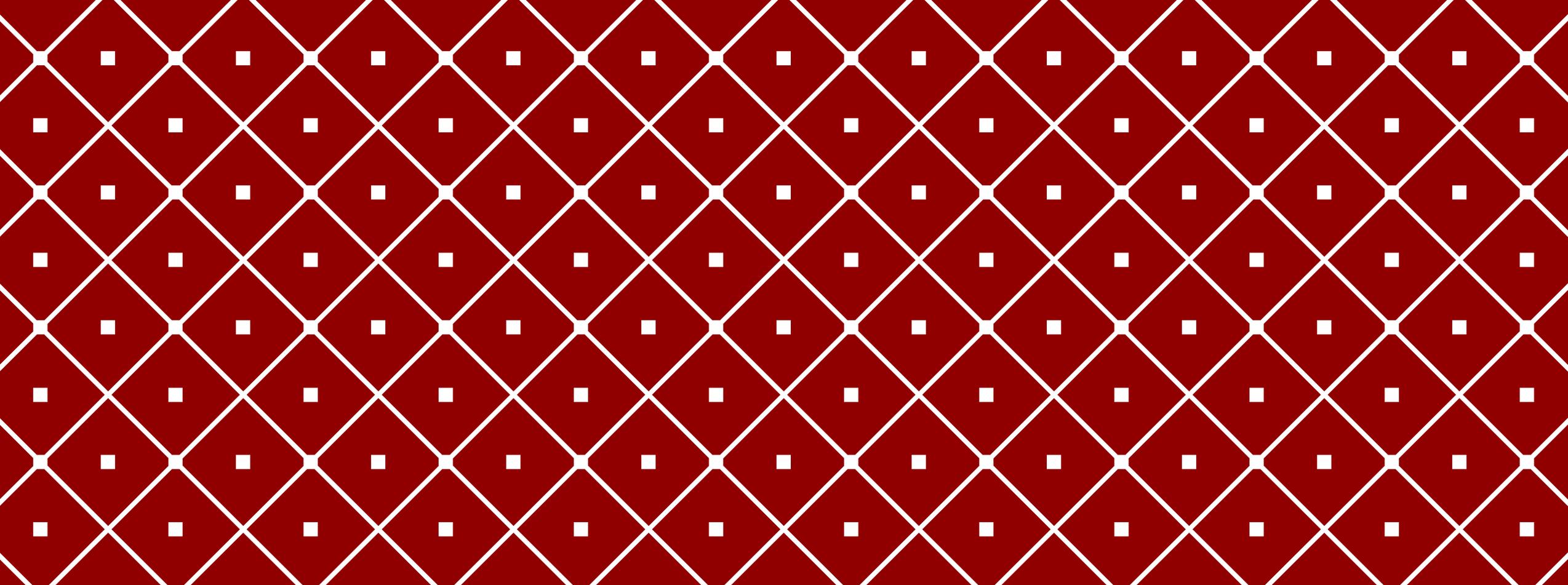
Closing and Adjournment

Ms. Sanchez motioned to adjourn at 9:57 PM, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Motion carried unanimously.

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MINDSET ACADEMY

Proposed for Fall 2017



PHILOSOPHY

To better serve the academic and behavioral needs of NBHS students by offering an enriched environment in the Mindset Academy.

RATIONALE

Dissolving Freshman Academy

- 25-30% of 9th graders are not meeting the 5 credit requirement needed to matriculate to 10th grade. (Starting next year, all freshmen will need 6 credits to matriculate to 10th grade, making the foundational year that much more important.)
- Current model simulates the middle school
- 9th grade accounts for 53.2% of discipline issues

RATIONALE (continued)

- Although we highly value the efforts put into the freshman academy, we know that the current structure is not successful for a large percentage of our students
- Exposing the 9th grade students to role models in grades 10-12 will encourage more mature behavior and better decision making.

RATIONALE

Creating Mindset Academy

- Create additional opportunity for incoming freshmen to thrive academically
- Create better opportunities for current Juniors who have not passed American Experience and World Literature and/or Algebra 1 and Geometry to earn credit
- Make Advanced Placement classes more accessible to non-traditional AP students

THREE GROUPS OF STUDENTS

- Incoming 9th grade students who will most benefit from early intervention and close monitoring
- Upperclassmen looking to earn credits needed to graduate
- Non-traditional Advanced Placement students looking to experience college-level courses

INCOMING 9TH GRADE STUDENTS

120-130 eighth grade students selected based on attendance, engagement level, etiquette, course grades, and standardized test scores. These students will be broken into 5 smaller groups who will receive:

- Double-blocked classes in Math and English
- Teen Leadership Course (½ year paired with Health)
- Focus on whole child learning

UPPER CLASSMEN LOOKING TO EARN CREDIT

All juniors who finish this year missing Algebra I and Geometry and/or missing American Experience and World Literature receive:

- Half-year double blocked Algebra paired with half-year double-blocked Geometry
AND/OR
- Half-year double blocked American Experience paired with half-year double-blocked World Literature

This will prevent students who struggle with math or English from taking two challenging courses that run at the same time.

NON-TRADITIONAL AP STUDENTS

Many of our students wish to challenge themselves to take at least one AP course while in high school.

While several of those students attempt this now, many find themselves overwhelmed by the pace of the course and volume of information.

These students could benefit from double-blocked AP classes that take the same test in May, but simply have twice as much time throughout the year to work.

| Questions?

Fiscal Impact of Governor's Proposed 2017-2018 Budget on the New Britain School District

AS PRESENTED TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

MARCH 6, 2017



Potential Impact to CSDNB

1. Direct Impact From Grants received directly from State
2. Indirect Impact From Grants that currently City receives
 - May be changes on who receives ???

CSDNB

Impact from Grants that Board of Education directly receive from State

- Potential Reduction of \$772,189
 - \$570,505: Education State Aid
 - \$ 26,684: Non Education Aid
 - \$175,000 Other Aid

CSDNB

Projected Reduction in Education Aid FY 2017 Versus FY 2018

	FY 2017	FY 2018	Net Reduction	Explanation
Education Aid				
<u>After School Program:</u>				
2316 - Extended School Hours	208,064	-	(208,064)	100% Reduction
<u>Bilingual Education:</u>				
2021 - Bilingual Education	113,911	102,520	(11,391)	10% Reduction
<u>Priority School Districts:</u>				
2384 - Priority School District	1,947,889	1,753,100	(194,789)	10% Reduction
<u>School Breakfast</u>				
	65,000	-	(65,000)	100% Reduction
<u>School Readiness Quality Enhancement:</u>				
2325 - Quality Enhancement	53,271	-	(53,271)	100% Reduction
<u>Young Parents Program:</u>				
2389 - Young Parents Program	37,990	-	(37,990)	100% Reduction
	2,426,125	1,855,620	(570,505)	

CSDNB

Projected Reduction in Non Education and Other Aid FY 2017 Versus FY 2018

	FY 2017	FY 2018	Net Reduction	Explanation
Non Education Aid				
<u>School Based Health Clinics:</u>				
2374 - School Based Health Clinics (NBHS & Roosevelt)	266,836	240,152	(26,684)	10% Reduction
	266,836	240,152	(26,684)	
Other				
<u>Support for Pregnant & Parenting Teens:</u>				
2089 - SPPT	175,000	-	(175,000)	FY 17 last year of grant
	175,000	-	(175,000)	

CSDNB

Indirect Impact from Grants that currently City receives :

- ECS
- Excess Cost Grant (replaced by Special Education Grant)
- Special Education Grant (replaces Excess Cost Grant)
- Pension Contribution to Teacher Retirement Board (New)
 - Places an obligation to pay 1/3 of the employer costs to the Teacher Retirement Board (TRB)
 - Currently State pays full amount

CSDNB

Indirect Impact from Grants that currently City receives FY 2017 Versus FY 2018

<u>Grant</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>17-18</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
ECS	\$ 86,195,269	\$ 86,837,819	\$ 642,550	Increase or Decrease flows to the City. Education's Alliance Funding for FY 18 will be same as FY 17	ECS grant for FY 18 continues to change Refer to the 1st slide that follows this slide for breakdown of ECS Grant between City & Education
Excess Cost	\$ 4,039,040	\$ -	\$ (4,039,040)	Eliminated and rolled into new SPED Grant	Per State Statue, monies are to be deposited against Education's appropriation. Currently City of New Britain deposits funds as a revenue on their side
New SPED Grant	\$ -	\$ 23,602,045	\$ 23,602,045	Replaces Excess Cost grant	Waiting for explanation of how these grant monies are to be handled. Same as Excess Cost??? Or does it flow directly to Education
Pension Contr.	\$ -	\$ (7,512,822)	\$ (7,512,822)	Bill sent to cities and towns for 1/3 of the costs of teacher's pensions	Appears City is responsible to pay. Cannot be accounted for under Education MBR which is currently \$125,700,000.
Total	\$ 90,234,309	\$ 102,927,042	\$ 12,692,733		

CSDNB
 ESC Grant
 FY 2017 Versus FY 2018

<u>Grant</u>	<u>16-17</u>	<u>17-18</u>	<u>Change</u>
ECS	\$ 86,195,269	\$ 86,837,819	\$ 642,550
City Portion	\$ 72,450,710	\$ 73,093,260	\$ 642,550
BOE Alliance	\$ 12,265,973	\$ 12,265,973	\$ -
BOE 2% Set Aside	\$ 1,478,586	\$ 1,478,586	\$ -
	\$ 13,744,559	\$ 13,744,559	\$ -

CSDNB

General Fund (Local) Operating Budget Funding Example

	Current Method – Excess Cost Booked as Revenue to City		Per State Statue Method – Excess Cost Booked as a Credit to Education Expenditures	
General Fund Appropriation	\$125,700,000	100.00%	\$125,700,000	100.00%
<u>Funding Sources:</u>				
Excess Cost Grant	4,013,480	3.19%	0	0.00%
ECS	<u>72,450,710</u>	<u>57.64%</u>	<u>72,450,710</u>	<u>57.64%</u>
Funding from State & Federal Sources	76,464,190	60.83%	72,450,710	57.64%
City of New Britain Property Tax Contribution	49,235,810	39.17%	53,249,290	42.36%

CSDNB

Example of How Excess Cost Grant is Calculated FY 2015

Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Tuition Costs	Tuition Days	Transportation Costs	Grand Total	Cost Over 4.5 times (\$13,000 * 4 = \$58,500)
07/01/2014	06/30/2015	\$110,990.00	250	\$0.00	\$110,990.00	\$52,490.00
07/07/2014	06/30/2015	\$52,293.00	210	\$13,020.00	\$65,313.00	\$6,813.00
07/01/2014	06/30/2015	\$98,100.00	210	\$13,020.00	\$111,120.00	\$52,620.00
08/28/2014	06/30/2015	\$66,600.00	180	\$11,160.00	\$77,760.00	\$19,260.00
07/01/2014	06/30/2015	\$79,180.00	220	\$13,640.00	\$92,820.00	\$34,320.00
08/27/2014	06/30/2015	\$62,962.00	180	\$11,160.00	\$74,122.00	\$15,622.00
08/27/2014	06/30/2015	\$63,994.00	180	\$11,160.00	\$75,154.00	\$16,654.00
08/27/2014	06/30/2015	\$56,111.00	180	\$11,160.00	\$67,271.00	\$8,771.00
TOTAL - 144 Outplaced		\$9,358,074.00		\$1,604,156.00	\$11,161,555.00	\$4,018,083.00

Note: This is an example of 8 of the district 144 outplaced students

Excess Cost Special Education Grant

The excess cost special education grant is board of education money used to reduce special education costs by state statute.

(b) Any local or regional board of education which provides special education pursuant to the provisions of sections 10-76a to 10-76g, inclusive, for any exceptional child described in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (5) of section 10-76a, under its jurisdiction, excluding (1) children placed by a state agency for whom a board of education receives payment pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 10-76d, and (2) children who require special education, who reside on state-owned or leased property, and who are not the educational responsibility of the unified school districts established pursuant to sections 17a-37 and 18-99a, shall be financially responsible for the reasonable costs of special education instruction, as defined in the regulations of the State Board of Education, in an amount equal to (A) for any fiscal year commencing prior to July 1, 2005, five times the average per pupil educational costs of such board of education for the prior fiscal year, determined in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of section 10-76f, and (B) for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2005, and each fiscal year thereafter, four and one-half times such average per pupil educational costs of such board of education. The State Board of Education shall pay on a current basis any costs in excess of the local or regional board's basic contribution paid by such board in accordance with the provisions of this subsection. Any amounts paid by the State Board of Education on a current basis pursuant to this subsection shall not be reimbursable in the subsequent year. Application for such grant shall be made by filing with the Department of Education, in such manner as prescribed by the commissioner, annually on or before December first a statement of the cost of providing special education pursuant to this subsection, provided a board of education may submit, not later than March first, claims for additional children or costs not included in the December filing. Payment by the state for such excess costs shall be made to the local or regional board of education as follows: Seventy-five per cent of the cost in February and the balance in May.

(Continues on next page)

Excess Cost Special Education Grant

(Continuation from prior page)

The amount due each town pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be paid to the treasurer of each town entitled to such aid, provided the treasurer shall treat such grant, or a portion of the grant, which relates to special education expenditures incurred in excess of such town's board of education budgeted estimate of such expenditures, as a reduction in expenditures by crediting such expenditure account, rather than town revenue. Such expenditure account shall be so credited no later than thirty days after receipt by the treasurer of necessary documentation from the board of education indicating the amount of such special education expenditures incurred in excess of such town's board of education budgeted estimate of such expenditures.

How is Excess Cost Grant Currently Handled?

City Receives Grant and books revenues on City Side

➤ Does not comply with State Statute:

- **which relates to special education expenditures incurred in excess of such town's board of education budgeted estimate of such expenditures, as a reduction in expenditures by crediting such expenditure account, rather than town revenue. The amount due each town pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be paid to the treasurer of each town entitled to such aid, provided the treasurer shall treat such grant, or a portion of the grant, which relates to special education expenditures incurred in excess of such town's board of education budgeted estimate of such expenditures, as a reduction in expenditures by crediting such expenditure account, rather than town revenue. Such expenditure account shall be so credited no later than thirty days after receipt by the treasurer of necessary documentation from the board of education indicating the amount of such special education expenditures incurred in excess of such town's board of education budgeted estimate of such expenditures.**

CSDNB – Excess Cost Grant Example

	How it Currently is Handled	Pursuant to State Statue	Variance
<u>Board of Education</u>			
Budget - Appropriation	\$125,700,000	\$125,700,000	\$0
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Excess Cost Credit	0	-4,039,040	-4,039,040
Expenditures	125,700,000	129,739,040	4,039,040
Net Expenditures	125,700,000	125,700,000	
<u>City of New Britain</u>			
Excess Cost Revenue	\$4,039,040	\$0	\$4,039,040