

# BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

September 8, 2015

Members	B	D	G	G	M	P	S	S	R	R	Agenda Item	Action Authorized
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	<p><b>I. Call to Order - Roll Call of Members</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.</p> <p><b>II. Pledge of Allegiance</b></p> <p><b>III. Roll Call of Members</b> PRESENT at this Regular Meeting of the New Britain Board of Education held at New Britain Educational Center.</p> <p>X X Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that Mr. Sanders was still home recovering from his sickness. Mr Sanders was doing much better and he was in great spirits.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Carabillo, Ms. Grega-Mals, Mr. Kane, Mr. Moore, Mr. Salina, Ms. Ward-McKinlay, Ms. Niedzwiecki, Ms. Bruemmer, Ms. Cassada, Mr. Prokop, Ms. Young, Ms. Perez, Ms. Arcari, Ms. Hill, Ms. Crooks, Ms. Mazzei, Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Pinchera, Ms. Sarra, Ms. Shea, Ms. Major.</p> <p><b>IV. Meditation</b></p> <p><b>V. Public Participation</b> None</p> <p>Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra acknowledged that Alderman Salerno was present at the Board Meeting. Mr. Salerno commended the Board on making a decision on early release time at schools due to the heat. He added that there was a lot of positive feedback in regards to it.</p>	

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra	Mr. Pina
Mr. Davis	Ms. Sanchez
Mr. Gay	Mr. Sanders
Mrs. Greco	Ms. Rodriguez
Mr. Mercier	Ms. Rosado

Members	B	D	G	G	M	P	S	S	R	R	Agenda Item	Action Authorized
Motion Second Ayes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	<p><b>VI. Executive Session</b>  <b>- Administrative Appointment - Director of Pupil Services</b>  The motion was made for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss above listed matter, as well as Local 51 contract, an arbitration settlement and a personnel hire at 6:37 p.m. Mr. Cooper, Ms. Grega-Mals, Mr. Kane, Dr. Carabillo and Mr. Salina joined the Board in the Executive Session.</p> <p>The Meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Davis left the Board Meeting due to severe headache.</p>	MOTION CARRIED
Motion Second Ayes	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	<p><b>VII. Administrative Appointments</b>  Mr. Cooper made a recommendation to approve the appointment of Kelly Grant to the position of the Director of Pupil Services effective September 14, 2015. Salary for this position is prorated at the rate of \$140, 311, Step 5. The position is a vacancy and is funded out of a local funding. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that this position has been vacant for a year and Dr. Carabillo has been working two positions for the course of the year. The Board was really prioritizing and making sure that there was a Director of Pupil Services in place for this school year as the student population needs somebody full time in that role. The Board went through three rounds of search before the right candidate was found. She added that the Board was very comfortable with this hire. Ms. Grant is also bi-lingual, which is an asset in New Britain. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra said that Local 51 contract was on the Agenda, but some questions came up, so the vote on the contact will be postponed until next BOE Meeting.</p> <p><b>VIII. Presentations</b>  <b>- SBAC Results - Ann Carabillo</b>  Dr. Carabillo gave a brief presentation on SBAC results. She said that the District needs to make sure that the students receive an education that prepares them to thrive in a global economy and civic life. That’s why Connecticut raised the bar and issued a new instructional roadmap that will prepare students for college and careers. The new roadmap sets learning expectations for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level so that by the time they graduate from high school, they are ready to succeed in college and the workplace. The Connecticut Core Standards focus on critical thinking and problem solving - the real-world skills students need to be successful in college and careers. The Smarter Balanced assessments are administered on computers and are designed to measure these skills through reading comprehension, writing and math questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content - not just fill in a bubble. Smarter Balanced will help parents and teachers better understand how the student is progressing, revealing where the student is excelling and where the student</p>	MOTION CARRIED

needs extra help.

Dr. Carabillo said that in total, approximately 267,000 students took the Smarter Balanced exams in 2015, the first operational year of the new state assessments. Urban schools in low income areas in Connecticut and across the country did not perform as well as those in high income areas. New Britain test scores were somewhat better than those in Bridgeport. Compared to East Hartford, our scores in Math at above expectations were higher. Compared to Hartford our scores for meets expectations in Math were higher. Compared to Waterbury, our scores at meets or exceeds in English Language Arts/Literacy were above. Compared to Waterbury, our scores at meets in Math were higher. Dr. Carabillo gave comparisons of New Britain with other DIRGIs in ethnic areas. 23% of New Britain Black or African American students were at or above expectations, in Hartford - 24.2%, in New Haven - 22.4% and in Waterbury - 20.9%. 17.8% of New Britain Hispanic/Latino of any race were at or above expectations, in Hartford - 18.7%, in New Haven - 24.4%, in Waterbury - 20.8%. Dr. Carabillo said that SBAC scores by grade level in ELA/Literacy were:

- Grade 3 - 760 students tested - 24% level 3 or above
- Grade 4 - 752 students tested - 23% level 3 or above
- Grade 5 - 774 students tested - 25 % level 3 or above
- Grade 6 - 621 students tested - 17% level 3 or above
- Grade 7 - 620 students tested - 20% level 3 or above
- Grade 8 - 669 students tested - 21% level 3 or above
- Grade 11 - 471 students tested - 32% level 3 or above

In Math:

- Grade 3 - 773 students tested - 21% level 3 or above
- Grade 4 - 768 students tested - 15% level 3 or above
- Grade 5 - 787 students tested - 13% level 3 or above
- Grade 6 - 628 students tested - 11% level 3 or above
- Grade 7 - 634 students tested - 13% level 3 or above
- Grade 8 - 682 students tested - 12% level 3 or above
- Grade 11 - 472 students tested - 14% level 3 or above

Dr. Carabillo added that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. New curriculums and new instructional strategies have been implemented over the past two years. The District testing team will be closely looking at the data to see if the strategies are working and if they are being implemented with fidelity.

Dr. Carabillo gave an overview of ELA by school:

- Chamberlain School - 20.4% meets or exceeds
- Gaffney School - 30.5% meets or exceeds
- Holmes School - 39.4% meets or exceeds
- Jefferson School - 26.9% meets or exceeds
- Lincoln School - 33.2% meets or exceeds
- Northend School - 15.4 meets or exceeds

- Frank J. DiLoreto School - 20.8% meets or exceeds
- Smalley Academy - 8.0% meets or exceeds
- Smith School - 21.8% meets or exceeds
- Vance School - 25.0% meets or exceeds
- Slade Middle School - 12.5% meets or exceeds
- Pulaski Middle School - 11.7% meets or exceeds
- HALS - 94.3% meets or exceeds
- NBHS - 32.7% meets or exceeds

Math by School:

- Chamberlain School - 14.0% at or exceeds
- Gaffney School - 26.0% at or exceeds
- Holmes School - 29.6% at or exceeds
- Jefferson School - 17.9% at or exceeds
- Lincoln School - 23.0% at or exceeds
- Northend School - 5.9% at or exceeds
- Frank J. DiLoreto School - 11.6% at or exceeds
- Smalley Academy - 4.8% at or exceeds
- Smith School - 19.6% at or exceeds
- Vance School - 13.7% at or exceeds
- Slade School - 5.7% at or exceeds
- Pulaski School - 6.8% at or exceeds
- HALS - 74.2% at or exceeds
- NBHS - 13.9 at or exceeds

Dr. Carabillo said that there are some coaches coming in for Math at two middle schools and three of the elementary schools are looking at having coaches come in to their schools to work on Math as well (through SIG grant).

Dr. Carabillo stated that on CMT Science scores the District is well below the State average. The State average scale score is 251.9, the District's scale score is 213.7.

Dr. Carabillo answered all the questions from the Board.

**- NEASC/NBHS Update - Capstone**

Ms. Crooks stated that the full NEASC report will be provided to the Board at the October BOE Meeting. She reminded the Board that March 6 is the official NEASC visit. Ms. Crooks listed the items planned for the months for September - December 2015:

- Draw conclusions based on analysis of evidence and write Standards reports
- Complete Executive Summaries of Standards Reports
- Make available Standards Reports in their entirety for review b professional staff
- Submit Executive Summaries of Standards Reports for approval by the professional staff
- Faculty develop Statement of School Critical Strengths and Needs
- Steering Committee Chairs contact CPSS staff to report

completion of the self-study (pretty much completed)  
 - Attend Evaluation Seminar  
 Mostly all of the above listed items are already completed. The final report does come from the staff. Ms. Crooks said that they are ahead of the game and that she was very comfortable with the whole process. She added that each standard committee presents a rating based on the evidence they collected in the report they've written. Then they present their rationale to the full faculty and then the full faculty votes on it. The ratings are as follows: not yet meeting, limited, acceptable, exemplary.  
 Ms. Crooks said that NEASC will come in on March 6,7,8 and 9. There will be a schedule set up. On the first day NEASC likes to talk to Board Members, Administrators and teachers. On all the other days NEASC goes through the school, through every single classroom, they talk to the teachers and the students.  
 Ms. Crooks answered all the questions from the Board.  
 Mr. Ramsey, a Science Department Chair, gave an overview of the Capstone Project. He said that the following people were on the Capstone committee: Mrs. Elizabeth Crooks, Mr. Mark Van Buren, Ms. Yvonne Giarnella, Mr. Robert Ramsey, Mr. Thomas Tabellione, Mr. Andrew Zemaitis. He said that Capstone is an ongoing learning process that requires students to complete a Student Success Plan (SSP) from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and culminates with an oral project presentation in a student's senior year of high school. This project is used as an assessment that allows students to demonstrate their ability to design and participate in a multi-phased, research or career-based learning process or assessment of academic growth. Mr. Ramsey, on behalf of the Capstone Committee, invited the Board Members and Central Office Administrators to attend both days of student Capstone presentations next year (May 18, 2016 and May 25, 2016).  
 Mr. Ramsey pointed out Capstone Project Options:  
 - Research/Special Interest - the option would provide students with an experience that allows them to develop a "wider view" of the world in which they live by researching and addressing a problem  
 - Field Experience - the option would provide students with an experience that allows them to develop an understanding of the workforce or a community service agency. Students would move from having knowledge concerning a field of work/community agency to applying and participating in that workplace/community agency while under the guidance of a professional/mentor in the field.  
 - Growth in NBHS Core Values - this option provides students with an opportunity to analyze and evaluate their growth over their entire high school career by reflecting on their growth

demonstrated in the SSP. Students would demonstrate how they have grown as readers, writers, and thinkers in all content areas over their years as a student.

In addition to choosing one option, all students will need to complete reflective essays (9 of them) and will need to give a presentation of the final Capstone Project.

Mr. Ramsey stated that all students will be given a copy of the Capstone handbook and it is also available online. All students will have all documents available to them. There are also 17 advisory meetings that are scheduled throughout the year. During those meetings students will have the ability to complete their reflective essays and the advisory teachers along with the guidance counselors will be monitoring students' progress on the daily basis.

Mr. Ramsey answered all the questions from the Board.

Mr. Mercier said that the Capstone handbook was a very well laid out document that will work very well for the vast majority of students in New Britain. The handbook is providing a lot of support through the process.

**- Summer of 2015 Facilities Projects**

Mr. Moore gave an overview of summer facilities projects. He said that there were over 90 projects going on in the District:

- 1) **Chamberlain School:** dismantled computer lab in lower level (room repurposed for Family Resource Center); built computer lab in room 124 and added air conditioning; moved 2 kindergarten classes to Roosevelt
- 2) **Frank J. DiLoreto School:** demolished auditorium ceiling; installed house lighting and sound system; coordinate the installation of the Main Stage curtains, legs and travelers; coordinate installation of air conditioning in 1<sup>st</sup> floor computer lab; painted walls and ceilings black in auditorium stage; installed boiled room gas fired heater; replaced boilers with high efficiency boilers; replaced steam traps; delivered new furniture; installed new gym safety wall pads; glazed block wall in gym removed and replaced, site improvements -concrete work and basketball hoops
- 3) **Gaffney Elementary School:** moved all Gaffney from Roosevelt to Gaffney; brand new furniture for all classrooms delivered and installed - valued at \$500,000; hundreds of new computers delivered and installed; media shelving reinstalled from storage; books packed and delivered from Roosevelt to Gaffney; Pre-K and Grades K-5 playscapes installed
- 4) **Holmes Elementary School:** sanded and urethaned stage floor with high gloss
- 5) **Lincoln Elementary School:** began landscape work around entire Lincoln School
- 6) **Jefferson Elementary School:** office space improvements, new whiteboards and tackboards, provided landscape materials

for custodians

7) **Smalley Academy:** community service day with legal staff - June 25, 2015; built walls to create new Family Resource Center; replaced VCT floors (nurse’s suite, room 119, second floor computer lab, patched many classrooms); moved 6 kindergarten classes to Roosevelt

8) **Smith Elementary School:** replaced flooring in Special Ed Suite and computer lab; opened up wall in special ed suite; rebuilt computer lab; tool down wall in ELD classroom; moved 3 Pre-K classrooms including Connex container to Roosevelt Early Learning Center; painted 16 exterior door panels red

9) **Vance Village:** painted exterior trim, dental and crown molding around entire original building; painted all entrances in original building; painted interior stairwells and railings; rebuilt front entrance stairs; delivered mulch for garden

10) **HALS:** moved entire HALS Academy from St, Francis to Roosevelt 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; moved Whitsons cafeteria equipment to NBHS storage; moved technology equipment including computers, WAPS and EN interactive boards and projectors to MIS; cleaned ST, Francis school including polyurethaning the gym floor

11) **Pulaski Middle School- SIG funded projects - \$400,000:** installed stage lighting, house lighting and sound system; installed main stage curtains, legs and travelers; installed drop ceiling with high efficiency recessed LED lighting in 20 classrooms; painted over 40 classrooms, offices and cafeteria; installed new floor in Band Room; replaced sign at Transition Center, installed room number signs at Transition Center; patched walls and painted as needed in Transition Center

12) **Slade Middle School:** installed new stage lighting and sound system; installed main stage curtains; legs and travelers; sanded and urethaned stage floor with high gloss finish; built fitness room including new flooring, electrical, and equipment (removed existing asbestos containing floor tiles, installed new VCT flooring, covered VCT flooring with rubber tiles); installed air conditioning in fitness room and room 228, painted numerous classrooms and cafeteria; extensive repairs in gym (repaired folding divider doors, installed safety pads around gym, sanded and repainted gym floor); removed and rebuilt back outside entrance stairs to STEPS program; 14 boiler room valves and circulating pumps replaced; landscape improvements-removed overgrown shrubs and trees in rear of property; converted 2 home Ec rooms to Science rooms including 4 built-in science work stations - WIP; upgrades to Adult Ed kitchen and portables

13) **Roosevelt Middle School:** took down walls in Media Center and Key classroom; moved library books to Gaffney; dismantled

shelving in Media Center/Band room; Built Computer Lab on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor; excavated field for Pre-K playscape; moved and installed playscape from Gaffney to Roosevelt; demolished Science room islands and hood vents in 2 classrooms for Pre-K and Kindergarten use; new telephone, bell and intercom equipment; new security for HALS program including secured vestibule with operator controlled entrance and security cameras; painted HALS hallway and offices, Pre-K classrooms and offices, Art Room; new signage, distributed five trailers worth of furniture to district schools

14) **Districtwide:** all schools - telephone service provider conversion from Frontier to Comcast; new phone systems at HALS, Roosevelt Early Learning Center and Gaffney; Fire and Security, Elevators and Energy Management telephone conversions.

Mr. Moore thanked all custodians for the hard and great work they did. Mr. Moore answered all the questions from the Board.

**- Class Size Report**

Mr. Salina gave an overview of the class size report. He said that numbers at Chamberlain Elementary School went up a little bit. However numbers in third grade at Gaffney school went down a little bit. He added that there is movement in a lot of schools in the District. Most of the schools have been remarkably steady. Smalley Academy numbers went up a little bit in kindergarten, but they went down in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Vance school numbers went up in kindergarten and 4<sup>th</sup> grade numbers were high and still remained high. The effort to reduce class sizes on the elementary level for the past three years has worked. Mr. Salina added that there will always be some hot spots and things that can not be controlled, but this year's class size numbers are very good. Mr. Salina answered all the questions from the Board. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra pointed out in regards to middle schools that at DiLoreto school the Vice Principal's name was listed as teaching four sections in Math. Mr. Salina explained that it was a place holder that the school was hoping to get an additional Math teacher, but it is still an unsettled point. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra added that since the Board adopted the budget in June, 20 new positions were asked to be added to books. That position was requested, however the choice was made not to fill that position. The school operated the first week of school as though they were granted that additional Math teacher. Mr. Cooper stated that the school was reminded that was not the protocol. He added that the school Administration had until the end of the week to come up with a different plan. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra said that it was upsetting that things like that were happening in the District. Things like that affect the budget and make the Board look bad.

Members	B	D	G	G	M	P	S	S	R	R	Agenda Item	Action Authorized
											<b>IX. Information Sharing</b> <b>- Attendance Reports</b> <b>- Budget Update/Budget Transfers</b>	
											<b>X. Old Business</b> None	
											<b>XI. New Business</b> <b>DISCUSSION/ACTION</b>	
Motion Second Ayes	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	<b>1. MOU Acceptance of Mini-Summer Grant for SPPT (Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens)</b> Dr. Carabillo explained that the SPPT program at NBHS currently is dedicated to serving pregnant and parenting teens. It contains office space for a social worker, nurse, lactation breaks and a small kitchen area for students. There are areas for tutoring, parenting support groups and small learning/problem-solving groups. The amount of grants is \$20,000 for summer programming and the money has already been spent.	MOTION CARRIED
Motion Second Ayes	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	<b>2. Grant Award Approval</b> Dr. Carabillo said that the proposal seeks support for collaboration between the CSDNB and Technology Education Solutions and Universal Lasers Inc. To create a model for youth-oriented enterprise focused in laser machining design projects. The units and lessons will provide opportunities for students to develop basic skills and knowledge as they pertain to 21 <sup>st</sup> century skills. All students will be college and workplace ready. The funding source is Carl D. Perkins career and technical education improvement act of 2006. The cost is \$18,500.00.	MOTION CARRIED
Motion Second Ayes	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	<b>3. Purchase Order Approval</b> Dr. Carabillo stated that 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 2015-2016 school year grant allows the CTE Department to purchase project-based equipment and supplies for all project-based applications. The cost is \$18,500.	MOTION CARRIED
Motion Second Ayes	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	<b>4. Bid Waiver and/or Purchase Order Approval - Leveled Literacy Intervention</b> Dr. Carabillo explained that the interventionist teachers work with students who are reading at a substantially deficient reading level. The materials they use are also infused in the classroom program and are of a limited number. Currently, some of the elementary interventionists are using the Leveled Literacy Intervention Program. Since there are more interventionists than LLI Systems, there is a need to increase the number of kits to maintain the	MOTION CARRIED





