

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

November 2, 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>I. Call to Order - Roll Call of Members</p> <p>The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.</p> <p>II. Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>III. Roll Call of Members PRESENT at this Regular Meeting of the New Britain Board of Education held at New Britain Educational Center.</p> <p>X X X X X X X X X X</p> <p>Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that Mr. Pina was excused from the meeting as he was running a fever.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Carabillo, Ms. Grega-Mals, Mr. Kane, Mr. Moore, Mr. Salina, Mr. Prokop, Ms. Bruemmer, Ms. Perez, Ms. Cabral, Mr. Fernandes, Mr. Mayette, Mr. Miramant, Ms. Buckwell</p> <p>IV. Meditation Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra said that she was informed that the District's Preschool Coordinator, Kristine Keidel, was in a car accident. She is recuperating. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra asked everyone to keep her in their thoughts.</p> <p>V. Public Participation - Georgina Vazquez Ms. Vazquez, a parent of a student attending Smith School, stated that she really liked the school and her son liked going there.</p> <p>VI. Student Participation: Hawley Brown and Juan Sierra Ms. Hawley Brown, senior from NBHS, stated that there were some concerns in regards to the percentage of the grade that was assigned to the homework. She said that participation in class and testing are very important and make up a significant portion of the grade. Ms. Hawley said that homework is important and should</p> | |

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

be encouraged. She added that the concern came from the teacher and student input. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra said that she was aware of the big bon fire at the High School, so she said that the Board will try to move the Agenda along in case the students had plans on participating.

VII. Awards:

- Destiny Mateo - Judo Team USA

Mrs. Rodriguez stated that it was a great pleasure to present Destiny Mateo with an award. She said that she had know Destiny for a little over a year and she had seen her work on a basketball court, she had seen her commitment to Judo and to academic excellence. She said that while Destiny is busy training with a third-degree black belt for international Judo Championship, she is simultaneously committed to achieving academic excellence in New Britain’s House of Arts, Letters and Science (HALS) where she currently holds an impressive “A” average overall in the academy’s essential core academic courses of Math, English Literature, Science and Social Studies accompanied by the highest marks in Music, Fine Art, Computer Technology, Health/Gym and gifted enrichment classes. As a HALS gifted and talented scholar, Destiny is focused on looking for ways to be the best she can be, to share her experience and knowledge with her peers, educators and community supporters, and to lead by example - by any measure, her all-start future is brighter than ever.

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that Destiny was invited to the Board of Education Meeting as an example of not being only a good student, but also being an outstanding athlete and being successful at both things. She added that Destiny was bringing a lot of pride to New Britain.

- Ceana Rodriguez - Taekwondo Team USA

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that Ceana Rodriguez was a student role model for other young ladies, had a great dedication to sport, mental and physical health. Ceana as one of the top 4 medalists of AAU National Championships (gold) in Fort Lauderdale FL in July, was qualified to compete in AAU Team Trials in September where she traveled again to FL winning the 2015 Jr. National Team spot. The AAU team will travel in April of 2016 to Germany to compete in the German Open. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra added that Ceana is in her 2 year of National Junior Honor Society, she is a President of Student Council, she presidents Physical Fitness and Education Award, she is a part of Bio Medical Program at NBHS, Varsity soccer team at NBHS, a recipient of recognition award of “valuable contributor to South Korean Culture” by the Korean Cultural Center, Consulate of S Korea NY. Given in the presence of the President of Korea, President Park Geun-hye.

Ceana Rodriguez said that she started Taekwondo when she was 5 years old and from there it progressed to competing locally to nationally and then internationally. She said that she was very successful in all her competitions. She added that she was very excited for Destiny as Destiny will have a great experience in her competitions. Ceana said that it was an honor to be able to represent the USA and New Britain, CT. She said that as of right now she was training and doing competitions locally. The next competition is in Canada. She said that she was getting ready for the World Championship to represent the USA.

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that Ceana is highlighting the sport that does not get a lot of attention in New Britain. She said that the Board was very proud of Ceana and she added that Ceana was bringing honor to New Britain.

- Mr. James E. Sanders - Board of Education Member

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra said that another award will go to Mr. James E. Sanders who was a Board Member for 32 years. Mr. Sanders was retiring after 32 years of service and it was his last official meeting as a Board Member. A lifetime achievement award was given to Mr. Sanders for being the longest serving Board of Education Member in New Britain and retiring after 30+ years of service to the students of our District.

Mrs. Greco stated that she had known Mr. Sanders for about 40 years. She said that his dedication to education and students in the District is a legacy in New Britain. Mr. Sanders cared about students, teachers and Mrs. Sharon Beloin-Saavedra. Mrs. Greco added that Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra was a great Board President. She said that all Board Members wished Mr. Sanders nothing but the best. She thanked him for everything he had done and said that he made a difference in lives of many children in the District. Mrs. Greco added that Mr. Sanders is very sensitive even though he doesn't show that he is. She congratulated Mr. Sanders on his retirement from the Board of Education.

Mr. Sanders said that first he has to thank his wife of 56 years and his 4 children. When Mr. Sanders was discharged from the Marine Corps, he really did not know what he wanted to do with his life. He tried boxing. A friend of his, Tony Grasso, fought for the Bantamweight Championship of the World in 1954. Mr. Sanders realized that boxing was not exactly the sport for him. Then he joined the New Britain Police Department, but quit that to join the Secret Service. Then he was scheduled to go to Quantico for his schooling. But he did not go as he met his wife and believed that he did not want his wife to be exposed to dangerous life. Mr. Sanders went to school and graduated as Vice President of his class. After that he married the love of his life. Mr. Sanders attended his first BOE Meeting in 1970 with his friend. The District was having budget problems (the budget was

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|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|-------------------|
| Motion | | | | | | | | | X | | The Meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m. | MOTION CARRIED |
| Second Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | Mrs. Rodriguez stated that Mrs. Grega- Mals was in the position of the Interim Supervisor for the Human Resources Department since July 1, 2015. At this time the Board would like to extend her role until April 4, 2016. The motion was made to extend Mrs. Grega-Mals in the position of Interim Supervisor of Human Resources Department through April 4, 2016. | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | <p>IX. Presentations</p> <p>- Budget Process 2016-2017 - Kevin Kane</p> <p>Mr. Kane made a presentation on budget planning for fiscal year 2016-2017. He said that New Britain is the lowest in the State in regards to per pupil expenditure. He added that the District realized gain for 2013-2014 and then falling farther behind for 2014-2015. There was minimal funding increase for 2015-2016 (\$1.7 million Alliance). Mr. Kane stated that for 2016-2017 there will be reduction in grant(s) - Commissioner network (\$800K):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - funds 3 FTW's (1SLD teacher, 2 reading teachers) - extended day -other <p>He added that the District needs to control costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - need to seek measures in decreasing costs - additional funding is minimal at best - District is experiencing run away costs (need a plan to manage and minimize these increases and others - no solution, then will need to have reduction in staffing) <p>Mr. Kane gave an overview of the new budget process. He said that it will be a two step process (no nonsense - keep it simple and stupid)</p> <p>1. Analysis of school/Program resources and needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants: - School and or program Administrators - Department of Academic and CIT Team - MIS - Cabinet <p>2. Non Personnel Budget Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participants: - School, Program and Department Administrators - Kevin Kane, Chief Financial Officer - Ann Alfano, Senior Accountant - Cabinet <p><u>Analysis of School/Program Resources and Needs</u></p> <p>Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure that the right decisions are being made without supporting analysis when: additional funding exists to add new positions or when funding has been reduced and positions need to be eliminated | |

- This is the same process and approach that the District did in moving back to neighborhood schools for 2013-2014 under: Kelt Cooper; Department of Academics ran this process with the assistance of MIS
- Since then, decisions have been made based on a need:
- Who determines?
- Have there been more pending needs?
- Was there alternative fixes?
- Long term planning approach

Mr. Kane gave an overview of the budget time line. He said that on November 17, 2015 all school needs assessment workshop will be held at Slade Middle school and non personnel budget worksheet will have to be submitted electronically by building administrators. The CIT Team and Department of Academics will be working with everyone. November 18 through December 4, 2015 the District will review the needs and there will be possible building callback. On December 15, 2015 - District budget completion for internal review. Board approves budget in January of 2016. February - May 2016 - budget reconstruction for the June budget submittal. June of 2016 - budget approved by Common Council and then the adoption of final budget by the Board.

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra pointed out the issue of extra earnings and retiree earnings. She added that the Board wanted to know what was justifying the amount of overtime this time of the year for some of the employee categories. She said that she sent out an email on behalf of the Board to the Administration asking for some type of paperwork that justifies why people are making certain amount of money above and beyond their salary. The Board made it clear that there is no automatic overtime built into any job description. Ms. Sanchez agreed with Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra. She said that some of the names are continuously getting big amounts of money and the Board is starting to questions now what it is that those certain individuals are doing. She added that she was very curious to see what those individuals were doing and who was signing off on that overtime. Mr. Kane answered all the questions from the Board.

X. Information Sharing:

- Attendance Reports
- Extra Earning as of October 23, 2015
- Retiree Earning as of October 16, 2015

XI. Old Business

None.

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| Motion | | | | | | | | | | X | XII. New Business | MOTION CARRIED |
| Second | | | | | X | | | | | | DISCUSSION/ACTION | |
| Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | 1.Holiday Resolution 2015 Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated every year the Board of Education does a resolution when it comes to holiday time around the Fall as there is an inconsistency throughout the District in regards to whether the holidays can be celebrated or not. Each building celebrates holidays in their own way. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra said that the Board of Education embraces everything, every and any other holiday from any group that comes to school in New Britain. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra read the resolution for the record: “Whereas the New Britain Board of Education embraces a multicultural learning environment; And Whereas the New Britain Board of Education believes in acknowledging and celebrating the richness and diversity of our community and traditions; And Whereas the New Britain Board of Education’s mission is to prepare students for the global economy/workforce; And Whereas cooperation, collaboration, respect and understanding are built and developed through exposure to and awareness of the unique attributes of our fellow stakeholders; Let it therefore Be Resolved that the New Britain Board of Education reaffirm our support for cultural, seasonal, celebratory activities that enhance and broaden our students’ understanding and appreciation for one another and our community.” Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra added that the Board of Education encourages celebrations and celebrates everything. It’s not just about celebration, but about learning and cultural awareness. Mrs. Greco pointed out that when she and Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra go to KEY program for celebration of various holidays, there is always a parent that says that they don’t celebrate and Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra does a great job explaining that it’s not just about celebrating, but awareness as well. Mr. Mercier said that his day job is a music teacher and he felt very passionate about multicultural celebrations. He stated that if to take away the influence that various religions and cultures have had on music, then there will be left the most bland, boring concerts. There is so much great music that was inspired by people from various religious backgrounds. To deny students the opportunity to learn from different cultures, to experience great works of art would be denying them a high quality education. Mr. Gay said that if the Board states that we encourage celebration of all various things and then we have only Christian songs, then the Board is being unfair. Mr. Gay said that he witnessed one of those events as a parent. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that the Principals should know their students and their families and then accommodate their traditions as much as they can. | |

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| Motion Second Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | X | <p>2. Adoption of Grade 11 Assessment Dr. Carabillo explained that it was a State assessment for the SAT for 11th Grade students in the District. The State is covering all the costs.</p> <p>3. New Position Request Form - NBHS/Nursing Dr. Carabillo stated that the nurse was for a student that lived in the Hospital for Special Care. The PPT is completed and Bridgeport will sign appropriate documents related to payment.</p> | MOTION CARRIED |
| Motion Second Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | X | <p>4. Revised June 30, 2015 Financial Report/Budget Transfers Mr. Kane explained that there has been no change for the operating budget and for grants. The changes were for some object codes. There is an internal budget transfer, cleaning up the operating budget for Health and Medical employee's payroll object codes (Nurses, Extra Earnings & Stipends): - -\$114,648 Nurses - +\$116,435 Extra earnings for Health and Medical workers - -\$1,787 Stipends for Health and Medical workers Mr. Kane stated that the books are officially closed for 2014-2015. Mr. Kane answered all the questions from the Board.</p> | MOTION CARRIED |
| Motion Second Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | | | | X | <p>5. Accept Donation - Xiongazi (Sophie) Li (from the estate of Joe Verillo) Mr. Salina said that Joe Verillo was a graduate of New Britain High School in 1967. Joe Verillo became a professional musician and unfortunately about a year and half ago passed away. Mr. Salina said that he received a call from someone who received a call from Sophie stating that she bought a house a found numerous musical instruments in there. She did not know what to do with those, so she called a scrap dealer. The scrap dealer called Mr. Salina saying he can't scrap the instruments as they were too valuable. Mr. Salina went over to the house and found hundreds of instruments there. Trying to determine who lived there, Mr. Salina was looking through old papers. That's how he found out that Joe Verillo lived there. Mr. Salina called several music teachers and on a Sunday music teachers went through the whole basement and pulled out good instruments, parts and accessories. There was a need for three trucks to move the instruments. District maintenance staff helped move the instruments. Mr. Salina said that for the most part the instruments were stored at the High School. There is approximately \$10,240.00 worth of instruments with a \$24,235 value after cleaning and repair. Some of the instruments are very old. Mr. Salina said that Sophie will be acknowledged with a letter stated that the District accepted the instruments from her. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra thanked the music teachers that helped with the instruments for giving up their Sunday.</p> | MOTION CARRIED |

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| Motion Second Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | 6. Bid Waiver and/or Purchase Order Approval - Wilson Reading System Dr. Carabillo explained that as a continuance to last school year, eleven of District teachers need to start their Level II Certification in Wilson Reading System and need to begin with their WRS Level II Group Practicum. Interventions are more focused, involving specific problem areas such as reading, reading fluency, math problem-solving, spelling or social/emotional learning. | MOTION CARRIED |
| Motion Second Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | 7. Bid Waiver and/pr Purchase Order Approval - Ford F-350 4 x 4 Pick - Up Truck with Plow and Sander Mr. Moore stated that for the past ten years it has been more beneficial to Facilities Management, as well as District, to use DAS bid awarded contracts as opposed to advertised public bids for Cars. There is a need to upgrade the maintenance department truck fleet. | MOTION CARRIED |
| Motion Second Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | 8. Disposal of Whitson Truck Mr. Moore explained that Whitsons has a 995 Ford cube body truck which can no longer be repaired. It is not safe to drive or use as intended as there are numerous problems. The truck has over 140,000 miles. | MOTION CARRIED |
| Motion Second Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | 9. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment - Chamberlain School | MOTION CARRIED |
| Motion Second Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | 10. Minutes of the Regular BOE Meeting - October 19, 2015 | MOTION CARRIED |
| Motion Second Ayes | X | X | X | X | X | | X | X | X | X | XIII. Personnel Transactions The motion was made to approve Personnel Transactions. | MOTION CARRIED |
| | | | | | | | | | | | XIV. Superintendent's Report None | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | XV. Board Report None. | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | XVI. Committee Reports - Policy Committee Meeting Next Policy Committee is scheduled for Monday, December 7,2015 - Finance Committee Meeting Mr. Mercier said that next Finance Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2015. | |

Wellness Committee Meeting

Mr. Gay said that the meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 12:00 noon at Community Health Center.

- Curriculum Committee Meeting

Dr. Carabillo said that the Committee discussed NGSS Science standards; Wilson reading - level 2 certification and an academic update. Next Committee Meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2015.

- Personnel Committee Meeting

Mrs. Rodriguez said that next Committee Meeting was scheduled for November 16, 2015. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that NWEA workshop was scheduled for the same date, so the timing for both meetings would need to be discussed.

XVII. Legislative Report

None

XVIII. Other Business As Permitted by Law

XIX. Adjournment

Moved to adjourn.
The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Motion
Second
Ayes

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| | | | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| X | X | X | X | X | | | X | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | |

MOTION
CARRIED

