



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

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### Regular School Board Meeting Minutes from July 24, 2017 New Britain Educational Administration Center

#### Call to Order and Roll Call

##### Call to Order

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

##### Board Members Present

Ms. Grisselle Aponte, Ms. Sharon Beloin-Saavedra, Ms. Catherine Cheney, Ms. Mallory Deprey, Ms. Miriam Geraci, Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Ms. Nicole Rodriguez, Ms. Daisy Sanchez, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly,

##### Board Members Absent/Excused

Mr. Merrill Gay

#### Executive Session

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to go into executive session at 6:03 PM, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. The discussion will include legal settlements, administrative appointments and employee contracts. Ms. Nancy Sarra (Superintendent), Mr. Kevin Kane (Chief Financial Officer), Dr. Shuana Tucker (Chief Talent Officer) were invited into executive session.

The regular meeting resumed at 7:28 PM. During executive session, Ms. Deprey and Ms. Geraci excused themselves from the meeting. A quorum was still in effect.

#### Superintendent's Report

Ms. Nancy Sarra, Superintendent, reported the following:

- She, along with NBHS Administrators and Teachers, went to Dallas for the National Academy Foundation conference, where they were presented with a banner for the NBHS Academy of Finance's Distinguished Model Recognition.
- Funder's Day for the Summer SEE and XTREME Program will be held on Wednesday, August 2. Invites will be forthcoming.

#### Board Reports

- Ms. Sanders-Connolly stated that the Friends of Football, in partnership with the NBHS Football Team, started a Community Service Team. These students, coaches and parents will take part in various charitable acts throughout the city and surrounding areas.

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## Consent Agenda

There were no objections and/or requests from board members to move the following item off the Consent Agenda. Therefore, these items were approved.

### **Approve minutes from the Special Board of Education Meeting on June 14, 2017**

The minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting from June 14, 2017 can be found online at [www.csdnb.org](http://www.csdnb.org).

### **Approve minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on June 19, 2017**

The minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting from June 19, 2017 can be found online at [www.csdnb.org](http://www.csdnb.org).

### **Approve minutes from the Special Board of Education Meeting on June 26, 2017**

The minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting from June 26, 2017 can be found online at [www.csdnb.org](http://www.csdnb.org).

### **Personnel: Accept Personnel Transactions**

## Administrative Appointments

Ms. Daisy Sanchez motioned to approve the following, seconded by Ms. Cheney.

- Appoint Antoine Billy as Associate Principal of New Britain High School, effective on or about August 1, 2017. The salary for the position is prorated at the rate \$131,184 at Step 1.
- Promote Orlando Ruiz from ELD Teacher to the position of Assistant Principal (10 Months) of Lincoln Elementary School, effective on July 25, 2017. The salary for the position is prorated at the rate \$108,641 at Step 1.
- Appoint Denise Serrano as Interim Principal of Northend Elementary School, effective July 1, 2017. The salary for the position is \$132,942.
- Promote Dr. Nicole Sanders from Northend Elementary School Principal to Assistant Chief Talent Officer, effective July 1, 2017. The salary for the position is \$153,000.
- Promote Terry Turcotte from Interim Elementary School Principal to Elementary School Principal at Roosevelt Early Learning Center, effective July 25, 2017. The salary for the position is \$132,943, Master's Degree + 30 Hours, Step 1.

Motion carried unanimously.

## Presentations

Mr. Matthew Cannata, Board and Public relations Specialist, gave an overview of the re-branding of the athletics department throughout the Consolidated School District of New Britain.

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### Employee Contracts

Submitted by Nancy Sarra

- Ms. Rodriguez motioned to approve the amended contract for Kevin Kane, seconded by Ms. Aponte. The contract will reflect additional responsibilities that is being taken on by the Chief Financial Officer and will make the salary competitive with other Chief Financial Officers in the surrounding area. Motion carried unanimously.
- Ms. Rodriguez motioned to approve the amended contract for Dr. Shuana Tucker, seconded by Ms. Aponte. The contract will add additional responsibilities and will make the salary competitive with other Chief Talent Officers/HR Directors in the surrounding area. Motion carried unanimously.
- Ms. Rodriguez motioned to adopt the contract for Dr. Nicole Sanders as Assistant Chief Talent Officer, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. The length of the contract is for three years. Motion carried unanimously.

### Policy: Postpone Policy 6146.20 - Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2020 and 2021

Submitted by Sondra Sanford | Reviewed by the Policy Committee on June 28, 2017

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to postpone Policy 6146.20 - Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2020 and 2021, seconded by Ms. Sanchez.

Due to recent and ongoing changes in the state policy on graduation requirements both in the content and timeline for implementation, we recommend that the BOE policy on graduation requirements be amended to maintain the current 23 credit requirement indefinitely.

Rational: The changes that are in the BOE policy set to begin with the class of 2020 are no longer aligned (both in the specifics of the policy and the timeline for implementation of the proposed changes) with the most recently proposed state policy changes.

Motion carried unanimously.

### Academics: Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for ST Math at Smith Elementary School

Submitted by Tricia Putnam | No committee review

Ms. Cheney motioned to approve the bid waiver and purchase order for ST Math at Smith Elementary School, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly.

The Schools of Excellence Best Practice Grant are all 2014-15 Title I schools identified as Connecticut Schools of Distinction and schools in which high needs students outperformed the State High Needs Index in English/Language Arts, science, or mathematics. See Section IV, Eligible Schools List.

The best practice we would like to build on is expanding our Math Stations. All students in grade 1 will be included, however, our focus will be on grades 2-5 participating in the ST Math Program. ST Math provides students with a non-verbal computer based program to build their mathematical conceptual skills. Each student will have an ST Math journal to record their thinking and respond critically. Teachers will be able to use their background knowledge of working in centers to implement ST Math. ST Math trainers will provide a 3 hour training session in January for staff, and provide training on an as needed basis. Teacher leaders will serve as grade level team leaders to report back any areas of concern and areas we need to address through implementation.

Teachers and administrators will collaborate successes and areas of improvement during monthly grade level and vertical team meetings. Grade levels will meet once a month for 30 minutes with administrators and vertical team representatives will meet once a month for an hour. During this time, teachers and administrators will discuss student successes, trends, and areas of

focus for future planning and instruction.

The total cost is \$17,940 for 550 ST math licenses, journals and professional development. The funding source is the Schools of Excellence Grant 1003 (a). Motion carried unanimously.

**Academics: Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for Response to Intervention: Association for Supervision and Curriculum at Holmes Elementary School**

**Submitted by Tricia Putnam | No committee review**

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to approve the bid waiver and purchase order for Response to Intervention: Association for Supervision and Curriculum at Holmes Elementary School, seconded by Ms. Sanchez.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) recognizes and celebrates school excellence by identifying schools that have achieved significant growth and/or sustained high performance. The purpose of this grant opportunity is to recognize high-performing schools and schools in which high needs students outperformed the State High Needs Index in English/Language arts, mathematics or science. The grant will support the sustainability of successful strategies and facilitate funding for sharing best practices. In particular, this grant seeks to promote strategies for implementing the Connecticut Core Standards, effective educator evaluation and development, student support systems, or approaches to improve and maintain positive culture and climate.

The 2014-2015 SBAC Holmes data indicated African American/Black students are not as successful as our other demographic subgroups on all SBAC tests. As a team, Holmes will analyze data through a series of professional development sessions facilitated by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum. Teachers will learn to meaningfully interface with data to employ intentional instructional strategies with the goal of raising the expectations and outcomes for all students, but specifically for this subgroup.

Based upon teacher feedback and administrative assessment of our instructional needs as a building, we will be utilizing these funds to enhance, in a focused and data-driven manner, our Wednesday Professional Development sessions with a major focus on Tier 1 instructional strategies. This includes honing our skills of using the ATLAS protocol to analyze and learn from authentic student work as it informs our instruction.

The total cost is \$20,962.08. The funding source is the Schools of Excellence Grant 1003 (a). Motion carried unanimously.

**Academics: Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for 57 Chrome Carts with accessories**

**Submitted by Tricia Putnam | No committee review**

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to approve the bid waiver and purchase order for 57 Chrome Carts with accessories, seconded by Ms. Aponte. Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to amend the bid waiver and purchase order to read '19 Chrome Carts' instead of 57, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

1003(a) purpose: The Connecticut State Department of Education ("CSDE") is seeking to assist local education agencies ("LEAs") in dramatically improving student achievement in their lowest-performing schools by making targeted investments in schools pursuing comprehensive and transformative improvement plans.

District's Academic Pillar: We prepare all students to be future-ready through an engaging, personalized, and comprehensive education. Chromebooks will be implemented to differentiated instruction, student engagement, reinforce skills, progress monitor and ensure learning outside the walls of the classroom through research.

The total cost for 19 Chrome Carts is \$198,797 and the funding source is 1003 (a). Original motion carried unanimously.

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**Operations: Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for School Messenger Calling Service**

**Submitted by Jeff Prokop | No committee review**

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to approve the bid waiver and purchase order for School Messenger Calling Service, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly.

As the district uses a calling system to alert parents of events and student absences, the district would like to switch services this year from Blackboard Connect to School Messenger. Reasons for this choice to switch are based largely on the systems interoperability with PowerSchool. Additionally the size of the district has given us favorable pricing, which is better than the regional negotiated pricing they normally offer. Additionally this will be a savings of \$5,000 over our current communication software.

The total cost is \$15,000 and the funding source is MIS Software Local Budget 101092110000 53510. Motion carried unanimously.

**Academics: Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for Go Guardian Software for Chromebooks**

**Submitted by Jeff Prokop | No committee review**

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to approve the bid waiver and purchase order for Go Guardian Software for Chromebooks, seconded by Ms. Aponte.

The district is looking to utilize Go Guardian software for both Administration and Teachers in order to provide additional management tools for integration of Chromebooks within our classrooms. This software will allow additional student monitoring on the devices as well as increased teacher tools for Chromebook integration into the classrooms.

The total cost is \$36,100 and the funding source is MIS Software Local Budget 101092110000-53510. Motion carried unanimously.

**Operations: Bid Waiver and Purchase Order to purchase NBHS Cheerleading Uniforms**

**Submitted by Len Corto | No committee review**

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to approve the bid waiver and purchase order for NBHS Cheerleading Uniforms, seconded by Ms. Aponte.

Over the past years, the NBHS Cheerleaders have not been funded for new uniforms or equipment. The demand of this sport has increased as more students are participating in the athletic program at the high school level. Additionally, many of the uniforms are older and outdated.

The purchase of cheerleading uniforms and equipment for New Britain High School will continue to allow the District to maintain the high quality of our athletic programs. The Athletic Department is requesting a bid waiver for the amount of \$12,557.55 to purchase these uniforms and equipment from Varsity Spirit Fashion for NBHS.

The total cost is \$12,557.55 and the funding source is the local budget - Purchase Order 180197.

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to amend the memorandum with the understanding that the new cheerleading uniforms will feature the new branding and updated logo, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to allow the re-branding to take place on the uniforms with the understanding that the cost should not exceed \$15,000, seconded by Ms. Aponte. Motion carried unanimously.

Original motion carried unanimously.

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**Operations: Purchase Order for Classroom furniture for Chamberlain, Holmes and Jefferson Elementary Schools**

**Submitted by Ray Moore | No committee review**

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to approve the purchase order for classroom furniture for Chamberlain, Holmes and Jefferson Elementary Schools, seconded by Ms. Aponte.

Due to changes in programming, new classrooms will need to be set up this summer. Some available furniture may be identified due to the move from Smalley Elementary School to Pope John Paul which will help lower the costs. In

The following quotes have been provided by Insalco Corporation of Wallingford, CT. Insalco has State Contract #15PSX0041 for the period of 6-1-15 thru 6-30-20 for school furniture. Two quotes from SchoolsIn are attached for comparison purposes of K1 furniture for Holmes and Jefferson.

Chamberlain Proposal 2017-10449	Grades 4-5	2 classrooms for Teacher Desks, Tables, Bookcases, file cabinets (60 chairs located at Smalley)	\$8,338.00
Holmes Proposal 2017-10434	Grades K-2	15 desks (15 chairs located a Smalley)	\$1,833.60
Jefferson Proposal 2017-10435	Grades 2-3	27 desks and chairs	\$ 5,235.84

The total cost is \$15,407.44. Funding will be from local Facilities budget. Motion carried unanimously.

**Partnerships: Approve Memorandum of Understanding between CSDNB and The Ana Grace Project**

**Submitted by Ryan Morgan | No committee review**

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between CSDNB and The Ana Grace Project, seconded by Ms. Aponte.

This MOU is an extension of the partnership between The Consolidated School District of New Britain and The Ana Grace Project. Do to program success and the willingness of funders to supplement the amount designated by CSDNB through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant, the partnership will expand to 6 schools per BOE approval. This MOU aligns to the Culture and Climate Pillar along with the Partnership Pillar. The total cost is \$85,200 and the funding source is Safe Schools Healthy Students 2070-974-10001 53320 In Service.

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to amend the total cost and funding source to read \$100,200 with \$85,200 from Safe Schools Grant and the remaining to come from the ID Grant, seconded by Ms. Sanchez. Motion carried unanimously.

Original motion carried unanimously.

**Partnerships: Accept grant from Klingberg Partnership for Success in the amount of \$12,500**

**Submitted by Ryan Morgan | No committee review**

Ms. Sanchez motioned to accept the grant from Klingberg Partnership for Success in the amount of \$12,500, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly.

Klingberg Family Centers acted as the fiduciary to apply for a collaborative grant on behalf of The Coalition for New Britain's Youth. As a partner in this process, Klingberg has budgeted \$17,500 to be given to CSDNB for contracted services. During the first fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, \$5,000 was given to CSDNB for consultant services and support in the design of the grant work plan, project support and space. As we enter year 2, the grant leadership team has allocated \$2,500 to be awarded to CSDNB for the above service. This is the second and final installment for consultant/support services.

In addition, \$10,000 has been allocated to be awarded to CSDNB for the purchase of The Search Institute Survey. This will be the

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district's second implementation of the survey and will be scheduled for September/October 2017.

In total, this is a \$17,500 partnership. The BOE previously approved the first \$5,000. Tonight we are looking for approval of the remaining \$12,500. This money aligns to the district's culture and climate pillar. The Partnership For Success Grant's goal is reduce drug and alcohol use in the community, preparing students to be college and career ready.

The total amount of the grant is \$12,500. Motion carried unanimously.

**Partnerships: Accept donation from Peter Niro for the New Britain Transitional Center in the amount of \$500  
Submitted by Susan Girolomoni | No committee review**

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to accept the donation from Peter Niro for the New Britain Transitional Center in the amount of \$500, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly.

Local business man Peter Niro has donated \$500 to the New Britain Transitional Center. He is my neighbor, and often inquires about how he can help our school. When asked, I shared with him that we are in need of an area rug for the primary class. He responded with this \$500 donation.

The total amount of the donation is \$500. Motion carried unanimously.

**Partnerships: Accept donation from the Hoops for Homeless Tournament for the Road to Recovery Program in the amount of \$1,000  
Submitted by Joe Vaverchak | No committee review**

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to accept the donation from the Hoops for Homeless Tournament for the Road to Recovery Program in the amount of \$1,000, seconded by Ms. Beloin-Saavedra.

These funds were raised from the annual Hoops for Homeless Tournament and will be used for the Road to Recovery Program. The funds will be used to provide clothing, school uniforms, hygiene supplies, and school supplies for our identified homeless students and families.

The total amount of the donation is \$1,000. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Closing and Adjournment**

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to adjourn at 9:18 PM, seconded by Ms. Aponte. Motion carried unanimously.

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