



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

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### Regular School Board Meeting Minutes from August 21, 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 6:30 PM.

##### Board Members Present

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

##### Board Members Absent/Excused

None

#### Public Participation

##### Sal Escobales

Mr. Sal Escobales wanted to recognize and congratulate Andrea Foligno on her impending appointment as interim principal of Smalley Elementary School.

#### Reports

##### Superintendent's Report

Ms. Nancy Sarra, Superintendent of Schools, reported the following:

- Administrators came back on August 14 and took part in professional development throughout the week.
- Staff came back on August 21 and the day began with Convocation. Staff will participate in professional development throughout the week.
- The Back to School Bash will be held on August 23 and over 5,000 people are expected to attend.

##### Board Reports

- Ms. Rodriguez said that Convocation was lovely and all involved did a great job
- Ms. Deprey said she went on the XTREME and SEE Funders' Tour and was very impressed with everything
- Mr. Mercier said that he was able to partake in certain parts of teacher orientation and it all went well. He also said he had the opportunity to speak at and attend NBHS Summer School Graduation. He said it was a moving event with lots of emotions.

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## Old Business

### **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. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to postpone Policy 6146.20 - Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2020 and 2021, seconded by Ms. Aponte.

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.

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to defer the policy back to the Policy Committee for further review, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Motion carried unanimously.

Original motion to postpone the policy carried unanimously.

## 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 Regular Board of Education Meeting on July 24, 2017**
- **Approve minutes from the Special Board of Education Meeting on August 18, 2017**

## Addition to Agenda

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to add the following item to the agenda: Discussion and Possible Adoption of 871 Contract, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Motion carried unanimously.

## Executive Session

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to go into executive session at 6:43 PM to discuss legal settlements, proposed teacher contract negotiation and administrative appointments, seconded by Ms. Aponte. Motion carried unanimously.

## Continuation of Meeting

The meeting re-convened in regular session at 8:05 PM.

### **Legal Settlement – John Doe**

**Submitted by Dr. Shuana Tucker | No committee review**

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to approve a settlement in the amount of \$4,000 to John Doe, seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Legal Settlement – Josephine Colon****Submitted by Dr. Shuana Tucker | No committee review**

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to approve a settlement in the amount of \$672 and a letter stating dates of employment to Josephine Colon, seconded by Ms. Aponte. All were in favor with the exception of Ms. Geraci. Motion carried.

**Administrative Appointment – Andrea Foligno****Submitted by Superintendent Nancy Sarra | No Committee Review**

Ms. Sanchez motioned to approve the appointment of Andrea Foligno as Interim Elementary School Assistant Principal at Smalley Elementary School, effective August 21, 2017, seconded by Ms. Beloin-Saavedra. Motion carried unanimously.

**Administrative Appointment – Talisha Foy****Submitted by Superintendent Nancy Sarra | No Committee Review**

Ms. Sanchez motioned to approve the appointment of Talisha Foy as Principal of Northend Elementary School, effective August 21, 2017, seconded by Ms. Beloin-Saavedra. Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel: Accept Personnel Transactions****Submitted by Dr. Shuana Tucker | No committee review**

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to accept the personnel transactions, seconded by Ms. Sanchez. Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel: Approve amendments to T-EVAL Document****Submitted by Shuana Tucker | No committee review**

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to accept the minor amendments to the T-EVAL Document, seconded by Ms. Sanchez.

The T-EVAL Committee sent amendments to the Connecticut State Department of Education for approval. The following note is from the State Department of Education:

*Thank you for submitting an amendment request for Consolidated School District of New Britain's Educator Evaluation and Support Plan. This letter serves as the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) approval of an amendment to your district's Educator Evaluation and Support plan to be implemented starting in the 2017-18 school year. Please note that upon receiving CSDE approval, state statute requires the amended plan be adopted by your local or regional board of education prior to implementation. Thank you for your diligent efforts in working together toward the shared goal of continuous support and development of educators in order to improve outcomes for all students.*

Motion carried unanimously.

**Operations: Bid Award for Security Uniforms****Submitted by Raymond Moore | No committee review**

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to accept the bid award for security uniforms, seconded by Ms. Sanchez.

Per the agreement between Local 1186 and the Board of Education, Article XVII - Dress Code, 17.1 states Custodial, Maintenance and Campus Security Officer employees will be reimbursed up to \$300 per year for necessary and/or safety gear.

The parties have established a uniform/safety gear list for each group of employees, and the Chief Facilities & Special Projects Officer will facilitate reimbursement to employees. The cost of the uniforms for Custodial and Maintenance staff exceeds the bid limit of \$7,500; therefore, services for a clothing provider were bid.

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An Invitation to Bid was advertised in The Hartford Courant on July 20, 2017. One bid was opened on Friday, July 28, 2017 at 10:00 AM: Security Uniforms (New Britain). The total is \$18,600 (50 custodians and 12 maintenance) and the funding source is Local funds 101096926000-54300.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Academics: Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for four Chromeboxes for Slade Middle School  
Submitted by Todd Verdi | No committee review**

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to approve the bid waiver and purchase order for four Chromeboxes at Slade Middle School, seconded by Ms. Sanchez.

Slade Middle School English Language Arts classrooms will be outfitted with a set of four Chromeboxes, 50 total, to support the implementation of ELA stations and small group guided reading environment. Together with online learning through Front Row education and Khan Academy staff will be provided with assessment data to be used to further guide lesson plan development at the students' level of need. The total is \$11,230 and the funding source is SIG.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Operations: Discussion and Possible Adoption of 871 Contract  
Added to agenda | No committee review**

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to ratify the proposed agreement between the New Britain Board of Education and Local 871, seconded by Ms. Aponte. Motion carried unanimously.

**Partnerships: Acceptance of Donation from the Ana Grace Project in the amount of \$16,000  
Submitted by Ryan Morgan | No committee review**

Ms. Cheney motioned to accept a donation from the Ana Grace Project in the amount of \$16,000, seconded by Ms. Sanchez.

The Ana Grace Project raised \$4,000 for each of the Love Wins schools during the 2016-2017 school year and would like to donate a total of \$16,000 to CSDNB. The AGP staff worked with building teams in each building to identify a need. Chamberlain's focus will be on creating "cool off" corners for every classroom and additional alternative seating options. Items identified include single seat bean bags, soft rockers, stools and 4 new rugs. Smith will purchase an awning to benefit their special education students who are heat sensitive and other students who are asthmatic and/or heat sensitive.

A place to play is a priority due to the condition of the playscape at Smith. Smith has designated funds for a portable PA system and several balance balls. Northend will use their funds to reimburse staff who purchased bikes, helmets and other materials for play. DiLoreto has four main focuses: Social-Emotional Learning and Regulation, Safety and Instruction, Music, Arts Movement & Play and Therapeutic Tools. They have identified several items to strengthen each area.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Partnerships: Acceptance of Donation from New Britain Roots Inc. in the amount of \$598  
Submitted by Nancy Puglisi | No committee review**

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to accept a donation from New Britain Roots Inc. in the amount of \$598, seconded by Mr. Gay.

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 gardening and healthy eating programming for SEE students for over five years. Through this partnership the District has been able to provide out of school time enrichment activities aligned with our classroom curriculums. As a SEE partner, ROOTS applied for funding from the Fund for Greater Hartford totaling an award of \$15,000. ROOTS 2017 SEE program will cost \$14,402. Leaving the balance of \$598.00 to be used toward SEE CBO programs.

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Through collaborations with CBO partner's students are provided hand-on –learning enrichment activities that support CCSS.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Partnerships: Acceptance of Donation from United Way in the amount of \$60,000**  
**Submitted by Donna Clark | No committee review**

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to accept a donation from United Way in the amount of \$60,000, seconded by Mr. Gay.

A proposal was written to the United Way outlining the planning, implementation and evaluation process of the district's summer school program, Summer Enrichment Experience (SEE). This program outline was deemed worthy of the organizations requirements for innovation, utilizing best practices in reducing the summer learning slide, and promoting community partnerships to improve student academics and engagement in learning during the summer months.

The District is mandated to provide summer school to students in grades post K – post 3, who score substantially deficient in reading. This grant funding will be utilized to support the afternoon enrichment portion of SEE, which is led by Community Based Organizations. Although the traditional academic learning occurs during the morning session, it is important to note that our strong school-community partnership ensures that speaking and listening standards are integrated into the students' afternoon enrichment experiences as well. This practice supports the Partnership Pillar of the DIP, "we cultivate and sustain engaging family-school-community partnerships for student and staff success."

Motion carried unanimously.

**Partnerships: Acceptance of Donation from United Way in the amount of \$50,000**  
**Submitted by Donna Clark | No committee review**

Ms. Beloin-Saavedra motioned to accept a donation from United Way in the amount of \$50,000, seconded by Mr. Gay.

XTREME is a new summer initiative for Middle School students. It is designed to give students hands-on experiences in STEM-related fields to help improve their school engagement, especially in the areas of math and science. Partnerships between CSDNB and Community-Based Organizations will help students connect to both their school and the larger community.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Partnerships: Acceptance of Donation from Hartford Health Care (School Supplies)**  
**Submitted by Jane Perez | No committee review**

Mr. Gay motioned to accept a donation from Hartford Health Care (School Supplies), seconded by Ms. Geraci.

In order to support student learning and family engagement, Chamberlain School has partnered with Hartford Health Care, Human Resources Department on 389 John Downey Dr. in New Britain. They are collecting school supplies for our school community for the start of the new school year. The total is estimated to be between \$1,500 - \$3,500 and the funding source is Hartford Health Care

Motion carried unanimously.

## Closing and Adjournment

Ms. Rodriguez motioned to adjourn at 8:49 PM, seconded by Ms. Aponte. Motion carried unanimously.

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