



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Regular Meeting

May 6, 2019 - 6:00 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

Call to Order and Roll Call

Call to Order

Ms. Nicole Rodriguez, President of the New Britain Board Education, called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Board Members Present

Ms. Catherine Cheney, Mr. Merrill Gay, Dr. Violet Jimenez Sims, Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Ms. Yvonne Muniz, Ms. Annie Parker, Ms. Nancy Rodriguez, Ms. Nicole Rodriguez, Mr. James Sanders Jr., Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly

Board Members Absent

None

Student Recognition

Boys Varsity Basketball Team

Thirteen members of the New Britain High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team were honored and recognized for their successful season this year. The Golden Hurricanes advanced to face Waterford for the CIAC Division II state title game at Mohegan Sun on Sunday, March 17, 2019.

Mr. Damon Pearce, NBHS Principal, initiated the recognition of his student athletes and coaching staff. He stated that they brought a sense of excitement and pride to the city and school. Mr. Leonard Corto, District Coordinator of Health, Athletics, Physical Education and Safety, highlighted the team's accomplishments and shared that they were recently awarded the CCC Sportsmanship Award. Head Basketball Coach Kurt Reis commented on the great amount of fan support and credited student success to parental support.

Student athletes and coaches were individually recognized and presented certificates from the Board of Education.

Recess

Ms. Nicole Rodriguez motioned for a brief recess at 6:14 PM in order for the Board members to be photographed with members of the New Britain High School Boys Basketball Team, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Continuation of Meeting

The meeting resumed in open session at 6:18 PM.

New Britain Board of Education

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Student Recognition Continued

Vertical Gardens STEAM Project

Eight students from DiLoreto were honored and recognized for their participation in the Vertical Gardens Project. Mr. Alex Ortiz, DiLoreto Principal, initiated the recognition of these 5th grade students who were chosen to complete this special project under the direction of STEAM teachers Mr. Kit Moya and Ms. Laura Rose. Mr. Moya noted that responsible students were selected to research and develop the greenhouse project. Ms. Rose spoke of specific student responsibilities and discussed how vegetables were selected for the project.

Students introduced themselves recounting their favorite memories from the project and were presented certificates from the Board of Education.

Destiny Little

Destiny Little, CLIMB student and New Britain Unified Athlete, was honored and recognized for recently receiving the Spirit of Life Award at the 2019 Special Olympics Connecticut Annual Awards Dinner. The award was created in 1982 in tribute to athletes and their accomplishments both on the field and in life.

Ms. Ann Gail Limnios, CLIMB Special Education Teacher, introduced Destiny and spoke of her accomplishment. Ms. Limnios noted that Destiny is a kind, thoughtful girl and a wonderful role model to her peers.

Destiny was presented a certificate from the Board of Education.

Guinevere “Winnie” Mattingly

Guinevere “Winnie” Mattingly, second grade student at Holmes Elementary, was honored and recognized for her recent testimony at a public hearing on Paid Family and Medical Leave at the CT State Capitol. Mr. Merrill Gay introduced Winnie and commended her for her early advocacy and participation in the democratic process. Mr. Gay noted that Winnie shared the story of a sick classmate and the family’s struggle with members of the state legislature and presented them with 5,000 petitions.

Winnie was presented a certificate from the Board of Education.

Elba Ferrer

Ms. Elba Ferrer, a Smith Elementary Paraeducator, was honored and recognized for recently saving a child’s life in the school cafeteria. Ms. Karen Falvey-Tharaldson, Smith Elementary Principal, introduced Elba and praised her for her calm demeanor and quick thinking actions including the use of the Heimlich Maneuver which she had been trained to administer. Ms. Falvey-Tharaldson commented that the staff and the student’s family were grateful to Ms. Ferrer for her life saving actions.

Ms. Ferrer was thanked for her efforts by members of the Board of Education and presented with a certificate.

Acknowledgement

Ms. Nicole Rodriguez acknowledged that Mr. Daniel Salerno, New Britain Common Council At-Large member, was in attendance.

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Reports

The Superintendent's Report is attached.

Consent Agenda

(There were no objections to pull the following items off the Consent Agenda. Therefore, these items were approved)

Operations: Approve minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on April 1, 2019

Submitted by Ms. Janice Grega-Mals | No Subcommittee Review

Operations: Accept Enrollment Report

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | No Subcommittee Review

Personnel: Approve Personnel Transactions and Extracurricular Appointments

Submitted by Dr. Shuana Tucker | No Subcommittee Review | No documents available in packet

Partnerships: Accept donation from American Savings Foundation (\$50,000)

Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019

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."

The total is \$50,000 and the funding source is American Savings Foundation.

Partnerships: Accept donation from School District Bowling Event (\$2,959)

Submitted by Mr. Joe Vaverchak | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019

The proceeds from the school district bowling event will be used to provide clothing, school uniforms, hygiene supplies, and school supplies for our identified homeless students and families.

The total is \$2,959.00 and the funding source is proceeds from the school district bowling event.

Partnerships: Accept donation from United Way (\$60,000)

Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019

XTREME is the district's summer school program "Excellence Through Real-world Experiences and Maximizing Energy". The United Way deemed the program worthy of their 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. This grant funding will be utilized to support the afternoon enrichment portion of XTREME, which is led by Community Based Organizations. Partnerships between CSDNB and Community Based Organizations will help students connect to both their school and the larger community.

The total is \$60,000 and the funding source is United Way.

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Operations: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for Purchase of Road Salt (\$11,314.25)

Submitted by Mr. Raymond Moore | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019 | Funding Source: Local

Each year, the Facilities Department needs to purchase road salt for the purpose of keeping school driveways and parking lots ice free and safe. The City of New Britain bids the purchase of road salt for use by the City of New Britain as well as the New Britain Board of Education.

The total is \$11,314.25 and the funding source is Local Funds 101093126000-54103.

Operations: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for 12 Boilers for 4 Schools (\$598,280)

Submitted by Mr. Raymond Moore | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019 | Funding Source: Local

In an effort to continue pursuing energy conservation projects, we are replacing boilers at New Britain High School, Pulaski Middle School, Roosevelt Campus and Slade Middle School with extremely energy efficient boilers. The District is spending a significant amount of money each year to maintain the current boilers which are 47 years old (NBHS); 58 years old (Pulaski); 25 years old (Roosevelt) and 58 years old (Slade). The boilers will be replaced with state-of-the-art Peerless gas fired, condensate boilers. Eversource will rebate the New Britain Board of Education \$36,000 per school for a total of \$144,000. We are requesting the Board of Education award Sid Harvey Industries the purchase of 12 Peerless gas-fired, condensate boilers and the installation of 12 boilers to Environmental Systems Corporation for a total cost of \$598,280.00. Bids were advertised in the Hartford Courant on April 12, 2019 and opened on April 24, 2019.

The total is \$598,280.00 and the funding source is Local Funds 101093126000-57300.

Partnerships: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for Technology Education Machinery (\$77,586.75)

Submitted by Ms. Ryan Langer | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019 | Funding Source: The Commissioner's Network Grant

This board memo is for multiple equipment line items previously approved by SDE for purchase from Haas Factory Outlet. The first piece of machinery is a Minimill for \$31,995.00. The second is a TL-1 for \$27,995.00. Both purchases will support the Technology Education courses at New Britain High School.

Haas was approved as a vendor for this purchase by SDE. The total cost is \$77,586.75 to include installation, warranty and necessary training for staff. This purchase will create an opportunity for students to be better prepared for work based learning through real time in class hands on application of skills.

The total is \$77,586.75 and the funding source is The Commissioner's Network Grant Unknown.

Partnerships: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for Photo, Video and Sound Equipment (\$8,520.96)

Submitted by Ms. Ryan Langer | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019 | Funding Source: Title IV Grant

This board memo is for multiple supplies and equipment line items previously approved by the state for purchase from B & H Photo and Video. The photo, video and sound equipment will be utilized by students and staff connected to the high school multi-media and communication courses. Currently, there is a definite need to focus on chronic absenteeism in the district specifically in transition years. High school students will create grade specific projects and campaigns highlighting the importance of attendance. Student interns working with the District Communication Specialist will also have access to this equipment. Finally, with the implementation of a K-12 STEAM curriculum, there will be many additional opportunities for students to participate in this type of project. B & H was approved as a vendor for this purchase.

The total is \$8,520.96 and the funding source is Title IV Grant Unknown.

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Partnerships: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for 32 Dell Laptops (\$27,245.76)

Submitted by Ms. Ryan Langer | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019 | Funding Source: The Commissioner’s Network Grant

This board memo is for multiple equipment line items previously approved by SDE for the education pathway. These materials will specifically support the Family and Consumer Science course(s). The 32 Dell Laptops were approved for purchase through the grant by SDE but require additional BOE approval to move forward.

Dell was approved as a vendor for this purchase by SDE. This purchase will create an opportunity for students to be better prepared for work based learning through real time in class hands on application of skills.

The total is \$27,245.76 and the funding source is The Commissioner’s Network Grant Unknown.

Partnerships: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for Promotional Supplies for use in Attendance Campaign (\$33,281.00)

Submitted by Ms. Ryan Langer | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019 | Funding Source: Family Resource Center Grant

The Partnership Office proposes utilizing the Family Resource Center grant from the CT State Department of Education to fund the purchase of promotional supplies in alignment to its community-wide attendance campaign “Every Day Matters.” The campaign will utilize several different best practice strategies to engage students, families, staff and community members through the Attendance Works partnership. One of the most important pieces will be marketing and communication.

\$11,216.00 will be spent on parent activity supplies such as full color magnets with district calendars on them, water bottles, notebooks and other school supplies. \$22,065.00 will be spent on other supplies to be focused on staff and student outcomes such as branded notebooks and school supplies for all staff and drawstring backpacks for students attending fall events such as the annual Back to School Bash.

The total is \$33,281.00 and the funding source is Family Resource Center Grant, CTSDE Unknown

Partnerships: Approve Grant from Nellie Mae Foundation (\$1,403)

Submitted by Ms. Ryan Langer | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019 | Funding Source: Nellie Mae Foundation

CSDNB is in a multi-year partnership with the Nellie Mae Foundation for the execution of a community engagement grant. This board memo is for the approval of the 2018 part 2 funding to be utilized in 2019 to continue the community engagement work with the Nellie Mae Foundation.

The total is \$1,403 and the funding source is Nellie Mae Foundation.

Operations: Approve Finance Report – March 31, 2019

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Kane | Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019

New Business

Personnel: Approve New Position Request for Supervisor of Small Integrated Classrooms

Submitted by Dr. Shuana Tucker | Reviewed by the Personnel Subcommittee on April 29, 2019 | No Documents Available in Packet

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the new position request for Supervisor of Small Integrated Classrooms, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

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Operations: Approve 2019-2020 Districtwide Calendar

Submitted by Ms. Nancy Sarra | No Subcommittee Review

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the revised 2019-2020 Districtwide Calendar, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Mr. Mercier motioned to amend the calendar headers to properly reflect 180 total school days (August = 0 days; March = 22 days; June = 12 days), seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. (Ms. Nicole Rodriguez stated that she would like community providers and those that provide before and after school care to be notified about the calendars. Mr. Mercier stated that he would like color coding to be looked into in order for the calendar to be more easily read by color blind or vision impaired readers.) Motion carried unanimously. Original motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Approve Budget Amendment and Budget Transfers

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Kane | Draft Reviewed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019

1. Operations: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for Playscape Expansions at RELC, Transition Center and Gaffney (\$325,000)
Submitted by Mr. Raymond Moore | Discussed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019
2. Academics: Approve Bid Waiver for Musical Instruments (\$261,682)
Submitted by Ms. Leona Clerkin | Discussed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019
3. Academics: Approve Bid Waiver for NBHS Band Room (\$63,000)
Submitted by Ms. Leona Clerkin | Discussed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019
4. Academics: Approve Bid Waiver for a Cabinet Music Library (\$86,316)
Submitted by Ms. Leona Clerkin | Discussed by the Finance Subcommittee on April 29, 2019
5. Operations: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for 2 Replacement Generators at Slade, for MIS (\$90,044.00)
Submitted by Mr. Ray Moore | No Subcommittee Review
6. Operations: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for Reconstruction of Slade Portable (\$35,000)
Submitted by Mr. Ray Moore | No Subcommittee Review

On February 27, 2019, City Common Council approved a resolution to amend Board of Education 2018-2019 Operating Budget by an additional \$367,813 for the Excess Hurricane Funds from the original appropriation of \$125,700,000 to an amended appropriation of 126,067,813. We are requesting the Board amend our current budget to fund needed playscapes and play areas in the district as follows:

Playground Equipment - \$325,000

- \$250,000 RELC Playscape
- \$50,000 Slade (TC) Playscape
- \$25,000 Gaffney Playscape addition

Play Area (Pulaski) - \$42,813

In addition, budget transfers of \$1,629,278 are being requested to fund needed capital improvements and equipment as follows:

Boiler Replacement – 12 boilers for a total cost of \$598,280

- Roosevelt (3 boilers) - \$149,570
- Slade (3 boilers) - \$149,570
- Pulaski (3 boilers) - \$149,570
- NBHS (3 boilers) - \$149,570

Paving Projects – total cost of \$470,000

- Chamberlain (Rear Parking Lot) – \$80,000

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- Smith (Parking Lot) - \$30,000
- Slade (Parking Lot) - \$180,000
- Pulaski (Parking Lot) - \$180,000

Music – total cost of \$410,998

- Musical instruments - \$261,682
- Band room - \$63,000
- Cabinet Music Library - \$86,316

MIS Generator – total cost of \$100,000

Slade Portable Build Out (TC) – total cost of \$35,000

NBHS Manufacturing Improvements – total cost of \$15,000

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to approve the Budget Amendment and Budget transfers, seconded by Mr. Mercier. Ms. Nicole Rodriguez motioned to strike the “Excess Hurricane Funds” wording on the three music department bid waivers replacing it with “Local Funds” instead, seconded by Mr. Mercier. (Board members requested that Administrators be reminded to get multiple quotes for district purchases or explain why this was not done.) Motion carried unanimously. Original motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Approve New Position Request for 1.0 Behavior Support Assistant at Smalley

Submitted by Dr. Shuana Tucker | Reviewed by the Personnel Subcommittee on April 29, 2019

Additional behavioral support needed at Smalley for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year. Estimated cost \$6,000.00

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the new position request for a Behavior Support Assistant at Smalley to finish out the remainder of the school year, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Approve New Position Request for 10.0 Behavior Support Assistants to be Located at: DiLoreto (1.0), Lincoln (1.0), Small Integrated Classrooms - Lincoln (3.0), Smalley (2.0), Gaffney (1.0), Pulaski (1.0) and Slade (1.0)

Submitted by Dr. Shuana Tucker | Reviewed by the Personnel Subcommittee on April 29, 2019

These positions are part of the Superintendent’s re-design to assist with behavior issues in the schools during the 2019-2020 school year.

Ms. Yvonne Muniz motioned to approve the new position request for 10.0 Behavior Assistants, seconded by Dr. Jimenez Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Approve Pay Rate Change and Job Description Revision for Literacy Interventionists

Submitted by Ms. Amy Anderson | Reviewed by the Personnel Subcommittee on April 29, 2019

In order to stay competitive with other districts and to increase our ability to retain highly qualified tutors, we are requesting to increase the hourly rate from \$21 to \$25 per hour along with other minor revisions to the job description. The funding source is Title 1.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the Literacy Interventionist pay rate change and job description, seconded by Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

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Personnel: Approve New Job Description for Family School Liaison

Submitted by Ms. Sondra Sanford | Reviewed by the Personnel Subcommittee on April 29, 2019

Sondra Sanford discussed these positions during her Family Resource Center Redesign Presentation at the April 1, 2019 Board of Education Meeting. This position will report to the District Coordinator of Partnerships and Engagement. The primary functions are as follows:

- Assists in maintaining an acceptable level of school attendance by providing counseling and assistance to students and their families where chronic absenteeism problems are found.
- Facilitates or arranges for comprehensive educational and supportive services to families and their children.
- Coordinates collaboration with school staff and funding agencies to ensure all required program components are adhered to.
- Plans events and workshops for students and families.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the new job description for Family School Liaison, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance: Approve Grant from USTA New England (\$1,500)

Submitted by Ms. Lisa Kawecki | No Subcommittee Review

Receiving this grant funding from USTA will support a tennis program at HALS, providing both our students and physical education teachers training and the opportunity to introduce tennis to our middle school students. Implementing a tennis program at the middle school level will not only help to improve our high school tennis program but will also provide more opportunity for student engagement in extracurricular activities at the middle school level.

The total is \$1500 and the funding source is USTA New England.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the grant from USTA New England in the amount of \$1,500.00, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Partnerships: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for Customized District Recruitment Plan (\$9,960)

Submitted by Ms. Tricia Putnam | No Subcommittee Review | Funding Source: Alliance Grant

Customized District Recruitment Plan: Talent priority
Retain 30.5% of certified school based leadership minority hires
Increase certified minority teacher hire from 28% to 30%

The total is \$9,960.00 and the funding source is Grant Alliance: Talent.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the bid waiver and purchase order for Customized District Recruitment Plan in the amount of \$9,960.00, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Academics: Approve Bid Waiver and Purchase Order for EdAdvance (\$24,700)

Submitted by Ms. Tricia Putnam | No Subcommittee Review | Funding Source: SIG Grant

To assist the New Britain Public Schools in the development of a high quality PreK-12 curriculum that will support New Britain's instructional staff in the consistent delivery of inclusive, comprehensive core curriculum units. These units to all include research-based effective instructional strategies, aligned assessments and research-based interventions that will ultimately improve students' mastery of the essential standards of the selected subject areas.

The total is \$24,700 and the funding source is Grant SIG.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the bid waiver and purchase order for EdAdvance in the amount of \$24,700.00, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

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Addition to Agenda

Mr. Mercier motioned to add the discussion of upcoming union negotiations to the agenda, seconded by Ms. Cheney. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Mercier motioned to go into executive session at 8:12 PM to discuss Local 51 and Local 818 Union contract negotiations, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Superintendent Sarra, Dr. Tucker (Chief Talent Officer), and Mr. Kane (Chief Operations and Finance Officer) were invited into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Continuation of Meeting

The meeting resumed in open session at 8:30 PM.

Personnel: Ratify Local 51 Union Contract

Submitted by: Dr. Shuana Tucker | No Subcommittee Review | No documents available in packet

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to ratify Local 51 Union Contract, seconded by Dr. Jimenez Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Ratify Local 818 Union Contract

Submitted by: Dr. Shuana Tucker | No Subcommittee Review | No documents available in packet

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to ratify Local 818 Union Contract, seconded by Dr. Jimenez Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

Closing and Adjournment

Mr. Mercier motioned to adjourn at 8:31 PM, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.