



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

# New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

April 20, 2020– 6:30 PM | Virtual Meeting

### Call to Order and Opening

Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims, Curriculum Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

### Committee Members Present

Mr. Merrill Gay, Ms. Diane Leja, Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Ms. Diana Reyes, Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims

### CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Mr. Leonard Corto, Mr. Michael Foran, Ms. Lisa Kawecki, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Mr. John Taylor

### New Business

#### Review and Approve Minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on January 21, 2020

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on January 21, 2020.

#### i-Ready Reading Assessment Presentation

Ms. Amy Anderson, District Coordinator of PK-5 Curriculum, reintroduced the i-Ready Reading Assessment to subcommittee members. Ms. Anderson originally discussed the recommended adoption of this universal screener for reading in grades K-5 at the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on November 18, 2019. At this meeting, Ms. Allison Galin, Instructional Coach and Wilson In-District Trainer, spoke to subcommittee members about the different options available for reading assessment highlighting the advantages of replacing our current NWEA testing platform with the i-Ready Assessment starting with the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Galin explained that the i-Ready Assessment best aligns with the scope and sequence of Foundations which we will be implementing starting in September in grades K-2. At the subcommittee meeting in November, it was recommended that price quotes and supporting documents be submitted to the Finance Subcommittee for review and approval once available. Ms. Anderson is now submitting a purchase order and bid waiver for approval at the next Finance Subcommittee Meeting. The price quote is for the K-5 student licenses and the Professional Development training sessions for all teachers who will be trained in the 2020-2021 school year.

*The Curriculum Subcommittee recommended that this request be reviewed at the next Finance Subcommittee Meeting.*

#### Illustrative Mathematics Presentation

Ms. Lara Bohlke, District Coordinator of Curriculum for Grades 6-12, discussed the requested renewal for instructional materials for our second year of Illustrative Mathematics (IM). IM is a middle school mathematics curriculum that is highly usable, well-designed and supported and has earned the highest reviews through edreports. Ms. Bohlke is requesting a renewal of the student consumable materials which she reports were well-received and well-used this year. Ms. Bohlke informed subcommittee members that she is anticipating that she will be submitting a revised board memo with an updated price quote reflecting the additional purchase of Spanish materials and a discounted price for unused volume #3 due to the COVID-19 school closure.

### New Britain Board of Education

Merrill Gay – President | Nicholas Mercier – Vice President | Violet Jiménez Sims – Secretary

Monica Dawkins | Anthony Kane | Diane Leja | Annie S. Parker | Diana Reyes | Nancy Rodriguez | Gayle Sanders-Connolly

*The Curriculum Subcommittee recommended that this request with updated price quote be reviewed at the next Finance Subcommittee Meeting.*

## **Educational Component of Suicide Prevention Program Presentation**

Upon request of the Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Leonard Corto, District Coordinator of Health, Athletics, Physical Education and Safety, and Ms. Lisa Kawecki, Curriculum Information Teacher, shared information with regard to how the topic of suicide prevention is incorporated into our current curriculum in the district. Mr. Corto stated that this topic is addressed by classroom and physical education teachers in grades K-5 when students present with issues or concerns. Ms. Kawecki provided a summary of how suicide prevention is covered in mental health units in grades 6-12 as part of the health education curriculum. She reported that sixth grade students are introduced to the concepts behind understanding and maintaining good health while seventh and eighth graders dive deeper into mental health concepts and discuss violence and abuse. Ms. Kawecki stated that the lessons in middle school build upon one another leading up to high school when students spend a whole unit on mental disorders and suicide. High school students also have the opportunity to explore the resources available to them within and outside the school community that can help with depression and trauma. Ms. Kawecki also noted that we will be updating our curriculum and assessments based on the new standards of the revised Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum Framework once completed. Mr. Mercier noted that staffing implications may have to be looked at once the curriculum is revised.

Dr. Jiménez Sims and Mr. Mercier expressed concern that while the topic of suicide prevention is heavily concentrated on grades 6-12, it is lacking in grades K-5. Mr. Mercier stated that he would like to ensure that the actions we are taking in the district, regarding the educational component of suicide prevention, are in alignment with our current Board Policy 5141.50 – Attempted Suicide and Suicide Prevention. Subcommittee members agreed that there is a need for the development of a comprehensive plan/program for the delivery of age appropriate instruction on this topic to all grade levels (K-12). Staff and subcommittee members suggested delivery models which might include collaboration and training between current staff members and community partners. Mr. Michael Foran, Assistant Superintendent, stated that he will bring this topic to the Superintendent’s Cabinet for discussion building off of the conversation regarding awareness of COVID-19 related trauma and social emotional supports that will be needed to reengage students.

Dr. Jiménez Sims recommended that continued discussion of this topic be placed on the agenda for a future Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting. At this time, the subcommittee will review recommendations from the Superintendent’s Cabinet regarding the next steps that may be taken toward the development of a comprehensive plan/program to ensure that this subject is being addressed at every grade level in a systemic way.

## **Closing and Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.