



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

May 18, 2020– 6:30 PM | Virtual Meeting

Call to Order and Opening

Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims, Curriculum Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Committee Members Present

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

CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Ms. Nancy Sarra, Mr. John Taylor, Ms. Jennifer Wright

New Business

Review and Approve Minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on April 20, 2020

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on April 20, 2020.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on April 20, 2020 as presented, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss Installation of High Tunnel Greenhouse on Roosevelt Campus

Mr. Joey Listro, Executive Director of New Britain ROOTS, discussed the proposed installation of a high tunnel greenhouse on the Roosevelt Campus. High tunnel greenhouses are advantageous because they are solar heated, extend the growing season, and offer protection from weather. Mr. Listro presented slides from the construction of this same high tunnel greenhouse at Slade Middle School three years ago. The total cost for the project at Roosevelt is \$14,925.00. ROOTS received \$5,000.00 from American Savings Foundation and \$7,658.00 from the USDA – National Reserve Conservation Service to fund this project. ROOTS is covering the remaining balance and the grant money has already been approved.

Mr. Listro discussed the connection between the greenhouse project and the “Farm to School” Curriculum and lessons that are part of the ROOTS afterschool and summer learning programs.

Farm to School Curriculum

- Food Literacy
- Seed Anatomy
- Soil Science
- Composting and Worm Composting
- Vegetable Plant Identification and Plant Parts & Functions
- Food Mapping
- Fungus & Mushrooms
- Climate Change and Methods in Organic Agriculture
- Beneficial Garden Insects

New Britain Board of Education

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

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- Beekeeping
- Garden to Plate – Culinary and Nutrition Lessons
- Water Science
- Mock Farmers Market

In closing, Mr. Listro stated that his ultimate goal is to change the way we, as a school district and a city, feed ourselves and our school community and improve our relationship with food.

Ms. Lara Bohlke, District Coordinator of Curriculum for Grades 6-12, further discussed curriculum connections across the district and the supporting role that greenhouses can play with delivery of this instruction. Ms. Bohlke also noted that the location of the greenhouse on the Roosevelt Campus extends this beneficial partnership to preschool (RELC), middle school (HALS), and high school students (SCA).

Mr. Mercier motioned that the Board approve installation of a high tunnel greenhouse on the Roosevelt Campus at the next regular meeting. The motion was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Using i-Ready Discussion as a K-5 Diagnostic Testing and Ed Recovery Learning Path Platform

Superintendent Sarra emphasized the importance of following the guiding documents that Mr. Miguel Cardona, Connecticut Commissioner of Education, has shared specifically regarding the focus on education recovery and the reopening of schools. Ms. Lara Bohlke, District Coordinator of Curriculum for Grades 6-12, and Ms. Amy Anderson, District Coordinator of PK-5 Curriculum, explained how the i-Ready virtual platform could play an important role in helping us diagnose where our K-8 students are academically when they return to school next year. i-Ready provides an online platform to diagnose where students are in reading and mathematics and offers a virtual learning path to bring them to where they need to be, while simultaneously offering opportunities for students to also engage in grade level instruction, lessons and activities. Ms. Bohlke and Ms. Anderson believe i-Ready is the most appropriate tool to provide both diagnostic information and learning path resources to address our needs in 2020-2021. This aligns with the State Department of Education’s K-12 Educational Priority Statement regarding COVID-19 allowing CSDNB to adopt the use of i-Ready for the 2020-2021 school year to “assess where students are in respect to the base of learning required for their new grade...and to restore any educational loss while continuing to provide the learning essential to their current grade.”

Ms. Lisa Cattaruzza and Mr. Lloyd Jones from Curriculum Associates attended the meeting to provide information and answer questions about the i-Ready platform. Mr. Jones introduced i-Ready as a web-based, adaptive diagnostic and instructional program. Mr. Jones presented slides providing an overview of the i-Ready Program and highlighted the various reports and instructional resources available.

Ms. Anderson noted that i-Ready has features to support EL learners as well, including highlighting and vocabulary tools as well as translation and audio supports. Funding needed for this program will be available either through Academics or through state funding. Ms. Anderson stated that she would forward a quote and additional documentation to the Finance Subcommittee for review if recommended.

The Curriculum Subcommittee favorably recommended that this request be referred to the Finance Subcommittee for review at their next meeting.

Closing and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM.