



**CONSOLIDATED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
— OF —
NEW BRITAIN**

**NEW BRITAIN BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

May 18, 2020 – 6:30 PM | VIRTUAL MEETING



NOTICE OF MEETING

TO: New Britain Board of Education Members
Mayor Erin Stewart
Mr. Mark H. Bernacki, Town and City Clerk
New Britain Common Council Members

DATE: May 15, 2020

RE: New Britain Board of Education Subcommittee Meetings

The following Board of Education subcommittee meetings will take place virtually due to current public health concerns and school closure related to COVID-19:

- **The New Britain Board of Education Policy Subcommittee** will hold a regular meeting on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Members of the public may view a live broadcast of the meeting online via the livestream link:
<https://video.csdnb.org/show?video=1319f802ff39>

The agenda and the board packet in its entirety can be found on the Board of Education website:
<https://www.csdnb.org/BOE-Calendar-Documents.php>

- **The New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee** will hold a regular meeting on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

Members of the public may view a live broadcast of the meeting online via the livestream link:
<https://video.csdnb.org/show?video=1319f802ff39>

The agenda and the board packet in its entirety can be found on the Board of Education website:
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CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education | Curriculum Subcommittee Regular Meeting

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

1. Call to Order and Opening

- A. Meeting Called to Order

2. New Business

- A. Review and Approve Minutes from Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on April 20, 2020 | Page 5
- B. Discuss Installation of High Tunnel Greenhouse on Roosevelt Campus
Presentation by Mr. Joey Listro, New Britain ROOTS | Page 7
- C. Using i-Ready Discussion as a K-8 Diagnostic Testing and Ed Recovery Learning Path Platform
Presentation by Curriculum Associates | No documents available in packet

3. Closing

- A. Other Business as Permitted by Law
- B. Adjournment

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



**CONSOLIDATED
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— OF —
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NEW BUSINESS



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.

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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.



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

Board Memorandum

Submitted by Helen Talalaj (Operations) for approval at the Regular Board Meeting on June 1, 2020.

Type of Memorandum

Other - Approval to locate equipment at Roosevelt Middle School - High Tunnel Greenhouse

Background and Purpose/Rationale (Alignment to District Strategic Plan)

New Britain Roots, in conjunction with the New Britain Board of Education, operates a student inspired outdoor garden on the grounds of Roosevelt Middle School. New Britain Roots is applying for a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture - National Resources Conservation Service to purchase a "High Tunnel" (see attached picture). A high tunnel is a plastic covered structure that enables gardeners to have crops ready earlier or later in the season. In the high tunnel, plants are grown directly in the ground or in raised beds, and the sun's heat regulates the temperature inside.

A requirement of the grant application is to receive permission to install a high tunnel on school grounds. New Britain Board of Education is requested to approve the installation of a high tunnel for the purposes of applying for the grant to purchase the high tunnel.

Financial Information

The total is \$0 and the funding source is N/a.

Committee Review

This was reviewed by the Curriculum Subcommittee on May 18, 2020 and the Finance Subcommittee on May 26, 2020.

[Roosevelt Greenhouse Board memo attachments Roosevelt - Helen Talalaj.pdf](#)

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

Talalaj, Helen

From: Sarra, Nancy
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 7:04 PM
To: Turcotte, Terry
Cc: Clerkin, Leona; Mayette, John; Fernandes, Mark; Talalaj, Helen; Dion, Kevin
Subject: Re: High Tunnel Greenhouse for Roosevelt

Sounds great!

Nancy Sarra,
Superintendent,
Consolidated School District of New Britain
272 Main Street
New Britain, CT 06050-1960

From: Turcotte, Terry <Turcotte@csdnb.org>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 3:14 PM
To: Sarra, Nancy <Sarra@csdnb.org>
Cc: Clerkin, Leona <Clerkin@csdnb.org>; Mayette, John <MayetteJ@csdnb.org>; Fernandes, Mark <fernandes@csdnb.org>; Talalaj, Helen <talalaj@csdnb.org>; Dion, Kevin <dion@csdnb.org>
Subject: Re: High Tunnel Greenhouse for Roosevelt

Nancy,

I just wanted to keep you in the loop regarding the new high tunnel greenhouse at the Roosevelt Campus. We planned on this last summer, however, funding was not available until now.

I have also included Kevin and Helen because Joey will need some assistance from them. Please let me know how we can help.

Thanks,

Terry



Terry Turcotte
Principal-Roosevelt Early Learning Center
Preschool Coordinator
Office: 860-827-2017
Turcotte@csdnb.org

From: Joey Listro <joey@newbritainroots.org>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Turcotte, Terry <Turcotte@csdnb.org>; Mayette, John <MayetteJ@csdnb.org>; Clerkin, Leona <Clerkin@csdnb.org>
Subject: High Tunnel Greenhouse for Roosevelt

[***EXTERNAL***]: This message originates from outside the CSDNB Organization]
Good Morning Roosevelt friends,

Its been awhile since we connected but I wanted to share that we finally received the \$12,000 in funding needed to build what's called a high tunnel greenhouse over the existing garden space at Roosevelt. The total size is 30'x52'. This will be a replica of the one built at Slade (photos attached for reference). We have added compost and cleaned up the grounds around the garden.

The next step is to receive final approval from the BOE. I will ask facilities to prep a board memo to be issued at the next meeting. We hope to build it in late June/early July and have it ready for your students for when they return. ROOTS is happy to facilitate a plan this fall to get your educators into the space if they are interested.

I hope you are still excited for this project. I think it will be a great addition to all the new renovations on school grounds. Please let me know if you have any questions and I will be in touch over the next few weeks.

Best,

Joey

--

Joey Listro

Executive Director

New Britain ROOTS

m: 203-501-8083

a: P.O. Box 853 New Britain, CT 06050

w: www.newbritainroots.org **e:** joey@newbritainroots.org



"All that is gold does not glitter, not all those who wander are lost; the old that is strong does not wither; deep roots are not reached by the frost." -J. R. R. Tolkien

Landowner Concurrence Form to Install Structural or Vegetative Activities

Clear Form

This form is used for the applicant to obtain written documentation of landowner concurrence for the purpose of installing structural or vegetative conservation activities on land they lease. Structural and vegetative conservation activities are those activities with a lifespan greater than one year.

Applicant Name: NEW BRITAIN ROOTS, INC		Landowner Name: CITY OF NEW BRITAIN		Date Prepared: 04/29/2020
Application No. EQIP74110620003		Farm Name (opt): NEW BRITAIN ROOTS, INC		
Conservation Activity:	Farm No. & Tract No.	Field Nos.	Lifespan*(yrs)	
1. SEASONAL HIGH TUNNEL SYSTEM	Farm 2392 Tract 5940	1	5	
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				

* The practice lifespan is the period in which the conservation practices are to be used and maintained for their intended purposes, as defined by NRCS standards.

Landowner Concurrence

By signing this form, I, the landowner, hereby agree that the above-named applicant, if awarded a contract with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), has permission to install and maintain conservation activities on the land identified. I understand that I am not a party to any contract between NRCS and the applicant to install the above listed activities.

Landowner Signature: Raymond L. Moore Print Name: Raymond L. Moore Date: 05/12/2020

Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Conservation Plan Map

Client(s): NEW BRITAIN ROOTS INC.
Location: Farm #2392 Tract # 5940
Tolland County, Connecticut
Approximate Acres: 0.30

Assisted By: VIVIAN FELTEN
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
WINDSOR SERVICE CENTER

Land Units: Tract 5940, Fields 1



ERI, GeoEye, Inbed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Calmapping, Aerial, IGN, IGP, swisstopo and the GIS User Community

Prepared with assistance from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service



	Tract 5940 Field 1	Conservation Practice Polygons
	High Tunnel System (325)	



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About NRCS

High Tunnel Press Kit



Seasonal high tunnels are plastic-covered structures that enable farmers to have crops ready earlier or later in the season. In high tunnels, plants are grown directly in the ground, and the sun's heat regulates the temperature inside.

RUN DOWN

Top 5 states with high tunnels

with NRCS help, since 2009

- 1 Missouri (542)
- 2 Alaska (513)
- 3 Michigan (473)
- 4 Kentucky (427)
- 5 Wisconsin (414)

BY THE NUMBERS

9,825

High tunnels built in the U.S. since 2009, with an obligation total of \$4.8 million.

48%

Increase in high tunnels built from 2009-2013, going from about 2,000 to 3,000.



Maine had the largest increase year to year of high tunnels, from 2009-2013 with over 1,000 percent. NRCS invested \$163,000 in Maine to help build 188 high tunnels in 2009. In 2013, the investment rose to \$7.1 million for 133 high tunnels statewide.

NRCS offered seasonal high tunnels as a conservation practice for the first time in 2009 as part of a three-year trial to determine their effectiveness in conserving water, improving soil health, increasing yields, and reducing transport of agricultural pesticides. NRCS continues to provide outreach, technical, and financial assistance for high tunnels. Since 2009, through NRCS, USDA has provided assistance to help producers build over 9,825 high tunnels on farms around the country.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP, a Farm Bill program that offers financial assistance to farmers and ranchers, enables producers to install conservation tools like the high tunnel. Under EQIP, the Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to help producers extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner.

This initiative may assist producers in addressing a resource concern by: improving plant quality, improving soil quality, reducing nutrient and pesticide transportation, improving air quality through reduced transportation inputs, and reducing energy use by providing consumers with a local source of fresh produce. High tunnels are a key part of USDA's Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative, which coordinates USDA's work on local and regional food systems.

