



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

October 21, 2019 – 7:00 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

Call to Order and Opening

Dr. Violet Jimenez Sims, Curriculum Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Committee Members Present

Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Ms. Nancy Rodriguez, Dr. Violet Jimenez Sims

CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Mr. Damon Pearce, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Ms. Nancy Sarra, Mr. John Taylor

New Business

Review and approve minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on September 16, 2019

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on September 16, 2019.

Ms. Nancy Rodriguez stated that, although she was unable to attend the discussion regarding LGBTQ+ rights and issues at the last Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on September 16th, she strongly believes that public forums should be considered as a way to share information and increase understanding with parents and community members regarding this issue and any possible changes to policy or curriculum in the future.

Update on impact of scheduling changes at New Britain High School

Mr. Damon Pearce, New Britain High School Principal, gave an update on the impact of the scheduling changes at New Britain High School this school year upon the request of Dr. Jimenez Sims. According to Mr. Pearce, the return to a traditional eight period schedule seems to have addressed a lot of the issues and concerns that were voiced last year by students and teachers regarding the block scheduling and team grouping. Mr. Pearce admitted that while there are still some glitches to be worked out, that the uniform scheduling is allowing resources to be shifted around to address problems while still ensuring ample collaboration and plan time for teachers.

Upon request of Dr. Jimenez Sims, Mr. Pearce also provided copies of several EL students' schedules from each grade level at the high school for subcommittee members to review. Dr. Jimenez Sims was particularly interested in finding out if the scheduling changes this year at the high school impacted the EL students in terms of a decrease in the amount of study periods and increased opportunities to enroll in more academically challenging classes.

Review SBAC/ESSA Results

Dr. Jimenez Sims requested further review of the state data that was presented at the last full board meeting on October 8th. She expressed particular concern with the absenteeism rate among our Hispanic students especially when compared to other

New Britain Board of Education

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demographic groups. Dr. Jimenez Sims questioned which things are being done to address this problem and stated that she believes it would be beneficial if half of our Family School Liaisons were Spanish speaking. Superintendent Sarra, Ms. Bohlke, District Coordinator of Curriculum for Grades 6-12, and Ms. Anderson, District Coordinator of PK-5 Curriculum, emphasized the importance of the role of the FSLs, the creation of a positive classroom climate, and increased minority teacher/administrator recruitment. Mr. Mercier stressed the importance of reaching out to parents and suggested that the board might receive a report at a future meeting regarding the average daily attendance rates for the specific subset that the Family School Liaisons are working with.

Closing and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.