



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

# New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

November 18, 2019 – 6:15 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

### Call to Order and Opening

Dr. Violet Jimenez 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. Annie Parker, Ms. Diana Reyes, Dr. Violet Jimenez Sims

### CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Ms. Allison Galin, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Ms. Nancy Sarra

### New Business

#### Review and approve minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on October 21, 2019

Minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on October 21, 2019 were approved as corrected.

#### K-3 Reading Assessment Presentation

Ms. Allison Galin, Instructional Coach and Wilson In-District Trainer, spoke to Curriculum Subcommittee members about the different options available for reading assessment at the K-3 level. Ms. Galin is currently piloting the Foundations Program, a multisensory and systematic phonics, spelling, and handwriting program, in four first and second grade classrooms at Smith Elementary School with the guidance of a Wilson Literacy Specialist. She is also coaching and working on Foundations with several grade 1-3 teachers at Smalley Elementary School and the Small Classroom Setting Program at Lincoln Elementary School. The Academics Department is recommending that the district adopt the i-Ready Assessment for reading assessment at the K-3 level starting September 2020. Ms. Galin explained that this assessment best aligns with the scope and sequence of what is being taught with Foundations when compared to other reading assessments such as AIMSweb, DIBELS 6<sup>th</sup>, DIBELS Next, EdCheckup, NWEA, STAR, and iSTEOP. These assessments are all approved for use to fulfill the state-required administration of a reading assessment and for purposes of ongoing assessment to inform instruction. Ms. Anderson, District Coordinator of PK-5 Curriculum, told committee members that she will prepare pricing quotes and supporting materials for the i-Ready Assessment for submission to the Finance Subcommittee for their review and approval at a future meeting.

#### Public Participation

Mr. John Board, New Britain Pride Chairman, spoke to the Curriculum Subcommittee about his proposal to adopt American Sign Language (ASL) as one of the official world languages taught as part of our curriculum. He stated that ASL is already offered as a course in over 30 school districts in Connecticut. Mr. Board highlighted the potential benefits the inclusion of ASL would have for students, educators, and community members. He also added that this could lead to a potential career path as ASL interpreters are in high demand. Committee members discussed the appropriate teacher certification that would be required and Superintendent Sarra reported that she spoke to Mr. Pearce, NBHS Principal, to ascertain interest at the high

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school.

Mr. Board also spoke to the Curriculum Subcommittee about his interest in having LGBTQ history included as part of the district curriculum including topics related to the history of the movement, bullying, and diversity and tolerance. Mr. Board recommended True Colors, Inc. and Human Rights Campaign (H.R.C.) as two organizations that might be helpful in increasing understanding of LGBTQ rights and issues. Subcommittee members discussed the possibility of weaving lessons of inclusivity into current Social and Emotional Learning, Health, and Advisory class curriculums.

## **Closing and Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.