



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Policy Subcommittee Meeting

April 20, 2020 – 5:30 PM | Virtual Meeting

Call to Order and Opening

Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Policy Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

Committee Members Present

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

CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Lara Bohlke, Mr. Michael Foran, Mr. John Mayette, Mr. Damon Pearce, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Mr. Mark Spalding

New Business

Review and Approve Minutes from the Policy Subcommittee Meeting on February 18, 2020

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Policy Subcommittee Meeting on February 18, 2020.

Review Policy 6146.20 – Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2020 and 2021

Mr. Michael Foran, Assistant Superintendent, presented recommended changes to the graduation requirements for the Class of 2020 based on the current challenges that our high school seniors are facing due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the educational process. These temporary changes are being recommended for the Class of 2020 only and are in alignment with the State Department of Education (SDE) minimum requirements. Mr. Foran recommended that our current board policy be amended and revised as follows specifically for the Class of 2020:

Section I. Credit Distribution Requirements

- **English** – Keep four (4) credits and strike “one credit American Literature, one credit World Literature and two English elective credits”
- **Math** – Keep three (3) credits and strike “one credit in Algebra I, one credit in Geometry and one credit in Math elective/Algebra II”
- **Science** – Decrease three (3) credits to two (2) credits and strike “1 Physical Science, 1 Life Science and 1 Science elective”
- **Social Studies** – Keep three (3) credits adding “including .5 in Civics and American Government” and striking “one credit in US History, one credit in World/International Studies, .5 credit in American Government and .5 credit in Social Studies elective”
- **Health** – Strike 0.5 credit requirement entirely
- **Electives** – Decrease 6.5 credits to 6 credits
- **Capstone** – Strike 1 credit entirely
- **Total** – Decrease 23 credits to 20 credits

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

Section II. District Performance Standards – Strike entire section

Section III. Options if Requirements Are Not Met – Strike entire section

Section IV. Exemptions – Strike entire section

Section V. Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy – Renumber to Section II

The Policy Subcommittee recommended that Mr. Foran include a statement at the beginning of the revised policy explaining the circumstances which necessitated the temporary revision of our current requirements and policy.

The Policy Subcommittee recommended that this revised special policy be forwarded to the Board of Education for approval at the next regular meeting.

The Policy Subcommittee further recommended that Mr. Foran review our current board policy regarding graduation requirements and, if necessary, bring any proposed changes for the Class of 2021 to the next Policy Subcommittee Meeting for review.

Review Policy 6141.32 – Access to Internet

The Policy Subcommittee did not recommend any revisions to the Board Policy Statement.

The Policy Subcommittee recommended that Mr. Jeff Prokop, MIS Director, and members of the MIS Department review the Administrative Procedure to ensure that it is up to date. Any proposed changes or recommendations should be brought forward to the Policy Subcommittee for review at a future meeting.

Review Policy 4118.51 – Use of Social Media

The Policy Subcommittee recommended that this policy be referred to the Superintendent’s Cabinet for review to ensure that it is up to date. Any proposed changes or recommendations should be brought forward to the Policy Subcommittee for review at a future meeting.

Grading

Mr. Mercier recommended that Mr. Foran and the Academics Department review any CSDNB board policies related to grading in light of the current guidelines that the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) recently provided Connecticut school districts. It was further recommended that any necessary board policy revisions related to grading be forwarded directly to the full Board of Education for approval at the next regular meeting.

Graduation Ceremony

Dr. Jiménez Sims expressed concern that she noticed at the graduation ceremony last year that New Britain High School still lists graduates on the program by male/female and separates the groups by gown color. Dr. Sims is requesting that this tradition be reconsidered as many schools are now moving away from this format and presenting graduates alphabetically without a gender designation while having either a single gown for all graduates or a color option unrelated to gender. Mr. Foran and NBHS Principal Damon Pearce agreed to look into this tradition and explore other options.

Closing and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM.