



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Policy Subcommittee Meeting

May 18, 2020 – 5:30 PM | Virtual Meeting

Call to Order and Opening

Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Policy Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Committee Members Present

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

CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Ann Alfano, Mr. Michael Foran, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Ms. Nancy Sarra, Mr. Mark Spalding

New Business

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

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

Dr. Jiménez Sims motioned to approve the minutes from the Policy Subcommittee Meeting on April 20, 2020 as presented, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

Review Policy 3324.00 – Bids, Quotations and Purchase Orders

Ms. Ann Alfano, Accounting Manager, recommended review and revision of this policy due to a change in federal guidelines regarding purchases directly charged to a federal award. Ms. Alfano shared the explicit language that must be included in our current policy regarding the procurement process when utilizing federal funds. Ms. Alfano recommended adding this extensive and specific language at the end of our current policy in an additional section under the heading “III. Purchases Directly Charged to a Federal Award.”

Ms. Leja expressed concern that the language of subsection C “Contracting with Small and Minority Businesses and Women’s Business Enterprises,” may not be alignment with our other board policies which are not gender specific and may be perceived as discriminatory by non-gender conforming individuals. Mr. Mercier recommended that Ms. Leja forward a draft of any additional language she would like added to the policy to himself and Board Clerk Ms. Salerni. This proposed amendment could then be reviewed by Ms. Alfano and possibly legal counsel before consideration by the full board.

Dr. Jiménez Sims motioned that the Board approve revised Policy 3324.00 – Bids, Quotations and Purchase Orders at the next regular meeting, seconded by Ms. Leja. Motion carried unanimously.

Addition to Agenda

Dr. Jiménez Sims motioned to add discussion of graduation regalia and related policies to the agenda, seconded by Ms. Reyes. All were in favor with the exception of Ms. Rodriguez. Motion carried by 4-1 vote.

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

Discuss Graduation Regalia and Related Policies

Dr. Jiménez Sims expressed concern that New Britain High School still lists students on the graduation program by male/female and separates the groups by gown color at the ceremony. Dr. Sims is requesting that this practice be reconsidered as many other schools are now moving away from this format due in part to Title IX federal law limiting the separation of individuals by gender. Dr. Sims stated that she brought up this issue last year and wanted to make sure that it wasn't overlooked moving forward. She would like to see a plan be put in place to make sure this issue will be addressed in a timely manner with student input. Mr. Mercier stated that it was important that the whole student body is involved and decisions be made freely with attention given to how the topic is brought before the students. Mr. Michael Foran, Assistant Superintendent, agreed to put together a plan with NBHS Principal Damon Pearce outlining a process and timeline ensuring that a variety of students will be involved with the decision making process.

The Policy Subcommittee recommended that policies regarding student privacy, student data, and virtual instruction be considered for review when the need arises.

Closing and Adjournment

Dr. Jiménez Sims motioned to adjourn at 6:12 PM, seconded by Ms. Leja. Motion carried unanimously.