



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Policy Subcommittee Meeting

December 16, 2019 – 5:30 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

Call to Order and Opening

Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Policy Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

Committee Members Present

Ms. Diane Leja, Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly, Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims

CSDNB Staff Present

Mr. Michael Foran, Mr. Damon Pearce, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Ms. Nancy Sarra, Mr. Mark Spalding

New Business

Mr. Mark Spalding, Director of Pupil Services, informed subcommittee members that Ms. Rebecca Adams, an attorney from CABE, has been hired by the district to review the Guiding Principles and the Family Handbook and ensure that the content in both documents is consistent with the law and our Board of Education policies. Ms. Adams will also be reviewing the district policies to make sure that they are up to date. Review of the documents and policies should be completed by January 15, 2020. Mr. Spalding will share any CABE recommendations and findings with subcommittee members when available.

It was recommended that Mr. Spalding will provide Dr. Sanders, Assistant Chief Talent Officer, with policy updates or revisions when they occur so that they can be included in the Talent Update that is emailed weekly to administrators in the district. Administrators will then be able to disseminate this information to their staff at staff meetings.

Old Business

Continue Review of CABE Legislative Updates

Mr. Mercier continued to share information from the CABE/CAPSS Convention workshop he attended regarding recent legislative actions and potential district policy implications. The subcommittee continued review of the following legislative acts:

1. P.A. 19-100: AAC The Inclusion of Instruction in Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Practice in the Preservice Training, Professional Development and In-service Training Provided to Teachers
2. P.A. 19-117: AAC The Implementation of the Budget
3. P.A. 19-120: AAC The Inclusion of Additional Mandated Reporters, the Duration of Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations, Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Checks and the Repeal of Certain Reporting Requirements of the Department of Children and Families
4. P.A. 19-128: AAC Computer Science Instruction in Public Schools

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5. P.A. 19-139: AAC Education Issues
6. P.A. 19-146: AA Requiring the Provision of Information Concerning Domestic Violence Services and Resources to Students, Parents and Guardians
7. P.A. 19-166: AAC School Climates
8. P.A. 19-173: AAC The Inclusion of Additional Time Devoted to Undirected Play to the Regular School Day
9. P.A. 19-179: AAC Homeless Students' Access to Education
10. P.A. 19-184: AAC The Provision of Special Education
11. P.A. 19-195: AAC The Establishment of a Firm Graduation Date

The Policy Subcommittee recommended future review of Policy 4131.00 – Professional Staff Development with regard to the shift in language from “cultural competency” to “culturally responsive pedagogy and practice” in recent legislation (P.A. 19-100).

The Policy Subcommittee recommended future review of Policy 5141.40 - Suspected Abuse/Neglect of Students with regard to the inclusion of additional mandated reporters in recent legislation (P.A. 19-120).

The Policy Subcommittee recommended that the establishment of the NBHS 2020 graduation date be included on the agenda for the next regular Board of Education Meeting.

New Business

Review and approve minutes from the Policy Subcommittee Meeting on November 18, 2019.

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Policy Subcommittee Meeting on November 18, 2019.

Review Policy 4118.11 – Sexual, Racial, or other Unlawful Harassment of Employees

This policy will be reviewed by Ms. Rebecca Adams from CABE to ensure that it is up to date.

Review Policy 0200.00 – Statement of Educational Goals and Objectives

Mr. Mercier recommended that discussion of this policy be included on the agenda for the Board of Education Retreat scheduled for Saturday, January 4, 2020.

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

Mr. Michael Foran, Assistant Superintendent, and Mr. Damon Pearce, New Britain High School Principal, presented recommended changes in graduation requirements that are being proposed beginning with the Class of 2023 in response to changes in state law. The overall credit requirement is increasing to a minimum of twenty-five total credits with the addition of specific requirements in some areas and a general increase in flexibility in other areas. Mr. Pearce would like to finalize approval of these new graduation requirements as soon as possible since it will impact course selection for next year starting in February. It was recommended that the new graduation credit requirements be forwarded to the full Board of Education for approval at the next regular meeting. Revisions to the current board policy regarding graduation requirements will be made at a later date.

Closing and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM.

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