



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting

February 16, 2021 – 6:00 PM | New Britain High School

Call to Order and Opening

Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Policy Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Board Members Present

Mr. Anthony Kane*#, Mr. Joseph Listro*, Mr. Nicholas Mercier*, Ms. Diana Reyes*, Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims*

**Committee member*

Participated remotely

CSDNB Staff Present

Mr. Matthew Cannata, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Dr. Nicole Sanders, Ms. Nancy Sarra, Mr. Mark Spalding

Old Business

Discuss School Uniform/Attire Policy Survey

The Board unanimously approved suspension of the school uniform policy for the 2020-2021 school year at a special meeting on July 28, 2020 due to financial insecurity and other challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Recommendations were also made to discuss the topic with families and the larger community in order to evaluate if any changes to the current policy should be considered. Mr. Matthew Cannata, Manager of Safety and Communications, Mr. Mark Spalding, Director of Pupil Services, and Superintendent Sarra presented a draft plan of their proposal to disseminate information and obtain input from the community regarding the school uniform policy for our students. Sample questions were shared with committee members as well as an explanation of the different methods that would be utilized to educate the public about the issue. Proposed methods include news outlets, social media, and potential Town Halls. Mr. Cannata also shared a timeline of proposed events that would take place prior to the end of the school year.

Additional committee member suggestions included:

- Survey middle school students to see how they feel
- Provide a field on the survey where respondents can give narrative feedback and open-ended answers
- Emphasize efforts to reach every type of family and the typically disengaged in the community
- Provide the survey in multiple languages based on prevalence in the community

The Policy Committee recommended that the district move forward with the steps outlined in the plan and provide an update on their progress at the next Policy Committee Meeting.

New Britain Board of Education

Merrill Gay – President | Nicholas Mercier – Vice President | Violet Jiménez Sims – Secretary

Monica Dawkins | Anthony Kane | Joseph Listro | Annie S. Parker | Diana Reyes | Gayle Sanders-Connolly | Tina Santana

Review and Approve Minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting on January 19, 2021

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting on January 19, 2021.

Ms. Reyes motioned to approve the minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting on January 19, 2021 as submitted, seconded by Dr. Jiménez Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

Review Recommended Revisions to CSDNB Harassment Policies:

- Policy 4118.11 – Prohibition of Harassment (Employees)
- Policy 5145.50 – Prohibition of Harassment (Students)
- Policy 4118.112/4218.112 – Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Personnel)
- Policy 5145.51 – Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) – Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- Elimination of Policy 4118.12/4218.12 – Harassment

Mr. Spalding shared draft copies of revised CSDNB harassment policies as prepared by legal counsel at Shipman & Goodwin, LLP. Revisions were recommended to ensure that the language in the policies is up-to-date and aligned with current local, state, and federal laws. Legal counsel further advised that recommended revisions to the employee and student harassment policies incorporate the Board's general harassment policy (4118.12/4218.12) such that the general harassment policy is no longer necessary.

Mr. Mercier stated that contact information for the Title IX Coordinator would need to be corrected in each policy before going to the full board for approval.

Ms. Reyes motioned that the Board approve revisions to all CSDNB harassment policies (4118.11; 5145.50; 4118.112/4218.112; 5145.51 and 4118.12/4218.12) at their next regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Listro. Motion carried unanimously.

Closing and Adjournment

Dr. Jiménez Sims motioned to adjourn at 6:42PM, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.