



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Regular Meeting

September 8, 2020 - 6:00 PM | New Britain High School

Call to Order and Roll Call

Call to Order

Mr. Merrill Gay, President of the New Britain Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:22 PM.

Board Members Present

Ms. Monica Dawkins, Mr. Merrill Gay, Mr. Anthony Kane, Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Ms. Annie Parker, Ms. Diana Reyes, Ms. Nancy Rodriguez, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly, Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims

Board Members Absent

None

Mr. Gay announced that Ms. Diane Leja had resigned from the New Britain Board of Education.

Public Participation

Ms. Kristianna Smith questioned whether School Resource Officers are contributing to the mental health and safety of our black and brown students. She stated that this is an issue that she hopes the Board of Education will address moving forward.

Reports

The Superintendent's Report is attached.

Consent Agenda

(There were no objections to pull the following items off the Consent Agenda. Therefore, these items were approved):

Operations: Approve Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on August 17, 2020

Submitted by Ms. Kristin Salerni | No Committee Review

Personnel: Accept Report of Personnel Transactions

Submitted by Ms. Heather Barrett | No Committee Review

New Business

Operations: Approve Revised 2020-2021 Districtwide School Calendar

Submitted by Ms. Nancy Sarra | No Committee Review

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve a revised version of the 2020-2021 Districtwide School Calendar, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

New Britain Board of Education

Merrill Gay – President | Nicholas Mercier – Vice President | Violet Jiménez Sims – Secretary
Monica Dawkins | Anthony Kane | Annie S. Parker | Diana Reyes | Nancy Rodriguez | Gayle Sanders-Connolly

Personnel: Approve Contracts of Employment Between Consolidated School District of New Britain and JROTC Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Officers

Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning | No Committee Review | No documents available in packet

Ms. Parker motioned to approve the contracts of employment between the Consolidated School District of New Britain and Mr. John Hinrichs and Mr. Remone Grooms, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Approve New Position Request: 1.0 FTE Pupil Services Specialist Out-of-District Liaison for Roosevelt Campus/Brookside/Slade/Pulaski

Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark | No Committee Review

Due to the high volume of PPT meetings at the middle school, the .6 FTE position at the Roosevelt Campus/Brookside is being converted into a 1.0 FTE position. The additional days added to this position will be split between Slade and Pulaski, one day each, to assist in facilitation of PPT meetings. The cost of this new position would be .4 FTE.

This is a full-time, 10 month position. The estimated cost is \$30,000 and the funding source is local budget.

Mr. Parker motioned to approve the new position request for (1.0) Pupil Services Specialist Out-of-District Liaison for Roosevelt Campus/Brookside/Slade/Pulaski, seconded by Mr. Mercier. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Approve New Position Request: 1.0 FTE Speech/Language Pathologist for Jefferson Elementary School

Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark | No Committee Review

The district presently has one Speech & Language Assistant (SLPA) position. The staff member who was in that position recently resigned. Requesting that the SLPA position be converted into an SLP position to better meet the caseload needs of the district. An SLP can manage a caseload independently, where as an SLPA requires supervision and is not able to conduct evaluations. The SLPA that resigned was compensated on step 4 of the 1186 contract. Step 4 of the SLPA pay schedule is commensurate with step 1 of teachers' contract. Therefore, there is not an anticipated increase in cost at this time.

This is a full-time, 10 month position. There is no anticipated increase in cost at this time and the funding source is local budget.

Ms. Parker motioned to approve the new position request for (1.0) Speech/Language Pathologist for Jefferson Elementary School, seconded by Mr. Mercier. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Approve New Position Request: 4.0 FTE Districtwide Family School Liaisons

Submitted by Ms. Sondra Sanford | No Committee Review

Talent: 4 Full time family school liaisons. Funding for a K-8th Grade Family School Liaison (FSL) to reduce chronic absenteeism in transitioning grades, specifically our Kindergarten population to support families new to the school with virtual and face to face instruction. Focusing on Kindergarten and First Grade. Data shows last year Kindergartens as being one of New Britain's highest chronic cohort. This position will support incoming kindergarteners and the Tier 2 Kinders from last year now entering first grade

This is a full-time, 12 month position. The estimated cost is \$69,500 and the funding source is SIG and Commissioners Network.

Ms. Parker motioned to approve the new position request for (4.0) districtwide Family School Liaisons, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Approve New Position Request: 2.0 FTE Districtwide (Elementary) ESL Teachers

Submitted by Ms. Wanda Lickwar | No Committee Review

In order to maintain social distancing recommendations we had to implement our Hybrid model plan. In this plan students attended school 2 days live and 3 days virtual. Due to language deficiencies, we offered newcomer ELs the option to attend 4 days per week live. Extra classrooms had to be created to support these students while still following social distance guidelines.

This is a full-time, 10 month position. The estimated cost is \$150,000 and the funding source is CARES Grant.

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Monica Dawkins | Anthony Kane | Annie S. Parker | Diana Reyes | Nancy Rodriguez | Gayle Sanders-Connolly

Ms. Parker motioned to approve the new position request for (2.0) districtwide (elementary) ESL Teachers, seconded by Mr. Mercier. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Approve New Position Request: 1.0 FTE Manager of Security for NBHS/Districtwide

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Kane | No Committee Review

The person in this position manages and monitors district security services at all school buildings.

This is a full-time, 12 month position. The estimated cost is \$96,792 and the funding source is local budget.

Ms. Parker motioned to approve the new position request for (1.0) Manager of Security, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. All were in favor with the exception of Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried by 8-1 vote.

Personnel: Approve New Position Request: 0.4 FTE Strings Teacher for DiLoreto (MS) & HALS Academy (MS)

Submitted by Ms. Leona Clerkin | No Committee Review

Due to the pandemic, our Orchestra / strings teacher who normally is split between NBHS / DiLoreto MS / HALS MS, will need to work all 5 days at NBHS to meet the needs of the hybrid schedule which has left a vacancy at both HALS and DiLoreto. This .4 increase will allow strings / orchestra to continue at both middle schools without interruption.

This is a part-time, 10 month position. The estimated cost is \$37,412 and the funding source is local budget.

Ms. Parker motioned to approve the new position request for (0.4) Strings Teacher for DiLoreto (MS) and HALS Academy (MS), seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Motion carried unanimously.

Partnerships: Approve Contract/Agreement Between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Arts for Learning Connecticut (AFLCT) (\$31,000.00)

Submitted by Ms. Danielle Singleton | No Committee Review | Funding Source: Budget line item 101090223200-53340

The KEY Program at Gaffney School demonstrated benefits from exposure to the Arts provided by a Community Partner last year. This also solved personnel issues and a cost savings by serving as the student's specials classes. This year, the community Arts program will serve the same purposes for trimester 1 and will eliminate the need to hire an additional special's teacher for the district.

The total is \$31,000.00 and the funding source is Superintendent's Budget line item 101090223200-53340.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the Contract/Agreement between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Arts for Learning Connecticut (AFLCT) in the amount of \$31,000.00, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance: Approve Contract/Agreement Between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Capital Region Education Council (CREC) (\$25,000.00)

Submitted by Ms. Karen Falvey | No Committee Review | Funding Source: SIG Grant

Contract with CREC for an Instructional Coach for NBU planning purposes for Trimester One: The coach will be specifically for Domain 2. We will be front loading the staff with support in dissecting Domain 2 and learning to effectively and efficiently plan using the new curriculum as well as keeping in mind student centered learning, higher order questions and differentiation. She will support planning with technical support and the use of platforms for effective planning. She will engage staff in deep learning for effective planning and to ensure alignment of instructional and assessment resources. She will work the Plan, Do Study, ACT model into effective planning weekly.

The total is \$25,000.00 and the funding source is SIG Grant.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the Contract/Agreement between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Capital Region Education Council (CREC) in the amount of \$25,000.00, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion carried unanimously.

New Britain Board of Education

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Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for Installation of Operable Windows at Smalley Elementary School (\$330,800.00)

Submitted by Ms. Helen Talalaj | No Committee Review | Funding Source: Local Budget 101001226000-57969

Our most recent Renovation as New Project for Smalley Elementary currently does not have any operable windows. In light of the COVID19 pandemic it is now being recommended that schools have at least one operable window per classroom.

The total is \$330,800.00 and the funding source is local budget 101001226000-57969.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the purchase order and bid waiver for installation of operable windows at Smalley Elementary School in the amount of \$330,800.00, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. All were in favor with the exception of Ms. Sanders-Connolly and Dr. Jiménez Sims. Motion carried by 7-2 vote.

Operations: Approve Budget Transfer for Replacement Windows at Smalley Elementary School (\$330,800.00)

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Kane | No Committee Review

Below is a budget transfer for Board consideration and approval to fund \$330,800 for the replacement of windows at Smalley Elementary School:

Budget Unit	Account	Department	Description	From	To
101001226000	57969	Smalley School	Facilities Improvement		\$330,800
101096929000	52101	District Wide	Health Insurance	\$330,800	
Total				\$330,800	\$330,800

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve budget transfer for replacement windows at Smalley Elementary School in the amount of \$330,800.00, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. All were in favor with the exception of Ms. Sanders-Connolly and Dr. Jiménez Sims. Motion carried by 7-2 vote.

Finance: Approve Finance Report and Budget Transfers – June 30, 2020

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Kane | No Committee Review

The Financial Report ending June 30, 2020 was presented.

Mr. Mercier motioned to accept the Finance Report and approve budget transfers for fiscal year 2020 budget, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Closing and Adjournment

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to adjourn at 7:28 PM, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion carried unanimously.



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Facilities/Ventilation (Dion)

- Exhaust Fans 100% in all classrooms and in all bathrooms
 - Remaining work: Pulaski & Slade gymnasium & cafeteria exhaust fans need repair)
 - Holmes 3 motors
- Rooftop Units - 100% all buildings. Can open up damper overrides through the Energy Management System
- MERV 8 - all spray tac - this meets the SDE & DPH criteria; MERV 13 filters at Smalley. MERV 11 filters with spray tac will be replacing MERV 8s as needed throughout the year
- 30 UV arriving Wednesday, will be installing 15 UV units at Smalley
- Paper Towel dispensers - installation began today, all buildings have COVID Supplies

Staffing Update (Manning/Spalding)

All Special Education teacher vacancies are filled with substitutes:

- NBHS (3)
- Pulaski (2)
- Slade (1)

18 vacancies but not as concerned about immediate fill due to numbers of students onsite daily.

- Conducting interviews of qualified candidates
- Personnel and Talent Office planning a virtual paraeducator recruitment fair

Teacher Vacancies

Lincoln	STEAM
Vance	Art
Slade	CTE Manufacturing (holding exiting teacher until 9/25)
Slade	Social Studies (holding exiting teacher until 9/25)



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Back to School Survey Results (Cannata)

At our last Board meeting on August 17, we had an approximate 50% response rate on our Back to School Survey. Since then, we have pushed this survey to families at both the district and school levels. As of this morning (September 8), we now have just over a 70% response rate from families. All data has been filtered and shared with all schools so they can input into PowerSchool. For families who identified as not having Wi-Fi access, schools are contacting them to help get them signed up for internet access.

Question/Response	Number of Students
Participate in remote learning	3,641
Participate in the hybrid model	3,431
Be withdrawn from CSDNB	118
Need bus transportation to school	2,614
Need bus transportation home after school	2,331
Will not need bus transportation	4,473
Yes, we will need care before school	398
Yes, we will need care during school	356
Yes, we will need care after school	663
We do not need care	6,376
Do you have Wi-Fi?	Yes: 4,238 No: 181

Remote Child Care (Sanford)

[Click here to view the spreadsheet.](#)



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Connectivity for Families (Prokop)

We have signed up for and have the Internet Essential Program through Comcast ready. Families can work with the schools to determine if they are eligible to participate. According to the survey, 930 students are reporting no internet, and families are being contacted for follow up. At this point, 72 families are now participating in the Internet Essential Program, and 186 have declined as they already have internet.

We have received additional "MiFi" devices through the state program. Will be used for situations where Comcast Internet Essentials will not work. We have given out one Kajeet MiFi Device for this purpose so far.

Work for boosting Wi-Fi is underway in New Britain Public Library as well as the Boys and Girls Club. We are trying to use our portable car Wi-Fi units as a band aid until the permanent solution goes online. We will continue to work with Community Service Providers to make sure they are able to support our students in remote learning.

Preschool Update (Turcotte)

Currently, the following students are registered in PK according to PowerSchool.

RELC		GAFFNEY		GAFFNEY KEY	
122	4 year olds	48	4 year olds	37	4 year olds
29	3 year olds	8	3 year olds	7	3 year olds

Our plan to fill our slots and increase enrollment by the end of the month is the following:

- We have created a flyer in Spanish and English (attached) to be placed in the following areas:
 - Central Registration, Elementary School Buildings, email blast to CSDNB network, New Britain Public Library, CCSU Library, NB DCF office, DMV, Wheeler Clinic, Klingberg, Dental Offices.
- Terry and Danielle will be meeting with Central Registration on Wednesday, Sept. 9 to develop a plan as to what her staff will need to complete contracts and fill slots within the next 3 weeks. We will develop a timeline and task line.



Superintendent's Report

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- RELC staff will be calling parents of Special Education students who have not completed their paperwork with Central Registration and asking them to make an appointment to complete within the next 2 weeks.
- Post on Social Media. Look into possible paid boosts.
- Work with Matt Cannata on best SEO practices for those who are searching for preschool in New Britain.
- PK Banners to be placed at Elementary Schools

Fall Sports/Football (Corto)

The Connecticut DPH and the CIAC have **not** come to an agreement on allowing 11vs11 tackle High School football in CT. The CIAC is working on some alternate plans for high school football teams. This includes:

- 7 vs 7 passing tournaments
- Lineman skill challenges
- Combine skill activities for all positions that college coaches could attend and observe
- Weight lifting competition