



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

### New Britain Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting

September 21, 2020 – 5:30 PM | New Britain High School

#### Call to Order and Opening

Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Policy Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM.

#### Board Members Present

Mr. Nicholas Mercier\*, Ms. Diana Reyes\*, Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims\*#

\*Committee members  
#Participated remotely

#### CSDNB Staff Present

Mr. Michael Foran, Ms. Maryellen Manning, Mr. Jason Miramant, Mr. Damon Pearce, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Dr. Nicole Sanders, Ms. Nancy Sarra, Mr. Mark Spalding

#### New Business

#### Review and Approve Minutes from the Special Policy Committee Meeting on July 20, 2020

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Special Policy Committee Meeting on July 20, 2020.

***Ms. Reyes motioned to approve the minutes from the Special Policy Committee Meeting on July 20, 2020 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Mercier. Motion carried unanimously.***

#### Review Policy 6146.20 – Graduation Requirements for Class of 2021

Mr. Damon Pearce, New Britain High School Principal, and Mr. Michael Foran, Assistant Superintendent, presented recommended changes in graduation requirements exclusively for the Class of 2021. Mr. Pearce explained that proposed changes include removal of the Capstone requirement and credit and elimination of Section II “District Performance Standards.” These changes are a result of the scheduling challenges of the hybrid instructional model, limited contact time with students, and uncertainties regarding the standardized assessments. Mr. Mercier recommended striking Section III “Options if Requirements Are Not Met” and Section IV “Exemptions” from the policy as well as they are related to the District Performance Standards. Mr. Mercier and Dr. Jiménez Sims expressed concern with the removal of Section D of the District Performance Standards which addresses SSPs (Student Success Plans) and College and Career Readiness (CCR). Mr. Mercier recommended that Mr. Pearce and Mr. Foran keep language in the policy which will ensure that senior students will still meet with counselors in order to receive guidance and preparation for their post-graduation transitions.

The Policy Committee recommended that the final version of the revised graduation requirements for the Class of 2021 be forwarded to the full Board of Education for approval at the next regular meeting.

#### 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

## **Review CSDNB Remote Learning Expectations**

Mr. Mark Spalding, Director of Pupil Services, explained the importance of considering the adoption of a new policy to address student and parent/guardian behavior during live remote instruction. Recent inappropriate behavior has highlighted the need for parent/guardian guidance regarding online interaction. Mr. Spalding stated that he shared the Remote Learning Expectations document and district's current harassment policy with legal counsel and requested a draft of a possible policy.

Superintendent Sarra emphasized the need for guidelines and expectations that will explain the rules of etiquette on Google Meets and inform parents/guardians of more appropriate and respectful ways to express their concerns.

The Policy Committee recommended that Mr. Spalding provide the full Board of Education with a short presentation of the district's Remote Learning Expectations after getting feedback from legal counsel, state guidance, and other school districts. The adoption of an actual board policy was not recommended at this time.

## **Review and Discuss Adoption of Shipman & Goodwin Policies Regarding Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment per New Title IX Regulations Effective August 2020**

Ms. Maryellen Manning, Director of Personnel and Talent Development, recommended the adoption of a new stand-alone sex discrimination and sexual harassment policy in light of new Title IX regulations that recently went into effect. She shared proposed sample policies from Shipman & Goodwin, LLP for personnel (series 4000) and students (series 5000). Ms. Manning introduced the administrators that will be assigned Title IX roles relative to this policy:

Title IX Coordinators: Ms. Maryellen Manning (Staff) / Mr. Mark Spalding (Students)

Investigators: Ms. Maryellen Manning / Dr. Nicole Sanders (Staff)

Investigators: Mr. Mark Spalding / Mr. Jason Miramant (Students)

Ms. Manning also stated that she intends to look at our current Title IX policy and see if it needs any revisions and updates.

Mr. Mercier and Dr. Jiménez Sims agreed that any other district Title IX policies should be reviewed and revised promptly to avoid any duplication or overlap between existing policies. For clarity, Mr. Mercier recommended adding language to the new policy stating that "this is the district's governing policy with regard to sexual harassment..."

The Policy Committee recommended that the final versions of the proposed policies regarding the prohibition of sex discrimination and sexual harassment for personnel and students be forwarded to the full Board of Education for action.

## **Closing and Adjournment**

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

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### **New Britain Board of Education**

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