



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting

October 19, 2020– 5:30 PM | New Britain High School

Call to Order and Opening

Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims, Curriculum Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

Board Members Present

Mr. Merrill Gay, Mr. Joseph Listro*, Mr. Nicholas Mercier*, Ms. Diana Reyes*, Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims*

**Committee members*

CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Ms. Rolanda Booker, Ms. Marisa Cartiera, Ms. Karen Falvey, Ms. Michele Kushman, Ms. Wanda Lickwar, Ms. Natasha Robinson, Ms. Yvette Rosario, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Ms. Nancy Sarra

New Business

Review and Approve Minutes from the Special Curriculum and Finance Committees Meeting on September 28, 2020

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Special Curriculum and Finance Committees Meeting on September 28, 2020.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the minutes from the Special Curriculum and Finance Committees Meeting on September 28, 2020 as submitted, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

Review Monthly EdAdvance Report

Ms. Lara Bohlke, District Coordinator of Curriculum for Grades 6-12, and Ms. Amy Anderson, District Coordinator of PK-5 Curriculum, shared a link to the Monthly EdAdvance Report with committee members. Ms. Bohlke and Ms. Anderson highlighted some of the actions and accomplishments from September 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020. Dr. Jiménez Sims questioned how educators and administrators are being prepared to deliver culturally responsive instruction to students. Superintendent Sarra recommended that Dr. Nicole Sanders, Senior Equity and Talent Officer, attend the next Curriculum Meeting in order to present the districtwide plan for bias and culturally responsive training for this year and the years to come. Ms. Rolanda Booker, Northend Elementary School Principal, spoke briefly about the culturally responsive training work at Northend, Chamberlain, and Smalley Elementary Schools. Ms. Natasha Robinson, Northend Elementary School Instructional Coach, also emphasized the importance of looking at ways to bring diversity and inclusion into the curriculum including the intentional use of literature that students can identify with.

Share and Discuss K-2 and 3-5 Readiness Units

Ms. Bohlke and Ms. Anderson brought forward the K-2 and 3-5 Readiness Units for review by committee members. Board members were provided with the link to view the Readiness Units as well as hard copies of the How-To Guides and At-A-Glance documents for both units. The following administrators and staff from Smith and Northend Elementary Schools spoke to their experiences rolling out the Readiness Units in their respective buildings:

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 | Nancy Rodriguez | Gayle Sanders-Connolly

Smith Elementary

- Ms. Karen Falvey, Principal
- Ms. Michele Kushman, Assistant Principal
- Ms. Yvette Rosario, Instructional Coach

Northend Elementary

- Ms. Rolanda Booker, Principal
- Ms. Natasha Robinson, Instructional Coach

Addition to Agenda

Mr. Mercier motioned to add discussion of a purchase order for the World Language Program to the agenda, seconded by Mr. Gay. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wanda Lickwar, District Coordinator of Language Acquisition, and Ms. Marisa Cartiera, New Britain High School ESL Teacher, spoke to committee members about the need for supplemental resources for two additional courses being offered to our Spanish-speaking students at the high school. Spanish for Spanish Speakers (course #332) and Spanish for Heritage Speakers (course #328) were added to the NBHS World Language Program to not only help increase the number of students who qualify and receive the CT Seal of Biliteracy but also to acknowledge, promote, and support the linguistic diversity of CSDNB. Ms. Lickwar and Ms. Cartiera recommended purchasing textbooks and online resources from Vista Higher Learning after researching many other options. They determined that Vista Higher Learning offers textbooks (Imagina and Senderos) that are in clear alignment with our mission, Profile of the Graduate and ACTFL Standards. Moreover, these standards are what the CT Seal of Biliteracy AAPPL assessment and accompanying rubrics are based on.

Upon recommendation of Mr. Gay, Superintendent Sarra stated that she would put the topic of the possible addition of Arabic courses to our World Language Program on the agenda for a future Cabinet Meeting.

Dr. Jiménez Sims expressed concern with equity across departments specifically citing the outdated materials being used in all of the other Spanish courses. The Curriculum Committee recommended that Ms. Lickwar and Ms. Cartiera expand the scope of their purchase from Vista to include materials for the other courses including those for monolingual students. It was further recommended that a revised board memo, including quotes for these additional purchases, be submitted to the Finance Committee for review at their next meeting on October 26, 2020.

It was further recommended that Policy 6141.00 – Curriculum Development be referred to the Policy Committee for review at their next meeting.

Closing and Adjournment

Mr. Mercier motioned to adjourn at 6:55 PM, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

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