



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting

November 16, 2020 - 7:00 PM | New Britain High School

Call to Order and Opening

Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims, Curriculum Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:26 PM.

Board Members Present

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

**Committee members*

CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Amy Anderson, Mr. Christopher Badenhop, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Ms. Virginia Brown, Ms. Kimberlee Ciccarillo, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, Ms. Maryellen Manning, Mr. Jason Miramant, Ms. Majedah Nassir, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Dr. Nicole Sanders, Ms. Nancy Sarra, Ms. Keina Small

New Business

Review and Approve Minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on October 19, 2020

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on October 19, 2020.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on October 19, 2020 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Listro. Motion carried unanimously.

Accept 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. Committee members reviewed actions, accomplishments, and next steps for the month of October.

Presentation: Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Becoming a Culturally and Linguistically Responsive School System

Dr. Nicole Sanders, Senior Equity and Talent Officer, presented a slideshow of the work that is being done in the district to advance systemic racial equity in our schools including a draft of the CSDNB JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) Equity Plan for the next four school years (2020-2024). The presentation is attached.

Dr. Sanders introduced and was joined by the other members of the District Equity Leadership Team (DELT):

- Virginia Brown, Administrative Assistant at NBHS
- Kimberlee Ciccarillo, Fourth Grade Teacher at Jefferson
- Paulette Fox, OIC Executive Director
- Majedah Nassir, Family Support Liaison

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- Maria Sanchez, American Savings Foundation
- Keina Small, Speech and Language Pathologist at Lincoln Elementary School
- John Miramant, Principal Brookside

Mr. Miramant, Ms. Fox, and Ms. Brown spoke to their experiences and the work that DELT has been doing to build capacity through professional learning seminars and intersession meetings with SERC coaches and other district focus groups.

Additions to Agenda

Discuss Professional Development Book Study for Administrators

Dr. Nicole Sanders spoke to committee members about a virtual professional development book study for administrators to enhance their cultural competence necessary to promote a learning environment that is responsive to the cultural and linguistic needs of our diverse student population. Dr. Rebecca Good will facilitate sessions using the mentor text *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X Kendi.

Dr. Jiménez Sims requested that the contract by and between the Consolidated School District of New Britain and Global Education and Beyond, LLC be updated to reflect the inclusion of the book *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram Xolani Kendi in the leadership and coaching sessions (Section #2 of the Services to be Rendered by Consultant) prior to review by the Finance Committee on November 23, 2020.

Discuss Executive Function and Social/Emotional Training for School Readiness Classrooms

Mr. Christopher Badenhop, School Readiness Liaison, spoke to committee members about incorporating executive function and social/emotional training for staff in order to enhance the skillsets of the children we serve.

It connects to the District Strategic Plan in the following ways:

- 1 - "Culture and Climate" - it helps to increase student engagement through instructional strategies and SLO's focused on social and emotional learning; decrease any suspensions/expulsions
- 2 - "Academics" - helps to improve the % of children "on track" at the end of Preschool, across disaggregated groups of students
- 3 - "Talent Development" - the training seeks to improve employee engagement, with the children, as well as their skillsets, in both classroom management and working with children with behavior concerns

These training and coaching endeavors will build up executive function skills in our youngest children, in order to enhance their learning capabilities for years to come. Thirty of our forty School Readiness classrooms have started this training and Mr. Badenhop would like to bring in four to six of the other ten classrooms, throughout the community, and provide them with training, coaching, and professional development (virtual).

Curriculum Committee members requested that Mr. Badenhop share data the district has related to the executive function skills of our preschoolers.

New Business

Discuss Academic Purchase Orders

Ms. Lara Bohlke spoke briefly about the following purchase orders for the Academics Department:

Mystery Science

Mystery Science features multimedia STEAM-related units for K-5 and includes Spanish transcripts for full lessons which allow teachers to narrate the video in Spanish. Each lesson starts by posing a question commonly asked by kids, like "Do plants eat dirt?" or "Why are so many toys made out of plastic?" A series of short videos and prompts then guides a class discussion, followed by an experiment that can be done as a class. Lessons cover a wide range of topics, including light and sound,

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biodiversity, engineering, and the water cycle. The resource is high interest and encourages inquiry, problem-solving and critical-thinking, strongly aligning to our Portrait of a CSDNB Graduate characteristics. Mystery Science is intended as support material for K-5 STEAM units in the age of hybrid learning.

Renewed K-5 ELA Curriculum

The 2020-2021 school year marked the implementation of the first of our Renewed curriculum in ELA at the K-5 levels. As part of the implementation of these renewed units, support texts and resources that support students' understanding of the standards through a culturally responsive lens (using mirrors, windows and sliding glass doors) is essential. These collections that include mentor, demonstration, read-aloud and shared texts will be stored in school libraries and be available to classroom teachers as they implement their renewed ELA units. Purchases will continue as units are released so that, by the end of school year 2020-2021, our collections will be complete and teachers will have a variety of diverse support texts from which to choose to address the needs of the students within their classroom. Titles include Spanish and Arabic where available.

Ms. Bohlke stated that she will be amending the purchase order to include books from Unit 3 prior to review by the Finance Committee on November 23, 2020.

TitleEZ Subscriptions

In an effort to keep our libraries equipped with the most current in leveled resources for the variety of student interests throughout our buildings, we are purchasing TitleEZ subscriptions. These subscriptions have been purchased in the past and have been very well-received by students. Titles are selected to build a love of reading as well as providing students with engaging and diverse, curriculum-focused topics, resources that enhance the collection, and are tailored to each level. Breakdown is as follows:

-RELC - Early Childhood Subscription

+includes basic, SEL, Science and Global Issues

+4 books/month

-Elementary - Lower and Upper Elementary Titles Subscription

+Includes starred reviews, picture books and easy readers, chapter books, science, math, social studies, sports and ebooks.

+11 books/month

-Middle School Subscription

+Includes starred reviews, science, math, social studies, great reads and ebooks

+6 books/month

-High School Subscription (2 subscriptions to get 2 selections from each category/month)

+Includes starred reviews, realistic fiction, speculative fiction, history, current events, social issues and careers and ebooks

+12 books/month

LEGO® Education SPIKE™ Prime Set

In order to ensure our students have access to opportunities to experiment and innovate with design and structure, the STEAM initiative has partnered with LEGO Education a number of times during this first three years of implementation. A consultant has both facilitated the purchase of materials as well as coordinated professional development for staff at no additional cost to the district.

The LEGO® Education SPIKE™ Prime Set is the newest STEAM learning tool for grade 6-8 students. Combining colorful LEGO building elements, easy-to-use hardware, and an intuitive drag-and-drop coding language based on Scratch, SPIKE Prime continuously engages students through playful learning activities to think critically and solve complex problems, regardless of their learning level. From easy-entry projects to limitless creative design possibilities, including the option to explore text-based coding with Python, SPIKE Prime helps students learn the essential STEAM and 21st century skills needed to become the innovative minds of tomorrow while having fun. These real-world lessons will be integrated into existing curriculum and incorporated into emerging curriculum.

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Each class set includes 14 complete robot sets and 28 personal learning kits. The take home kits allow students to continue their robotics lessons if they are learning from home. The addition of SPIKE robots to the DiLoreto STEAM program will provide access on par with the LEGO robotics curriculum at Slade and Pulaski.

Padlet

Padlet provides teachers and students with a tool to collaborate virtually through their Seesaw or Google Classrooms.

The Padlet platform allows teachers to make any question, image, or statement interactive so every student can participate right from their own device. Rooted in student engagement, Padlet maximizes active learning and provides tools for synchronous and asynchronous lessons. Padlet can be used whether we are in-person, in a blended learning (hybrid) environment, or fully using remote learning. Padlet supports the development of students as independent learners who can express voice and choice for a more personalized learning experience. Teachers have been using Padlet as an educational tool since January 2020. The free version limits each teacher to three Padlets, while the paid-for version allows for unlimited Padlets per teacher and student, allowing educators to create and share Padlets among all their classes or across content areas.

Padlet offers the following:

- +Interactive collaboration with teachers and students.
- +Google login - usernames show up on Padlet (free version is anonymous)
- +Student accounts free with paid accounts
- +Unlimited number of student/teacher Padlets.
- +Add posts with one click, copy-paste, or drag and drop
- +Works the way your mind works - with sight, sound, and touch
- +Changes are autosaved
- +Simple link sharing allows for quick collaboration
- + Available in 29 languages, with more being added
- +Collaborate on padlets from around the globe
- +Working towards greater accessibility every day
- +Work with unlimited contributors
- +Give read-only, writing, moderator, or admin access; revoke at any time
- +Watch updates appear instantly across devices
- +Allow others to remake your work to use as a template
- +Upload files from your computer, take a picture or video from your phone, or link from the web
- +Post images, documents, videos, music, and files from Photoshop, Illustrator, Autocad, and more
- +Embed content from anywhere on the web, including YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, Vimeo, The New York Times, and 400 other apps
- +Attached links and files will appear with a contextual preview to give viewers a hint of what you're showing them
- +Available on iOS (iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch), Android, and Kindle devices
- +Posts appear instantly across devices
- +Take photos and scan QR codes from within each app
- +Stellar app ratings
- +Beautiful attachment previews (rather than boring links) show off the content you want to share
- +Colorful wallpaper choices range from cute animations to professional wood, cork, or chalkboard
- +Pick a theme that fits your writing sensibility, from comic-book to typewriter
- +Gorgeous typography to bring out the blogger in you
- +Choose from five options: Public, Secret, Password Protected, Totally Private, and Organization-Wide
- +From each option, choose who can view, write on, or moderate your padlets
- +Premium users enjoy an organization-wide internal network separate from the rest of Padlet
- +Publish your work to the world when you are ready
- +3 vastly different layouts that convey information as a square board, a feed of information, or as an open canvas
- +Utilize wallpapers as organization tools, from a Venn Diagram, to KWL chart, to a calendar, to a To-Do list
- +Use as a publishing tool or private notes app, thanks to comprehensive privacy options
- +Supports minimalists and maximalists alike
- +From sticky notes to essays, encompasses all types of writing

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- +Choose a custom link address that's easy to remember, then just copy and paste!
- +Export as PDF, CSV, Image, or Excel File
- +Gorgeous social previews for Twitter, Facebook, Slack, and Padlet itself
- +Embed padlets on your website or blog
- +Find your padlets and padlets you've contributed to from your dashboard
- +Search for padlets on specific topics
- +Make your own padlets discoverable by adding searchable tags
- +Start from a gallery of premade templates or remake any padlet you admire to use as your own
- +Connect with other Padlet users via community features
- +Personalized assistance that goes above and beyond the norm
- +Round the clock support available

Closing and Adjournment

Mr. Mercier motioned to adjourn at 8:27 PM, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

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