



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

**New Britain Board of Education  
Special Curriculum and Finance Committees Meeting**

September 28, 2020 – 6:15 PM | New Britain High School

**Call to Order and Opening**

Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims, Curriculum Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

**Board Members Present**

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

**CSDNB Staff Present**

Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Ms. Donna Clark, Ms. Leona Clerkin, Mr. Kevin Dion, Ms. Andrea Foligno, Mr. Michael Foran, Mr. Kevin Kane, Ms. Ryan Langer, Ms. Wanda Lickwar, Mr. Alejandro Ortiz, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Ms. Sondra Sanford, Ms. Nancy Sarra, Ms. Karen Soccodato, Mr. Todd Verdi

**New Business**

Dr. Jiménez Sims requested to move Item C (Digital Arts Curriculum Presentation) to the end of the agenda.

**EdAdvance Presentation**

Mr. Jonathan Costa, EdAdvance Assistant Executive Director, provided committee members with an update on the New Britain Curriculum Renewal Project. The presentation is attached. Board members were also provided with copies of the Grades 3-5 Readiness Unit and a compilation of monthly highlights from September 2019 – August 2020.

Dr. Jiménez Sims requested that the monthly reports of EdAdvance Actions and Accomplishments be made available for review at Curriculum Committee Meetings moving forward.

**Academics: Approve Purchase Order for Curriculum Renewal and Professional Learning Project by EdAdvance for 2020-2021 (\$1,716,524.00)**

Submitted by Ms. Lara Bohlke | Funding Source: Commissioner's Network Funds for Smalley (\$499,579.00), Pulaski (\$406,022.00), Slade (\$535,923.00) and NBHS (\$275,000.00). Commissioner's Network: Professional Services: Line 300 Commissioner's Network for NBHS, Smalley, Pulaski and Slade, Line 300: NBHS – 2345 061 10001 53320 Smalley - 2346 012 10001 53320 Pulaski - 2347 053 10001 53320 Slade – 2348 052 10001 53320

To assist the New Britain Public Schools in the development of a high quality PreK - 12 curriculum that will support New Britain's instructional staff in the consistent delivery of inclusive, comprehensive core curriculum units. These units, aligned to CSDNB's Profile of the Graduate, to all include research-based effective, culturally responsive instructional strategies, aligned assessments, and research-based interventions that will ultimately improve students' mastery of the essential standards of the selected subject areas.

The total is \$1,716,524.00 and the funding source is Commissioner's Network Funds for Smalley (\$499,579.00), Pulaski (\$406,022.00), Slade (\$535,923.00) and NBHS (\$275,000.00). Commissioner's Network: Professional Services: Line 300

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Commissioner's Network for NBHS, Smalley, Pulaski and Slade, Line 300: NBHS – 2345 061 10001 53320 Smalley – 2346 012 10001 53320 Pulaski – 2347 053 10001 53320 Slade – 2348 052 10001 53320.

***Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to add this item to the Board's agenda for the next regular meeting in October. Motion carried unanimously.***

**Review and Approve Minutes from Curriculum Committee Meeting on June 15, 2020**

There were no recommended changes to the Curriculum Committee minutes from June 15, 2020.

***Mr. Mercier motioned to approve the minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on June 15, 2020 as submitted, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.***

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***Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to add the following six items to the Board's Consent Agenda for the next regular meeting in October:***

**Finance: Approve Bid Waiver for Sound Absorbing Mats and Freestanding Panels for DiLoreto and Jefferson Schools (\$10,700.00)**

Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark | Funding Source: IDEA Grant 611 202096912002-56110

Our District strategic plan states that we demonstrate safe, effective and efficient operations that create an environment that promotes and supports staff and student engagement. Jefferson and DiLoreto have students with hearing disabilities within the general education environment. Sound absorbing mats and freestanding panels are required accommodations needed to create an environment conducive for learning for all students within these classrooms.

The total is \$10,700.00 and the funding source is IDEA Grant IDEA 611 202096912002 56110.

**Finance: Approve Purchase Order, Bid Waiver, and Contract Between New Britain School District and Alive Schools, LLC for Socioemotional Services to Students at DiLoreto Elementary School (\$27,256.81)**

Submitted by Mr. Alejandro Ortiz | Funding Source: School Improvement Grant (SIG) 300

To implement the Miss Kendra Program at DiLoreto Elementary School with the purpose to preventatively address the toxic stress of students, leading to reductions in the need for disciplinary measures, and improvements in measures of academic performance. This collaboration arises from the mutual desire on the part of Alive Schools LLC and DiLoreto to attend to the socioemotional needs of DiLoreto elementary school students who may have been or are continuing to experience high levels of stress and/or trauma.

The total is \$27,256.81 and the funding source is School Improvement Grant (SIG) 300.

**Finance: Approve Purchase Order, Bid Waiver, and Contract Between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Global Education & Beyond, LLC for Services/Professional Development in Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices for DiLoreto Elementary & Middle School Educators and Staff (\$24,000.00)**

Submitted by Mr. Alejandro Ortiz | Funding Source: School Improvement Grant (SIG) 300

Professional Development for our staff to help build their understanding of being Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Educators. These foundational workshops are the initial steps of supporting our staff with the necessary background in building Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices. Topics that will be covered are Understanding Bias, Microaggressions, Culture of Power in Education, Privilege Dynamics in the Classroom, LGBTQIA+, Anti-Racism, and Culturally Responsive Pedagogy.

The workshops will be held from 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM for 80-85 educators and staff from DiLoreto Elementary & Middle School on the following dates:

- Wednesday, October 7th
- Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, December 2nd

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Wednesday, January 20th  
Wednesday, February 10th  
Wednesday, March 3rd  
Wednesday, April 7th  
Wednesday, May 5th

The total is \$24,000.00 and the funding source is School Improvement Grant (SIG) 300.

**Academics: Approve Purchase Order, Bid Waiver, and Contract Between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Global Education & Beyond, LLC for Services/Professional Development in Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices for Smalley, Northend and Chamberlain Elementary Educators and Staff and Participating Administrators (\$57,000.00)**

Submitted by Ms. Andrea Foligno | Funding Source: Smalley SIG Grant 204801210001-53320

Dr. Good: Culturally Responsive Professional Development Teaching & Practices Workshops: Leadership and Teacher trainings designed to ensure that staff understand student engagement with an emphasis on a teaching and learning environment that creates greater assurances for underrepresented students to engage in the learning. Our Leadership Team and Teachers will be engaged in deep learning of the CCT Rubric, its alignment to creating a student-centered learning environment in both a live a virtual platform setting. Teachers and administrators will participate in analysis of feedback that moves the needle on improved instructional practices and student achievement.

The total is \$57,000 and the funding source is Smalley's SIG Grant 204801210001-53320.

**Academics: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for Services Rendered by School Climate Consultants, LLC for Faculty, Staff, and Students at Smalley Elementary School (\$65,000.00)**

Submitted by Ms. Andrea Foligno | Funding Source: Smalley Commissioners Network Grant 234601210001-53320

Staff professional development in becoming a restorative school to build and/or strengthen relationships with students & families to enhance school climate and culture. Professional development will include School Climate, Restorative Practices & Understanding Trauma/Adversity. Parent/community forums -A monthly series of presentations will be provided in the following areas: Bullying, School Climate, Restorative Practices, Adverse Childhood Experiences/Toxic Stress/Trauma, Working and Communicating Successfully with Schools and/or any combination to assist family members to understand the restorative philosophy that is being implemented in the school.

The total is \$65,000 and the funding source is Smalley's Commissioners Network Grant 234601210001-53320.

**Partnerships: Approve Purchase Order, Bid Waiver, and Contract Between Consolidated School District of New Britain and The Ana Grace Project for Services Rendered to Chamberlain, DiLoreto, Gaffney, Holmes, Jefferson, Lincoln, Northend, Smalley, Smith, Vance and NBTC (\$90,000.00)**

Submitted by Ms. Ryan Langer | Funding Source: Title IV Grant Unknown

The Ana Grace Project will continue to promote connection and community for students and families by providing a number of opportunities to 11 CSDNB Love Wins Schools during the 2020-2021 school year. (Chamberlain, DiLoreto, Gaffney, Holmes, Jefferson, Lincoln, Northend, Smalley, Smith, Vance, NBTC). These opportunities include, but are not limited to, clinical services provided by Klingberg Family Center, classroom support services, professional development as needed and college and career exposure. All services may be delivered virtually pending impact from the COVID pandemic. This program has been growing in New Britain since 2014. Last year, The Ana Grace Project provided over 2,150 hours of clinical services for CSDNB students based on 134 referrals. In addition, AGP provided over 500 hours of additional services including consultation, crisis response and group work.

The total is \$90,000 and the funding source is Title IV Grant Unknown.

***Motion carried unanimously.***

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## **Digital Arts 1 Curriculum Presentation / Approval**

Ms. Leona Clerkin, Coordinator of Fine Arts, Gifted and Talented, provided an overview of the Digital Arts course and curriculum. This high school course was originally presented to committee members at the Curriculum Committee Meeting on December 16, 2019. Digital Arts students will receive instruction from an art teacher while utilizing tablets and styluses to create art using a computer software program. Students will digitally illustrate, paint, draw, and manipulate photography to create works of art, which are relevant skills in today's art society. New Britain High School Art Teacher, Karen Soccodato, presented the five units of study within the Digital Arts I course. Committee members were provided with copies of the units, the assessment rubric, and the final exam rubric for Digital Arts I portfolio submission.

*The Curriculum and Finance Committees recommended to add this item to the Board's agenda for the next regular meeting in October.*

## **Facilities Update**

Mr. Kevin Dion, Director of Facilities, provided committee members with an update from the Facilities Department with regard to COVID-19 related provisions and preparations. Facilities updates will be provided monthly at Finance Committee Meetings moving forward.

## **Closing and Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.