



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

January 21, 2020– 5:30 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

Call to Order and Opening

Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims, Curriculum Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Committee Members Present

Mr. Merrill Gay, Ms. Diana Reyes, Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims

CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Samantha Amoruso, Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Ms. Cristina Morant, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Ms. Nancy Sarra, Ms. Keira Soler

New Business

Review and approve minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on December 16, 2019

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting on December 16, 2019.

Discuss New Software for Credit Recovery

Ms. Lara Bohlke, District Coordinator of Curriculum for Grades 6-12, and Ms. Samantha Amoruso, Special Education Teacher at New Britain High School, discussed their recommendation for new credit recovery software for the district. CSDNB has been utilizing Compass Learning for our credit recovery software since 2015. This software, due to its reliance on Flash, is “sunsetting,” meaning it is no longer renewable. Our costs to renew each year have been about \$12,100. This has allowed access to all courses available through the software for most students at Satellite Careers Academy, small classes of students during the day and afterschool at NBHS and in the summer for summer school.

For the past year, Ms. Bohlke and Ms. Amoruso have been working collectively with a group of teachers, administrators, guidance personnel, and MIS staff members to explore options available for new software. Their research found that EdGenuity software emerged as the clear preference given our district’s distinct but varied needs. According to Ms. Bohlke their software is compatible with our environment, more advanced than what we have been using, and allows for easy personalization of the courses. In addition, the courses stay with students when they transfer schools within the district, their licensing is flexible to fit our needs, and they will supply training before the end of the year so teachers are ready for the transfer.

The Curriculum Subcommittee recommended that this request be reviewed at the next Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

Discuss Middle School to High School Transition Data

Upon request of Dr. Jiménez Sims, Ms. Margaret Kochanowicz, MIS Supervisor, and Mr. Jeff Prokop, MIS Director, prepared data illustrating the trends in the percentage of 8th grade students in the district that have gone on to attend New Britain High

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School after completion of middle school. Data was disaggregated by middle school (DiLoreto, HALS, Pulaski, Slade) and spanned the last five school years. Dr. Jiménez Sims expressed concern that we need to find out the reasons that families may be sending their children to other high schools including private and magnet schools. It was agreed that Superintendent Sarra would discuss this topic with community members at the next Community Conversation Forum scheduled for February 4, 2020 at OIC of New Britain. Subcommittee members also recommended exploring the possibility of being able to administer exit interviews to the families of eighth grade students when they submit requests for transcripts and records.

Closing and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM.