

**CONSOLIDATED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
— OF —  
NEW BRITAIN**

**NEW BRITAIN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MAY 23, 2022 – 6:15 PM | NEW BRITAIN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION CENTER**



## NOTICE OF MEETING

TO: New Britain Board of Education Members  
Mayor Erin Stewart  
Mr. Mark H. Bernacki, Town and City Clerk  
New Britain Common Council Members

DATE: May 20, 2022

RE: New Britain Board of Education Committee Meetings

**The following Board of Education committee meetings will be held:**

- **The New Britain Board of Education Policy Committee** will hold a regular meeting on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the New Britain Educational Administration Center, located at 272 Main Street in New Britain, Connecticut.
- **The New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Committee** will hold a regular meeting on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 6:15 PM at the New Britain Educational Administration Center, located at 272 Main Street in New Britain, Connecticut.

***Members of the public may attend meetings in person or view a live broadcast of the proceedings online via the livestream link:***

***<https://www.csdnb.org/board/>***

The agendas and board packets in their entirety can be found on the Board of Education website:

***<https://www.csdnb.org/board/BOE-2022-Meetings-Documents-Calendar.php>***





CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

## New Britain Board of Education | Curriculum Committee Regular Meeting

May 23, 2022 – 6:15 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

Members of the public may attend meeting in person or view a live broadcast of the proceedings online via the livestream link:

<https://www.csdnb.org/board/>

### 1. Call to Order and Opening

- A. Meeting Called to Order

### 2. New Business

- A. Review and Approve Minutes from Curriculum Committee Meeting on March 21, 2022  
Submitted by Ms. Kristin Salerni | Page 5
- B. Accept Monthly EdAdvance Report:  
<https://sites.google.com/csdnbstaff.org/nb-renewal-project/monthlyhighlights?authuser=0>  
Page 8
- C. Approve 6-8 ELA and K-5 Math Renewed Curriculum  
Presented by Ms. Amy Anderson and Ms. Lara Bohlke | Page 11

### 3. Closing

- A. Other Business as Permitted by Law
- B. Adjournment

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#### New Britain Board of Education

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Anthony Cane | Monica Dawkins | Anthony Kane | Matthew Marino | Annie S. Parker | Diana Reyes | Tina Santana



**CONSOLIDATED  
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**NEW BUSINESS**



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

## New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting

March 21, 2022 – 6:00 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

### Call to Order and Opening

Mr. Anthony Kane, Curriculum Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

### Board Members Present

Mr. Anthony Cane, Mr. Merrill Gay\*, Mr. Anthony Kane\*, Mr. Joseph Listro\*, Ms. Annie Parker#, Ms. Diana Reyes\*, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly, Ms. Tina Santana\*

\*Committee member

#Attended remotely

### CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Kimberly Bodnar, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, Mr. Michael Foran#, Mr. Damon Pearce, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Ms. Nancy Sarra

#Attended remotely

### New Business

#### Review and Approve Minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on February 22, 2022

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on February 22, 2022.

***Mr. Listro motioned to approve the minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on February 22, 2022 as submitted, seconded by Ms. Santana. 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 Reports with committee members. Committee members reviewed actions, accomplishments, and next steps for the month of February.

#### Review U.S. History Renewed Curriculum

The Academics Department is seeking Board approval to move forward with renewed curricula for World History and United States History courses at New Britain High School. Social Studies Department Head Kimberly Bodnar originally presented Curriculum Committee members with this renewal information on February 22, 2022. At that time, she explained the evolution, rationale, and process behind the three key shifts in social studies curriculum implementation. She also shared a sample World History unit and walked committee members through the template that is being used for all of the curriculum units at the high school. On February 22<sup>nd</sup> the Curriculum Committee voted unanimously to place renewed curriculum for World History and

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United States History courses to the Board’s Consent Agenda for the regular meeting in March. Prior to the Board meeting, the decision was made to continue review of the U.S. History renewed curriculum at the committee level in order to address additional questions and concerns raised by Mr. Cane.

Ms. Bodnar presented a slideshow to committee members explaining their decision to intentionally shift away from a traditional chronological approach to a chrono-thematic approach in order to engage and empower ninth graders to become critical thinkers. She also shared the sources that were used to obtain input and feedback and a chart illustrating content areas explicitly covered. The presentation is attached.

Ms. Bodnar addressed Mr. Cane’s questions and concerns regarding the development of a Black and Latino Course of Studies, exclusion of key events in U.S. modern history from the overview document, emphasis on social issues versus events, one-sided instruction, and “loaded” course essential questions.

Ms. Santana stated that we need to capitalize on the abundance of history we have right here in New Britain and suggested the development of state and local history curriculum.

Mr. Kane expressed concern about using secondary sources versus primary sources and possible bias. Ms. Bodnar stated that students are instructed on how to recognize bias since it is unavoidable.

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Mr. Kane motioned to recess briefly at 7:24 PM. The meeting resumed in open session at 7:34 PM.

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### **Discuss Grading Practices at New Britain High School**

NBHS Principal Damon Pearce explained the importance of implementing a uniform practice around critical components and expectations of the grading process at the high school. He stated that the current grading practices at NBHS do not align with best practice and minimize the assessment of actual skill and content mastery and place a focus on work completion. In addition, these practices are highly variable, punitive, and work counter to the district’s intentions with the Profile of a Graduate.

Mr. Pearce shared a draft document (NBHS Official Message No. 10) with committee members highlighting the new grading practices proposed for the 2022-2023 School Year. Changes include the implementation of a common category weighting system that places an emphasis on skill and content mastery. Other areas addressed include late work, grading scale, consistency within departments, and student attendance. Mr. Pearce will continue to work with members of his leadership team to create a finalized document to share with staff. Director of Pupil Services Mark Spalding will also be asked to review the document.

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### **Presentation: Evolution of NBU**

Ms. Anderson and Ms. Bohlke presented a slideshow to committee members providing information regarding the evolution of New Britain University (NBU) from 2018 to present. An overview of how the structure and content of the program have progressed over the past four years was presented. The presentation is attached.

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### **Discuss Academic Purchases**

Talent Officer Kristina DeNegre, Ms. Bohlke, and Ms. Anderson spoke briefly to committee members about their proposed academic purchases and received donation.

***The Curriculum Committee favorably recommended to refer the following academic purchases and donation to the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee for further review at their next meeting in March:***

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### **Scholastic Guided Reading Program Materials (New)**

The purchase of the Scholastic Guided Reading Programs will support our intervention block. The Scholastic Guided Reading Programs will help unlock all students' reading potential through small- group instruction, guided reading techniques, leveled authentic literature, ongoing assessment, and a gradual release model. Students become strategic and independent readers who love to read as they practice comprehension skills, analyze new vocabulary, and consider new ideas. The instruction used within the six Guided Reading Programs is based on guided reading research. Through the guided reading instructional approach, teachers gradually remove their instructional scaffolds and systematically guide students along a gradient of increasingly complex text. The goal is to move all students quickly and efficiently into complex, grade-level text and beyond using a gradual release model.

The total is \$17,513.47 and the funding source is CN Grant Instructional Supplies.

### **Professional Development for Pulaski Middle School Staff by Boys Town (Extension)**

The service proposal is put forward as a bid waiver because it is an extension to the district's existing contract (approved in August) with Boystown to include Pulaski Middle School. The cost of this contract has been approved by the State Department of Education to be covered by the Commissioners Network grant.

CSDNB's partnership with Boystown has yielded multiple opportunities for engaging district wide professional development over the past five years K-12. This funding request is specifically in support of program growth and support through professional development, observation and technical assistance at Pulaski Middle School. Pulaski has seen an increase in need for de-escalation and has set the goal of increasing student engagement, challenge, and excitement in the learning process and to maximize the potential of every student in response. This contract includes three months of support, both virtual and in person, by Boystown staff. The professional development will increase staff's knowledge and improve their ability to support students who may be exhibiting behavior concerns through improved classroom management and behavior management/modification.

This work supports a number of the "success measures" laid out in the district's 5-year strategic plan such as an increase in student attendance, an increase in student engagement, an increase in parent engagement, an increase from pre- to post- on the Behavior and Emotional Screening System, an increase in graduation rates, an increase in quality partnerships and collaborations and a decrease in suspension/expulsion rates.

The total is \$34,561.80 and the funding source is Pulaski Commissioner's Network 2347 969 10001 53320.

### **Donation from The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain for SEE, XTREME, and CREATE Programs (New)**

A grant was submitted to The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain in the amount of \$40,000.00 to help support the 3-week Summer Learning Experiences program. Funds will be used to support the Community Based Organizations working in SEE, CREATE and XTREME with Enrichment Activities throughout the full day. Through collaborations with Community Organizations, students are provided with educational, yet fun, hands-on learning activities that help support student learning.

The total is \$40,000.00 and the funding source is The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain.

## **Closing and Adjournment**

Mr. Gay motioned to adjourn at 8:43 PM, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously.

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# EdAdvance/CSDNB Renewal Project Highlights

## April 2022

### **Actions and Accomplishments.**

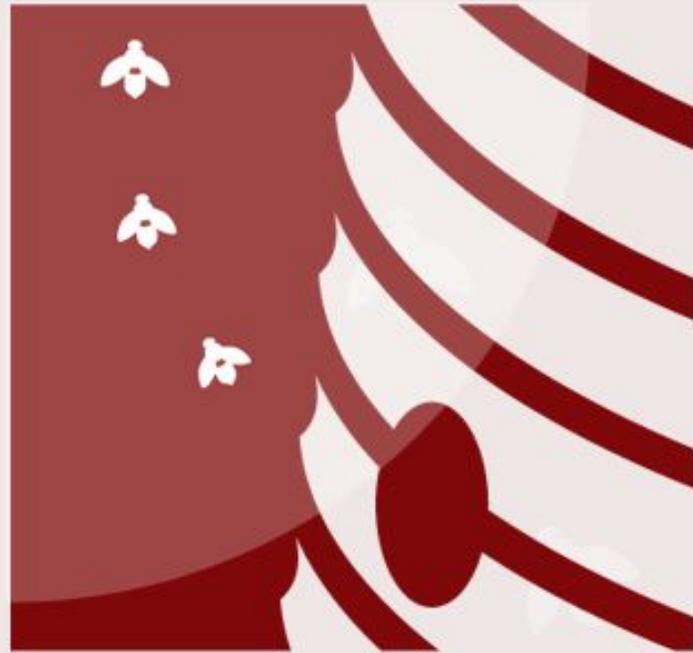
- Delivered Math K-5 Unit 7.
- Nancy Sarra and Jonathan Costa met to discuss the Curriculum Renewal Project progress and future plans moving into the '22-'23 school year.
- Conducted District Learning Walks with the administrative team.
- Facilitated District Wide NBU sessions for K-5 on Math.
- When requested, the instructional coaches participated in meetings with CN officials, school admins and Dee Cole to support the work of the team at the building level.
- Facilitated Evidence of Learning #6 with instructional coaches supporting ELA to take a deeper dive into student assessments and look at student work.
- Facilitated districtwide NBU to unpack MS ELA Unit #6 for grades 7-8.
- Facilitated districtwide NBU, Bringing Unit 6 Standards to Life, for grade 6.
- Visited 14 MS ELA classrooms to observe ELA curriculum implementation in action; followed up with email communication to share glows/grows.
- Met with MS Instructional Coaches to plan the next districtwide NBU for interdisciplinary teams.
- Conducted math classroom visits at elementary schools.
- Emailed the Glows and Grows to elementary principals after all classroom visits.
- Shared opportunities for professional learning and growth with coaches and district curriculum coordinators.
- Supported classroom teachers in planning.
- implementation and visits in schools on curriculum implementation.
- Continued implementing the Impact Cycle model in individual coaching cycles.
- Continued planning for writing a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum to align with high school SS courses.
- Continued to support calibration of curriculum development among the EdAdvance internal team.
- Continued meetings with Amy, Lara, Mike, Wanda and Sylvia to provide support and professional learning and solidify communication and timeline expectations for the renewal process.
- Continued to write, review and edit curriculum units for K-5 Math. .
- Met to plan for curriculum writing with K8 PE and Health Coordinator.
- Met with the K-8 Art and Music curriculum team to review Art curriculum maps, share feedback on units and review next steps.

- Facilitated curriculum writing sessions for NBHS Physical Education writing teams.
- Planned with NBHS departments and administration to organize and facilitate summer curriculum writing
- Met with the Special Education department to plan for the development of a framework for the Resource Room.
- Planned and executed planning meetings with NBHS department chairs and administrators for next steps in curriculum writing in several areas.
- Continued to provide support for math at NBHS.
- Conducted internal EdAdvance team meetings to plan for and review the NB Curriculum Renewal Project.

### Next Steps

- Continue to write, review and edit curriculum units for K-5 Math.
- Continue participation in Jim Knight professional learning.
- Continue to support calibration of curriculum development among the internal team.
- Continue collaborative discussions with the NB team on professional learning for teachers and admins to be developed that support curriculum implementation.
- Continue to conduct internal team meetings via Zoom.
- Continue to be available to meet with Mike, Amy, Lara, Wanda, Nicole and Kristina to present and discuss the flow chart with supporting documents for Professional Learning delivery for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Prepare for continued DEI professional learning in June.
- Participate in SIOP Professional Learning.
- Continue planning for writing a K-8 Social Studies Curriculum.
- Meet with Lara to develop a professional learning plan for continued ELA implementation in 2022-23.
- Continue to review the draft sustainability plan for when consultancy ends.
- Robin and Tracy will conduct regular classroom visits at Slade and Pulaski that focus on curriculum implementation and will communicate trends in emails to building principals and coaches.
- Robin and/or Tracy will continue to be available on site at Smalley, Slade and Pulaski each week to support teachers, coaches and administrators with curriculum implementation.

- Plan for and deliver the next NBU K-5 Math session.
- Plan for and deliver Bringing Unit 6 Standards to Life for Grades 7 & 8.
- Plan for and deliver districtwide NBU #6 for interdisciplinary teams Grades 6-8.
- Continue Elementary Math Classroom Visits to all elementary schools and communicate trends in emails to principals and coaches.
- Prepare mid-year curriculum implementation data report for '21-22 school year on the EdAdvance/NB Renewal Curriculum Project.
- Plan for Curriculum Work during Summer 2022.



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# Common Elements Across All Content Areas

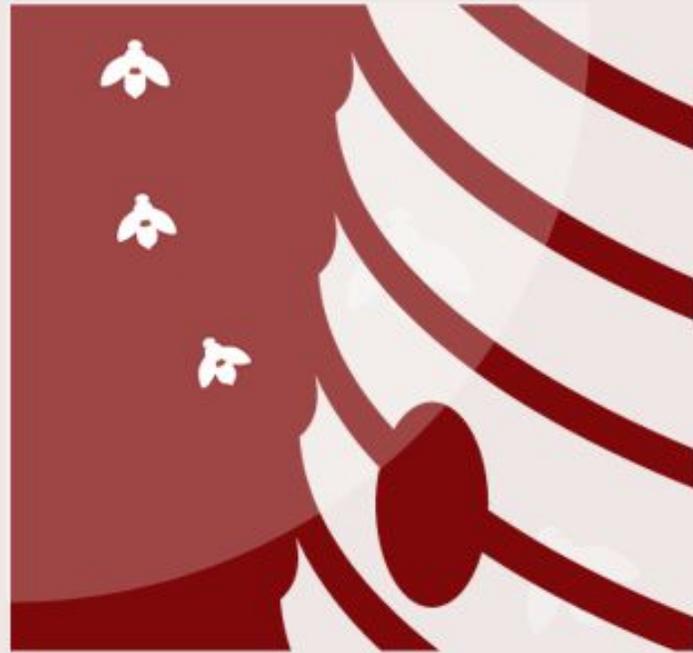
- **Essential questions developed to engage students in critical thinking and inquiry**
- **Profile of a Graduate Focus**
- **Designed with Content Area Standards/Frameworks and CT English Language Proficiency (CELP) Standards**
- **Specific Skills ★ Student-Centered Learning Experiences ★ Assessments  
in alignment with Standards, Frameworks and PoG**
- **Culturally Responsive Teaching Resources**
- **Strategies to support all learners**

# Middle School English Language Arts Grades 6-8

- Includes [Pacing Calendar](#) (Revised for snow days. Teachers have largely been able to adhere to intended pacing.)
- Curriculum Maps: [Grade 6](#); [Grade 7](#); [Grade 8](#)
  - At-a-glance format includes priority standards, approach to texts, Essential Question, etc.
- How-to Guides at each Grade Level: [Grade 6](#); [Grade 7](#); [Grade 8](#)
  - Scope and Sequence, Lesson Plan Templates and Samples
- Includes [Relevant Rubrics](#)
  - Adapted from Smarter Balanced Rubrics
  - Adapted from [PV Legs](#)
- 6 units per grade level: Four 6-7 week units, Two 2-3 week mini-units
- Book clubs: 2 at Grade 6, 2 at Grade 7, 3 at Grade 8 (5 choices per book club. Range of texts.)
- Novel Studies: 2 per Grade Level
- Sample Unit with Annotations: [Grade 7 Unit 2](#)
  - Unit Title: Moment of Truth
  - Unit Essential Question: How can one event change everything?
  - Book Club Unit: *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793*, *Apollo 13: Houston We Have a Problem: The True Story of the Apollo 13 Disaster*, *Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio*, *Unbroken (Young Adult Adaptation)*, *We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success*

# Elementary Math Grades K-5

- Includes [Pacing Calendar](#) (Revised for snow days. Teachers have largely been able to adhere to intended pacing.)
- How-to Guides at each Grade Level: [Grade K](#); [Grade 1](#); [Grade 2](#); [Grade 3](#); [Grade 4](#); [Grade 5](#)
  - Scope and Sequence, Lesson Plan Templates and Samples
- Consistent Routines, many of which are common K-8: [Sample of Routines at Grade 3](#)
  - WarmUp routines, Language routines for English Learners
- 7 units per grade level at Grades K, 1, 3 & 5. 8 units per Grade Level at Grades 2 & 4
- Math Centers at all Grade Levels built into math block in Grades K-2, complementary to math block in Grades 3-5.
- [Math Picture Books for Grades K-3](#)
  - Purchased (if available) in digital format and in Spanish and Arabic
- Sample Unit: [Grade 3 Unit 3](#)
- All student materials available in Spanish



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