



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Regular Meeting

January 9, 2023 - 6:00 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

Call to Order and Roll Call

Call to Order

Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly, President of the New Britain Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Board Members Present

Mr. Anthony Cane, Ms. Monica Dawkins, Mr. Merrill Gay*, Mr. Anthony Kane, Mr. Joseph Listro, Mr. Matthew Marino, Ms. Annie Parker, Ms. Diana Reyes, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly, Ms. Tina Santana

**Arrived at 6:22 via online*

Student Representatives Present:

Yousef Alwan, Tomas Portillo, Olivia Rutkowski

Meditation

Ms. Sanders-Connolly asked everyone to take a moment of meditation.

Public Participation

Alderwoman Desiree Costa

Ms. Costa discussed needing volunteers for the snowball dance as well as the all-night grad party at NBHS. She discussed going to the Student of the Month Award Program at Jefferson Elementary. Ms. Costa also highlighted the work of Ms. Tania Vives, the Family School Liaison at Holmes Elementary, and her effort to go above and beyond for the students and families of Holmes School.

New Business

Discuss Pending Litigation – Dialogue of Legal Matters Nazier Kolailat vs. Board of Education, Et. Al- Submitted by Attorney John Diakun

Mr. Listro motioned to go into executive session 6:12 pm to review and discuss legal matters, seconded by Ms. Parker. Superintendent Gasper, City Attorney John Diakun, and Chief of Staff Relations, and Accountability Maryellen Manning were invited into executive session to discuss a legal matter involving the Board of Education.

Meeting resumed in open session at 6:25 pm

New Britain Board of Education

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Mr. Cane motioned to offer a settlement of \$7,500.00 to settle Nazier Kolailat vs. Board of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

The Superintendent's Report is attached.

Student Reports

Student Representative Tomas highlighted the holiday season and his many performances with the Madrigals all over the city of New Britain. He mentioned that the Yearbook Club is working on the forms for ordering yearbooks, and how the students at NBHS would like to reinstate a student newsletter called Canes Courant. He discussed how the sports events are always really well attended. Mr. Portillo mentioned that there are 6 students from NBHS that are apart of the state volleyball team Huskies which consists of people from around America.

Student Representative Olivia discussed how she stated to NBHS Principal Damon Pearce the number of students that hang around the school. She discussed the MET Academy, and how she is learning the other side of engineering and 3D software and learning the process of CNC software.

Student Representative Yousef highlighted a club at NBHS he is a part of that creates gifts for people that live in assisted living homes that don't receive many visitors. He discussed how proud he is of the events and internships that he is a part of, and all the opportunities they provide for him and the students of NBHS.

Presentations/New Business

Operations: Smalley Renovation – Project Close Out

Presented by Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez | Accepted by School Building Committee on 6/17/20 | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on December 19, 2022

Chief Operations Officer Rebecca Gonzalez presented The Smalley Renovation Project as it was accepted as a closed project by the School Building Committee on 06/17/2020. The Office of State Construction Grants & Review requires that the Board of Education formally accept the project as closed in order to submit final payment to the city. Seeking board approval of the Smalley closeout in order to close the project with the state.

Ms. Parker motioned to approve Smalley Renovation – Project Close Out, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried unanimously.

Facilities: Slade Roof Project – Educational Specifications

Presented by Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on December 19, 2022

Chief Operations Officer Rebecca Gonzalez presented Slade Roof Project - Educational Specifications which are required for the application to the state. Seeking board approval of the specifications to include with our application.

Mr. Kane motioned to approve Slade Roof Project – Educational Specifications, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

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Consent Agenda

(There were no objections and/or requests from Board Members to pull the following items off the Consent Agenda. Therefore, these items were approved):

Operations: Approve Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on December 5, 2022

Submitted by Ms. Aja Edwards | No Committee Review

Partnerships: Accept Donation from Donor's Choose for Holmes STEAM Program (\$1,610.00)

Submitted by Ms. Shannon Shah and Ms. Natasha Woodward | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on December 19, 2022 |

Funding Source: Donor's Choose

The STEAM team at Holmes Elementary is looking to accept the donation of 6 dash robots and 6 kindle fire tablets to help implement activities in our STEAM program. This donation will serve students in Kindergarten through fifth grade in our school. This project will reach over 450 students. Having access to materials such as this will increase students' interest in STEM careers. Our school has a population of over 65% minority. Being able to bring interest in STEM to a diverse population is key as the field is truly blossoming. These are two Donors Choose projects that were fully funded, each with three Dash robots and 3 tablets to use to go along with them

Partnerships: Accept Donation from Connecticut Carpentry Group, LLC for School Uniforms, Incentives, and Student/Family Activities at NBTC (\$2,000.00)

Submitted by Ms. Donnah Swaby | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on December 19, 2022 | Funding Source: Connecticut Carpentry Group, LLC

Mr. & Mrs. James Dufour have provided financial gifts to the New Britain Transitional Center for several years. This donation will be used to purchase school uniforms for our students in grades K-8. It will also be used to purchase incentives for students as well as other student/family activities.

Partnerships: Approve Purchase Order and Contract between All Pointe Home Care Agency and Consolidated School District of New Britain for Nursing Services for Students (\$20,930.00)

Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on December 19, 2022 | Funding Source: ESSER II 206397412001-53200

All Pointe Home Care agency is being utilized to contract nursing services. These services are required to meet the special education needs of students, as outlined in their Individual Education Plans.

Operations: Approve Purchase Order to Remove Hazardous Materials – NBHS (\$8,696.70)

Submitted by: Mr. Robert Smedley | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on December 19, 2022 Submitted by: Mr. Robert Smedley | Funding Source: Local 101097412002-51275

The NBHS Science Department has a chemical storage room for safe storage of hazardous materials. There are many chemicals and hazardous materials that are no longer needed for the current or future science curriculum. Science teachers have identified said materials and a hazardous material for disposal list was created and shared to three contractors for pricing.

Operations: Accept Financial Report – November 30, 2022

Submitted by Ms. Ann Alfano | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on December 19, 2022

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Operations: Accept Enrollment Report

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | No Committee Review

Mr. Cane motioned to accept enrollment report, seconded by Mr. Kane. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Accept Report of Personnel Transactions and Extracurricular Appointments

Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders | No Committee Review

- Mr. Cane motioned to amend the report of Personnel Transactions, seconded by Ms. Reyes.
- Ms. Reyes motioned to add Administrative Appointment for the position of Assistant Director of Finance to the report of personnel transactions, seconded by Mr. Listro. Motion carried unanimously.
- Ms. Parker motioned to add item to agenda to approve administrative appointment for the position of Assistant Director of Finance, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried unanimously
- Ms. Reyes motioned to appoint Christine Juraska to the position of Assistant Director of Finance at NBEAC, seconded by Mr. Kane. Motion carried unanimously.

Academics: Accept Grant from State Legislature Allocation of Funds for an Emergency Stabilization Grant Program for School Readiness (\$1,235,328.00)

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Badenhop | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on December 19, 2022 | Funding Source: Office of Early Childhood/Office of Policy and Management

- Program Administrators will attest quarterly that they are eligible to receive the grant funds. Enrollment-based Grant Quarter Application Due to OEC:

July 1 – Sept. 30, 2022 October 28, 2022; Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2022 January 13, 2023

Jan. 1 – March 31, 2023 April 14, 2023; April 1 – June 30, 2023 July 14, 2023

- OEC Program Managers will pull actual utilization from reports submitted via monthly reports to calculate the payments. Payments will be calculated by:

a. Actual utilization across all program sites x enrollment-based grant award amount by space type = enrollment-based grant award for quarter (The District allotment stated, is the most that can be given to the district, as that would mean full enrollment, for all programs, every quarter).

- OEC Program Managers will provide notice to School Readiness Liaisons/Fiduciary and CDC Contractors so payments may be distributed to programs appropriately.

- School Readiness funds will be loaded into the eGMS system and fiduciaries will be responsible for drawing down and distributing funds to programs. Each quarter the OEC will provide the fiscal agent with the amount of each individual grant award for eligible programs

- Funds may be used to support any costs associated with providing early childhood care and education services from July 1, 2022, through September 30, 2024.

Mr. Gay motioned to accept Grant from State Legislature Allocation of Funds for an Emergency Stabilization Grant Program for School Readiness in the amount of \$1,235,328.00, seconded by Mr. Cane. Ms. Reyes abstained from voting. Motion carried by 9-0 vote.

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Academics: Accept School Readiness Administrative Funds Enhancement Grant to Support the Role of School Readiness Liaisons (\$157,479.48)

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Badenhop | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on December 19, 2022 | Funding Source: Office of Early Childhood

- The Administrative Funds Enhancement Grants are being provided to support the role of School Readiness Liaisons in districts OEC has identified as underfunded based on the number of School Readiness spaces allocated to the district
- These funds are intended to support the role of the Liaison in the coordination, program evaluation and administration of the School Readiness Grant. These funds will provide communities with increased access to resources to enhance monitoring and support program quality improvement. A portion of these funds may be dedicated to compensating parent members of the School Readiness Council for any time and travel related to council meetings, and any activities related to training, leadership, and community engagement. These funds are not intended to support program staff, initiatives, or activities.
- Proposed Uses (Pending approval of the School Readiness Council):
Cover a small portion of Liaison benefits; Hire Consultant(s) for the following Monitoring: Classrooms/Lesson Plans; CDC Monitoring; Quality Components; Staff and Child Files;
Health and Safety/Licensing Monitoring; PD/Training Expenses for Liaison; Parent Ambassadors Stipends (Council, Parent Cafe, Other), and other services consistent with the work of the Liaison that can be contracted out.

Mr. Gay motioned to accept School Readiness Administrative Funds Enhancement Grant to Support the Role of School Readiness Liaisons in the amount of \$157,479.48, seconded by Mr. Cane. Ms. Reyes abstained from voting. Motion carried by 9-0 vote.

Partnerships: Accept Grant from OEC Child Day Care (CDC) Infant and Toddler Expansion Funding for School Readiness Programs (\$1,134,000.00)

Submitted by Mr. Christopher Badenhop | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on December 19, 2022 | Funding Source: Office of Early Childhood

The Child Day Care (CDC) Infant and Toddler expansion funding, as a part of P.A 22-80 (S.B. 1) is intended to provide low-income Connecticut families with increased access to high-quality, affordable infant and toddler care in licensed facilities. Phase 2 of this expansion supports the creation of new full day/full year infant and toddler spaces in currently funded School Readiness Programs. Our School Readiness Council will submit a community application, on behalf of our SR Programs, and the Liaison will be responsible for the following: communication between OEC and the programs; data collection, reporting and payment processes; using existing processes to coordinate with fiscal agents; and monitoring program compliance. New Britain's application, pending SR Council and OEC approval, is to add the following Infant and Toddler slots:

- 48 I/T slots at YMCA
 - 16 I/T slots at CCSU campus
 - 20 I/T slots at YWCA
- total of 84 additional CDC I/T slots, which are desperately needed in New Britain.

Mr. Gay motioned to accept Grant from OEC Child Day Care (CDC) Infant and Toddler Expansion Funding for School Readiness Programs in the amount of \$1,134,000.00, seconded by Mr. Cane. Ms. Reyes abstained from voting. Motion carried by 9-0 vote.

Operations: Approve New Job Description for Specialized Classroom Management Trainer – Districtwide

Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders | Reviewed by the Personnel Committee December 19, 2022

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The Specialized Classroom Management Trainer position aligns with the district's goal to improve outcomes for students. The position supports social, emotional, and ultimately academic learning. This position will also benefit the CSDNB by initiating sustainability, realizing cost savings and increasing the frequency of training and technical assistance to teachers, paraeducators, BSAs deans and administrators at six sites:

- NBTC
- Bridges at NBHS
- Slade
- Chamberlain
- Holmes
- Smaller Classroom Setting at Lincoln Elementary School.

Mr. Listro motioned to approve New Job Description for Specialized Classroom Management Trainer – Districtwide, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Approve New Position Request for 1.0 FTE Specialized Classroom Management Trainer – Districtwide
Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders | Reviewed by the Personnel Committee December 19, 2022

Mr. Listro motioned to approve New Position Request for 1.0 FTE Specialized Classroom Management Trainer – Districtwide, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Approve AIA HVAC Contract Between Kaestle Boos Association and Consolidated School District for HVAC Replacement Portion of Project (\$5,000,000.00)
Submitted by Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee December 19, 2022 | Funding Source: ESSER HVAC GRANT ESSER HVAC GRANT.

Mr. Listro motioned to approve AIA HVAC Contract Between Kaestle Boos Association and Consolidated School District for HVAC Replacement Portion of Project in the amount of \$5,000,000.00, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously

Operations: Approve Bid Award Between Bureau Veritas Technical Assessments LLC and Consolidated School District for Facilities Master Plan (\$173,112.65)
Submitted by Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee December 19, 2022 | Funding Source: ARPA Grant ARPA Grant Line

CSDNB went out to bid for a comprehensive facilities master plan in November with bid proposals due back on 12.2.22. The facilities department held a scope review with the selected vendor, Bureau Veritas on 12.9.22. Please see the attached, final response for the comprehensive master plan. Seeking board approval of selected vendor and proposal.

Mr. Cane motioned to approve Bid Award Between Bureau Veritas Technical Assessments LLC and Consolidated School District for Facilities Master Plan in the amount of \$173112.65, seconded by Mr. Listro. Motion carried unanimously.

Partnerships: Approve Contract Between Bhogah Yoga LLC and Consolidated School District of New Britain for Yoga Instructor to Provide Mindfulness Strategies for Teachers and Students – Chamberlain (\$2,300.00)
Submitted by: Manuel Zaldivar | No Committee Review | Funding Source: SIG Money 4186

In alignment with the needs assessment 3.3 student behaviors, Chamberlain will partner with a yoga instructor to provide mindfulness strategies for teachers and students. Those sessions will be scheduled during the late morning and early afternoon, as our data indicates that the majority of our incidents are reported during these times. Also, we will bring in research based resources to support teachers and instruct students around self-management.

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Mr. Cane motioned to approve Contract Between Bhogah Yoga LLC and Consolidated School District of New Britain for Yoga Instructor to Provide Mindfulness Strategies for Teachers and Students in the amount of \$2,300.00, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

Partnerships: Approve Contract Between the Literacy Center at CCSU and Consolidated School District to Provide Two PD Sessions About Selecting Culturally Relevant Literature and Culturally Relevant Math Instruction

Submitted by: Manuel Zaldivar | No Committee Review | Funding Source: SIG Money 4186

In alignment with talent priority 1.1, we will partner with the Literacy Center at CCSU to provide two PD sessions about selecting culturally relevant literature and culturally relevant math instruction. These PDs sessions will frame our Family Cultural night, "All of Us" Through Books and Falling In Love with Literacy night

Ms. Parker motioned to approve Contract Between the Literacy Center at CCSU and Consolidated School District to Provide Two PD Sessions About Selecting Culturally Relevant Literature and Culturally Relevant Math Instruction, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried unanimously.

Closing and Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

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Superintendent's Report
New Britain Board of Education Meeting | January 9, 2023

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