



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

### New Britain Board of Education Regular Meeting

February 6, 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 6:02pm.

##### 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 7:17pm

##### Student Representative Present:

Yousef Alwan, Tomas Portillo, Olivia Rutkowski

#### Meditation

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

#### Public Participation

##### Smith Elementary Principal Karen Falvey & Northend Elementary Principal Rolanda Booker

Both principals showed their support of the ARC comprehensive reading program and stated how it will help the progression of our students in multiple ways. They stated how it will provide structure for both the staff and students and the great things that this program will offer.

##### John Board

Mr. Board spoke on the expansion and instruction of ASL. He spoke in support to adopt the proposed Senate proposed bill 665 an act concerning the instruction of American sign language in school in Connecticut. In August 2024, the Board will soon have the option to vote or opt in to this 3-year state funded program, which would then allow students in high school to receive credits while learning ASL.

##### Student - Sofia Solis

Ms. Solis is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Diloreto Magnet School. She shared the programs that she's in that mentor and tutor younger students. She is a part of the Latinos in Action, and Language Dual and is in full support of the American Reading Program. Having the options of books to help connect with kids, reading to them, and keeping them engaged she had seen a big improvement with the student that she tutors.

##### Student - Lismarie Velasquez

Ms. Velasquez is a student at Diloreto Magnet School. She is in support of the new American Reading Program. She discussed how amazing it is having multiple options of books, and how it's helped connect her with the kids that she tutors. She discussed the

importance of reading, and how it's helped keep her kids engaged.

#### **Student - Gabriela Alberto**

Ms. Alberto is also student at Diloreto Magnet School. She is in support of the new American Reading Program. She discussed how it's helped connect her with the students that she tutors. She discussed the importance of reading, and how it has helped keep her students engaged. She's watched the progress of their confidence in reading.

## **Executive Session**

Executive Session – To Discuss Attorney/Client Privileged Communications

Submitted by: Superintendent Tony Gasper

Ms. Parker motioned to go into Executive Session at 6:25 pm to discuss Attorney/Client privileged communications, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Superintendent Gasper, Chief Operations Officer Rebecca Gonzalez and Transportation Manager Richard Valerio were invited to discuss this item with the Board.

Executive Session – Discussion of Personnel Matter with Attorney Richard Bartlett

Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning

Ms. Santana motioned to go into executive session at 7:07 pm to discuss a personnel matter with Attorney Richard Bartlett, seconded by Mr. Kane. Superintendent Gasper, Director of Talent & Equity Dr. Nicole Sanders, and Chief of Staff Maryellen Manning were invited to discuss this item with the Board.

The meeting resumed in open session at 7:35 pm.

## **Reports**

The Superintendent's report is attached.

#### **Curriculum:**

Mr. Kane mentioned the committee received the different Reading Materials that were presented.

#### **Finance:**

Mr. Cane shared that the committee discussed multiple donations and purchase orders.

#### **Policy:**

The committee had no new items to present.

#### **Personnel:**

The committee went over revised job descriptions, and two new positions.

#### **Student Reports**

Mr. Portillo showed us the template website he has been working on called Canes Courant. It is a newsletter for NBHS, where it shows the different things going on at the High School. For the Yearbook Club, Mr. Portillo mentioned they will be hosting the Snowball this year and how the yearbook sales are doing well.

Ms. Rutkowski stated how the school is working on adding more healthy options at lunch and around the school. She mentioned utilizing the green house for vegetables to supply some of the food, and opening up the school snack store that will serve healthier

options.

Mr. Alwan discussed Eid al- Fitr, the religious holiday celebrated by Muslims universally. Speaking from his own cultural background, he had discussed sacrificing missing school in order to be able to celebrate. He discussed how each year it falls on a different day but usually Ramadhan. He asked the Board to honor the holiday so he along with the growing demographic of Muslims in New Britain do not get an unexcused absence.

## Presentations

The presentations are attached.

Presentation: Adult Education – Progression and Services of Adult Education in New Britain  
Presented by Mr. Mark Fernandes

Presentation: Comprehensive Reading Program Adoption 2023-2024  
Presented by Ms. Ivelise Velazquez, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, and Mr. Tyrone Richardson

## New Business

Operations: Approve Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on January 9, 2023  
Submitted by Ms. Aja Edwards | No Committee Review

Mr. Gay motioned to approve minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on January 9, 2023, seconded by Mr. Marino. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Accept Enrollment Report  
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | No Committee Review

Mr. Gay motioned to accept Enrollment Report, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion to approve carried unanimously.

Personnel: Accept Report of Personnel Transactions and Extracurricular Appointments  
Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders | No Committee Review

Mr. Listro motioned to accept Report of Personnel Transactions and Extracurricular Appointments, seconded by Mr. Cane Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Approve Proposed 2023-2024 Consolidated School District of New Britain Calendar  
Submitted by Ms. Ivelise Velazquez

Ms. Santana motioned to approve the Proposed 2023-2024 Consolidated School District of New Britain Calendar as amended, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried unanimously

Finance: Approve Allocation of Two MS Sport Stipends to Pay Coaches for Women's Flag Football League (\$4,000.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Lisa Kawecky | Funding Source: 1010-978-30199-51191

Mr. Marino motioned to approve Allocation of Two MS Sport Stipends to Pay Coaches for Women's Flag Football League in the amount of \$4,000.00, seconded by Ms. Reyes

Academics: Vote/Approve to Adopt the American Reading Company's Comprehensive Reading Program for Use in All CSDNB K-5 Schools

Submitted by Ms. Ivelise Velasquez | Funding Source: ESSER

Mr. Kane motioned to approve/adopt the American Reading Company's Comprehensive Reading Program for Use in All CSDNB K-5 Schools, seconded by Mr. Marino. Motion carried by 8:2 vote.

Academics: Approve Purchase Order of American Reading Company's Comprehensive Reading Program for Use in All CSDNB K-5 Schools (\$2,739,281.00)

Submitted by Ms. Ivelise Velasquez | Funding Source: ESSER

The Board voted to approve the purchase order of American Reading Company's Comprehensive Reading Program for use in all CSDNB K-5 Schools in the amount of \$2,739,281.00. Motion carried by 8:2 vote.

Operations: Award a General Student Transportation Bid for 2023-2024 Through 2024-2028 School Years (\$38,154,177.60)

Submitted by Superintendent Tony Gasper | Funding Source: Local 55100

Ms. Parker motioned to award a General Student Transportation Bid for 2023-2024 through 2024-2028 School Years in the amount of \$38,154,177.60, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously

## 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):

Policy: Review Memorandum of Understanding Between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Local 2407, New Britain Federation of Paraeducators Regarding the Sick Leave Bank

Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning

Personnel: Review Revised Job Description: STEAM Enrichment Teacher

Submitted by Ms. Ivelise Velazquez

Personnel: Review Revised Job Description: Manager of Security

Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders

Personnel: New Position Request: 10.0 FTE Districtwide Reading Teacher

Submitted by Ms. Ivelise Velazquez

Personnel: Review New Position Request: 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher for Expulsion Site at Boys & Girls Club of New Britain

Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark

Personnel: Review New Position Request: 1.0 FTE Behavior Support Assistant for Expulsion Site at Boys & Girls Club of New Britain

Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark

Partnerships: Accept Donations from Women's Club of New Britain, First Church of Christ Congregational, and Suburban Women's Club of New Britain for the Road to Recovery Program to Help Support Homeless Students and Their Families in the District (\$4,500.00)

Submitted by Mr. Joe Vaverchak | Funding Source: Women's Club of New Britain, First Church of Christ, Congregational, and Suburban Women's Club of New Britain

Partnerships: Accept Donation of Four European Style Soccer Goals with Nets for Middle School Sports Programs from ESPN (\$6,000.00)

Submitted by Ms. Lisa Kawecki | Funding Source: ESPN

Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for MET Equipment for SCA, Slade Middle School and Pulaski Middle School (\$79,716.00)

Submitted by Ms. Sondra Sanford | Funding Source Perkins: 20289691000001-57346 – SCA; ESSER 2: 20689691000001-57346 - Pulaski and Slade

Academics: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for An Extension of Current Contract Between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Father Flanagan's Boys' Home (Boys Town) to include Pulaski Middle School (\$19,997.00)

Submitted by Mr. Todd Verdi | Funding Source: Commissioners Network 100

Academics: Approve Purchase Order between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Scholastic Education for Guided Reading Programs (\$54,129.00)

Submitted by Mr. Todd Verdi | Funding Source: Commissioners Network 600- Supplies

Operations: Approve Purchase Order for Renewal of PowerSchool E-collect Add-On Platform (\$20,007.25)

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Funding Source: MIS Local Software Budget 101092110000-53510

Operations: Accept Financial Report – December 31, 2022

## Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm





**Superintendent's Report**  
**New Britain Board of Education Meeting | February 6, 2023**

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**New Britain Board of Education**

**Gayle Sanders-Connolly – President | Merrill Gay – Vice President | Joseph Listro – Secretary**

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



