



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

# New Britain Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting

May 22, 2023 – 6:00 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

### Call to Order and Opening

Vice President Merrill Gay, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

#### Board Members Present

Mr. Merrill Gay, Mr. Anthony Kane, Mr. Joseph Listro, Ms. Diana Reyes, and Ms. Tina Santana.

#### CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Lara Bohlke, Mr. Matt Bornn, Mr. James Brasile, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, Ms. Aja Edwards, Dr. Anthony Gasper, Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez, Ms. Maryellen Manning, Mr. Damon Pearce, Mr. Tyrone Richardson, Dr. Nicole Sanders#, Ms. Sandra Sandford#, and Ms. Ivelise Velazquez.

#Online

### New Business

Review and Approve Minutes from Policy Committee Meeting on March 20, 2023

Submitted by Ms. Aja Edwards

*Ms. Reyes motioned to approve minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting on March 20, 2023, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously.*

Review Multiple Board Policies

- a. Review: Two New Policies with Possible Board Adoption
- b. Review: Four Current Policies with Amendments and Possible Board Adoption

Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper

#### Recommended Revisions to the Board Policy Include:

- **Policy 6153, Field Trips:** Revisions were inconsistent, the policy states that overseas trip only require 90-day notices, Dr. Gasper states that organizers should have preliminary consent from the Superintendent prior to the start of fundraisers for such field trips.

#### Section III: Approvals of Field Trips

- All foreign travel field trips must be submitted a minimum of ~~90 days~~ **one calendar** year in advance of the departure date for ~~initial Board~~ **Superintendent** approval and **Board of Education** for final approval. **No fundraising or advertising activities related to the trip may be conducted prior to initial Superintendent approval. Between 90 and 120 days in advance of the departure date, the sponsoring staff member must request a meeting with the Superintendent to gain final approval. The purpose of this two-step process to ensure that conditions of safety and security**

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in the destination country have not changed since the initial approval.

- Parents/guardians are responsible for obtaining trip cancellation insurance. **This is strongly recommended.** The Board of Education is not responsible to refund students for cancelled trips or to pursue reimbursement from travel agents or trip insurance carriers, under any circumstances.

*Dr. Gasper Presented Proposed New Language to be Added*

- For overnight trips and with advance notice to parents/guardians, students' luggage/baggage may be searched prior to or at any point during the trip to ensure safety and compliance with all Board of Education policies regarding prohibited items.
  - For overnight trip room assignments: Students will be assigned roommates based on gender/gender identity, preference and/or best fit. If a student attending an overnight trip prefers an individual room for any reason, they may submit such request to the district [CHOOSE ONE: when filling out their room preference form OR by DATE]. Once requested, single rooms will be assigned based on availability. Depending on the costs charged by the lodging facility, the students' family may incur an additional cost for a single room. The district will provide each family with the names of students who have been assigned to room with their child, but additional information regarding other students will remain confidential, in accordance with state and federal law.
- **Policy 5145.12 - Student search-seizure:** The policy states reasonable suspicion allows for searches of students, but does not provide clarity on any type of canvas search. Dr. Gasper would like to create a policy for future reference the case that a safety emergency arises.

Section 111. A metal detector or similar device can be used to search a student's person and/or personal effects whenever a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of a weapon. The search must be conducted by a school official. The search will be conducted in private, where feasible. A school is authorized to conduct general searches of students and their personal effects with a metal detector or similar device before a student can gain entry to the school campus or any school-sponsored extracurricular activity. The search must be conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Superintendent or designee. Prior to initiating general searches, the school must:

- Receive written consent and directive from the Superintendent with the need for general searches based upon a pattern or expectation of violence or disruption.
- Provide written notice, if feasible, to students and parents/guardians of the school policy governing general searches, but not of specific times or places where searches will be conducted.

This policy shall be distributed annually to the parents/guardians of each student.

➤ **Policy P6115.3 – Proposed Flag Policy**

In addition to the above referenced flags, **United States territorial & state, sister City, and foreign national flags may also be displayed outside of a school building on the day of a visit from an elected official or delegation to that school. Inside of school buildings, United States territorial and state flags, sister City flags, as well as flags of foreign nations and ethnic flags (such as the Pan-African flag) may be displayed, on a permanent or temporary basis, in accordance with proper flag etiquette. These displays are to be educational in nature, as well as to recognize the diversity of our City's heritage, history, and student body.** These are the only flags approved for display. In accordance with the concept of viewpoint neutrality, no other flags, banners, emblems, or signage that could be deemed political or religious in nature shall be displayed inside or outside of school

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buildings or on school property. other flags or banners may be displayed on a permanent or temporary basis outside or inside of District buildings. Other flags and banners may only be displayed upon the issuance of a federal or state proclamation or resolution or Mayoral proclamation. Examples include, but are not limited to, sister City flags, Heritage Month flags, (e.g. African American History, Asian/Pacific American History, National Hispanic Heritage, National American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage), flags received in recognition of awards, or flags designating an event or accomplishment. All such flags and banners will be displayed with the authorization by the Mayor as prescribed by the applicable proclamation or resolution.

(cf. 0521 – Nondiscrimination)

~~(cf. 0521.1 – Commitment to Religious Neutrality)[1]~~

~~(cf. 0523 – Equity and Diversity)~~

~~(cf. 0524 – Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents in Schools)~~

~~(cf. 5145.2 – Freedom of Speech/Expression)~~

~~(cf. 6115.3 – Ceremonies and Observances)[2]~~

(cf. 6144 – Controversial Issues)

Legal Reference Connecticut General Statutes

10-230 Flags in classrooms and schools. Policy on the reciting of the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

4 U.S.C. Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 5-9 (display of the flag)

First Amendment-U.S. Constitution

36 U.S.C.174

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, 393 U.S. 503

A United States flag shall be displayed in front of every school building in the district every day that school is in session and at such other times as the Superintendent of Schools shall direct. Unless otherwise stated, the flags shall be flown at full-staff. The flags may also be displayed at night upon special occasions, at the discretion of the Superintendent, when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect, **given proper lighting**. In addition to days when school is in session, the flags will be displayed on the following days if school is open to the public: New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Lincoln’s Birthday, Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Flag Day, **Juneteenth**, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, September 11th Remembrance Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day, Columbus/**Indigenous Peoples’ Day**, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and Christmas Day. If any of these days (except Flag Day) falls on a Sunday, the flag shall be displayed on the next day. In addition, the flag shall be displayed on each general election day and each day appointed by the President of the United States or by the Governor of Connecticut as a day of general thanksgiving or for displaying the flag.

The Board has discretion in determining when the flag will fly at half-staff to commemorate the death of a local person, including a present or former Board of Education member, and a present employee or student. ~~Flags on individual buildings will be flown at half-staff for 30 days if a present employee or student in that building dies. The flag shall also be flown at half-staff the day of the funeral of any former employee well-known in the school. This will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.~~

~~All flags in the district are to be flown at half-staff when a present Board member dies and are kept at half-staff for 30 days. All flags are put at half-staff on the day of the funeral of a former Board member. All flags in the district are flown at half-staff on the day of the funeral of a present employee or a present student. The flag will not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement.~~

- **Policy 3280.10, Raffles, Bazaars, Etc.:** Dr. Gasper’s request is to be in alignment with the law. Dr. Gasper sent out a memorandum to the Principals of the district for clarification purposes. The Board has already been made aware of the need for policy revisions.

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**RECOMMENDED POLICY NUMBER: 3280.10 (an addendum to 3280.00)**

**RECOMMENDED NEW POLICY:**

The Board of Education strongly believes in partnering with parent groups, community groups, and booster clubs in the shared goal of supporting educational experiences for students. Part of this partnership may, at times, involve fundraising activities. If the fundraising is to involve a raffle or bazaar of any kind, great care must be taken to ensure that the activities are lawful and proper financial accounting is ensured.

As per Board policy number 3280.00, the principal's and/or superintendent's approval shall be required for any fundraising. Additionally, the following shall be guidelines for any fundraising activity that involves a raffle or bazaar of any kind:

**A.** Any group wishing to hold a bazaar or raffle is responsible for obtaining the proper permit from the New Britain Police Department.

*Parent groups, community groups, and booster clubs who hold the bazaar or raffle on school groups may be asked by the principal or superintendent to produce a copy of the permit before ticket sales can begin.*

**B.** It is strongly recommended that the entity conducting the bazaar or raffle be a wholly separate entity from the school district and that such group be a registered not-for-profit. Parent groups, community groups, and booster clubs are better positioned to conduct these activities than the District itself or its employees.

**C.** No member of or volunteer for the organization conducting the bazaar or raffle may receive remuneration in any form for the time or effort devoted to the fundraiser.

**D.** No person under the age of eighteen years may promote, conduct, operate, or work at a bazaar or raffle.

**E.** No person under the age of sixteen years may sell or promote the sale of raffle tickets.

**F.** Acceptable forms of payment for tickets are: credit card, debit card, check, or cash.

➤ **Policy 3320.00 – Contract Approvals**

All **contracts for goods or services in the amount of \$7,500 or greater shall** ~~which~~ require Board approval shall require the signature of the Board president in order for the execution of the contract to be valid. The Board may, by Board action, delegate signature authority to the Superintendent of Schools, or designee of the Superintendent, as appropriate.

This requirement applies to all contracts for supplies, materials, equipment and contractual services as indicated in Board Policy Statement **9-3324.00**. This policy also applies to any collective bargaining agreement, individual employment contract and/or legal settlement, unless delegated as indicated above.

➤ **Policy 5131, Student Discipline Code:** Minor change in the administrative regulations, it currently states the Board is the hearing panel for expulsions, but instead the Board should maintain neutrality by having a hearing officer.

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## Closing and Adjournment

*Mr. Kane motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Reyes.*

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51PM.

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