



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

# New Britain Board of Education | Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2023 - 6:00 PM – New Britain Educational Administration Center

## 1. Call to Order and Opening

### Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly, President of the New Britain Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

### Board Members Present

Mr. Anthony Cane, Mr. Anthony Kane, Mr. Joseph Listro, Ms. Annie Parker, Ms. Barbara Marino, Ms. Diana Reyes, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly and Ms. Tina Santana.

### Student Representatives Present

Tomas Portillo, Olivia Rutkowski

## 2. Public Participation

Mr. John Board expressed his support of the yearly Pride resolution which he hoped would pass approval for a second time. He thanked the Board for their support and hard work in their support of the community.

## 3. Reports

### A. Committee Reports

**Curriculum** – Mr. Kane discussed the thorough presentation of the 3 science courses that are currently being taught at NBHS

**Policy** – Ms. Connolly spoke on behalf of Mr. Merrill Gay, the committee discussed multiple policies, Policy P6115.3 – Proposed Flag Policy, Policy 3280.10, Raffles, Bazaars, Etc., Policy 3320.00 – Contract Approvals, and Policy 5131, Student Discipline Code. Two policies remain at the committee level prior to Board approval.

**Finance** – Ms. Connolly discussed the multiple grants and donations for the SEE & CREATE Summer Program, some of which are on the current agenda for approval.

**Personnel** – Mr. Parker discussed the two MOU's for Local 871, and Local 51. The committee discussed two new positions, Districtwide Assistant Coordinator of School Culture, and Communications Assistant – Spanish.

### B. Board Reports

Ms. Diana Reyes, mentioned how she went to the opening of the newly remodeled Chamberlain Elementary. She discussed how beautiful the new building. It was great for her to see the neighborhood children and former students. Ms. Reyes and Mr. Tony Cane also attended the Top 10% dinner for the students, which was amazing

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to see all the kids being honored for their hard work. Ms. Reyes attended the concert at Pulaski, where the garage band performance was remarkable.

Mr. Kane also attended a few school concerts, the parade where he felt the band students represented well. He attended the HALS concert, where he stated it was one of the best middle school concerts he's attended.

Mr. Listro had the honor of attending the Senior award ceremony. He mentioned how elated he felt to see how much was contributed for scholarships by the community for the senior class. Mr. Listro, also mentioned the Wellness Committee had their last meeting for the year. With all the media and discussion around the food served in schools, he wanted to reiterate that recommendations come from the families of students. Smalley Elementary now has a beehive, 10,000 bees that are actively producing honey. The rotary club donated money for a pollinator system for the bees so they are comfortable.

Ms. Tina Santana just wanted to thank schools and community. She attended a few events that happened around the city, and the positive feedback made her overjoyed. She loves getting out and connecting with the community and she encourages everyone to get out and enjoy the many cultural events that take place in the city of New Britain.

Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly expressed needing volunteers for the all-night grad party, and expressed how she's volunteered in the past and how great of time it is watching the students go from excited to exhausted by time it's over.

### **C. Student Representatives Report**

Tomas Portillo – As a senior, it's been a busy time for him. He discussed how this year's school events have been very successful. He thinks having more school-based events, will encourage students to participate in the coming years. The NBHS Musical was nominated for many awards and won one! Mr. Portillo mentioned processors, but asked if the next student Board members should be nominated or if that will create some bias.

Olivia Rutkowski- Ms. Oliva followed up on what Tomas said about school spirit and creating a culture around NBHS. As a senior, her first year in school was affected, like many by COVID. She emphasized that school events assist with creating school spirit. The NBHS Girls Tennis team made it to the second round of the finals at the State Competition. They fought hard and she expressed how proud she was to be a part of the team. She mentioned the many senior trips, and events she attended. She also reiterated what Ms. Santana mentioned about events, and how it keeps the community together.

*President Gayle Sanders- Connolly and Superintendent Gasper presented the student representatives with a token of appreciation for taking the time to provide the Board with a student perspective.*

### **D. CAPSS Award Nominations**

#### **Karina Diaz-Doran:**

Karina has taken up the task of working with Fidelco to support the development of seeing-eye dogs for the visually impaired. Taking them in as puppies, Karina raises them for 18 months, providing basic training and acclimation. In order to accomplish this task, she has had to navigate a myriad of barriers such as ensuring the proper detail insurance policies for bringing a service animal in training into a school. In the course of her work, Karina has inspired other adults to engaging in similar training, including one of her teachers. And all of this activity is in the service of others, people whom Karina may never meet!

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**David Lugo:**

Concerned with student climate issues for all kids, this year David has been leading the charge in the high school adopting an anonymous digital platform for students to use in the reporting of instances of bullying. In pursuit of this work, David has arranged for multiple meetings with the principal and other staff members to investigate and vet free digital platforms for use at NBHS. Once a platform has been identified, David will then be leading the charge in communicating this tool to the students and staff of NBHS. Like Karina, all of this activity and time is being performed on behalf of students David may never meet.

**E. Superintendent's Report**

*Ms. Ivelise Velasquez introduced Dr. Silvia Mayo-Molina, as she was appointed to Districtwide Coordinator for the Multilingual Department.*

*Ms. Ivelise Velasquez introduced Ms. Lillie Stuart, as she was appointed to Districtwide Coordinator of ELA K-12*

**4. Resolution**

- A. Approve Board of Education Resolution Declaring June 2023 as Pride Month  
Submitted by Ms. Tina Santana, Mr. Joseph Listro

*Mr. Listro motioned to approve Board of Education Resolution Declaring June 2023 as Pride Month, seconded by Ms. Reyes.*

**5. Executive Session**

- A. Executive Session: Discuss Matters Pertaining to Attorney/Client Privilege  
Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning

*Ms. Santana motioned to go into executive session, seconded by Mr. Cane. Superintendent Gasper, Chief of Staff Ms. Maryellen Manning, and Director of Talent and Equity Dr. Sanders were invited to discuss this item with the Board.*

- B. Executive Session: Discussion of Matters Relating to School Security  
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper

*Ms. Santana motioned to go into executive session to discuss Matters Relating to School Security. Superintendent Gasper, Academics & Accountability Officer Tyrone Richardson, and Director of Pupil Services Mark Spalding were invited to discuss this item with the Board*

- C. Executive Session & Public Action: Appointment of Principal for DiLoreto School  
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper

*Mr. Kane motioned to go into executive session, seconded by Ms. Santana to appoint Principal for DiLoreto School. Superintendent Gasper, Deputy Superintendent Ivelise Velasquez, Academics & Accountability Officer Tyrone Richardson, and Mr. Dario Soto were invited to discuss this item with the Board.*

*Mr. Cane motioned to appoint Mr. Dario Soto as Principal of DiLoreto Magnet School, seconded by Ms. Reyes.*

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## 6. New Business

- A. Operations: Approve Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on May 8, 2023  
Submitted by Ms. Aja Edwards | No Committee Review

Ms. Santana motioned to approve the amended minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on May 8, 2023, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried, Ms. Marino abstained from voting

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

Ms. Reyes motioned to accept the enrollment report, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motioned carried, Ms. Marino abstained from voting.

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

Ms. Reyes motioned to accept report of personnel transactions and extracurricular appointments, seconded by Mr. Cane Motioned carried, Ms. Marino abstained from voting.

- D. Partnerships: Accept Grant from The Fund for Greater Hartford For Training and Advocacy to Fight Chronic Absenteeism (\$20,000.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Chris Badenhop

Mr. Cane motioned to accept Grant from The Fund for Greater Hartford For Training and Advocacy to Fight Chronic Absenteeism, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motioned carried, Ms. Marino abstained from voting.

- E. Operations: Approve Contract for Lease of Continued Use of Pope John Paul School as a Swing Space for Construction Projects (first year \$72,000.00 - second year \$132,000.00)  
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper | Funding Source: Local budget 1010-911-25900-54400

Mr. Cane motioned to approve Contract for Lease of Continued Use of Pope John Paul School as a Swing Space for Construction Projects, seconded by Mr. Listro. Ms. Marino had a few concerns regarding the contract and pricing. Ms. Santana motioned to table this item, seconded by Mr. Cane after an additional evaluation of the contract.

- F. Operations: Approve Contract and Purchase Order for 140 Production Court Freezer Project (\$2,554,102.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Robert Smedley | Funding Source: Food Service Account

Mr. Cane motioned to Approve Contract and Purchase Order for 140 Production Court Freezer Project, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously

- G. Operations: Approve Summer Authority  
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper

Mr. Cane motioned to table Summer Authority, seconded by Ms. Santana.

## 7. Consent Agenda

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

- A. Policy: Review and Approve Policy P6115.3 – Proposed Flag Policy  
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper

Mr. Listro motioned to review and approve Policy P6115.3 – Proposed Flag Policy, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Ms. Connolly -Sanders motioned to table, after a second read.

- B. Policy: Review and Approve Policy 3280.10, Raffles, Bazaars, Etc.  
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper

Mr. Listro motioned to approve Policy 3280.10, Raffles, Bazaars, Etc., seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion carried unanimously

- C. Policy: Review and Approve Policy 3320.00 – Contract Approvals  
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper

Mr. Cane motioned to approve Policy 3320.00 – Contract Approvals, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion carried.

- D. Policy: Review and Approve Policy 5131, Student Discipline Code  
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper

Mr. Cane motioned to review and approve Policy 5131, Student Discipline Code, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion carried.

- E. Personnel: Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between CSDNB and Local 871, New Britain Federation of Teachers, Regarding Extra Planning Time  
Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning

- F. Personnel: Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between CSDNB and Local 51, New Britain Federation of School Administrators, Regarding Article V; 5.1 Vacation Rollover and to Amend Appendix H  
Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning

- G. Personnel: Approve New Position Request: 1.0 FTE Dean of Students  
Submitted by Mr. Alex Ortiz

Ms. Marino motioned to approve new position request: 1.0 FTE Dean of Students, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried by 9:1 vote.

- H. Personnel: Approve New Position Request: 1.0 FTE Assistant Coordinator of School Culture, PK-12  
Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders

Ms. Reyes motioned to Approve New Position Request: 1.0 FTE Assistant Coordinator of School Culture, PK-12, seconded by Mr. Listro. Motion carried.

- I. Personnel: Approve New Position Request: 1.0 FTE Communications Assistant (Spanish)  
Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders

- J. Personnel: Approve New Position Request: Part-Time Community Attendance Liaison  
Submitted by Ms. Ivelise Velazquez

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- K. Partnerships: Accept Donation from The Petit Foundation to Help Support the 3 Week CREATE Summer Program (\$10,000.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez
- L. Partnerships: Accept Donation from the First Church of Christ, Congregational for Youth Homeless Road to Recovery Program (\$2,000.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Joe Vaverchak
- M. Partnerships: Accept Grant from The Fund for Greater Hartford to Help Support the 3-week SEE and CREATE Summer Programs (\$50,000.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez
- N. Operations: Approve Purchase Order Under the CT Feminine Care Act for Accessibility to Feminine Hygiene Products- NBHS (\$18,202.08)  
Submitted by Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez | Funding Source: State grant and Facilities 56101
- O. Operations: Approve Bid Award Between CSDNB and Imperial Bag & Paper Co. LLC for Custodial Equipment and Supplies – Districtwide (\$350,000.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez | Funding Source: Facilities Custodial Supplies 101093126000 - 56101
- P. Operations: Approve Purchase Order for 300 Pochar C30BH Charging Carts for the District (\$153,000.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget - Equipment Replacement 101092125800-57345
- Q. Operations: Approve Purchase Order for Chromebooks for Online Assessments, Classroom Tasks, Assignments and Enrichments for the Students – Pulaski (\$35,000.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Alex Ortiz | Funding Source: Commissioner’s Network 234705310001-57243
- R. Operations: Approve Contract and Bid Award Between CSDNB and Ricoh for Yearly Copier Services and Fleet Leasing –Districtwide (\$212,019.36 - \$245,000.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget Copier and Print Services starting in FY 2023-24 101092125300-55500
- S. Operations: Approve Purchase Order of 900 Chromebooks for the Elementary Schools – Districtwide (\$288,900.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget Equipment Replacement 2023-24 101092125800-57345
- T. Operations: Approve Purchase Order of 900 Touchscreen Chromebooks for the Elementary Schools – Districtwide (\$301,500.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget Equipment Replacement 2023-24 101092125800-57345
- U. Operations: Approve Purchase Order Between CSDNB and Webroot EDR For One Year License of Several Antivirus Products (\$26,650.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Funding Source: MIS Local Software Budget (2023-24) 101092110000-53510
- V. Operations: Accept Financial Report – April 30, 2023  
Submitted by Ms. Ann Alfano

## Closing and Adjournment

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

*Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM*

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