



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Special Meeting

July 11, 2022 - 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 6:00 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

Board Members Absent

None

Executive Session

Mr. Kane motioned to go into executive session at 6:03 PM to discuss Item 2A (Approve Administrative Appointments), seconded by Mr. Cane. Superintendent Gasper, Director of Personnel and Talent Development Maryellen Manning, Chief Financial Officer Kevin Kane, and Director of Pupil Services Mark Spalding were invited into executive session to discuss this item with the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Continuation of Meeting

The meeting resumed in open session at 6:11 PM.

New Business

Personnel: Approve Administrative Appointments

Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning | No Committee Review

- **Ms. Jessica Foligno, District Supervisor of Special Education – Bridges Program at New Britain High School, effective July 12, 2022.**
Currently Districtwide Pupil Services Specialist Out-of-District Liaison at NBEAC – Pupil Services
The salary is \$131,498 and the funding source is grant funding.

Mr. Cane motioned to approve the administrative appointment of Ms. Jessica Foligno to District Supervisor of Special Education – Bridges Program at New Britain High School, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Mr. Stephen Howey, District Supervisor of Special Education – NBHS at New Britain High School, effective July 12, 2022.**
Currently Pupil Services Specialist Out-of-District Liaison at New Britain High School
The salary is \$132,656 and the funding source is local funding.

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Ms. Santana motioned to approve the administrative appointment of Mr. Stephen Howey to District Supervisor of Special Education – NBHS at New Britain High School, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried unanimously.

Amend Agenda

Mr. Gay motioned to suspend the rules of order and return to Public Participation, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation

Ms. Kristen Beckford

Ms. Beckford addressed members of the Board as an educator and parent of a second grader at Chamberlain Elementary School. She expressed concern regarding the proposed uniform policy on the agenda. Ms. Beckford stated that she believes that reinstating the uniform policy will not increase student achievement but rather put a Band-Aid on a larger problem. She contended that the goals of reducing distraction, minimizing disruption, and enhancing school pride can be achieved by other means such as training for teachers. Ms. Beckford stated that the trend among high performing schools in high poverty areas is not to advocate for uniforms but rather to focus on high expectations for all students both academically and behaviorally. She further asserted that disciplinary consequences are unfair to the K-8 students whose parents select their wardrobes. In conclusion, Ms. Beckford asked Board members to reconsider whether the school uniform policy is actually going to help teach our students something or just take opportunities away from them.

Reports

The Superintendent's Report is attached.

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 June 6, 2022

Submitted by Ms. Kristin Salerni | No Committee Review

Personnel: Accept Report of Personnel Transactions and Extracurricular Appointments

Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning | No Committee Review

Personnel: Approve NEW Job Description for Breakfast and Lunch Aide

Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning | Reviewed by the Personnel Committee on June 27, 2022

This position will report to the Building Principal and/or Assistant Principal.

Primary function:

- Under the supervision of the principal, or assistant principal, provides general supervision of students during breakfast and lunchtime.

This is a part-time, 10-month position. The hourly pay rate is as specified on the temporary employee wages list. There are no benefits with this position and hours will vary by school, up to 25 hours per week. This position is not affiliated with a union and the funding source is local budget.

Personnel: Approve New Position Request for 1.0 FTE Paraeducator for Districtwide Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program

Submitted by Mr. Mark Spalding and Ms. Donna Clark | Reviewed by the Personnel Committee on June 27, 2022

Elimination of Assistant to the Teacher of the Deaf position to fund a paraeducator position within the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

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Program. The Assistant position was created prior to the development of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Team. The district presently has two Special Education Teachers and 2 SLPs working along side the Teacher of the Deaf. At this time an additional paraeducator is required to work one-one with students who require support in the classroom to accommodate their hearing disability. The swapping of these positions will allow for a \$25,000 savings due to the difference in the pay rate.

There is a cost savings to the district due to the elimination of one position and the additional of another at a lower pay rate.

This is a districtwide, full-time, 10-month position. The estimated cost is \$0 and the funding source is local budget.

Partnerships: Accept Donation from The Petit Family Foundation for XTREME Summer Program (\$7,500.00)

Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on June 27, 2022 | Funding Source: The Petit Family Foundation, Inc.

A grant was submitted to The Petit Foundation to help support the 3-week XTREME summer program. Funds will be used to support the Community Based Organizations providing enrichment activities for summer participants 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 \$7,500.00 and the funding source is The Petit Family Foundation, Inc.

Partnerships: Approve Bid Award to Ingenuity, Inc. NE First for Work within the 2022 Summer Learning Experiences (SLE) Program (\$33,600.00)

Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on June 27, 2022 | Funding Sources: American Savings Foundation, ARP Expansion Grant, Fund for Greater Hartford, United Way, Petit Family Foundation and Community Foundation – Fiscal Year 2022-2023; Professional and Technical Services

The Consolidated School District (CSDNB) will run a three-week Summer Learning Experiences (SLE) Program from Monday July 18- Friday August 5, 2022. SLE is comprised of Jumpstart (Kindergarten), SEE (grades K-3), CREATE (grades 4-5) and XTREME (grades 6-8). The SLE program is a research-based collaborative approach to summer school proven to be effective in interrupting the cycle of summer learning loss, and what has now been labeled as COVID Learning Loss. SLE offers comprehensive summer educational opportunities and has three primary goals: 1) Provide each student with the emotional and academic supports needed to remain engaged in the school community beyond the regular school year, 2) Expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community partners, and 3) Motivate students to attend, value, and take pride in a fun and student-centered environment for growth. This is a non-traditional program in which CSDNB partners with community-based organizations (CBO) to help support students at all ages and in all settings, making it a unique opportunity for integration and community building. 1,200 of New Britain's lowest scoring students, and students identified based on Tier 2 chronic absenteeism, will be served during the summer of 2022. Through an RFP Process, CBO's submit proposals to work within the SLE program and are awarded based on their submissions and costs. This year CSDNB has selected 15 CBO's to work with the 2022 SLE Program. Ingenuity, NE Inc. DBA as NE First has been awarded \$33,600.00 to work in the SEE program at RELC, Lincoln, and Smalley.

The total is \$33,600.00 and the funding source is The funding source is American Savings Foundation, ARP Expansion Grant, Fund for Greater Hartford, United Way, Petit Family Foundation and Community Foundation - Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Professional and Technical Services.

Partnerships: Accept Donation from Travelers Sponsorship Program for Work Based Learning Initiatives at NBHS (\$95,000.00)

Submitted by Ms. Sondra Sanford | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on June 27, 2022 | Funding Source: Travelers Sponsorship Program

Travelers Corporate Grant/Sponsorship Program supports initiatives that are aligned with Consolidated School District of New Britain NAF Academies. New Britain was awarded funds specifically to support for the Work Based Learning Initiatives at New Britain High School.

Academic & Career Success: Travelers supports your goal of improved academic and career success for underrepresented youth. Through increasing the number of students who are qualified for and complete post-secondary education, we will help

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our communities to be successful in meeting their own demands for a skilled workforce, sustained economies, and quality of life.

The total is \$95,000 and the funding source is Travelers Sponsorship Program .

Academics: Approve Contract between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Mr. Donald F. Perras for Training and Coaching of Art and Music Personnel (\$6,475.00)

Submitted by Ms. Leona Clerkin | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on June 27, 2022 | Funding Source: Local 101096322074

"National teacher surveys cite deficiencies in university preparation as a primary vulnerability managing their initial employment assignments, particularly in communities with chronic student challenges. Significant premature resignations and national teacher shortages validate this trend, resulting in depressed student achievement and persistent behavioral complications. All disciplines are affected by a need for on - site personalized training and coaching to master the complex responsibilities learning their craft. Besides financial and time commitments, department resignations between 2014 – 2021 have disrupted the variety and quality of services provided our students, an unacceptable pattern that requires immediate attention." New teachers need our support, guidance and feedback on regular intervals. This coaching model would give attention to the teachers in the Fine Arts Department in order to support and improve student learning, teaching strategies, and the social emotional well-being of young teachers coming into the profession.

The total is \$6,475.00 and the funding source is Local 101096322074.

Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for Chromebooks for Primary Grades (\$165,150.00)

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on June 27, 2022 | Funding Source: ESSER I Funds – Instructional Equipment – New 206696910002-57346

This quote is for the purchase of 450 touch screen chromebooks, used for the primary grades in the school district. In the past CDWG has won the bids for chromebooks and we have an established system with the company that we want to continue with the same process.

The total is \$165,150.00 and the funding source is Esser I Funds Esser I - INSTR EQUIP - NEW 206696910002-57346.

Operations: Approve ERate Application Award for Emergency Connectivity (\$34,344.00)

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on June 27, 2022 | Funding Source: ERate

This Application Award is in relation to the Federal ERate program for student connectivity. This particular program secures services for 159 Kajeet hotspots for the school district, which have been utilized to provide internet services for students unable to participate in the Comcast Internet Essentials program.

The program will be of no cost to the school district.

The total is \$0.00 (Awarded \$34,344) and the funding source is ERate pays bill directly for this program.

New Business

Policy: Policy Committee Moves to Approve Revised Policy 5132.10 – School Attire

Reviewed by the Policy Committee at a Special Policy Committee Meeting on June 27, 2022

The Policy Committee brought forward revised Policy 5132.10 – School Attire based on their consensus to reinstate school uniforms and expand color options.

Mr. Cane motioned to approve revised Policy 5132.10 – School Attire, seconded by Ms. Santana.

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Roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Cane	X		
Dawkins	X		
Kane	X		
Marino		X	
Parker	X		
Reyes	X		
Santana	X		
Listro		X	
Gay		X	
Sanders-Connolly	X		

Motion carried by 7-3 vote.

Personnel: Approve Contract between Kelly Services, Inc. and Consolidated School District of New Britain for Educational Staffing (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023)

Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning | No Committee Review

Mr. Kane motioned to approve the contract between Kelly Services, Inc. and Consolidated School District of New Britain for educational staffing from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, seconded by Mr. Cane. All were in favor of motion with the exception of Ms. Santana. Motion carried by 9-1 vote.

Personnel: Approve New Position Request for 1.0 FTE Sixth Grade Classroom Teacher for DiLoreto Middle School

Submitted by Ms. Lori Butterfield | No Committee Review

In order to provide our sixth-grade students with a complete grade level team, we are requesting to change our MS STEAM position to a Sixth Grade Classroom position.

This is not a request for an additional FTE, it is a request to change the title of an FTE.

This is a full-time, 10-month position. The estimated cost is \$0 and the funding source is Alliance Grant.

Ms. Reyes motioned to approve the new position request for (1.0) sixth grade classroom teacher for DiLoreto Middle School, seconded by Mr. Gay. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Approve Newfield Construction Contract Amendment for NBHS ADA Project (\$3,183,131.00)

Submitted by Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez | Presented at the Regular Board of Education Meeting on June 6, 2022

A more defined scope of work was generated after the bid meetings and reviews were held. The contract amendment lists the updated Guaranteed Maximum Price. Newfield Construction and Rebecca Gonzalez presented the new GMP information during the June 6th Board Meeting. Rebecca attended the meeting virtually.

The total is \$3,183,131.00 and the funding source is \$2 million: City Special Funding account and \$1,183,131.22: local funding from School Budget unsure.

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Mr. Cane motioned to approve the Newfield Construction Contract Amendment for NBHS ADA Project in the amount of \$3,183,131.00, seconded by Mr. Listro. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Approve Revision of Authorized Signers of the ED099 Agreement for the Child Nutrition Programs

Submitted by Ms. Ann Alfano | No Committee Review | Funding Source: N/A

To update the authorized signers for the monthly ED103 claims submitted to the SDE on a monthly basis for the Child Nutrition Program.

The total is N/A and the funding source is N/A.

Mr. Listro motioned to approve revision of authorized signers of the ED099 Agreement for the Child Nutrition Programs, seconded by Ms. Dawkins. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Accept Financial Report – May 31, 2022

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Kane | No Committee Review

The Financial Report ending May 31, 2022 was presented.

Mr. Cane motioned to accept the Financial Report ending May 31, 2022, seconded by Mr. Gay. All were in favor of motion with the exception of Ms. Santana. Motion carried by 9-1 vote.

Closing and Adjournment

Ms. Parker motioned to adjourn at 7:15 PM, seconded by Mr. Gay. Motion carried unanimously.