



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

### New Britain Board of Education Policy Committee Meeting

September 12, 2022 – 6:00 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

#### Call to Order and Opening

Mr. Anthony Kane, Curriculum Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

#### Board Members Present

Mr. Anthony Cane#, Mr. Anthony Kane\*, Mr. Joseph Listro\*, Ms. Diana Reyes\*, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly, Ms. Tina Santana\*#

\*Committee member

#Attended remotely

#### CSDNB Staff Present

Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, Dr. Anthony Gasper, Ms. Maryellen Manning, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Dr. Nicole Sanders, Mr. Mark Spalding

#### New Business

#### Review and Approve Minutes from the Special Policy Committee Meeting on June 27, 2022

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Special Policy Committee Meeting on June 27, 2022.

***Ms. Reyes motioned to approve the minutes from the Special Policy Committee Meeting on June 27, 2022 as submitted, seconded by Mr. Listro. Motion carried unanimously.***

#### Discuss and Review Potential Flag Display Policy

Mr. Kane opened the discussion by providing background information regarding a recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court stating that Boston violated the First Amendment rights of a group seeking to raise a Christian flag atop a flagpole outside of City Hall by denying their application to fly the flag (Shurtleff ET AL v. City of Boston ET AL). Prior to this ruling, CBE had developed several versions of a new policy, #6115.3 “Flag (Display) Policy” for school districts to consider when contemplating a comprehensive policy regarding flag raising. Mr. Kane presented the variations of this optional policy and administrative regulations for review by committee members.

Discussion centered around whether the Board of Education would take a stance of neutrality or allow the display of any and all flags as a show of free speech. Mr. Listro suggested that schools could design and fly their own school flags with input from the students.

Members of the Policy Committee recommended the following:

- Table discussion until future Policy Committee Meeting
- Ms. Sanders-Connolly will reach out to CBE and see if they have an updated policy or language in response to the

#### 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

## Closing and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.