



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

**New Britain Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting**

November 21, 2022 – 6:15 PM | New Britain Educational Administration Center

**Call to Order and Opening**

Mr. Anthony Kane, Curriculum Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 6: 49 PM.

**Board Members Present**

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

*\*Committee member*

**CSDNB Staff Present**

Ms. Melissa Abate, Ms. Amy Anderson, Ms. Lara Bohlke, Ms. Kristina DeNegre, MS. Aja Edwards, Dr. Anthony Gasper, Ms. Lisa Kaweck, Ms. Wanda Lickwar, Ms. Maryellen Manning, Dr. Silvia Mayo-Molina, Ms. Kristin Salerni, Dr. Sanders, Ms. Ivelise Velazquez, Ms. Jennifer Wright

**New Business**

**Review and Approve Minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on October 17, 2022**

There were no recommended changes to the minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on October 17, 2022.

*Ms. Santana motioned to approve minutes from the Curriculum Committee Meeting on October 17, 2022, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.*

-----

**Accept Monthly EdAdvance Report**

There were no recommended changes to report.

-----

**Presentation: Communities Creating Change (C3) Curriculum - Update**

**Background:**

In partnership with family and community, the Consolidated School District of New Britain works to provide the best personalized and comprehensive whole-child education so our students will be prepared for, and positively contribute to, a profoundly different future. The 2021-2022 school year marked new challenges for students and staff in addressing the needs of the whole child including students' mental and social-emotional health. With the overdose pandemic on the rise nationwide, it is important to educate our students on drug safety and awareness starting at a young age. According to a report from The City of New Britain Office of Community Services and New Britain Recovers Initiative, as of July 2022, there were 23 total overdose deaths reported in New Britain, of those, 13 were reported in residences with a victim age range of 25-52 years old. In efforts to work together with community partners and foster an environment where our students can build positive relationships with our police officers

**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

in the city, select New Britain Police Officers will become trained facilitators of a curriculum developed by a partnership between Southington Police Department and The City of New Britain's Youth Prevention Council.

The cost of the delivery of the curriculum will be \$19,073.25 per year. The cost covers the overtime rate for (9) officers for (7) weeks of instruction. Each trained officer will be partnered with our elementary schools to deliver the curriculum. Officers will also visit the schools throughout the school year to establish positive rapport and build relationships with students prior to March, the target month for delivery. This is a unique opportunity to work in partnership with The New Britain Police Department to pilot this educational curriculum to safeguard our students at the elementary level.

The Communities Creating Change (C3) Curriculum was developed this past year for 5th grade elementary students. The curriculum consists of seven modules including topics such as: identifying trusted adults, identifying characteristics of a growth mindset, identifying and evaluating risk taking behaviors and decision making, youth substance use and the developing brain, internet safety and cyberbullying, and how social acceptance encourages diversity and increasing empathy towards others. There will be a pre and posttest along with surveys at the conclusion of each module. All of these topics directly support the work the district has been doing around Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Social Emotional Learning.

Total Amount: \$19,073.25

Funding Source: Athletics Activity Account Budget

Line Code: Athletics Activity Account

### **Presentation: Communities Creating Change (C3) Curriculum**

Presented by Ms. Ivelise Velazquez, Ms. Lisa Kawecki, Ms. Mallory Deprey and Deputy Chief Benjamin Murphy, NBPD

Ms. Lisa Kawecki, District Assistant Coordinator of Physical Education, Health and Wellness PK-8, began the presentation by introducing the following community members that were in attendance:

Deputy Chief Murphy, New Britain Police Officer

Ms. Mallory Deprey, Office of Community Services

Ms. Kawecki explained that in order to address our students' mental and social-emotional health amid the opioid overdose pandemic, we need to provide our younger students with health curriculum at the elementary level. In response to this need, The City of New Britain's Youth Prevention Council connected our staff with the Southington STEPS Coalition and Southington Police Department who have partnered to pilot the implementation of health, safety and prevention curriculum for grade five students in their public schools. Ms. Kawecki asked for C3 Module to be added to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade SEL curriculum, and it will be delivered into the classroom directly by the officers, along with a certified teacher to deliver the lessons. Deputy Chief Murphy discussed that the program, although trained by Southington officers, will be tailored to the New Britain community. There are 7 modules that are each 30/45 minutes long. Goal is to start next September, and have the program run weekly for 7 weeks. Deputy Chief Murphy discussed how to implement the C3 program tailored to the city of New Britain, and how to establish a strong, long lasting relationship with the students of NB. Ms. Deprey followed up with concluding that this program will be teaching on a level of not just drug and alcohol abuse, but a larger responsibility to the improvement of this community.

At this point, the presentation was given for informational purposes only, Dr. Gasper discussed it doesn't need approval from the board.

---

### **Presentation: CSDE Reading Mandate – Update**

Superintendent Gasper explained that CSDNB is required to implement one of five state-approved reading curriculum models or programs starting with the 2023-24 school year as a result of Public Act No. 21-2. Deputy Superintendent Ivelise Velazquez provided committee members with an overview of the new reading legislation passed last year and an updated timeline with regard to the decision deadline and roll-out process. The original legislation required that the Center for Literacy Research and Reading Success and the Reading Leadership Implementation Council would identify five reading curriculum models or programs by July 1, 2022 but the list was not published until September 30, 2022. Ms. Velazquez and Academics & Accountability Officer

---

## **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

PK-5 Kristina DeNegre highlighted the steps that will be taken in order to make the best-informed decision given the tight timeline and deadline of December 15, 2022. The top recommendation will be presented to the full Board at their December meeting. The state department has built a master class for district leaders to learn about the 7 elements of reading and implement professional development. The presentation is attached.

### **Discussion of Academic Purchase – Print and eBooks for School Libraries**

Ms. Lara Bohlke discussed how there is budget of \$45,000.00 for book purchases divided among the schools. Senior Leadership and District Leadership discussed what they like to call a blanket P.O, which is long list of books that students, librarians, library assistants and teachers can use to request and receive books in a much timelier fashion. Lara discussed competitive pricing and how the testing method used was taking 200 titles and using 3 different vendors to find the lowest price which was Follett. When requesting books, Lara stated that they try to order in both Spanish and Arabic if available and have a program called Learning Ally that has textbooks in Spanish. Ms. Bolhke stated eBooks and hardcopy books are each a separate purchase.

The Curriculum Committee favorably recommended to refer Academic Purchase of Print and Ebooks for school libraries in eh amount of \$45,000.00 to the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee for further review at their next meeting in November.

### **Closing and Adjournment**

Ms. Reyes motioned to adjourn at 7:21pm, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously