



## CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

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

August 14, 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, Ms. Monica Dawkins, Mr. Merrill Gay, Mr. Anthony Kane, Ms. Barbara Marino, Ms. Annie Parker, Ms. Diana Reyes, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly and Ms. Tina Santana\*.

*\*Arrived at 6:25 pm*

## 2. Public Participation

Paul Catanzaro: City Council member and father of a Lincoln student, asked if there is any way to consider adding purple or pink as a uniform color as his daughter stated she would like to see more variety for girls. He also asked about security, and if there is any way there could be extra security added at the elementary schools, as safety is his biggest concern.

## 3. Reports

### Board Reports

Mr. Cane stated while doing his liaison visits, how impressed with the schools he visited. HALS Principal, Ms. Clerkin invited him to attend the presentation of Wedding Singer, put together by the theater group at NBHS. He stated how amazing and talented the students are and how he would love to see the HALS program expanded. He also discussed having a conversation with Northend Principal, Rolanda Booker regarding the Eagles Landing program designed to assist with absenteeism.

He also brought to the Board's attention how Northend is one of New Britain's oldest schools and a concern of the principal are the grounds and layout of the school. The traffic is a big concern as there is limited space. People ignore the signs which makes it dangerous for students, crossing guards and parents bringing students to school. He hopes that this soon is addressed.

Ms. Reyes also attended the students' performance of Beauty and the Beast and the Wedding Singer, which she stated was phenomenal. Ms. Reyes along with Mr. Cane attended the CAFE Conference, where one of our district's students participated and did phenomenally well! She is looking forward to meeting the new student representatives.

Mr. Kane stated Band Camp and Student Sports have started! He asked everyone to keep those students in mind as they start this new year.

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Ms. Sanders-Connolly followed up and concluded by reminding everyone that the fundraiser for the NBHS Football team will be August 25, 2023.

## Superintendent's Report

The following individuals are new administrative appointments that were approved by the Board:

*Ms. Lori Butterfield - District Coordinator of Special Education & Pupil Services (PreK and Districtwide KEY Program)*

*Ms. Allison Galin – District Supervisor of Small Classroom Setting*

*Ms. Keira Soler – Assistant Coordinator of School Culture pK-12*

*Ms. Lisa Kawecki – Athletics Director*

## 4. Executive Session

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

*Mr. Cane motioned to go into executive session to discuss matters pertaining to attorney/client privilege, seconded by Mr. Kane. Superintendent Gasper, Chief of Staff Ms. Maryellen Manning, and Attorney Erik Bartlett were invited to executive session with the full Board.*

## 5. Presentations

*Presentations are attached*

- A. Pupil Services 2023-2024 Staffing Needs  
Presented by Mr. Mark Spalding
- B. Varsity Tutors – High Dosage Tutoring  
Presented by Ms. Lillie Stuart

## 6. New Business

- A. Operations: Approve Minutes from the Regular Board of Education Meeting on June 5, 2023  
Submitted by Ms. Aja Edwards

*Ms. Santana motioned to approve amended minutes from the regular Board of Education meeting on June 5, 2023, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.*

- B. Operations: Approve Minutes from the Special Board of Education Meeting on June 13, 2023  
Submitted by Ms. Aja Edwards

*Mr. Cane motioned to approve amended minutes from the special Board of Education meeting on June 13, 2023, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried, Ms. Marino abstained from voting.*

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

Mr. Gay motioned to accept report of Personnel Transactions and Extracurricular Appointments, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion carried unanimously.

- D. Partnerships: Accept Grant from American Heart Association to Support School Bowling Equipment – Northend Elementary (\$1,587.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Rolanda Booker

Mr. Kane motioned to accept grant from American Heart Association to Support School Bowling Equipment at Northend Elementary in the amount of \$1,587.00, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Partnerships: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and The Children’s Museum to Provide Lessons/Field Experiences About a Variety of Topics to Keep Student’s Engaged – Northend Elementary School (\$16,000.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Rolanda Booker | Funding Source: SIG Grant 53200

Mr. Cane motioned to approve purchase order and contract Between CSDNB and The Children’s Museum to Provide Lessons/Field Experiences About a Variety of Topics to Keep Student’s Engaged at Northend Elementary School in the amount of \$16,000.00, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Partnerships: Approve Contract Between CSDNB and The Children’s Museum to Provide Lessons/Field Experiences About a Variety of Topics to Build Background Knowledge and Vocabulary – Chamberlain Elementary School (\$27,500.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Manuel Zaldivar | Funding Source: SIG Grant 53200

Ms. Santana motioned to approve contract between CSDNB and The Children’s Museum to provide experiences about a variety of topics to build background knowledge and vocabulary at Chamberlain Elementary School in the amount of \$27,500.00, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

- G. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and Varsity Tutors for Schools, LLC to Address CT Core Standards in Literacy or Numeracy (\$158,155.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Jennifer Wright | Funding Source: FY 2021 ARPA Priority School District and Faith Act Grant 300

Ms. Reyes motioned to approve purchase order and contract between CSDNB and Varsity Tutors for Schools, LLC to address CT core standards in literacy or numeracy in the amount of \$158,155.00, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion carried 7:1 vote, Mr. Cane abstained from voting. Motion carried unanimously.

- H. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and World-Wide Youth Network/ParaDYM Academy to Use Esports and Gaming to Bring Experiential Learning Activities through SEL and CTE curricula to 30 Students - Pulaski Middle School (\$19,130.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Alex Ortiz | Funding Source: Commissioner's Network Grant 234705310001-53320

Ms. Santana motioned to approve purchase order and contract between CSDNB and World-Wide Youth Network/ParaDYM Academy to use Esports and gaming to bring experiential learning activities through SEL and CTE curricula to 30 Students at Pulaski Middle School in the amount of \$19,130.00, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

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- I. Operations: Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between Pulaski Middle School and Engaging Schools, Regarding Increasing Academic Discourse & New Teacher Mentoring (\$130,997.48)  
Submitted by Mr. Alex Ortiz | Funding Source: Commissioner's Network 234705310001-53320
- Ms. Santana motioned to approve Memorandum of Understanding between Pulaski Middle School and Engaging Schools, regarding increasing academic discourse & new teacher mentoring in the amount of \$130,997.48, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried unanimously.
- J. Operations: Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between CSDNB and Local 871, New Britain Federation of Teachers Regarding Article 4:12 - Substitute Teaching  
Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning | Funding Source: Local Extra Earnings: 101096910001-51181
- Ms. Parker motioned to approve Memorandum of Understanding between CSDNB and Local 871, New Britain Federation of Teachers Regarding Article 4:12 - Substitute Teaching, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.
- K. Operations: Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between CSDNB and Local 871, New Britain Federation of Teachers to Amend Article 5:3 Regarding Classes for Special Education Students  
Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning | Funding Source: ESSER 206393110002-54001
- Mr. Kane motioned to approve Memorandum of Understanding Between CSDNB and Local 871, New Britain Federation of Teachers to Amend Article 5:3 regarding classes for Special Education Students, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously.
- L. Operations: Approve Purchase Order Between CSDNB and Unique Learning System for 1-year Curriculum Renewal - Districtwide (\$23,440.49)  
Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark | Funding Source: \$1,596.00 IDEA 611 FY2023; \$21,844.49 101097412002-56110 (Local Inst Supplies)
- Ms. Santana motioned to approve purchase order between CSDNB and Unique Learning System for 1-year curriculum renewal in the amount of \$23,440.49, seconded by Ms. Marino. Motion carried unanimously
- M. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and Cormier Consulting to Provide Executive Coaching, Professional Development, and Support with School-side Systems – Pulaski & Slade Middle School (\$90,750.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Tyrone Richardson | Funding Source: Commissioner's Network
- Ms. Parker motioned to approve purchase order and contract between CSDNB and Cormier Consulting to provide executive coaching, professional development, and support with school-side systems at Pulaski and Slade Middle School in the amount of \$90,750.00, seconded by Mr. Kane. Motion carried unanimously
- N. Operations: Approve Purchase Order Between CSDNB and Imagine Learning for Renewal of Licenses that Provide Credit Recovery Solutions – New Britain Adult Education (\$21,017.15)  
Submitted by Ms. Lara Bohlke | Funding Source: Academics-Software-tech-related 10109611000157350
- Ms. Santana motioned to approve purchase order between CSDNB and Imagine Learning for renewal of licenses that provide credit recovery solutions at New Britain Adult Education in the amount of 21,017.15, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously
- O. Operations: Approve Purchase Order Between CSDNB and SchoolMessenger For Yearly Renewal of Calling Software – Districtwide (\$15,750.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Funding Source: MIS Local Software Budget 101092110000-53510

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Mr. Cane motioned to approve purchase order between CSDNB and SchoolMessenger for yearly renewal of calling software, in the amount of \$15,700.00, seconded by Mr. Gay. Motion carried unanimously.

- P. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and Bridge the Gap Educational Consulting, LLC to Provide Instructional Coaching to Special Education Teachers – Smalley Elementary School (\$45,360.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Andrea Foligno | Funding Source: Commissioner’s Network 23012100153320

Ms. Santana motioned to approve purchase order and contract between CSDNB and Bridge the Gap Educational Consulting, LLC in the amount of \$45,360.00, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously

- Q. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and CREC Senior Education Specialist, Jessica Kazigian to Develop Student Work Protocol and Support Instructional Coaches – Chamberlain Elementary (\$12,400.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Manuel Zaldivar | Funding Source: SIG Grant 53320

Ms. Santana motioned to approve purchase order and contract between CSDNB and CREC Senior Education Specialist, Jessica Kazigian to develop student t work protocol and support instructional coaches at Chamberlain Elementary in the amount of \$12,400.00, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried unanimously

- R. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and SchoolLinks For Subscription of College Exploration, Application Management System and Career Essentials for Students Grades 9 Through 12 – NBHS (\$70,647.63)  
Submitted by Ms. Sondra Sanford | Funding Source: ESSER ARP Grant 206310000001-56110

Ms. Santana motioned to approve purchase order and contract between CSDNB and SchoolLinks for subscription of college exploration, application management and system career essentials for students grades 9-12 in the amount of \$70,647.63, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried unanimously

- ~~S. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and Kathryn Y. Serino to Improve Practices and Outcomes Related to Effective Professional Relationships and High Quality Teaching and Learning – Chamberlain Elementary (\$3,600.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Manuel Zaldivar | Funding Source: SIG Grant 53320~~

- T. Operations: Approve Purchase Order Between CSDNB and Bureau Veritas for 3D Scanning, and Annual Fee for Hosting Scans on the Cloud (\$149,057.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez | Funding Source: ESSER 206393110002-54001

Ms. Santana motioned to approve purchase order between CSDNB and Bureau Vitas for 3D scanning, and annual fee for hosting scans on the cloud, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously

- U. Operations: Approve Purchase Order Between CSDNB and IReady, An Online Platform to Diagnose and Offer a Virtual Learning Path for Students Needing Support in Reading and Math – Districtwide (\$248,298.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Tyrone Richardson | Funding Source: Local 101096110001 57350

Ms. Reyes motioned to approve purchase order between CSDNB and IReady, seconded by Ms. Dawkins. Motion carried unanimously

- V. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and Delta-T Group to Provide Paraeducator Staffing Coverage – Lincoln Elementary School (\$363,600.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark | Funding Source: 206397412002-53200

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Mr. Gay motioned to approve purchase order and contract between CSDNB and Delta-T Group to provide paraeducator staffing coverage in the amount of \$363,600.00, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Ms. Santana opposed, motion carried with 8:1 vote.

- W. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and VocoVision, LLC dba Blazerworks, to Occupy 18 Paraeducator Positions for the Key Program – Districtwide (\$1,126,440.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark | Funding Source: 206397412002-53200

Ms. Reyes motioned to approve purchase order and contract between CSDNB and VocoVision, LLC to occupy 18 paraeducator positions for the KEY program in the amount of \$1,126,440.00, seconded by Mr. Cane. Ms. Santana opposed, motion carried with 8:1 vote.

- X. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Renewal Between CSDNB and All Point Healthcare to Provide a Contracted 1:1 Nurse to Assist Student with Significant Medical Needs (\$60/hour for LPN, \$70/hour for RN - \$88,200.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark | Funding Source: 206397412002-53200

Ms. Reyes motioned to approve purchase order and contract renewal between CSDNB and All Point Healthcare to provide a contracted 1:1 nurse to assist student with significant medical needs in the amount of \$88,200.00, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously

- Y. Operations: Approve Bid Waiver Between CSDNB and ESS to Provide Employee Substitute Staffing K-12 – Districtwide (\$1,000,000.00)  
Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders | Funding Source: Talent Department - Outside Sub Service: Certified 101094125700-53590

Mr. Cane motioned to approve bid waiver between CSDNB and ESS to provide employee substitute staffing districtwide in the amount of 1,000,000.00, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously

- Z. Operations: Approve Purchase Order Between CSDNB and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co. for READ 180, a Program Designed to Improve Reading Abilities for Students Testing Below Grade Level – Slade Middle School (\$35,977.94)  
Submitted by Mr. Andrew Mazzei | Funding Source: Commissioner's Network 2346-012-1000-000-001-56110

Ms. Dawkins motioned to approve purchase order between CSDNB and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co. for READ180, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously.

- AA. Operations: Approve Purchase Order Between CSDNB and Ouaver Ed for Renewal of Quaver Music Technology Platform Which Includes Movement Videos, Activities, Interactives, Games, and Assignments (\$18,000.00)  
Submitted by Ms. Leona Clerkin | Funding Source: Local Fine Arts Budget 101096322074-57350 Software-Tech. related

Ms. Dawkins motioned to approve purchase order between CSDNB and Quaver Ed for renewal of Quaver music technology platform, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously

- BB. Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract Between CSDNB and Donald F. Perra, Ph.D. to Provide a Foundation of Strategies to Achieve Long-Term Success – Pulaski Middle School (\$18,000.00)  
Submitted by Mr. Alex Ortiz | Funding Source: Commissioner's Network 234705310001-53320

Ms. Dawkins motioned to approve purchase order and contract between CSDNB and Donald F. Perra, Ph.D. to provide a foundation of strategies to achieve long-term success at Pulaski Middle School in the amount of \$18,000.00, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously

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CC. Operations: Approve Smith School Playground Dedication  
Submitted by Mr. Joseph Listro

*Mr. Cane motioned to approve Smith School playground dedication, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried*

DD. Approve Financial Report – June 30, 2023  
Submitted by Ms. Ann Alfano

*Mr. Cane motioned to approve the financial report for June 30, 2023, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously*

EE. Executive Session for the Purposes of Discussing Matters Related to the Superintendent’s Performance Evaluation

*Mr. Cane motioned to go into executive session for the purposes of discussing matters related to the Superintendent’s performance evaluation, seconded by Ms. Santana. Superintendent Gasper, was invited into executive session with the full Board.*

## Closing and Adjournment

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

*Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.*

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