



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education Regular Meeting

March 8, 2021 - 6:00 PM | New Britain High School

Call to Order and Roll Call

Call to Order

Mr. Merrill Gay, President of the New Britain Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Board Members Present

Ms. Monica Dawkins, Mr. Merrill Gay, Mr. Anthony Kane, Mr. Joseph Listro, Mr. Nicholas Mercier, Ms. Annie Parker, Ms. Diana Reyes, Ms. Gayle Sanders-Connolly, Ms. Tina Santana*, Dr. Violet Jiménez Sims

**Participated remotely*

Board Members Absent

None

Student/Staff Recognition

Ms. Melody Cubano, Ms. Carrie Clark, Miss Mariah Cubano, and Tyshawn Yopp were recognized by the Board for their initiation of the Black Characters Matters mission. Ms. Cubano and Ms. Clark are staff members at Vance Elementary where Mariah and Tyshawn attend fourth grade and kindergarten. The idea for their fundraising campaign started last summer when Mariah noticed that there was a lack of racial representation in books at her school. Ms. Cubano and her children then decided to raise money in order to get fictional books that contain main characters of color into the school libraries for students to read and enjoy. Mariah and Tyshawn have attended events, rallies, and peaceful protests raising money and speaking about their mission to ensure that all children will have access to books with characters that represent and look like them. Ms. Cubano reported that there have been a total of 770 books donated so far. The Amazon wish list of books created for this mission was shared with Board members.

Mariah spoke to Board members about the development of her mission and read aloud an excerpt from a book she authored that was recently published. Superintendent Sarra, Ms. Kristina DeNegre (Talent Officer), and Ms. Susane Hansley (Assistant Principal Vance Elementary) joined Board members in commending everyone involved with the Black Characters Matters mission for their important work.

Public Participation

Mr. Rory T. Edwards

Mr. Rory T. Edwards, former President of New Britain's NAACP branch (1994-2005), addressed Board members to provide clarity regarding development of the "C rule" initiative that he brought to the Board 23 years ago. He explained that the reason behind starting the initiative was not to be punitive but to guide student athletes on their way to successful lives. Mr. Edwards also expressed concern with regard to statements made by some New Britain High School football players at the regular Board of Education Meeting on October 5, 2020. He objected to students who stated that football was "my way out" and explained that sports may provide opportunities but that a foundation in education is what will help you realize your dreams and take you

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where you want to go in life. In closing, Mr. Edwards stressed the importance of not setting mediocre standards for our student athletes.

Reports

The Superintendent's Report is attached.

Mr. Mercier motioned to move item 5B (Discussion/Update on Chamberlain School Renovation Project by Kaestle Boos Associates) up as the next item of business on the agenda, seconded by Dr. Jiménez Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Discussion/Update on Chamberlain School Renovation Project by Kaestle Boos Associates

Mr. Fred Khericha of Kaestle Boos Associates and representatives of Newfield Construction, Inc. presented drawings and a flyover video of the design of the Chamberlain School Renovation Project. Mr. Khericha updated Board members regarding the timeline and next steps that will be taken with regard to the Chamberlain project.

Operations: Approve Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. as Architect of Chamberlain School Renovation Project

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Dion | No Committee Review

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. as Architect of Chamberlain School Renovation Project, seconded by Mr. Listro.

Roll call vote:

	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Gay</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Mercier</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Jiménez Sims</i>		<i>X</i>	
<i>Dawkins</i>			<i>X</i>
<i>Kane</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Listro</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Parker</i>		<i>X</i>	
<i>Reyes</i>		<i>X</i>	
<i>Sanders-Connolly</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Santana</i>		<i>X</i>	

The motion carried by 5-4 vote.

Operations: Approve Newfield Construction, Inc. as Construction Manager of Chamberlain School Renovation Project

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Dion | No Committee Review

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve Newfield Construction, Inc. as Construction Manager of Chamberlain School Renovation Project, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly.

Roll call vote:

	<i>Aye</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Gay</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Mercier</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Jiménez Sims</i>		<i>X</i>	
<i>Dawkins</i>			<i>X</i>
<i>Kane</i>	<i>X</i>		

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Listro	X		
Parker		X	
Reyes		X	
Sanders-Connolly	X		
Santana		X	

The motion carried by 5-4 vote.

Mr. Mercier motioned to move item 5C (Approve “Owner’s Representative Agreement” between Construction Advocacy Professionals, LLC and the New Britain Board of Education for New Britain High School ADA Compliance Project) up as the next item of business on the agenda, seconded by Dr. Jiménez Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Approve “Owner’s Representative Agreement” between Construction Advocacy Professionals, LLC and the New Britain Board of Education for New Britain High School ADA Compliance Project

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Dion | No Committee Review

Mr. Robert Smedley, Manager of Technology/Special Projects, spoke about projects and renovations that have already been completed to bring violations up to code. Mr. Kevin Dion, Director of Facilities, explained that the outstanding items that still need corrective action are labor and time intensive and help is needed to provide information to the state regarding the plan, design, time frame, and funding for the ADA Compliance Project. Ms. Antonietta Roy from Construction Advocacy Professionals, LLC explained the role that her company would take with regard to the outstanding code violation projects at the high school. Ms. Roy explained that as Owner’s Representative they would be responsible for monitoring costs and progress of the design and work itself as well as communicating with the state regarding the status of the projects.

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve “Owner’s Representative Agreement” between Construction Advocacy Professionals, LLC and the New Britain Board of Education for New Britain High School ADA Compliance Project, seconded by Dr. Jiménez Sims. All were in favor with the exception of Ms. Sanders-Connolly and Ms. Santana. The motion carried by 8-2 vote.

Recess

Mr. Mercier called for a short recess at 8:11 PM.

Continuation of Meeting

The meeting resumed in open session at 8:22 PM.

Old Business

Policy: Approve Policy 3432.10 – Self Insurance Fund, Fund Policy

Reviewed by the Finance Committee on October 26, 2020 and the Policy Committee on November 16, 2020 and January 19, 2021

Mr. Kevin Kane, Chief Financial Officer, recommended the Board set a policy on what is an appropriate fund balance for the Self-Insurance Fund. The Finance Committee favorably referred this proposed policy to the Policy Committee for review at the Finance Meeting on October 26, 2020. On November 16, 2020, the Policy Committee motioned to postpone approval of this policy until an actual draft was submitted. Mr. Kane submitted a draft policy for review at the Policy Committee Meeting on January 19, 2021.

The recommendation was as follows:

- Goal to maintain a fund balance in the range of 25% to 35% of current year expenditures excluding IBNR (Incurred but not reported).
- Maximum allowable capped fund balance of 50% of current year expenditures excluding IBNR (Incurred but not reported).

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IBNR are claims that are incurred prior to June 30th but are paid after the close of the year in the months of July and August. It is a requirement to adjust the financials to reflect these expenditures which also includes reversing out the prior year July and August claims that were for the previous year. This adjustment is made around October 1st. The Board of Education annual financial report filing with the State of CT, Department of Education needs to be filed with the State Department of Education by September 1st for the prior year.

The Policy Committee made the following recommendations with regard to this item:

- Raise maximum allowable capped fund balance to **70%** of current year expenses, excluding the annual year end adjustment for incurred but not reported expenditures (IBNR)
- Add third section to policy addressing financial reporting to the Board of Education

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve Policy 3432.10 – Self-Insurance Fund, Fund Policy, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

(There were no objections 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 February 1, 2021

Submitted by Ms. Kristin Salerni | No Committee Review

Operations: Approve Minutes from the Special Board of Education Meeting on February 11, 2021

Submitted by Ms. Kristin Salerni | No Committee Review

Operations: Approve Minutes from the Special Board of Education Meeting on February 23, 2021

Submitted by Ms. Kristin Salerni | No Committee Review

Operations: Accept Enrollment Report

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | No Committee Review

Operations: Accept In-Person Student Enrollment Report

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | No Committee Review

Personnel: Accept Report of Personnel Transactions and Extracurricular Appointments

Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning | No Committee Review

Operations: Approve Revised 2021 Board of Education Meeting Calendar

No Committee Review

Personnel: Approve Increase in Compensation for CLIMB Higher Student Workers for 2021-2022 School Year

Submitted by Mr. Mark Spalding | Presented at the Regular Board of Education Meeting on January 4, 2021 and Reviewed by the Personnel Committee on February 22, 2021

Mr. Mark Spalding, Director of Pupil Services, is asking the Board for approval to increase compensation for CLIMB student workers from \$3.00 to \$6.00 an hour starting next school year.

Personnel: Accept Donation from the Connecticut Alliance of Regional Educational Service Centers (\$1,500.00)

Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders | No Committee Review | Funding Source: RESC Alliance

MTR funding application was submitted and CSDNB was awarded \$1,500 to support with diversifying staff goals and initiatives.

The total is \$1,500 and the funding source is RESC Alliance.

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Academics: Approve Purchase Order for LearnZillion K-5 Illustrative Mathematics Program (\$771,167.50)

Submitted by Ms. Lara Bohlke | Reviewed by the Curriculum Committee on February 16, 2021 and the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: Academics – Text Books 10109612200-56410

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. Our curriculum renewal timeline at the elementary school level turns to Mathematics for the 2021-2022 school year. The foundational resource we have been using for the past 11 years, Math Expressions was originally published in 2009 and has not been updated since 2013. To prepare to receive our renewed curriculum and to align our elementary mathematics to the middle school curriculum, we will be adopting a new resource, LearnZillion K-5 Illustrative Mathematics. Illustrative Mathematics is a mathematics curriculum that is highly usable, well-designed and supported. The instructional materials for LearnZillion Illustrative Mathematics meet the expectation for alignment to the CCSS and connect the Standards for Mathematical Content and the Standards for Mathematical Practice. Where in the past we have purchased static textbooks that we have utilized for 6 to 12 or more years, we are in a time in education in which textbooks themselves are virtual resources that can be updated and revised in real time. This cost expenditure should be equated to the cost of new textbooks, albeit online and digital, that will last multiple years.

Our District Strategic Plan demands that we prepare students to positively contribute to a profoundly different future and promote an engaging culture for learning for all staff and students. This future will require students to problem-solve, to devise clever, creative solutions to unique problems, to collaborate around these solutions and to reflect and improve their solutions with feedback. This curriculum includes all of these elements coupled with planned embedded professional development. In selecting a resource to support our renewed curriculum, we were mindful of several variables. As we have learned in recent months, our students and teachers have become more proficient in accessing digital materials through their Google Classrooms. It was essential that a replacement resource include a robust, easily navigable digital platform that communicates fluently with Google Classroom and Clever. In addition, ensuring that extensive supports and scaffolds were included for our English learners and our students who require special education services was non-negotiable. LearnZillion K-5 Illustrative Mathematics will be coming out of a Beta year in 2020-2021 and was designed as an extension 6-8 Illustrative Mathematics Curriculum which was given top ratings by edreports. It was piloted in many districts across the country including Norwalk, Bristol, and Los Angeles Unified School District in California.

LearnZillion K-5 Illustrative Mathematics is a comprehensive, flexible curriculum with easy-to-use lesson cards and built-in differentiation. Through inclusive instructional routines, students develop the skills to successfully learn math for life.

The curriculum:

- *Was designed by noted mathematician and standards author, William McCallum

- *Contains embedded support for culturally responsive pedagogy

- *Includes digital interactives powered by Geogebra and Desmos *Builds confidence and growth mindset through productive struggle

- *Builds conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application

- *Is Classroom- and distance learning-ready, with comprehensive teaching support

- *Includes tools for active instruction, effective differentiation, and assessments that empower students

- *Includes instructional routines that promote collaborative discourse

- *Is a 2020 Tech & Learning Awards of Excellence winner

The attached quotes include a 6-year digital subscription to LearnZillion at \$771,167.50. Comparison quotes include a 3-year digital subscription for \$579,716.50 and 1-year digital subscription for \$422,628.50 These amounts reflect our year 1 cost for either 6 years, 3 years, or 1 year for: Digital Licenses for Teachers and Students, Student Print Consumables, Teacher Print, Manipulative Kits (plus shipping for kits only), and Professional Development. The quotes also show the yearly cost for student print consumables for years 2-6 which average \$122,725.00 which is about \$20,000 lower than our average yearly consumable cost of \$142,000 for Math Expressions. Additionally, our Math Expressions digital access expires this year. Last year we were provided with a renewal quote of \$338,952.60 for 1 year (or \$2,033,715.60 for 6 years).

The total is \$771,167.50 and the funding source is Academics - Text Books 1010-961-2200-56410.

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Academics: Approve Purchase Order for Edpuzzle Subscription (\$45,007.50)

Submitted by Ms. Lara Bohlke | Reviewed by the Curriculum Committee on February 16, 2021 and the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: Academics – Licenses and Fees – 101096010001-55302

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.

In these uncertain times, we must be prepared to meet our students where they are. We must be equipped to provide our students and staff with varying approaches and platforms to receive and interact with content. Our teachers need options for providing synchronous and asynchronous virtual teaching both in the classroom and remotely. Edpuzzle provides teachers and students with a tool to collaborate virtually through Google Classrooms and in person classes.

Teachers have been using Edpuzzle as an educational tool since the fall of 2020. The free version limits each teacher to twenty video lessons, while the paid-for version allows for unlimited storage per teacher, allowing educators to create and share Edpuzzle lessons among all their classes or across content areas. The district currently has 349 teachers who have been active on Edpuzzle this year. Of those teachers, 62 are out of or almost out of storage space. Staff have created 5,267 assignments utilizing the Edpuzzle tools. Through a brief survey to teachers, just over 80% of the over 200 responders said they would take advantage of the expanded access to Edpuzzle provided through a district subscription.

Edpuzzle offers the following:

- *Unlimited video storage
- *Flipped and blended learning
- *Curriculum resources and lessons covering all subjects, grades K-12
- *Curriculum Standardization - creation of a unique digital lesson library for the school/district.
- *Programs that allow students to get certified in topics such as digital citizenship, emotional intelligence or personal finance
- *District/school customized database of video curriculum build through collaboration across the district
- *Dedicated support, training, and coaching
- *Integrates with Google Classroom, Pear Deck, and Screencastify
- *Track student progress
- *Monitor teacher usage
- *Create self-paced learning for students
- *Privacy protections - Connecticut Privacy Pledge compliant
- *Staff create their own videos or pull in Youtube videos
- *Create interactive video lessons with questions, audio and notes
- *Live mode allows teachers to project a video live while students answer questions in real time on their devices and work in cooperative groups
- *Curriculum Curation by instructional coaches or designated staff members who have *Curriculum Specialist rights in Edpuzzle
- *Built-in video editor
- *Dedicated School Success Manager - to help the district onboard teachers to Edpuzzle, data reports, tech support, and training materials

The total is \$45,007.50 and the funding source is Academics - Licenses and Fees - 101096010001-55302.

Academics: Approve Purchase Order for S.P.I.R.E. Reading Intervention Program Training and Materials (\$16,012.30)

Submitted by Ms. Donna Clark | Reviewed by the Curriculum Committee on February 16, 2021 and the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: IDEA Grant 611 - 202096912002-56110

By providing special education teachers with planning opportunities as well as training and feedback in research/evidenced based methodologies, teacher practices will improve, which will result in student academic gains in literacy. The SPIRE reading program is a Tier II and Tier III reading intervention that is supported by the International Dyslexia Association. It requires a 6 hour training program in order to implement. We had 12 special education teachers trained at the beginning of the 20 -21 school year and purchased kits for each one of them. Implementation started by the end of September. We have now trained an additional 9 special education teachers who require the kits in order to implement the program. There will be a follow-up training

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in March for all the special education teachers that have been trained as a means to provide support in their first year of learning the program.

The total is \$16,012.30 and the funding source is IDEA Grant 611 202096912002 56110.

Academics: Accept Donation from Students and Staff at Vance Elementary School (\$14,000.00)

Submitted by Ms. Kristina DeNegre | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: Ms. Melody Cubano, Ms. Carrie Clark, Miss Mariah Cubano, and Tyshawn Yopp

Black Characters Matter is a project that was started over the summer. Two students and two staff members from New Britain Connecticut and Vance Elementary School started an incredible project and mission to raise money for books that include Black characters in school libraries. These books will allow our students to choose books that have characters that look like them. As part of our district's Strategic Plan we are looking to for ways to make curriculum, resources, and supporting materials equitable and representative of all our students. It is part of our Strategic Plan to be committed to equity and inclusiveness of all students and be culturally responsive.

The total is \$14,000.00 and the funding source is Melody Cubano, A Para-Educator at Vance, NB resident, Mother, and leader in the community, Carrie Clark, Kindergarten Teacher at Vance, Mariah Cubano, fourth grader at Vance, Tyshawn Yopp, kindergarten student.

Academics: Accept Donation from DonorsChoose for HALS Academy (\$1,241.85)

Submitted by Ms. Leona Clerkin | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: DonorsChoose

Through Donors Choose, I create a project to obtain 15 HUION Inspiroy Q 11k Wireless Graphic Drawing Tablets with digital pens to work with our student Chromebooks at HALS Academy. The use of the drawing tablets are for both Art class and/or Math class. The drawing tablet allows you to make what used to be solely a "pen and paper" experience and turn it electronic. This exciting tool will be an incentive for the students in-school to use something hands-on and can be easily disinfected with the use of a wipe. Administration recommends that the Board of Education accept the donation of the 15 HUION Inspiroy Q 11k Wireless Graphic Drawing Tablets with digital pens for HALS Academy.

The total is \$1,241.85 and the funding source is Donors Choose.

Finance: Accept Grant from Connecticut State Department of Education for Technology for Low-Performing Schools – Smalley (\$132,993.05)

Submitted by Ms. Andrea Foligno | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: CT State Department of Education 2020 Low-Performing Schools Bond Funding

Purchase of Technology devices to support digital instruction.

The total is \$132,993.05 and the funding source is 2020 Low-Performing Schools Bond Fund Grant.

Finance: Accept Grant from Connecticut State Department of Education for Technology for Low-Performing Schools – Northend (\$64,793.00)

Submitted by Ms. Rolanda Booker | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: CT State Department of Education 2020 Low-Performing Schools Bond Funding

To provide technology devices to teachers to support digital instruction.

The total is \$64,793 and the funding source is 2020 Low Performing School Bonding Grant.

Finance: Accept Grant from Connecticut State Department of Education for Technology for Low-Performing Schools - Chamberlain (\$100,610.00)

Submitted by Mr. Manuel Zaldivar | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: CT State Department of Education 2020 Low-Performing Schools Bond Funding

To provide technology devices to teachers to support digital instruction.

The total is \$100,610 and the funding source is 2020 Low Performing School Bond.

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Finance: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for Technology for Slade Middle School Staff (\$101,337.00)

Submitted by Mr. Todd Verdi | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: SIG Low Performing Schools Grant State

Cultural Responsiveness has become a primary focus for Slade Middle School in increasing the student engagement. We have initiated Cultural Responsiveness into the development of our curriculum as a preliminary task to become a student centered environment that focuses on the needs of all students. Chronic student absence has created many barriers to our students accessing their education. Our intent in being student centered is to focus on student engagement that provides a well-rounded, whole child education. Student centered instruction will decrease student chronic absenteeism by providing education in talent, academics, culture and climate and operations. Teachers need access to tools that promote the delivery of student centered instruction. Engaging instruction is predicated upon quality teacher, student and platform mobility and interaction. At this time our teachers do not have the tools that promote this engagement. The current teacher technology devices, 5-7 year old used student Chromebooks do not support the platforms required to deliver timely, quality engagement. Provision of updated technology tools for staff promotes the alignment of our School Theory of Action: Curriculum: If the staff and faculty of Slade Middle School follow a comprehensive, standards based curriculum with a foundation in literacy and numeracy that meets the needs of a diverse student population, then student performance will improve.

Learning Context: If the staff and faculty of Slade Middle School provide strategies to create a caring, safe and engaging learning environments, then student performance will improve.

Instructional Practices: If the staff and faculty of Slade Middle School provide research based instructional practices that engage all students with content at their instructional level and is aligned with their interests, backgrounds and possible futures, then student performance will improve.

Assessment: If the staff and faculty of Slade Middle School provide an assessment structure that links the three levels of the system with a systematic, team-based data application process and research based assessment tools, then student performance will improve.

Additionally these teacher tools will further the progress Slade staff makes to higher levels of student engagement by creating a culture and climate that strengthens student/ teacher/family relationships that empower our student centered learning focus.

The total is \$101,337.00 and the funding source is SIG Low Performing Schools Grant State: SIG.

Finance: Approve Purchase Order, Bid Waiver, and Contract Between Bridge the Gap Educational Consulting, LLC and New Britain Public Schools for Special Education Instructional Coaching for Smalley Elementary School (\$9,360.00)

Submitted by Ms. Andrea Foligno | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: Commissioner Network Professional Services #300

To provide instructional coaching cycles specifically to sped teachers.

The total is 13 weeks at \$720.00 a week for \$ 9,360.00 and the funding source is Commissioner Network Professional Services #300.

Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Contract between Consolidated School District of New Britain and Powerschool Group, LLC for Powerschool Unified Insights Powered by Hoonuit (\$219,226.64)

Submitted by Mr. John Taylor | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget Software 101092110000-53510

PowerSchool Unified Insights Powered by Hoonuit provides a fully comprehensive analytics platform with actionable insights across all key aspects of school and district operations. Unified Insights is a data warehouse which will bring together our district's disparate data from multiple sources into a single, online reporting dashboard. As we move forward with implementing student educational recovery from the losses suffered during the pandemic, Unified Insights will provide one stop student analytics to measure engagement, identify academic gaps, and provide tools for intervention management. This platform can also integrate finance and HR data from the platforms we are using for future data analysis. The quote is for 3 years.

The total is \$219,226.64 and the funding source is Local Local MIS Software 101092110000-53510.

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Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for Replacement Server for PowerSchool Environment (\$11,789.82)

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget Equipment Replacement 101092125800-57345

This is for the purchase of a replacement server for our PowerSchool environment. This hardware upgrade goes in line with regular maintenance of our PowerSchool environment.

The total is \$11,789.82 and the funding source is MIS Local Budget Equipment Replacement 101092125800-57345.

Operations: Approve Purchase Order for Yearly Renewal of Microsoft Licensing (\$66,991.40)

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget Software 101092110000-53510

This purchase order is for our yearly renewal of Microsoft Licensing. It covers licensing for both servers and end user Office products, as well as Windows OS licensing for desktops.

The total is \$66,991.40 and the funding source is MIS Local Budget Software 101092110000-53510.

Operations: Approve Purchase Order for Renewal of VMWare Software Licensing (\$53,299.06)

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget Software 101092110000-53510

The purchase order is for the renewal of VMWare Software Licensing, which is necessary software in the district's VDI server environment. It is a yearly renewal.

The total is \$53,299.06 and the funding source is MIS Local Budget Software 101092110000-53510.

Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for Services and Replacement Hardware for VDI Server Environment (\$87,677.00)

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget Equipment Replacement 101092125800-57345

This purchase is for securing the services and replacement hardware for our VDI Server Environment, which powers many server environments as well as computer desktop stations in district computer labs. The purchase is specifically for equipment that will be compatible with the current environment. It is in conjunction with previously approved purchases in upgrading our VDI Environment.

The total is \$87,677.00 and the funding source is MIS Local Budget Equipment Replacement 101092125800-57345.

Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for Software and Hardware for Lunch POS (Point of Sale) System (\$50,710.92)

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop and Ms. Ann Alfano | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: Cafeteria Fund

This proposal is for the purchase of software and hardware for our lunch POS (Point of Sale) system, which is in need of an upgrade. After looking at several software options as well as consulting other school districts in Connecticut, the agreed best path was to upgrade the current software database with a newer, cloud-based solution from the same company. With the upgrade would come newer features that would allow for enhanced features which will be useful for cafeteria staff operations. In the attached document, purchases and quotes come from several vendors to complete the project and show the total cost for the upgrade.

The total is \$50,710.92 and the funding source is Cafeteria Fund.

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Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for Installation of Dust Collection Systems at NBHS, Pulaski, and Slade Middle Schools (\$228,400.00)

Submitted by Mr. Randal Brochu | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: 101093126000-57969

Dust Collection Systems at New Britain High School, Pulaski Middle School, and Slade Middle School are vital for maintaining safety in the Tech Ed rooms at each school. SL Cooke has quoted all equipment and installation in their proposal to meet all national fire protection codes and school safety code requirements. The Tech Ed rooms provide a safe educational environment that mirrors real-world industry settings so that students can develop the skills required to pursue successful careers in various trades. Students work hands-on with high-tech machinery that meets current manufacturing industry standards and was installed last summer as part of the District's investment and commitment to growing manufacturing and technology education. The dust collection systems will include properly sized equipment that includes bins, bags, and blowers to handle proper air flow, sprinkler connection options, and spark and explosion proof protection that meet all appropriate safety standards. Services provided will also include complete installation of all new equipment to include piping ducts and fittings, as well as demo and removal of old equipment . In order to complete installment in time for a potential return of students in May, these will need to be ordered as soon as possible as dust collection system services is a niche industry. The total cost for all three schools is \$228,400. This includes a breakdown of costs per school as follows: NBHS - \$58,450; Pulaski - \$58,450; Slade - \$58, 450.

The total is \$228,400 and the funding source is 101093126000 57969.

Operations: Approve Budget Transfers (\$1,483,559.00)

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Kane | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021

Below are budget transfers for Board consideration and approval:

Budget Unit	Account	Department	Description	From	To	Explanation
101092110000	53510	MIS	DP & Coding Services		219,227	PowerSchool Unified Insights Powered by Hoonuit
101092110000	53510	MIS	DP & Coding Services		66,991	Microsoft Licensing
101092110000	53510	MIS	DP & Coding Services		53,299	VMWare Software Licensing
101092125800	57345	MIS	Instr. – Equip. Replace		87,677	Replacement Hardware
101092125800	57345	MIS	Instr. – Equip. Replace		11,790	Replacement Server for PowerSchool Environment
101093126000	57969	Facilities	Capital Improvements		228,400	Dust Collection System
101096110001	55302	Academics	Licenses & Fees		45,007	Edpuzzle
101096122004	56420	Academics	Textbooks		771,168	LearnZillion
101096110001	52101	DW	Health Insurance	\$1,483,559		
Total				\$1,483,559	\$1,483,559	

Finance Reports

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Kane | Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021

- **Accept Financial Report – January 31, 2021**
- **Accept Five Year History of Grant Awards**
- **Accept Proposed Future Years School Construction Projects**
- **Accept Excess Cost Grant and Potential ECS Holdback for the Current Fiscal Year**

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Operations: Approve 2021-2022 Districtwide Calendar

Submitted by Ms. Nancy Sarra | No Committee Review

Mr. Mercier motioned to approve 2021-2022 Districtwide Calendar, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy: Policy Committee Moves to Approve Revisions to CSDNB Harassment Policies:

Reviewed by the Policy Committee on February 16, 2021

- Policy 4118.11 – Prohibition of Harassment (Employees)
- Policy 5145.50 – Prohibition of Harassment (Students)
- Policy 4118.112/4218.112 – Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Personnel)
- Policy 5145.51 – Prohibition of Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Students) – Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- Elimination of Policy 4118.12/4218.12 – Harassment

Mr. Mark Spalding, Director of Pupil Services, shared draft copies of revised CSDNB harassment policies as prepared by legal counsel at Shipman & Goodwin, LLP. Revisions were recommended to ensure that the language in the policies is up-to-date and aligned with current local, state, and federal laws. Legal counsel further advised that recommended revisions to the employee and student harassment policies incorporate the Board's general harassment policy (4118.12/4218.12) such that the general harassment policy is no longer necessary.

Mr. Mercier motioned that the Policy Committee moves to approve revisions to the CSDNB harassment policies including Policy 4118.11, Policy 5145.50, Policy 4118.112/4218.112, Policy 5145.51, and elimination of Policy 4118.12/4218.12, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mercier motioned to postpone the approval of revisions to the CSDNB harassment policies including Policy 4118.11, Policy 5145.50, Policy 4118.112/4218.112, Policy 5145.51, and elimination of Policy 4118.12/4218.12, for a second reading at the next regular Board of Education Meeting in April. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jiménez Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

Policy: Board Action to Certify that the District will Implement the Healthy Food Option and Allow Food and Beverage Exemptions

Submitted by Ms. Ann Alfano | No Committee Review

The CSDNB Wellness Policy - 6142.101 - states that the Consolidated School District of New Britain's Board of Education believes that children's health is essential to their success in school. The Board of Education believes that its district schools and programs must engage students, parents and school staff members, and its greater school community to develop and implement practices that will enhance its health education, nutrition programs and physical activity/education programs in ways that will augment our students' overall health, behavior and overall achievement. Under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), healthy food certification (HFC) requires each board of education or governing authority for all public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to certify annually to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) whether they will follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards for all foods sold to students separately from a reimbursable school breakfast or lunch in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs. The Connecticut Nutrition Standards apply to all a la carte foods offered for sale to students at all times, in all schools and from all sources including school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, fundraising activities on school premises and any other sources of food sales.

The two considerations for the vote by the board of education/governing authority are whether to implement the healthy food option and whether to allow food exemptions.

Mr. Mercier motioned that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students

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separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mercier motioned that the board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jiménez Sims. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Approve New Job Description and New Position Request for 1.0 FTE Districtwide Pupil Services Transition Specialist

Submitted by Mr. Mark Spalding and Ms. Donna Clark | Reviewed by the Personnel Committee on February 22, 2021

This position will report to the District Coordinator of Pupil Services and Special Education or his/her designee.

Primary functions include:

- Facilitate the transition planning process by providing direct service to assist secondary and young adult students assess their learning strengths, articulate education and career goals, provide community-based career planning options and link students to post-secondary support systems.
- Facilitate continuous improvement of general and special education programs, supports, and services at the classroom, school, community and systems level for students with disabilities.
- Align educational standards to provide access to challenging curriculum to meet the needs of students with disabilities.
- Use understanding of diversity and individual learning differences to inform the selection, development and implementation of comprehensive curricula for students with disabilities.
- Use culturally responsive practices to enhance collaboration between students/families and community partners.
- Minimize bias in assessments.

The Transition Specialist is needed to facilitate the transition planning process by providing direct service to assist secondary and young adult students assess their learning strengths, articulate education and career goals, provide community-based career planning options and link students to post-secondary support systems.

This is a full-time, 10 month position. The individual in this position will work the standard teacher work schedule including travel between district and school buildings, city/state agencies and professional meetings as required. The position is affiliated with Local 871, New Britain Federation of Teachers, and the salary and benefits are as set forth in the Local 871 collective bargaining agreement.

The estimated total cost is \$97,000.00 and the funding source is local funding.

Ms. Parker motioned to approve the new job description and new position request for (1.0) districtwide Pupil Services Transition Specialist, seconded by Mr. Mercier. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Approve New Job Description and New Position Request for 4.0 FTE Districtwide Pupil Services Assistants

Submitted by Mr. Mark Spalding and Ms. Donna Clark | Reviewed by the Personnel Committee on February 22, 2021

This position will report to the Pupil Services Director or his/her designee.

Primary functions include performing administrative and clerical assistance to the Pupil Services Department. Assistance with the administrative functions of the Pupil Services Department is required to address the needs of special education services and

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504 accommodation provision. Factors that impact the need for these additional positions include the number of special education students who have returned from out-of-district placements, increased reporting that is required for state and federal agencies, as well as the demand for improved data management within the Department of Pupil Services.

This is a full-time, 10 month position. The individual in this position will work a 7-hour work day for a total of 35 hours per week. Hours will generally follow regular building hours, but may be modified based upon specific building needs. Pay rate is \$24.75 per hour and benefits follow the Local 2407 contract. This is a non-exempt position with no union affiliation and the funding source is local funding.

Cost of each position = \$65,000.00

Total cost = \$260,000.00

Eliminating 12 PPT Para positions to cover cost of new positions

Ms. Parker motioned to approve the new job description and new position request for (4.0) districtwide Pupil Services Assistants, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Approve Purchase Order for Firewall Device (iBoss) (\$45,590.78)

Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Originally Reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021 | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget Equipment Replacement 101092125800-57345

This is for the emergency purchase to replace our existing on premise web-filtering device console (iBoss) with an upgraded model that can handle a greater amount of traffic. As the usage of bandwidth has grown, the current filtering console is in need of an upgrade. This quote comes with pricing and discounts for the CEN (Connecticut Education Network) negotiated pricing.

This was reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Transportation Committee on February 22, 2021. This was brought to the Finance Committee with an estimated cost but has since been completed with an official quote. As it is higher than anticipated, it has been moved back onto New Business.

The total is \$45,590.78 and the funding source is MIS Local Budget Equipment Replacement 101092125800-57345.

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to approve purchase order for firewall device (iBoss) in the amount of \$45,590.78, seconded by Ms. Parker. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Approve Purchase Order and Bid Waiver for Removal of Solar Panels at New Britain High School (\$139,820.00)

Submitted by Mr. Kevin Dion | No Committee Review | Funding Source: Facilities – Repairs & Maintenance 101093126000-54300

The welded solar panels on the high school roof are a significant risk for safety (electrocution/ fire risk) and roof integrity (leaks). The company that manufactured and installed these types of panels went out of business many years ago. As the solar panels have aged, they have lifted and cracked allowing water to penetrate and leak inside the building. The inverters were removed years ago but the panels remain. The panel continue to generate power whenever sunlight is hitting the panels. This power has nowhere to go increasing the potential for fire and electrocution risks. We need these panels removed as soon as possible for safety and building integrity. The gymnasium roof is the worst, but all solar panels need removal. For safety and building integrity the district should remove and patch all solar panel areas while the company is mobilized and onsite.

The total is \$139,820.00 and the funding source is Facilities - Repairs & Maintenance 101093126000-54300.

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to approve purchase order and bid waiver for removal of solar panels at New Britain High School in the amount of \$139,820.00, seconded by Mr. Mercier. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations: Approve Bid Waiver for Technology and Sound Systems for NBHS Athletic and PE Department Training Rooms (\$14,526.38)

Submitted by Mr. Robert Smedley | No Committee Review | Funding Source: Rentals Account

The NBHS athletic and PE department have auxiliary spaces used for training, instruction and workouts. These spaces include the weight room and a spin bike room at New Britain High School. Both rooms are used by all teams and physical education classes and staff. Currently, the rooms do not have any technology, media or sound. As you know, music helps to motivate us when working out or working on projects and therefore we would like to add sound systems to each space. At times, work out

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videos help demonstrate proper techniques and methods of exercise and with the new systems, each room will have Bluetooth connectivity, Aux input and a wireless microphone, and LED display to connect computer or other device to. Controls for the system will be installed in an accessible location in each space.

Technical Notes: Bid waiver is being requested because we are actually expanding on existing networked sound system already installed in Cafe and Upper Gymnasium at NBHS. This allows us global control and allows for easier integration of technology in each space. CMI sound is a regular reliable vendor for our district providing sound and AV technology.

The total is \$14,526.38 and the funding source is Rentals Account n/a.

Ms. Sanders-Connolly motioned to approve bid waiver for technology and sound systems for NBHS athletic and PE Department training rooms in the amount of \$14,526.38, seconded by Mr. Mercier. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Mercier motioned to go into executive session at 8:52 PM to discuss items 5K (Discussion and Possible Action on Assistant Superintendent's Contract Extension), and 5L (Discussion and Possible Action on Chief Financial Officer's Contract Extension), seconded by Ms. Parker. Superintendent Sarra, Mr. Michael Foran (Assistant Superintendent), and Mr. Kevin Kane (Chief Financial Officer) were invited into executive session to discuss items 5K and 5L with the Board. Mr. Foran will join the first half of executive session followed by Mr. Kane. Motion carried unanimously.

Continuation of Meeting

The meeting resumed in open session at 9:22 PM.

New Business

Personnel: Discussion and Possible Action on Assistant Superintendent's Contract Extension

No Committee Review | No documents available in packet

Mr. Mercier motioned the Board approve extension of the Assistant Superintendent's contract with the New Britain Board of Education for the years 2021 through 2023 as presented, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Discussion and Possible Action on Chief Financial Officer's Contract Extension

No Committee Review | No documents available in packet

Mr. Mercier motioned the Board approve extension and revisions to the Chief Financial Officer's contract with the New Britain Board of Education as presented ending June 30, 2023, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Mr. Kane abstained from voting. Motion carried unanimously.

Closing and Adjournment

Mr. Mercier motioned to adjourn at 9:27 PM, seconded by Ms. Sanders-Connolly. Motion carried unanimously.

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Superintendent's Report

New Britain Board of Education Meeting | March 8, 2021

Board Appreciation Month

On behalf of CSDNB students, families, and staff, I'd like to take a moment to thank our board members publicly. Speaking as a former teacher, a former CSDNB parent, and even as an administrator - I don't think people understand the importance of serving on the board of education.

From the monthly commitment to board meetings, subcommittee meetings, discussions and readings, approving a multi-million dollar budget - board members give so much of their time and talent to ensure a better education for all of our students, to ensure a better workplace environment equipped with resources for all of our staff, and an outward-facing role to our community members and families.

Over the last five years, I have been very fortunate that we have a board committed to students, not politics, a united board. Please accept these gifts as small tokens of our appreciation.

With gratitude,
Supt Nancy Sarra, on behalf of 10,000 students strong

Update on Attendance

All building leaders are inviting more students to 4-day-a-week in-person learning. As a result, in-person attendance has risen significantly in the last month. We will continue to invite students for four-day learning opportunities until all students can come back to school safely.

Vaccination Updates

As you may have seen in the numerous media reports, it was a very busy week for CSDNB and New Britain's Health Department. Shout outs to NBHS administrators, custodial staff, and teaching staff for being flexible and allowing us to open the clinic doors for additional hours and days, to the Mayor and Health Department for advocating for MORE vaccines, and to the behind-the-scenes folks who are responsible for scheduling AND maintaining daily contact tracing WHILE organizing for the clinic.

There has been constant adjusting to the process and procedures to ensure we are efficient with the goal of a vaccination shot in the arm of any CSDNB staff or affiliate who has requested it. It's an all-hands-on-deck approach.



Superintendent's Report

New Britain Board of Education Meeting | March 8, 2021

By the end of the day on Saturday, we had given 600 shots to both CSDNB staff members and/or those outside the organization that works on our students' behalf. This week, we expect to come close to that number again.

We are providing weekly updates to our staff on the process and are tweaking where needed. We anticipate that all CSDNB staff who want the vaccine will receive their first dose by March 20, and all will receive their second dose by the middle of April.

Governor's Proposed Budget

The flat funding of ECS in the Governor's budget will severely impact our budget for 2021/22 and 2022/23 school year. New Britain will stand to lose approximately 8 million dollars over the next two years. **This is a major step back for equity funding in this state.**

The Governor and Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management(OPM) argue that there are federal funds to make districts whole. **This federal funding (ESSR II) is earmarked for Covid Recovery- to meet the needs of our students through intense academic acceleration and intervention, increased mental health services, family support and technology. It is meant to alleviate the stress and loss incurred by so many over the last year- it is not intended to "plug" the non- discretionary costs in the operating budget. New Britain is slated to receive \$22.9 million dollars for recovery efforts over three summers and two school years.**

Using the federal dollars in this way will prevent quality intervention for our most vulnerable students. **It is supplanting, not supplementing and it will cause a major funding cliff in those districts in two years when the dollars are exhausted.**

Update on Recovery Planning

There will be a combined Personnel and Curriculum Subcommittee on March 22, 2021 at 6 PM to present CSDNB's draft Recovery Plan that will be submitted to the SDE by the end of March. I encourage all board members to attend during this joint subcommittee to give feedback. If you are unable to attend, we will be presenting to the full board in April after we've submitted it to the State Department of Education