



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

New Britain Board of Education | Regular School Board Meeting

May 6, 2024 - 6:00 PM – New Britain Educational Administration Center

Members of the public may attend this meeting in person or view a live broadcast of the proceedings online via the livestream link:

<https://www.csdnb.org/board/>

Individuals seeking public participation may attend meeting in person or join the queue beginning at 6:00 PM by calling (US)+1 484-272-5215 and entering PIN: 808 153 243#. Callers are asked to wait with their phones on mute until they are recognized to speak.

1. Call to Order and Opening

Meeting Called to Order

Joseph Listro, President of the New Britain Board of Education called the meeting to order at 6:02PM

Board members present

Mr. Anthony Cane, Mr. Salvador Escobales, Mr. Anthony Kane, Mr. Joseph Listro, Ms. Barbara Marino, Ms. Annie Parker, Ms. Joan Pina, Ms. Diana Reyes, Mr. Jose Rivera, and Ms. Tina Santana

Student representative present

Ariana Mohamed

Public participation

Gabriel Alvarez – Gabriel expressed his concern for his sister’s safety at Pulaski Middle School. He spoke eloquently on behalf of his sister’s experience at school. His sister has experienced bullying, cat-calling, and threats against her life all at the hands of other students. He expressed the lack of adult presence in schools are creating toxic and chaotic environments and he demands change. His experience as a HALS student, in comparison to his sister’s experience at Pulaski are completely different and his goal to make sure every student in New Britain get the same experience and opportunities to learn in a safe environment.

Steven Alvarez – Mr. Alvarez, parent of Gabriel and Athena reiterated his son’s message by demanding that their voices are heard. He expressed his distain with administrators, staff and the district for putting the safety of students as a last priority. He concluded by asking the Board to take accountability for the lack of growth and safety in the New Britain school district, and reminded the Board that he will do all in his power to enact change within our community.

Melanie Alvarez – Ms. Alvarez, parent of Gabriel and Athena also spoke on the experiences of her children attending school in New Britain. She is exhausted and requests immediate action. She has been a resident of New Britain, raised her family in New Britain but is considering leaving. She wanted to speak on behalf of those that don’t have the opportunity or voice to fight for our students. She also concluded by asking the Board to take accountability for the lack of growth and safety in the New Britain school district, and reminded the Board that she will do all in her power to enact change within our community.

New Britain Board of Education

Joseph Listro – President | Barbara Marino – Vice President | Diana Reyes – Secretary

Anthony Cane | Salvador Escobales | Anthony Kane | Annie S. Parker | Joan Pina | Jose Rivera | Tina Santana

Perla Vanessa Cardozo – Ms. Cardoza spoke in both Spanish and English on behalf of the community group Manos y Manos that provides resources and advocacy for immigrants in New Britain. She spoke on behalf of those students who have parents that may be too afraid to speak up. She asked the Board to provide more translators/guidance counselors that speak Spanish to assist with providing vital information to both Spanish speaking students and parents.

Jose Diaz – New Britain resident and former student concluded by sharing his experience in school and stated it was the faculty that took the time to assist him that made his experience a positive one at NBHS. He asked that more resources be supplied to Spanish speaking students as the district’s Spanish speaking population is growing.

2. Reports

A. CABA 2023 Communications Award

Mr. Phillip Rigueur, Board of Education Chairman of Hartford Public Schools presented the Bonnie B. Carnegie CABA Award to the District’s Communications Department for their outstanding work and efforts in Communications. Ryan Langer, Communications manager introduced the team as they accepted their award.

B. Superintendent’s Report

Lincoln Elementary Principal, Ms. Gina Cavallo and DiLoreto Magnet School Principal, Mr. Dario Soto presented on behalf of their schools. They updated the Board on the progress of students as well as lesson implementation and accountability. Presentations are attached.

C. Committee Reports

Policy – The committee discussed the Flag Display policy, as well as the CABA Policy audit. Moving forward the committee will be working creating/updating the 25 mandated policies suggested by CABA.

Curriculum – The committee had a presentation by Ms. Leona Clerkin regarding the K-5 music curriculum, which is on the consent agenda for approval.

Personnel – The committee discussed the new position request for a Recruitment manager and the updated job descriptions for the personnel department which have been moved to the consent agenda for approval.

Finance – The committee discussed grants, contracts and purchase orders, most of which are on the consent agenda for approval. The committee also discussed the Holmes project, the closing out of multiple projects and the issues the district is having with transportation.

D. Board Reports

Ms. Santana expressed her sincere gratitude to the Teachers of the district as it is Teacher appreciation week and read a letter on behalf of the Board thanking them for all their hard work and dedication to the students of New Britain.

Mr. Cane attended the CT History Day event at CCSU where he sat on the panel as a judge. He expressed his concern as New Britain wasn’t represented well. He encouraged students of New Britain to attend more events showcasing their talents as we have some of the most creative students here in the District.

E. Student Representatives Report

Ms. Mohamed also expressed her gratitude to the Teachers of New Britain. This is a busy week for the students of New Britain. Academics will be highlighted this week as Top 10 percent and National Honors Society ceremony will be coming up.

3. Executive Session

A. Executive session with possible public action to ratify contract between the New Britain Board of Education and

New Britain Board of Education

Joseph Listro – President | Barbara Marino – Vice President | Diana Reyes – Secretary

Anthony Cane | Salvador Escobales | Anthony Kane | Annie S. Parker | Joan Pina | Jose Rivera | Tina Santana

Local 1186, New Britain Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 4, AFL-CIO from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026

Submitted by Ms. Maryellen Manning

Ms. Santana motioned to go into executive session with possible public action to ratify contract between the New Britain Board of Education and Local 1186, New Britain Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 4, AFL-CIO from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026, seconded by Mr. Cane. Superintendent Gasper, Chief of Staff, Maryellen Manning, and Attorney Jessica Ritter were invited to discuss this matter with the full Board.

Mr. Cane motioned to come out of executive session at 7:37 PM, seconded by Ms. Santana. Ms. Reyes motioned to approve contract between the New Britain Board of Education and Local 1186, New Britain Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 4, AFL-CIO from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Executive session with possible public action to follow for the purposes of discussing candidates for the Slade Middle School principalship
Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders

Mr. Cane motioned to go into executive session with possible public action to follow for the purposes of discussing candidates for the Slade Middle School principalship, seconded by Ms. Pina. Superintendent Gasper, Deputy Superintendent Ivelise Velasquez, Director of Personnel, Dr. Nicole Sanders, and Academics and Accountability Officer 6-12, Tyrone Richardson were invited into executive session with the Board. Ms. Keri-Lynn Major was invited into executive session shortly after.

Mr. Cane motioned to appoint Ms. Keri-Lynn Major as Slade Principal, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business

- A. Approve minutes from the Regular Board of Education meeting on April 1, 2024
Submitted by Ms. Aja Edwards | No Committee Review

Ms. Santana motioned to approve minutes from the Regular Board of Education meeting on April 1, 2024, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion approved unanimously.

Board Acceptance:

- B. Enrollment Report
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | No Committee Review
- C. Report of Personnel Transactions and Extracurricular Appointments
Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders | No Committee Review

Ms. Marino motioned to accept report of Personnel Transactions and Extracurricular Appointments, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motioned approved unanimously

Board Approval:

- D. Board policy review P6115.3 – Flag (Display)
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper

New Britain Board of Education

Joseph Listro – President | Barbara Marino – Vice President | Diana Reyes – Secretary

Anthony Cane | Salvador Escobales | Anthony Kane | Annie S. Parker | Joan Pina | Jose Rivera | Tina Santana

Mr. Cane motioned to approve board policy P6115.3 – Flag (Display), seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion approved by 8:2 vote. All were in favor with the exception of Ms. Santana and Mr. Kane.

- E. Board policy review 5131.911 – Safe School Climate
Submitted by Ms. Keira Soler

Ms. Reyes motioned to approve Board policy 5131.9 – Safe School Climate, seconded by Ms. Santana. Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Contract between CSDNB and ROOT Center for Advanced Recovery, CMHA, Klingberg Family Centers, Inc. and Community Health Center, Inc. to provide expanded mental health services to students – Districtwide
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper | Funding Source: N/A

Ms. Marino motioned to approve contract between CSDNB and ROOT Center for Advanced Recovery, CMHA, Klingberg Family Centers, Inc. and Community Health Center, Inc. to provide expanded mental health services to students **pending approval by legal counsel**, seconded by Mr. Cane. Motion carried by 9:1 vote, with the exception of Ms. Santana.

- G. General proposal application between CSDNB and Connecticut State Department of Education for Program Enhancement Project grants - Adult Education (\$80,000.00)
Submitted by Dr. Tony Gasper

Ms. Santana motioned to approve general proposal application between CSDNB and CT Department of Education for Program Enhancement Projects grant for Adult Education, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

5. 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):

- A. K-5 General Music Curriculum
Submitted by Ms. Leona Clerkin
- B. Review Exit Survey Data
Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders
- C. New position request – Recruitment Manager
Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders
- D. Review revised job descriptions – Personnel & Talent Department
Submitted by Dr. Nicole Sanders
- E. Accept donation from the Mayor’s Trophy Charitable Fund for the 2023/2024 school yearbook – NBHS (\$800.00)
Submitted by Mr. Damon Pearce
- F. Accept donation from Whitsons Culinary Group for Road to Recovery program that provides families identified as homeless with basic needs items and support – Districtwide (\$2,000.00)
Submitted by Mr. Joe Vaverchak

New Britain Board of Education

Joseph Listro – President | Barbara Marino – Vice President | Diana Reyes – Secretary

Anthony Cane | Salvador Escobales | Anthony Kane | Annie S. Parker | Joan Pina | Jose Rivera | Tina Santana

- G. Accept grant from The CT Children's Collective (CTCC) to strengthen our organizational capacity and/or implement birth to age five systems projects, around family engagement – Districtwide (\$14,960.00)
Submitted by Mr. Christopher Badenhop
- H. Accept grant from The American Savings Foundation to provide enrichment support to students for the 3-week Summer Enrichment Experiences (SEE) Program – Districtwide (\$50,000.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez
- I. Accept donation from the New York Giants Football team for the CCC Conference to start a Girls Flag Football Program – NBHS (\$1,957.00)
Submitted by Ms. Lisa Kawecki
- J. Approve purchase order between CSDNB and Amazon to support the implementation of the new reading units – Smalley Elementary (\$20,863.18)
Submitted by Ms. Andrea Foligno | Funding Source: Commissioner' Network grant 234601210001-56110
- K. Approve purchase order and bid waiver between CSDNB and ISC Group, LLC for the renewal of VMWare software, which is used to power the virtual server environment – Districtwide (\$12,792.00)
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Funding Source: MIS Local Software Budget 101092125300-55500
- L. Approve purchase order and bid waiver between CSDNB and Dell for the service warranty for physical Dell servers – Districtwide (\$14,227.93)
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Funding Source: MIS Local Budget 101092110000-53510
- M. Approve purchase order and bid waiver between CSDNB and CDW-G for the purchase of additional student Chromebooks for newly registered students – NBHS (\$221,200.00)
Submitted by Mr. Jeff Prokop | Funding Source: Local MIS Budget - Equipment Replacement 101092125800-57345
- N. Approve purchase order between CSDNB and Cherry Hill Glass CO., Inc. for the application of a security film on entrances windows and side panels that would help delay entry to buildings in the event of a critical incident or event – Districtwide (\$281,880.00)
Submitted by Mr. Robert Smedley | Funding Source: ESSER 206393126002-54001
- O. Approve purchase order between CSDNB and Kone Inc. for the furnishing of equipment and installation of passenger elevator – Slade Middle School (\$38,500.00)
Submitted by Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez | Funding Source: Facilities Budget 10109312600 - 54300
- P. Approve purchase order between CSDNB and Barall & Konover Floors for the removal and new installation of floors – Northend Elementary (\$10,625.00)
Submitted by Ms. Rolanda Booker | Funding Source: Low Performing Schools Bond
- Q. Approve purchase order and bid waiver between CSDNB and DELL for the purchase of two full classroom sets of windows laptops that will be used to enhance instruction and promote content creation – Northend Elementary (\$64,655.40)
Submitted by Ms. Rolanda Booker | Funding Source: LPB grant
- R. Approve purchase order between CSDNB and Apple, Inc. to provide iPad sets for the classroom and Technology center – Northend Elementary (\$41,500.00)
Submitted by Ms. Rolanda Booker | Funding Source: LPB Grant
- S. Approve purchase order and bid waiver between CSDNB and CDW-G for classroom sets of windows laptops to support Timeless Technology Lab project – Slade Middle School (\$78,925.00)

New Britain Board of Education

Joseph Listro – President | Barbara Marino – Vice President | Diana Reyes – Secretary

Anthony Cane | Salvador Escobales | Anthony Kane | Annie S. Parker | Joan Pina | Jose Rivera | Tina Santana

Submitted by Mr. Andrew Mazzei | Funding Source: Low Performing Schools Grant 2394-052-10001-57333 (57346)

- T. Approve purchase order between CSDNB and Uline for new tables with casters to be easily moved for different collaborative learning activities – Slade Middle School (\$9,283.19)
Submitted by Mr. Andrew Mazzei | Funding Source: SIG 2045-052-1000000001-56110
- U. Approve purchase order and bid waiver between CSDNB and Red Thread for the flexible workstations to outfit the Tech Ed computer lab area - Slade Middle School (\$17,850.00)
Submitted by Mr. Andrew Mazzei | Funding Source: Low Performing Bonds Grant 2394-052-10001-57333 (57346)
- V. Approve purchase order and bid waiver between CSDNB and CDW-G to add instructional equipment, computer devices and accessories to support academic attainment – Pulaski Middle School (\$20,160.00)
Submitted by Mr. Alex Ortiz | Funding Source: Commissioner's Network 23470531000-001-57351
- W. Approve purchase order and bid waiver between CSDNB and CDW-G for classroom sets of windows laptops to support IT Lab – Pulaski Middle School (\$96,250.00)
Submitted by Mr. Alex Ortiz | Funding Source: Low Performing Schools Grant 2394-052-10001-57333 (57346)
- X. Approve purchase order and bid waiver between CSDNB and Red Thread for the tables and chairs of flexible work stations to promote collaboration, inquiry and the use of critical thinking skills – Pulaski Middle School (\$20,751.80)
Submitted by Mr. Alex Ortiz | Funding Source: Low Performing Bond Grant 2390-053-1000-000-00157346
- Y. Approve bid award between CSDNB and Meriden YMCA Arts (YARTS) to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Districtwide (\$11,800.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- Z. Approve bid award between CSDNB and World-Wide Youth Networks to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Districtwide (\$10,763.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- AA. Approve bid award between CSDNB and PARISI Speed School to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Districtwide (\$18,500.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- BB. Approve bid award between CSDNB and New Britain-Berlin YMCA & CT Stem Academy to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Chamberlain (\$9,000.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- CC. Approve bid award between CSDNB and US Taekwondo Center CT Inc. to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Districtwide (\$16,080.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services

New Britain Board of Education

Joseph Listro – President | Barbara Marino – Vice President | Diana Reyes – Secretary

Anthony Cane | Salvador Escobales | Anthony Kane | Annie S. Parker | Joan Pina | Jose Rivera | Tina Santana

- DD. Approve bid award between CSDNB and Arts for Learning Connecticut to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Gaffney Elementary (\$39,375.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- EE. Approve bid award between CSDNB and Bhogah Yoga, LLC to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Chamberlain Elementary (\$15,088.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- FF. Approve bid award between CSDNB and Bring the Hoopla to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Chamberlain & Gaffney Elementary (\$27,712.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- GG. Approve bid award between CSDNB and Yousef Taekwondo to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Gaffney Elementary (\$15,800.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- HH. Approve bid award between CSDNB and The Children's Museum to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Gaffney Elementary (\$17,517.77)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- II. Approve bid award between CSDNB and 2-4-1- Care, Inc. to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Chamberlain & Gaffney Elementary (\$35,528.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- JJ. Approve bid award between CSDNB and New Britain ROOTS to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Gaffney Elementary (\$18,400.00)**
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services
- Ms. Pina motioned to approve bid award between CSDNB and New Britain ROOTS to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationship with peers, teachers, and the community at Gaffney Elementary in the amount of \$18,400.00, seconded by Ms. Reyes. Motion carried, Mr. Listro, Ms. Marino, and Ms. Santana abstained from voting.
- KK. Approve bid award between CSDNB and Connecticut Invention Convention to provide students with the emotional and academic support and expand students' relationships with peers, teachers, and community – Gaffney Elementary (\$15,450.00)
Submitted by Ms. Mayra Rodriguez | Funding Source: Foundation Grants for the 2024-2025 Budget Cycle Professional and Technical Services

New Britain Board of Education

Joseph Listro – President | Barbara Marino – Vice President | Diana Reyes – Secretary

Anthony Cane | Salvador Escobales | Anthony Kane | Annie S. Parker | Joan Pina | Jose Rivera | Tina Santana

- LL. Approve purchase order between CSDNB and The Warehouse Restaurant to upgrade the cafeteria serving line – Jefferson Elementary (\$65,773.92)
Submitted by Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez | Funding Source: Cafeteria Fund 101093131000 -57010
- MM. Approve purchase order between CSDNB and Scholastic Books to provide every elementary school with a set of thematic books aligned to the District’s ELA units of study – Districtwide (\$56,743.22)
Submitted by Ms. Ivelise Velasquez | Funding Source: Alliance Instructional Supplies 234196910001-56110
- NN. Approve purchase order between CSDNB and American Reading Core Company for digital resources which include SchoolPace, SchoolPace Connect, and ARC Bookshelf for digital independent reading texts in English and Spanish – Districtwide (\$223,000.00)
Submitted by Ms. Lillie Stuart | Funding Source: Alliance 0002341
- OO. Accept financial report – March 31, 2024
Submitted by Ms. Ann Alfano

6. Closing and Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:43PM

New Britain Board of Education

Joseph Listro – President | Barbara Marino – Vice President | Diana Reyes – Secretary

Anthony Cane | Salvador Escobales | Anthony Kane | Annie S. Parker | Joan Pina | Jose Rivera | Tina Santana