

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**MINUTES OF:
January 14, 2014
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

PRESENT: Yvette Jacaruso, John LeVangie, Cora Lee Boulware, Robert Aldi, Jesshua Ballaro, Aaron Daniels, Lynn Norris, Dennis Slopak and Joyce Werden.

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Abby I. Dolliver, Superintendent
Joseph Stefon, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Athena Nagel, Business Administrator
Mary Donnelly, Director of Student Services & Special Education
Joan Barber, Administrative Assistant
Administrators, Principals and Teachers

MEDIA: The Day

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and a quorum was declared.
Dr. Jacaruso asked Aaron Daniels to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Robert Aldi) to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Jacaruso stated that she would like to start the meeting on a high note, and introduced Andrew Lee, who was selected as one of the 40 under 40 recipients. Andrew is a 2nd grade teacher at Veterans School. Dr. Jacaruso reported on the January 6th meeting with the NFA Partner districts. She noted that Bill Eyberse will be the City Council Liaison to our Budget Expenditure Committee. Dr. Jacaruso attended the Winter Concert at Moriarty School which she said was very well done – Mrs. Beit, Music Teacher did an outstanding job. Dr. Jacaruso introduced Dr. Eileen Howley, Executive Director from LEARN who attended the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Dolliver reported that we hired the following teachers: Jocelyn Anastasiou, Grade 4 at Mahan School; Jordan Wojick, Kindergarten Teacher at Moriarty School; and Margaret Fournier, Special Education Teacher at Kelly Middle School. Mrs. Dolliver invited Prentice Tracy, a Language Arts Teacher at Kelly Middle School to come up with his student Guerloudy Alexandre, who wrote a story about her experience when the earth quake hit Haiti. It was quite a moving story; she did a wonderful job reading about it to the group. Abby included the “Coaches Corner” written by Darcy

Strauss. Abby has spoken to Anne Baldwin from CABE about public relations for the NPS. Abby had some letters from students at Teachers' Memorial regarding the Wreaths Across America. Abby discussed the possibility of making February 18th a school day in light of snow days, she recommended that we not do that at this point; the Board agreed. The 2014-2015 Regional School calendar was included. The NAACP Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration will be held on January 17th at the Norwich Free Academy at 12:30 p.m., the invitation was included should anyone like to attend. The Abby Dolliver Show is broadcast on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:30 on the public access channel.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

Doreen Marvin, Director of Development at LEARN, and Dr. Eileen Howley, Executive Director of LEARN, as well as Scott Fain, Principal at Wequonnoc School and Becky Pellerin, Principal at Moriarty School gave a presentation of the Norwich Public Schools Intradistrict Elementary Magnet Schools. Wequonnoc School will have an Arts & Technology theme; and Moriarty School will have an Environmental Sciences theme.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Policy Committee

John LeVangie reported that the next meeting would be held on 1/21/14 at 3:30 p.m.

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Yvette Jacaruso reported on the January 14th meeting. She stated that they are putting in for 4 additional full day kindergarten positions, 2 Library Media Specialists, 2 World Language Teachers, and 1 instrumental Music Teacher (.5 at each school) for the Middle Schools. She stated that there are 371 staff that are paid out of the general fund; and 180 staff that are paid out of grants.

BOARD REQUESTS/REPORTS

Joyce Werden gave a review of the Board of Education Handbook.

ACTION ITEMS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MOTION: Made by Jesshua Ballaro (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cora Lee Boulware,
Secretary