

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**MINUTES OF:
February 11, 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 Bulletin, The Day

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Dr. Jacaruso asked Joyce Werden to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Jacaruso asked to have a moment of silence in memory of Jacob Dominic White, a student at Mahan School who passed away.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Cora Lee Boulware) to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2014 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Jacaruso gave a report on the NFA Partner District meeting which was held on 2/10/14. Representatives from NPS, NFA, Lisbon, Sprague, Windham, Senator Osten, and Representatives Ryan and Riley attended, as well as representatives from Senator Blumenthal, Congressman Courtney and Senator Murphy's office. The main complaint from all parties is the Cost of Special Education, and that they all agree we do not want any more unfunded mandates from the state. Dr. Jacaruso stated that our own Aaron "Al" Daniels has been named Director of CAFE Area 9. Al mentioned that the CAFE Legislative Breakfast has been rescheduled to February 25, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. at Montville High School. CAFE Day on the Hill will be held on March 5th should anyone like to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Abby introduced Anne Jerome and Sherry Bryant who presented the 2012-2013 Children First Norwich Annual Report. The theme of Children First Norwich/School Readiness Council is to promote an environment that is safe, healthy and ready to learn. Abby talked to the Board about making Uncas School a Network School, which is an action item on this agenda. We need a board vote to go forward with the application to the state. Abby stated that at this point, we are going to school until June 17th; it is really too late to make February 18th a school day. Abby introduced Brandon Hyde. Brandon is the liaison for the Ledyard VoAg Program for Norwich. Brandon gave a brief report on the program. Brandon also talked about the Read to Ride Program, and welcomed Norwich back to the program. They are very excited about this program which promotes reading to our students. Abby stated that Leah Burdick, grade 4 teacher at Uncas School received a \$1000 Mohegan Challenge Grant from the Mohegan Tribe. Abby gave a brief report on the Alliance Grant. We have hired 5 Family Liaisons to work at all the schools. Tamika LaSalle, from UCONN will work with our staff on Cultural Competency. Abby gave a report on what is going on with the Teacher Evaluation plan. They are meeting tomorrow with the TEVAL/Professional Learning Committee to discuss what the next steps are. Abby gave a report to the Sunrise Rotary last week. Abby has been asked to participate on the Economic Development Council. Department Heads from the City come together to look at the city as a whole; and how do we improve economic development in our City. Abby is also serving on the Legislative Network Committee. We are partnering with United Way for Read Across America Day on March 3rd. Abby mentioned that the All City Chorus will be held on February 27th at 6:30 p.m. in the Jacqueline Owens Auditorium.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

Billie Shea, Principal of Stanton Network School and Joe LaBarbara, Grade 4 Teacher at Stanton School gave a presentation on the 2013-14 Status Update of Stanton Network School.

STANDING COMMITTEES**Policy Committee**

John LeVangie stated that he did not attend the meeting, however there are 2 policies to review for a first read, we will vote on them at the next meeting.

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Yvette Jacaruso gave a report on the meeting held at 4:00 before the Board Meeting. She stated that at this time we are adding 9 certified positions to the budget that we feel is the right thing for our students, which include, 4 full day kindergarten positions, 2 World Language, 1 Instrumental Music, and 2 Library Media Specialists. This would bring us to a 6.4% increase.

OTHER COMMITTEES**TEVAL/Professional Learning**

Next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2014 at 3:45 p.m. Kelly Middle School Community Room.

BOARD REQUESTS/REPORTS

Joyce Werden talked about some reading material that is mentioned in the Board Handbook, and brought a few samples. Joyce also reported that she visited her 2 schools, Bishop Early Learning Center and Teachers' Memorial Middle School. Jesshua mentioned that she visited Moriarty School.

ACTION ITEMS

- MOTION:** Made by John LeVangie (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to suspend the rules to add an item to the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
- MOTION:** Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by John LeVangie) to accept project #104-0113, Asbestos Abatement Project at Kelly Middle School as complete. Motion passed unanimously.
- MOTION:** Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Lynn Norris) to approve the application to the State Board of Education to apply for Uncas School to become a Network School. Motion passed unanimously.
- MOTION:** Made by John LeVangie (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar. Motion Failed.
- MOTION:** Made by Jesshua Ballaro (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar adding February 17, 2015 as a school day. Motion Failed.

The Board asked the Superintendent to ask the Norwich Teachers League to get an opinion on having school on February 17, 2015.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

- MOTION:** Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Robert Aldi) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cora Lee Boulware,
Secretary