

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**MINUTES OF:
October 8, 2013
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 (arrived at 5:40), Lynn Norris, Dennis Slopak and Joyce Werden.

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Abby I. Dolliver, Superintendent
Joseph Stefon, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Athena Nagel, Business Administrator
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 Lynn Norris to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Jesshua Ballaro) to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2013, September 3, 2013 (2) meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

Abby Dolliver introduced Don Macrino to the Board. Don has taken over as Interim Principal at Veterans School. He will be with us until Thanksgiving.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Jacaruso stated that she made the Adopt-A-School and Committee assignments and tried to give everyone their preferences as best she could. Dr. Jacaruso reported on the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast with Commission Pryor. Abby Dolliver was the moderator, Joyce and Cora also attended. Dr. Jacaruso stated that she submitted 3 items to CBE for recognition; the Board of Education Handbook, the Dear Abby Dolliver show and the budget Presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shane Dupuis, 5 Shady Lane, Norwich, CT spoke regarding the class size at Wequonnoc. He feels that there are too many students for one teacher to handle and feels that there are safety issues due to the # of students in the class.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Abby Dolliver stated that we hired 2 new replacement teachers, Gregory Ballassi, Grade 6 Social Studies at Kelly Middle School and Jessica Frease, Grade 5 at Veterans School. We have had 2 resignations, Allison Hollister, Grade 4 at Uncas School and Kristen Colella, Speech Pathologist. Abby stated that Christie Gilluly, due to personal reasons, is going to retire effective December 1, 2013. Abby reported on the October 1st enrollment, and talked specifically about the all day kindergarten classes which are quite large at Uncas, Stanton and Wequonnoc. We have capped those classes and should we get more registrations, they will be sent to Mahan or Veterans. Both Uncas and Wequonnoc have interventionists for 4 hours per day in each class, and it has been increased to 5 hours per day. Stanton already has one full time paraeducator in each class. Mrs. Dolliver is monitoring those classes. Abby attended the Three Rivers Middle College governing Board. Abby reported on the summer breakfasts and lunches that we served this summer which was a record high. We received a letter from Commissioner Pryor regarding approval of our Alliance District grant funding. Abby presented at the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT on the State of Norwich. Abby gave an update on the Teacher Evaluation SEED plan. Abby stated that we have hired Eileen Hargreaves as Interim Director of Student Services to help out while Mary Donnelly is still out on medical leave. Eileen is the Director of Student Services in Preston as well. Abby stated that we received funding for both Moriarty and Wequonnoc Schools to become Magnet Schools. Abby attended a meeting for Children First/NEXTT Community Design group. We received bond approval for Stanton Network School.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

Sheila Osko gave a presentation on the Bilingual program and what it means for us. She will do a more in depth presentation later in the school year. Jessica Warrender, our Webmaster, gave the Board a brief look at the new website, which is still in progress.

At this point in the meeting, Dr. Jacaruso asked to move into Executive Session, due to the fact that the Board attorney was present to attend the Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Cora Lee Boulware) to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:24 p.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:34 p.m. There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Aaron Daniels (seconded by Joyce Werden) to authorize the Superintendent to execute a separation agreement with the teacher who is the subject of termination proceedings, on the terms discussed in executive session. Motion passed 7 to 2, Robert Aldi and Dennis Slopak voted against.

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by John LeVangie) to authorize the Superintendent to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Norwich Teachers League which amends the Ph.D. lane of the salary schedule to add steps 1 through 7 prior to the current step 8. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by John LeVangie) to authorize the Superintendent to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Norwich Teachers League to modify the dues deduction schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Cora Lee Boulware (seconded by John LeVangie) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cora Lee Boulware,
Secretary