

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**MINUTES OF:
November 12, 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, 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

The Board met in the Jacqueline Owens Auditorium for the CAPSS Superintendent/Student Recognition Awards at 5:00 p.m. The following students were recognized:

Sierra Vann & Catherine Contreras from Huntington; Gloria Ng from Mahan; Sherlande Alexandre from Moriarty; Khuzaima Din from Stanton; Valeria Yraita-Zevallos from Uncas; Alexia Ramos Labonte from Veterans; Savannah Dickson from Wequonnoc; Bianca Lane from Kelly Middle; Amir Butcher from Teachers Memorial; Rudy Franco from Deborah Tennant-Zinewicz and Flora Lucas Philippe from Adult Education.

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Dr. Jacaruso asked Cora Lee Boulware to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Made by John LeVangie (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2013 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Jacaruso introduced the Norwich Teacher of the Year 2014 – Elisha Millerd-Lewis. Mrs. Alexandria Lazzari, Principal at Teachers Memorial Middle School said a few words

about Elisha. Elisha was one of the 15 finalists for the Connecticut Teacher of the Year – we are very proud of Elisha. Dr. Jacaruso reminded everyone about the Staff Follies that will be held on December 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Jacqueline Owens Auditorium. Dr. Jacaruso gave an update on the NFA Partner District meeting that was held on November 8th. Superintendents from Bozrah, Sprague, Lisbon, Norwich, Voluntown, and NFA plus Senator Osten, Representatives Riley, Sear and Ryan attend, along with Deb Hinchey. They have another meeting planned for December 11, 2013.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Mrs. Dolliver introduced the new Principal for Veterans' School, Mr. Adam Rosenberg. Adam addressed the Board. We are very happy to have Adam join our Administrative Team. We have a new 4th grade teacher at Uncas School, Ms. Leah Burdick, who will join us on November 18th. Abby gave an update on the United Way Program. She mentioned the Adult Ed Fall Festival and Multicultural Brunch that will be held on November 26th at 10:00 a.m. in the St. Mary's church basement. Abby reported that grant funds provide salaries for 178 full time equivalent staff; and the general fund provides salaries for 371 full time equivalent staff. Abby noted that there is a parking issue at Bishop School for employees, and she is working with the city manager on a couple of options for parking. Abby shared with the Board her "Morning Toasts" that she sends out each morning. During the first day of Inservice, all the staff was asked to write a toast about someone or something in the district or about their school. Abby has been using one each day to send to all staff. Abby reported that the Dear Abby Dolliver show is back, even though Tom St. George is not with us. This year they are having students be part of the audience. The show airs on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Abby reported on the Teacher Evaluation Plan. Abby shared that Dr. Shah, an ophthalmologist in Norwich, made a donation to the Eastern CT Symphony to allow our students to attend a performance.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

Kaitlyn O'Leary, Director of Strategic Initiatives gave a presentation regarding her programs and how they are linking to student achievement.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Policy Committee

John LeVangie reported on the October 29th meeting. There are several policies that are included for a first read, and will be voted on at the next board meeting.

BOARD REQUESTS/REPORTS

Joyce Werden gave a report from last month from LEARN. Aaron Daniels reported on the Rededication of the Plaque at Uncas School which was a great success.

ACTION ITEMS

The following board members were voted in as officers:

Chairperson – Yvette Jacaruso

Vice-Chair – John LeVangie

Secretary – Cora Lee Boulware

For Chairperson:

Yvette Jacaruso voted for herself

Jesshua Ballaro voted for Yvette Jacaruso

Lynn Norris voted for Yvette Jacaruso

Joyce Werden voted for Yvette Jacaruso

Robert Aldi voted for Yvette Jacaruso

Cora Lee Boulware voted for Yvette Jacaruso

Dennis Slopak voted for Yvette Jacaruso

John LeVangie voted for Yvette Jacaruso

Aaron Daniels voted for himself

For Vice-Chairperson:

Yvette Jacaruso voted for John LeVangie

Jesshua Ballaro voted for John LeVangie

Lynn Norris voted for John LeVangie

Joyce Werden voted for Robert Aldi

Robert Aldi voted for John LeVangie

Cora Lee Boulware voted for John LeVangie

Dennis Slopak voted for John LeVangie

John LeVangie voted for himself

Aaron Daniels voted for Dennis Slopak

For Secretary:

Yvette Jacaruso voted for Cora Lee Boulware

Jesshua Ballaro voted for Cora Lee Boulware

Lynn Norris voted for Cora Lee Boulware

Joyce Werden voted for Cora Lee Boulware

Robert Aldi voted for Cora Lee Boulware

Cora Lee Boulware voted for herself

Dennis Slopak voted for Cora Lee Boulware

John LeVangie voted for Cora Lee Boulware

Aaron Daniels voted for Joyce Werden

MOTION: Made by John LeVangie (seconded by Jesshua Ballaro) to suspend the rules to add an item to the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the Immigrant Children & Youth Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Jesshua Ballaro) to amend the district's state approved educator and administrator evaluation and support plans for 2013-3014. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Made by Jesshua Ballaro (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:52 p.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:09 p.m. There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cora Lee Boulware,
Secretary