

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**MINUTES OF:
January 12, 2016
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

PRESENT: Aaron Daniels, Dennis Slopak, Angelo Yeitz Jr, Robert Aldi, Joyce Werden, Kevin Saythany, Margaret Becotte, and Susan Thomas.

Yvette Jacaruso was not present but was participating via phone.

Angelo Yeitz left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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
Amber Longolucco, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Administrators, Principals and Teachers

MEDIA: The Norwich Bulletin, The New London Day, WICH/WCTY

Aaron Daniels called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Mr. Daniels asked Margaret Becotte to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Susan Thomas) to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2015 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Mr. Daniels reported on:

- “How our Neighbors are Doing It”, school district comparison handout
- CABE Legislative Breakfast on 1/12/16
- “Day on the Hill” sponsored by CABE on 3/2/16

Mr. Daniels stated the one thing that the Board of Education has control over is class size. This is the direction that Norwich schools need to be heading in. Norwich schools also get the best results for the money spent on their administration.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- NPS 2016-2017 school calendar
- Homeless students
- Powerschool/Parent Portal
- Dear Abby Dolliver show
- Food service grant/processing kitchen

MOTION: Action on approval of Norwich Public Schools 2016-2017 calendar. Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Susan Thomas) to postpone the motion. Motion will be postponed: 6-3. Joyce Werden, Susan Thomas, Dennis Slopak, Aaron Daniels, Margaret Becotte, and Kevin Saythany voted to postpone the motion. Angelo Yeitz, Yvette Jacaruso, and Robert Aldi voted in opposition of postponement.

DISCUSSION AND EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS FOR NORWICH STUDENTS

The Board discussed giving Norwich students the additional option of attending Ledyard High School or Bacon Academy in Colchester for high school. Transportation costs as well as regular and special education tuition costs were discussed.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to approve Bacon Academy as an additional high school choice for Norwich students. The motion passed 6-3. Angelo Yeitz, Dennis Slopak, Robert Aldi, Yvette Jacaruso, Margaret Becotte, and Aaron Daniels voted in favor. Kevin Saythany, Joyce Werden, and Susan Thomas voted in opposition.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to approve Ledyard High School as an additional high school choice for Norwich students. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEES:**Policy Committee**

Next Policy Committee meeting is on January 25, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. Joyce Werden explained how the Board of Education Handbook was created and how it is used for developing policies.

Facilities Review Committee

Dennis Slopak reported that the first Community Forum was held on 1/7/16. Other meetings include: 1/12/16 with department heads, 1/20/16 with NPS administration, and 1/21/16 for another Community Forum at Kelly Middle School at 6:00 pm.

Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee

Joe Stefon gave an update on professional development in the district; including meetings facilitated by Sarah Fuchs and Samantha Gresko. The teachers were recently surveyed on the teacher evaluation process. Beth Hanlon from the Norwich Teachers League will report these results at the next board meeting.

Transportation Committee

Angelo Yeitz gave an update on a meeting held with First Student. He reported that all the cameras on the buses are in proper working order at this time. First student is identifying Kindergarten and 1st grade students with wrist bands. Stanton school is piloting this program. First Student is starting to project what the bus runs will look like for next year.

LIAISONS:**Children First/School Readiness Liaison**

Joyce Werden gave information on the community agencies involved in Children First/School Readiness. It is a coalition of school agencies and community groups that meet once a month to promote “successful, lifelong learners”. They meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Dime Bank in Norwich.

Otis Library Liaison

Next meeting being held on January 25, 2016.

LEARN Liaison

Yvette Jacaruso reported that she attended a LEARN event on 12/10/15 for a presentation by Dr. Rivera from New London Public Schools on New London partnerships with the community. Tuition costs for magnet schools as well as ABA and special education programs will be increasing for next year. Doreen Marvin is retiring from LEARN after 31 years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Susan Thomas) to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 7:10 p.m. There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Susan Thomas) to take legal action between the Board and Board vendor. Motion passed unanimously.

TEACHER LEVEL III GRIEVANCE

Teacher Level III Grievance was discussed

MOTION: Action on Teacher Level III Grievance. Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Susan Thomas) to hold the grievance in abeyance until the Norwich Teachers League representatives and the Superintendent meet to come to an agreement. Motion passed 8-0. Angelo Yeitz was absent at the time of voting.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Susan Thomas) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 8-0. Angelo Yeitz was absent at the time of voting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Yeitz Jr.

Angelo Yeitz, Jr.,
Secretary