

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**MINUTES OF:
February 9, 2016
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

PRESENT: Aaron Daniels, Dennis Slopak, Angelo Yeitz Jr, Yvette Jacaruso, Joyce Werden, Kevin Saythany, Margaret Becotte.

ABSENT: Robert Aldi, Susan Thomas

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
Debra Martin, Assistant to the Business Administrator
Administrators, Principals and Teachers

MEDIA: The New London Day

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

Mr. Daniels asked Joyce Werden to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Mr. Daniels reported that he met with Mayor Hinchey to discuss long term budget plans. The Board of Education and the City of Norwich will work closely together on this issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Elanah Sherman of 65 Cedar Street is forming an Open Space Commission involving urban green projects, community gardens, etc. She is hoping for student and teacher involvement in the project. She is presenting more information at the March 7th City Council meeting and asks that the Board contact her if they are interested in more information at (860) 614-7200 or elanahs@gmail.com.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- New Grant Award

- Chrome Book grant
- Mohegan Tribe grant awarded to Samantha Cholewa from Wequonnoc School
- Farm to School Program
- Middle School Health Curriculum
- Last day of school for 2015-2016 school year: June 10, 2016.
- Teacher grievance

Athena Nagel reported on the student to computer/device ratio in the schools. Currently there are five schools that have a 1:1 ratio, two schools that have a 2:1 ration, and two schools that have a 3:1 ratio. The current grant award will help to provide devices to those schools in need of devices.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

Jamie Bender presented a Special Education Transition Program Proposal. This transition program would be for students beyond 12th grade. Under IDEA, transition planning is mandated as part of a student's IEP (Individual Education Program). Many school districts operate their own programs within the district. We currently provide programming for 34 students at a projected cost of \$1,869,000. Bringing a transition program back to our district would provide greater control over programing and placement sites as well as a significant reduction in cost. Jamie Bender will present more information at the next board meeting.

COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee

There was a Policy Committee meeting held on January 25, 2016. Updates to Policy #6146 (High School Graduation Requirements) & Policy #5124 (Reporting to Parents/Guardians) were presented for a first read. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on March 15, 2016 at 3:30 pm in the Central Office conference room. Joyce Werden suggested that the 9000 series (By-Laws of the Board) be reviewed.

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel gave an update on the Budget Expenditure meeting from February 9, 2016. The largest costs are health insurance and tuition costs. Transportation costs are not available for next year at this time. There will be a 4.53% increase in the budget for next year. The BOE, NPU, and the City are in the process of doing a Dependent Eligibility Audit.

Facilities Review Committee

There was a Community Forum held on January 28, 2016 and a February 1, 2016 meeting that included the Board of Education and the City Council. There is a survey currently on the NPS website: www.norwichpublicschools.org from 2/10/16-2/17/16.

Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee

The February 8th meeting has been postponed until February 10th due to the weather.

Transportation Committee

The February 8th meeting has been postponed until February 24th due to the weather.

School Building Committee

The next meeting will be held on February 10, 2016 at 5:30 pm in the Kelly Community Room.

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

Joyce Werden reported on the importance of birth to 3 programs.

Integrated Day Charter School Liaison

Joyce Werden reported that she was invited to an upcoming retreat.

CABE Liaison

Professional development provided by CABE will take place on February 24th at 5:30 pm to prepare for the hiring of a new Director of Curriculum & Instruction.

Otis Library Liaison

Yvette Jacaruso reported that Norwich Public Utilities recently installed new lights at the library.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Norwich Public Schools 2016-2017 school calendar was presented for approval.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to approve the Norwich Public Schools 2016-2017 school calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:47 p.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 7:20 p.m. There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Yeitz Jr.

Angelo Yeitz, Jr.,
Secretary