

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF:
May 10, 2016
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

ABSENT: Susan Thomas

STAFF: Abby I. Dolliver, Superintendent
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 Day, WICH

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

Mr. Daniels asked Dennis Slopak to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for former City Alderman Terell Wilson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve the draft minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Mr. Daniels reported on:

- Budget discussions in Norwich and at the city and state levels

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Guirlene Ginton of 78 Golden Street said she has been an Adult Education student for four months & she asked the board to keep the program open because the community needs the teachers & the program. She no longer needs a translator to communicate as a result of the program.

Patricia Staley of 18 Montgomery Lane asked the board to consider hiring an Assistant Superintendent instead of a Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Heather Romanski of 297 Scotland Road asked the board to think outside the box and do a thorough cost review before eliminating teacher positions. She said the board needs a new approach and to alter their behavior and thinking in terms of the budget to get better results.

Siobhan O'Connor, Principal of Huntington School & Alex Lazzari, Principal of the 6th Grade Academy asked the board to give careful consideration before eliminating the crucial position of the Curriculum Director.

John Blackburn of 15 Alice Street said he attended the public budget hearing at City Hall on 5/9/16-he hopes what the Board of Education gets from the City will be enough and urges the administration to not take pay raises to save teacher positions.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Budget deliberations & decisions
- Impact of the city & state budgets to NPS
- CBE collective bargaining workshop on 6/7/16
- Chelsea Groton Bank (Shannon Ladd) donation to KMS
- KMS student donations to SCADD
- Community Foundation of Eastern CT Norwich Youth Grant award ceremony: 5/11/16
- NFA & former KMS student Felicity Wang scholarship to Brown University
- Middle school student achievements at the state Invention Convention

Rebecca Pellerin, Principal of Moriarty Environmental Sciences Magnet School was recognized for receiving the National Magnet School of Excellence Award at the Magnet Schools of America national conference in Miami earlier this month.

Kristie Bourdoulous, an Administrative Literacy Specialist at Moriarty Magnet School has been awarded the Nicholas Criscuolo Reading Award for Administrators by the Connecticut Reading Association

Mary Tramontozzi, a nurse at Moriarty Magnet School has been awarded an Honorable Mention for the 2016 School Nurse Leadership Award by Healthy Schools Campaign

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

Scott Fain & staff members from Wequonnoc Arts & Technology Magnet School gave a presentation featuring student work examples, how the STEAM theme is integrated into their curriculum, the responsive classroom technique, as well as how art, music & technology electives are offered to students. They showcased the components of what makes Wequonnoc so unique & how students have a choice & a voice in their learning.

ALLIANCE GRANT/FUNDING STREAMS FOR STAFF:

Kaitlyn O'Leary, Director of Strategic Initiatives gave a presentation on Funding Streams for Norwich Public Schools personnel showing staffing positions for the district & where the funding comes from; including grants & the general fund. She gave an update on the Alliance Grant & Priority Grant applications for the 2016-2017 school year.

ACTION ITEM:

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Kevin Saythany) to approve the submission of the Alliance Grant Application for the 2016-2017 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

GRANT UPDATES:

Karen Urgitis, Coordinator of Instructional Technology gave an update on the completion of several projects of the Security Grant & the Administrative Services Alliance Grant, including:

- Huntington School: 6 smartboards and projectors installed
- Mahan School: 2 smartboards and projectors installed & 3 carts of 30 Chromebooks purchased
- Stanton School: 11 smartboards installed (no projectors-used existing-only boards installed) and 3 replacement projectors installed on existing smartboards
- Veterans School: 1 cart of 30 Chromebooks purchased
- Kelly Middle School: 4 carts of 30 Chromebooks purchased
- All other projects are in progress at this time

COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee

ACTION ITEMS:

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Angelo Yeitz) to Approve Updates to Policy #4119: Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Sexual Abuse of Students by School Employees. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to Approve Updates to Policy #5114: Student Discipline. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Joyce Werden) to Approve Policy #1000 & 1000(a): Visitors to the Schools. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Robert Aldi) to Approve Policy #1200 & 1200(a): School Volunteers, Student Intern & Other Non-Employees. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Angelo Yeitz) to Approve Updates to Policy #5100: Student Attendance & Truancy. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel & Yvette Jacaruso reported on the Budget Expenditure meeting on 5/3/16. Athena Nagel stated that as things change with the city budget it will impact the NPS budget. Health insurance costs as well as the tentative state budget will also impact the NPS budget. There were four community budget forums open to the public & one may be scheduled once the city budget is

finalized. There is revenue coming in from the SPED transition program. Funding for transportation costs was also discussed due to a proposed cut in transportation funding by the state.

Building & Space Committee/Facilities Review Committee

Dennis Slopak reported that the school buildings are getting older & more crowded. There is a Facilities Review Committee meeting on 5/16/16 at City Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee

Kevin Saythany reported that the current Teacher Evaluation Plan was discussed at the 5/9/16 meeting as well as the changes that are coming to the process. The Adult Education teacher evaluation plan was introduced.

Transportation Committee

Angelo Yeitz reported that the bell times for next year are being revised. There was a camera issue for an Uncas school incident. The Kindergarten & First Grade bracelet identification program has been implemented in all schools at this time.

LIAISONS:

School Readiness Liaison

Joyce Werden reported that the sustainability meetings continue for reorganization.

Integrated Day Charter School Liaison

Joyce Werden reported that the IDCS budget is much more straightforward than that of NPS. There is \$11,000 allocated to each student. She finds that there are many more similarities between IDCS & NPS than differences.

Otis Library Liaison

Yvette Jacaruso reported that the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded Otis Library as one of the recipients of the 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community.

BOARD REPORTS:

Yvette Jacaruso reported that she attended the Extended Learning/Teen Outreach event at Kelly Middle School on 4/27/16. It was a community showcase featuring poems, dances and "100 dresses". The silence of bullying was addressed. The dresses were donated to Thames River Place in Norwich. The students were well prepared and did a marvelous job presenting.

Margaret Becotte reported that she attended Technology Night at Mahan School on Wednesday the 27th of April. The students did an excellent job demonstrating the many ways technology is used in the classroom and at home. She also reported that Mahan uses a free downloadable app called Shoparoo to earn cash for the school for every receipt submitted.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: Made by Angelo Yeitz (seconded by Robert Aldi) to approve the Healthy Food Certification

Statement, July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017; Section 10-215f of the CT General Statutes. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve an increase in the price of paid student school lunches by \$0.10 as required by the USDA (Currently \$2.20 for elementary & \$2.35 for middle school) & the price of adult meals to increase to \$3.75 (currently \$3.25). Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to Approve Norwich Public Schools participation in the Summer Food Service Program Funded by the USDA & that the authorized signer of the application to be Abby I. Dolliver, Superintendent.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) for the Approval of Abby I. Dolliver, Superintendent to sign contracts on behalf of Norwich Public Schools with the CT Department of Agriculture. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:31 p.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:43 p.m. There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Kevin Saythany) to approve the contract between the Norwich Board of Education and the Custodians and Maintainers (MEUI). Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Margaret Becotte) to suspend the rules and add and item to the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve the hiring of a new Director of Curriculum & Instruction with the contract changes discussed in Executive Session. Motion passed 7-1. (Robert Aldi voted in opposition)

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Yeitz Jr.

Angelo Yeitz, Jr., Secretary