

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
January 10, 2017
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

ABSENT: Susan Thomas

STAFF: Abby I. Dolliver, Superintendent
Dr. Thomas J. Baird, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
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/WCTY/WNLC

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

Mr. Daniels asked Dr. Yvette Jacaruso to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Kevin Saythany) to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Mr. Daniels reported that he had the opportunity to visit the 6th Grade Academy at Teachers' Memorial. He spoke with Administrative Literacy Specialist, Kara Levenduski during his visit.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents meeting on 1/6/17
- Alliance Grant reductions
- Gathering of the Hearts & Minds Ceremony at Uncas Network School on 1/13/17
- Equity Lab attended on 12/10/16
- LEAD Connecticut at schools the week of February 13th
- Dear Abby Dolliver Show (Norwich Transition Academy)

- State Board of Education Meeting, re: Network school interviews
- Norwich Transition Academy Open House-1/11/17
- Black History Month events & Diversity in Curriculum
- Mid-Year state audit (Veterans, Stanton, Uncas Schools)
- School Based Health centers re-open for Behavioral Health (Stanton, 6GA, KMS)
- Visit from Senator Murphy
- Public Budget Forums on 1/30/17 at 10:00 am & 6:00 pm

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

Dr. Thomas Baird reported on the District Improvement Plan Updates. He gave a mid-year update for each strategy including progress, action steps and barriers for completion if any. The strategies updated included: Curriculum, District Assessment Committee, ELL, Culture/Climate & Family, Social/Emotional, Attendance, Security & Safety, Budget, Technology and Hiring Practices. Dr. Baird also presented on District SBAC scores from 2014-2015 & 2015-2016. Chronic Absenteeism and Behavior trends were discussed as well as The Curriculum Council Approval process.

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Kevin Saythany) for the Norwich Board of Education to establish the district Curriculum Council to “recommend, develop, review and approve curriculum” for the district. (In keeping with the Board of Education Policy 9000-Role of the Board and Members & CT General Statute 10-220e) The Curriculum Council will operate under procedures as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

GRANT UPDATES:

Dr. Thomas Baird reported on the budget reductions to the Alliance Grant. He reported on the Afterschool Program audit and site visits as well as the Extended School program updates.

COMMITTEES:**Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee**

Dr. Thomas Baird & Kevin Saythany gave a report on the 1/9/17 meeting. The Administrator Evaluation Plan was discussed and will include teacher feedback. The March Regional professional development day was discussed as well as the Draft Version of the 2017-2018 school calendar. There will be no ½ day LED days in November or March due to full day PD days those same months as well as early dismissals due to Parent Teacher Conferences.

Policy Committee

The following policies were presented for First Read:

- Policy #6141.32-Student Use of Computing System
- Policy# 5115-Confidentiality and Access to Student Records
- Policy#5541 -Fundraising Activities
- Policy #4134-Social Media

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on January 18, 2017 at 4:00 pm at Central Office.

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel and Yvette Jacaruso reported on the Budget Expenditure meeting held prior to the Board Meeting on 1/10/17. Budget reductions of \$185,415.00 were made from the Alliance Grant due to the cuts made by the state. Norwich Free Academy is proposing a 2.5% increase in tuition.

Transportation Committee

Athena Nagel reported that communication has improved. When problems arise, they are being rectified in a timely manner. A school bus was stuck due to the road conditions during the recent school delay. Angelo Yeitz & the Public Works Department assisted with this. There has been trouble finding available buses or contracted vehicles to handle the homeless students who require transportation to other districts. First Student does not have the capacity to handle these requests.

Facilities Review Committee

Dennis Slopak gave an update on the Facilities Review Project. The consultants that were hired recommended renovating 4 current schools "as new" for the biggest state reimbursement. What the district is spending on utilities and heat was discussed as well as the cost of "doing nothing", which is around \$17 million. The building project will cost approximately \$57 million and will create more space and reduced class sizes. The Board needs to vote to decide if they are moving ahead with this project. The next step would be to the City Council & then to the taxpayers for a vote.

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Kevin Saythany) to support the recommendations of the Facilities Review Committee to move the project forward as recommended. Motion denied 4-4. Yvette Jacaruso, Kevin Saythany, Aaron Daniels and Joyce Werden voted in favor. Robert Aldi, Dennis Slopak, Angelo Yeitz and Margaret Becotte voted in opposition.

LIAISONS:**Integrated Day Charter School Liaison**

Joyce Werden reported that there will be a public charter renewal on 2/15/17 at Norwich Tech.

BOARD REPORTS:

- Dr. Yvette Jacaruso reported that she attended the Band Concert at Kelly Middle School.
- Kevin Saythany reported that he attended the Moriarty Magnet School Chorus Concert.
- Joyce Werden reported that the Leadership Evaluation Committee met and discussed a timetable for the evaluation process.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Yeitz Jr.

Angelo Yeitz, Jr.,
Secretary