

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
March 21, 2017
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
Kelly Middle School Community Room
25 Mahan Drive, Norwich, CT 06360
5:30 p.m.**

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

ABSENT: Margaret Becotte

STAFF: Abby I. Dolliver, Superintendent
Dr. Thomas J. Baird, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
Athena Nagel, Business Administrator
Amber Longolucco, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Administrators, Principals and Teachers

MEDIA: The Day, The Norwich Bulletin, WICH/WCTY/WNLC

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

Mr. Daniels asked Rashid Haynes to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2017 & March 2, 2017 meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Mr. Daniels reported on his recent visit to Huntington School with Angelo Yeitz. They met with Principal Siobhan O'Connor for a tour and discussion. They were very impressed with her philosophy on what makes a good teacher.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Beryl Fishbone, 19 Bliss Place thanked the Board for providing copies of the Proposed Norwich Public Schools Budget for 2017-2018.

Heather Romanski of 297 Scotland Road commented on the large turnout for the last Board of Ed Special meeting. She thanked the Board for allowing everyone to have a chance to be heard during public comment. She is concerned about the lack of communication between the Board and the public. This does not allow brainstorming and collaboration between the Board and parents. She thanked Robert Aldi for always responding promptly to her e-mails. She also invited the Board to a Pasta Dinner to benefit Moriarty Magnet School on April 6th at the Knights of Columbus at 4:30 pm.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Enrollment projection
- Moriarty Environmental Sciences Magnet school recognized as a National Magnet School of Excellence a 2nd year in a row
- Next BOE meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the month due to Spring Recess: April 18, 2017
- KMS Student, Tim Lee moved to the state level for the MATH COUNTS competition
- Kindergarten Registration Update
- Report made by Peter Camp on Uncas Network School to the State Department of Education sub-committee (attended with Abby Dolliver and Billie Shea)
- Meeting with Chief Daley and Captain Ferace, Norwich Police Department
- LEAD CT follow up after visit to Norwich Public Schools
- Gift from Wequonnoc school students-“Good People Everywhere”
- Board of Education Appreciation-“Good People Everywhere” presented to Board members

Bill Peckrul, Principal of Kelly Middle School gave information to the Board about a donation that was made by the Table Top Pie Company for National Pi (π) Day of over 800 pies to the students & staff.

Dr. Thomas Baird gave an update on the Next Generation Accountability Report. Huntington and Mahan Schools were named Schools of Distinction. The high needs population categories for Norwich students are meeting their growth targets. This is important information to the State of CT.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

Alex Lazzari, Principal of 6th Grade Academy at Teachers’ Memorial and Bill Peckrul, Principal of Kelly Middle School gave a presentation on the LEARN Magnet School Application Plan. Kelly Middle School would have a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Magnet) theme and Teachers’ would have a Global Competency Through Service Learning and World Language Acquisition theme. It is a LEARN collaborative regional grant and would provide each school \$2 million over 5 years.

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

Dr. Thomas Baird reported on the Structured Supervised Support plan for teachers. A flow chart will now be included with the plan. The March 10th Professional Development day was moved until June due to the weather.

Policy Committee

The next Meeting is on April 26th at 4:00 pm in the Central Office conference room. The following policies were presented for First Read:

- Policy#5116-Designation of High Schools/Transportation/Graduation Requirements
- Policy#5131.7-Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes
- Policy#5134-Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Kevin Saythany) to approve the following policies: Policy#0000-District, Vision, Mission and Goals, Policy#6162.51-Student Privacy, Policy# 5118.1 & 5118.1(a)-Homeless Children and Youth, Policy#5114-Student Discipline, Policy#6121(a)-Non Discrimination-Students, and Policy#5145.6 & 5141.6-Students and Section 504 & Title II. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel updated the Board on the Proposed Norwich Public Schools Budget for 2017-2018. She discussed the Governor's anticipated budget as well as the Special Education reimbursement. She and Abby Dolliver met with the City Manager and the Comptroller last Friday for budget discussion. There is a 3.02% increase from last year to the budget.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Joyce Werden) to Adopt the Norwich Public Schools Proposed Budget for 2017-2018. Motion passed unanimously.

LIAISONS:

Integrated Day Charter School Liaison

Joyce Werden reported the IDCS has completed their Board Handbook and they used Norwich's handbook as a model. She referenced an article in the CEA Advisor on corporate style charter schools.

Otis Library Liaison

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso reported that Otis Library will hold its 14th annual Evening with an Author fundraiser on April 28th featuring author Kaitlyn Greenidge. The cost is \$125 per person.

LEARN Liaison

Al Daniels will serve as the LEARN liaison due to the resignation of Board member, Susan Thomas. Al Daniels commented that they have many of the same concerns as NPS but that they have classrooms that can't be filled due to lack of students.

BOARD REPORTS:

Joyce Werden reported that her and Joanne Philbrick visited Huntington School and met with Principal, Siobhan O'Connor. It was interesting and informative. The success of Huntington school is due to "identification" and "connection" along with the feeling of belonging that students, staff, and parents feel.

Yvette Jacaruso thanked everyone that attended the Legislative Breakfast that was held on February 16th. There was a good turnout and Senator Cathy Osten, Representative Doug Dubitsky, Representative Emmett Riley, and Representative Kevin Ryan attended.

Aaron Daniels reported that Norwich Free Academy has extended an invitation to the Board and administrators to visit the campus next week for a tour and meeting on their partnership with NPS.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to apply for the following grant: Special Education Grant Programs FY 2018: Two Entitlement Grant Programs Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), Assistance for Education of all Children with Disabilities ages 3-21 (Section 611), and Preschool Grants for Children with Disabilities (Section 619). Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Robert Aldi) to approve the submission of the General Improvements to Alliance District's School Buildings Grant. Motion passed 7-1. Aaron Daniels, Robert Aldi, Rashid Haynes, Yvette Jacaruso, Kevin Saythany, Angelo Yeitz and Joyce Werden voted in favor. Dennis Slopak voted in opposition.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Yeitz Jr.

Angelo Yeitz, Jr.,
Secretary