

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:  
April 18, 2017  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION  
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**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:** None

Aaron Daniels called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Mr. Daniels asked Kevin Saythany to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:**

Mr. Daniels welcomed everyone back after Spring Recess and said he is looking forward to a productive rest of the year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Class sizes for next year
- Invention Convention-11 students moving to state finals
- Community Foundation of Southeastern CT Grants
- Norwich Youth Grants
- John & Elizabeth Martin fund-\$2,500 to NPS

- NPS students meeting criteria for NFA Honors/Advanced classes
- Chamber of Commerce grants
- Adult Education Enrichment Schedule
- Donation from Maria's Treasures-\$1,000
- April 19, 2017 visit by Commissioner Wentzell & Governor Malloy to Mahan School
- Uncas Network School granted 4<sup>th</sup> year as a Network School
- School Readiness update
- Dr. Baird published in Professional Development and Education Journal
- School Calendar updates
- Budget Forum on 4/20/17 at 10:00 am & 6:00 pm

**MOTION:** Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Robert Aldi) to approve an update to the 2016-2017 school calendar with June 13, 2017 as the last student day and June 16<sup>th</sup> as the last staff day. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:**

Abby Dolliver and Thomas Baird presented on the 2017-2018 budget. Percentage of growth for students in ELA and Math were presented as well as School Achievement and Attendance. Norwich Public Schools staff gives back in numerous ways to the city of Norwich. District funding sources were discussed as well as student demographics. Current projects and future planning was also presented.

#### **GRANT UPDATES & CURRICULUM COUNCIL**

Dr. Thomas Baird reported on:

- Final magnet plan revisions
- Community Foundation of Southeastern CT grants
- Congressman Joe Courtney's visit to Extended Learning afterschool program on 4/7/17
- Curriculum Council update

#### **Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee**

Kevin Saythany reported on the 4/17/17 meeting. Support plans for teachers were discussed as well as teacher observations. Recruitment brochures have been created. Dr. Thomas Baird reported that they are planning for professional development days for the 2017-2018 school year.

#### **Policy Committee**

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on April 26, 2017 at 4:00 pm in the Central Office conference room.

**MOTION:** Made by Angelo Yeitz (seconded by Robert Aldi) to approve Policy#5116-Designation of High Schools/Transportation/Graduation Requirements, Policy#5131.7-Chemical Health Policy for Student Athletes, and Policy#5134-Use of Private Technology Devices by Students. Motion passed unanimously.

**Leadership Evaluation Committee**

Joyce Werden reported on the 4/18/17 meeting. The Board and the Superintendent should “lead together”. They have finalized the time line for the Superintendent’s evaluation.

**Integrated Day Charter School Liaison**

Joyce Werden reported that the next meeting is on April 19, 2017.

**Otis Library Liaison**

Yvette Jacaruso reported that the proposed budget was presented to the City Council.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Yvette Jacaruso reported that she attended the Science Fair at the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy and it was wonderful. The students were very fluid in their explanation of their projects.

Dennis Slopak questioned the policy on charging for the use of the Kelly Middle School Auditorium in reference to the recent Town Hall event held by Congressman Courtney.

Kevin Saythany reported that he attended the Invention Convention at Moriarty Environmental Sciences Magnet school with Joyce Werden, Margaret Becotte and Dennis Slopak. The inventions were very creative and the students had interesting answers to questions asked. Margaret Becotte said the students conducted themselves very professionally and she enjoyed the thank you notes.

Kevin Saythany and Yvette Jacaruso attended the Pasta Dinner hosted by Moriarty Magnet School.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:35 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:15 pm. There were no votes taken.

**MOTION:** Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Joyce Werden ) to approve the non-renewal of teacher contracts. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Angelo Yeitz Jr.*  
Secretary