

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
September 13, 2016
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 Susan Thomas.

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
Deborah Martin, Manager of Financial Services
Amber Longolucco, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Administrators, Principals and Teachers

MEDIA: The Day, WICH/WCTY

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

Mr. Daniels asked Margaret Becotte to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2016 meeting. Motion passed 8-0. Joyce Werden abstained.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Mr. Daniels reported on:

- NPS Convocation
- NFA Complimentary Event Pass
- Upcoming NFA Events (Sports Hall of Fame for Class of 2016: 10/14, Homecoming Football Game: 10/15, Wildcat Open Golf Tournament: 10/16, Prospective Student Open House: 10/16)
- Recognition as a Certified Board of Education Member for 2015-2016 school year

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Summer Food Program
- Bilingual Program Student Enrollment

- Parent Portal
- Facilities summer work completed
- First Day of School & Commissioner Wentzell's visit to Stanton Network School
- New SDE Turnaround Specialist for NPS: Kaylan Ricciardi
- Administrators Retreat & Professional Development
- District Improvement Plan & School Improvement Plans
- City Council Department Head Meeting at Mohegan Sun
- Deborah Martin, Manager of Financial Services leaving NPS

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

Dr. Thomas Baird & Kristie Bourdoulous presented on SBAC High Level View Math Action Plan. Norwich was highlighted in the state press release for overall improvement in ELA. Norwich was one of six Alliance Districts mentioned. Stanton was recognized for their improvement within the Commissioner's Network schools in both ELA and Mathematics. The only statistically significant results are positive confirming that our intervention programs are effective. The District Math Action Plan for 2016-2017 will focus on creating and piloting Standards Based Unit Structure and Math in Focus as the main anchor task resource. PD in buildings will focus on math content and practices as well as implementation of structured Fact Fluency within the curriculum and Math Intervention. For the 2017-2018 school year, there will be continued implementation of Standards Based Units and Assessments as well as continued PD and monitoring of the implemented interventions.

GRANT UPDATES:

Athena Nagel reported on general improvements to Alliance Districts' school buildings projects completed from June 15, 2016 to September 13, 2016:

- School: Moriarty-Project Name: Dry erase boards replaced with Smartboards. Fourteen classrooms had old, warped, damaged and unusable dry erase boards. In order to outfit all classrooms with equal equipment, the dry erase boards were upgraded to interactive whiteboards. These were the last classrooms in the building to be upgraded with this technology. Budget of \$32,200
- School: Moriarty-Project Name: Public address system replaced/upgraded. Grant funding was used to repair and improve the building's public address system in the Moriarty Cafeteria. Cost budgeted at \$10,234.
- School: KMS & 6GA-Project Name: Air conditioners replaced/upgraded. Network closets for equipment in a climate-controlled environment. Total budget was \$6000.
- School: Wequonnoc-Project Name: Cement stairs repaired/replaced. Replaced outside concrete stairs that went from sidewalk and parking lot up to Kindergarten playground. Amount budgeted was \$20,000
- School: KMS-Project Name: File server for curriculum work replaced. Replaced file server/computer that was needed to store teachers' curriculum documents. Previous server was not capable of handling the volume of files needed. Amount budgeted was \$11,000.

Dr. Thomas Baird reported on:

- Summer work conducted in June and August
- Staffing, Math Intervention, and Fact Fluency Instructional Materials
- Identifying funding balances for instructional supplies, professional development and curriculum writing
- Extended Learning Program-695 students participating

COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 4:00 pm in the Central Office conference room

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Next Meeting: Monday, October 3, 2016 at 4:00 pm in the Central Office conference room

Facilities Review Committee

Several members of the Facilities Review Committee met in Hartford with Bruce Kellogg, Ken Biega, and the Department of Administrative Services on 9/12/16 to discuss the recent study that was conducted as well as recommendations for moving forward. Renovate as new versus new construction was discussed as well as what would be eligible for state reimbursement. There was an \$11 million difference between the two plans but this did not take into account the long term savings or hazardous material costs. Dennis Slopak stated that at least one good school in a district raises property taxes. He is concerned about lawsuits involving construction.

Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee

Dr. Thomas Baird reported on PDEC work with Administrators & Kim Marshall on more holistic observation practices. Simplified Teacher Goal Setting includes a shift to more holistic measures of student outcomes, a shift to whole school indicator measures instead of student surveys, and shifting to a family engagement measure instead of a parent survey. There will be updated language within the teacher evaluation plan to reflect these changes. PDEC members partnered with building administrators to roll out the changes to staff during the August professional development time. There were 5 sub-committees formed: CT Team (New Teacher Induction Program), Evaluation, Adult Education, Professional Learning, and Administrator Evaluation.

Transportation Committee

Abby Dolliver reported that the number of phone calls regarding bus complaints have reduced at central office. The buses have all returned to the bus garage by 5:00 pm everyday (this does not include late runs). Special Education buses continue to be problematic as does customer service at the bus company. Most of the complaints received at central office are regarding customer service.

Angelo Yeitz asked that administrators contact him through Athena Nagel with any concerns or complaints that they are still having with the bus company.

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

Next meeting scheduled for 9/21/16 at Dime Bank at 9:00 am

Integrated Day Charter School Liaison

Joyce Werden reported that there is a committee that has been formed to review the Director & Assistant Director's evaluation process.

Otis Library Liaison

Yvette Jacaruso reported that there are new officers on the Board for Otis Library: President - Ms. Lori Danis, Vice President - Mr. John Iovino, Secretary - Ms. Kathleen Disch, Treasurer - Ms. Robin Harris

BOARD REPORTS:

Yvette Jacaruso reported that she has 18 credits earned as a Certified Board of Education Member.

Joyce Werden requested that a new committee be formed to take a closer look at the Superintendent's evaluation process. Al Daniels asked Joyce Werden to chair the committee. Joyce Werden accepted as committee chairperson & Al Daniels, Susan Thomas, and Yvette Jacaruso volunteered to join the committee.

Al Daniels encourage Board members to sign up for the November 18th & 19th CABE/CAPSS Convention: Children First: Opening Opportunities for All.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Susan Thomas) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Yeitz Jr.

Angelo Yeitz, Jr.,
Secretary