

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF:
October 18, 2016
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

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

Mr. Daniels asked 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 September 13, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Mr. Daniels reported that Board Member Susan Thomas has expressed her intent to resign from the Board of Education.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- School Based Health Centers
- Food services-supper program
- Citizenship Celebration Ceremony-October 19th at 5:00 pm-City Hall
- Adult Education changes & community enrichment programs
- People's Bank community partnership with Stanton Network School

- Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce-Women in Leadership: October 26th

Sheila Osko, Director of Language and Translation Services reported on the enrollment of Bilingual students in the district. Since July 1st the department has screened 195 new students to the district. She reported that NPS has registered it's first student from Haiti following the hurricane as well as the first Syrian refugee.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

Dr. Thomas Baird presented the District Improvement Plan to the Board. He discussed the theory and process that was used to develop the plan. He discussed District Data Team feedback, next steps that will be taken, the Board's involvement with the DIP, as well as the need to update the BOE mission policy.

GRANT UPDATES:

Dr. Thomas Baird reported:

- Modifications to the Alliance Grant were submitted
- Title I, II, & III grants submitted on October 14, 2016

COMMITTEES:

Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee

Kevin Saythany & Dr. Thomas Baird reported on the committee meeting held on 10/17/16. The PEDAC guidelines were discussed as well as committee goals. Discussion also included Professional Learning Standards as well as the Administrator Evaluation Plan updates.

Policy Committee

The following policies were presented for First Read:

- Policy#4118.112(a)-Sex Discrimination & Sexual Harassment-Personnel
- Policy#5143-Administration of Student Medications in the Schools
- Policy#5131.8-Bullying Prevention & Intervention Policy
- Policy#5141.3-Administrative Regulations Regarding Health Assessments/Screenings
- Policy#5141.31-Administrative Regulations Regarding Immunizations
- Policy#5135-Physical Activity and Student Discipline
- Policy#5145.5-Policy Regarding Sex Discrimination & Sexual Harassment-Students
- Policy#6155-Curricular Exemptions
- Policy #1331-Prohibition of Smoking/Smoke Free Environment
- Policy #1330 & 1330(a)-Use of School Facilities
- Policy#4118-Prohibition of Recommendations for Psychotropic Drugs

Budget/Expenditure Committee

The last committee meeting was held on 10-18-16 at 4:00 pm. Athena Nagel reported that she is making 3 budget reallocations– movement of money from one appropriation account to another. No additional services of funding are needed. She also reported that there have been many recent Central Office staff changes and there are potentially four more secretarial changes due to areas of high need as well as collaboration with the city.

Facilities Review Committee

Dennis Slopak reported that the recent October 3rd meeting was non-productive since people do not want change. They are looking to add some new teachers to the committee.

Transportation Committee

Athena Nagel reported that the new phone system at First Student has caused additional problems with communication. Parents & schools are having trouble getting through to the bus company. The fax machine at the bus garage has been having problems also. The only way to guarantee accurate communication is through a text to First Student Manager, Kelly Dixon.

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

Joyce Werden reported that the Children First program funding has ended. There will not be a need for a Children First/School Readiness liaison. She is recommending that Carole Glenn from LEARN meet with the Board once a year to update them on the School Readiness program.

Integrated Day Charter School Liaison

Joyce Werden reported that the IDCS is preparing to celebrate its 20th anniversary and they are in the process of renewing their charter with the state.

Otis Library Liaison

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso reported that Otis Library has recently updated the lighting fixtures and heating system.

BOARD REPORTS:

Yvette Jacaruso reported that she is now a “certified” BOE member by CABE.

Angelo Yeitz reported that he visited the new Norwich Transition Academy and met with Director, Tom Dufort. The students were preparing for their jobs with tasks such as ironing their uniforms. First Student has been transporting the students back and forth to their work sites.

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 7:05 p.m.

Kevin Saythany left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. There were no votes take in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Angelo Yeitz) to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Yeitz Jr.

Angelo Yeitz, Jr.,
Secretary