

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF:
December 13, 2016
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

ABSENT: Robert Aldi and 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 5:30 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

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

A moment of silence was observed for former Board of Education member, Cora Lee Boulware, who passed away this past Saturday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Mr. Daniels reported on:

- CABE conference
- Wequonnoc Magnet School-Congressman Courtney's visit
- Stanton School visit
- Staff Follies
- Donation to Norwich schools of "The Night Before Christmas"

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Heather Romanski, of 297 Scotland Road spoke during public comment. She urged the Board to carefully consider the decisions that are made regarding the upcoming Facilities Review Project due to its lasting effect on public education as well as the cost to taxpayers. She questioned what will

happen to the current magnet schools as well as the safety of the students. She wants the Board to “do the right thing” by actively listening to the presentation and to be “guided by purpose”.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- SEDAC Update
- Tuition Students
- Physical Education data
- Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on January 9, 2017 with Senator Murphy

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

Dennis Slopak gave a Facilities Review update based on the School Facility Strategic Planning Study. He spoke of consolidating schools based on the consultant’s recommendations. The Board of Education will vote at the January meeting if they wish to move forward in the process. Then it will be presented to the City Council. Bruce Kellogg of JCJ Architecture also spoke about moving forward in the process & forming committees as to how the buildings will be renovated, what will happen to the vacant buildings, as well as paperwork required by the state for reimbursement.

GRANT UPDATES:

Dr. Thomas Baird reported on:

- Planetarium remodeling project
- New State Department of Education consultant
- Working Cities Challenge Grant Update

COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee

Joyce Werden reported that 4 policies were reviewed at the November 30th meeting. The Social Media and Fundraising Activities policies will be reviewed more carefully at the next meeting. The Student Use of the District’s Computer Systems and the Confidentiality and Access to Education Records will also be reviewed further. The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2017.

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel reported on the November 30th Budget Expenditure Meeting and spoke about tuition students.

Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee

Dr. Thomas Baird reported that at their recent meeting, the committee discussed the Professional Development schedule for next year, tentative dates for New Teacher Orientation, the number of observations required each year as well as what to do when an administrator is out for an extended period of time.

Transportation Committee

Angelo Yeitz reported that there was a recent need for a bus film to be reviewed & the camera was in proper working order. Athena Nagel reported that the runs are still very tight with not a lot of flexibility. They have utilized buses from other fleets in special situations to provide more coverage.

LIAISONS:**Integrated Day Charter School Liaison**

Joyce Werden reported that the IDCS will be celebrating its 20th year as well as the 20 year mark of the beginning of Charter Schools. There were 14 original schools opened in 1997 & there 8 of the original 14 remaining. There was a time capsule event in New Haven to mark this event. She also reported on the State Charter Renewal as well as the upcoming State of Connecticut visit to the IDCS on December 21, 2016.

Otis Library Liaison

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso reported that Otis Library will have an exhibit from the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History on display from January 7 through February 3, 2017 titled "Exploring Human Origins: What Does It Mean to be Human?"

BOARD REPORTS:

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso reported that Dr. Tony Wagner from Harvard spoke at the CAFE Convention regarding education, getting a job in today's world and creative thinking in employees. She was "awestruck" by his talk and quoted several passages from his speech.

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 7:15 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:15 pm. There were no votes take in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Angelo Yeitz (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) that the Board of Education deny the grievance filed by the League in this matter. The Board of Education directs the Board Chair to confirm the Board's decision to the League in writing and consistent with the Board's deliberations concerning this matter, on or before January 4, 2017. Motion passed 6-0. Dennis Slopak abstained.

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to approve a one year contract extension between the Norwich Board of Education and the School Nurses & Licensed Practical Nurses (The New England Health Care Employees Union, District 1199, SEIU). Motion passed 6-1. Dennis Slopak voted against the motion.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Yeitz Jr.

Angelo Yeitz, Jr.,
Secretary