

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
September 12, 2017
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

PRESENT: Dennis Slopak (acting chairman), Angelo Yeitz Jr, Yvette Jacaruso, Robert Aldi, Kevin Saythany, Margaret Becotte, Joyce Werden and Rashid Haynes.

Kevin Saythany arrived to the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Robert Aldi was present in the audience but joined the table at 5:45 pm.

ABSENT: Aaron Daniels

STAFF: Abby I. Dolliver, Superintendent
Dr. Thomas J. Baird, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
Athena L. Nagel, Business Administrator
Jamie H. Bender, Director of Student Services & Special Education
Amber Rutigliano, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Administrators, Principals and Teachers

MEDIA: The Day, WICH/WCTY

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2017 and August 10, 2017 meetings. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Angelo Yeitz) to approve the contract documents for the “Partial Roof Replacement for John B. Stanton Network School”, State Project #TMP-104-QGRF. Motion passed unanimously.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

Kara Levenduski and Mary Nolan presented on Restorative Practices including Culture, Climate & Family Engagement. They are now in year 2 with a focus on creating climate and culture as well as a long term plan for professional development. Year one focused on aligning values. Each school is hosting “community circles” in the morning. There is upcoming training for staff on trauma. “Mindset Moments” are sent out to staff. The social/emotional learning curriculum will align with Scarlett Lewis’ “Choose Love” program. There are several community partners already in place and there will be more to follow.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Heather Romanski of 297 Scotland Road spoke in response to the presentation on Culture & Climate. She asked that the parents be notified of what the schools are currently doing so that they can continue the message and mindset at home for continuity.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Introduction of Heidi Davis, Susan Lessard, and Jenna Tenore
- Opening day of school and busing
- Enrollment/class sizes
- NFA registrations
- Adult Education
- ESL students
- Norwich Transition Academy
- Rotary project involving transportation for parents to school events
- Business Network International (BNI) donation to NPSEF
- Girls on the Run project with UCFS
- ESS program at Kelly Middle School
- Haitian Health Foundation fundraiser
- Summer Meal program
- Ellis Ruley project (at Wequonnoc School-Sheila Hayes & Scott Fain)
- UCFS Palmer Davies Award recipient-Dr. Yvette Jacaruso
- State of Norwich (Education Perspective)-October 11, 2017 @ 7:45 am at City Hall

Athena Nagel reported on busing during the first few weeks of school. The bus company has been doing very well trying to accommodate all the issues that arise. The problem mainly is that there are currently not enough buses in the fleet for the transportation needs.

Athena Nagel reported on the current phone issues in the district and the steps that have been taken to rectify the situation.

GRANTS/CURRICULUM COUNCIL:

Dr. Thomas Baird updated the Board on:

- Priority Summer School Grant
- Priority Grant
- Alliance Grant
- Title 1 Grant
- Title 2 Grant
- Title 3 Grant
- Afterschool Grant
- Commissioner's Network-Uncas Network School
- Veterans School-School Improvement Grant
- Chelsea Groton Bank Foundation Grant
- Community Foundation of Eastern CT Women
- Girls Fund Grant for "Girls on the Run"-Stanton School

- Fuel Up to Play 60 Grant-Veterans School
- Middle School Magnet Grant
- Curriculum Council updates
- Summer professional development hours
- Summer curriculum development

COMMITTEES:

Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee-Dr. Thomas Baird & Kevin Saythany

The committee met on 9/11/17 and reviewed the state guidelines for Professional Development and Evaluation Committee. The New Teacher Orientation was implemented for 28 new teachers.

Policy Committee

The next Policy Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 4th at 4:30 pm in the Central Office conference room.

Leadership Evaluation Committee

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to approve the final goals and objectives for the Superintendent for the current school year as presented at the August 8, 2017 Board of Education Workshop. Motion passed unanimously.

LIAISONS:

Integrated Day Charter School Liaison-Joyce Werden

The next IDCS Board retreat will take place this Saturday, September 16th. The next Board meeting will take place on September 20, 2017.

Otis Library Liaison-Dr. Yvette Jacaruso

There was no quorum at the last Board meeting. The evaluation for the director has recently been completed.

BOARD REPORTS:

Kevin Saythany reported that he thoroughly enjoyed the bus tour of Norwich and the school buildings that he took during New Teacher Orientation. It was well attended with every energized teachers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:40 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:11 pm. There were no votes take in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and settle a pending Worker's Compensation claim. Motion passed unanimously.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angelo Yeitz Jr.

Angelo Yeitz, Jr.,
Secretary