

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
January 8, 2019
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

PRESENT: Dr. Yvette Jacaruso, Joyce Werden, Heather Romanski, Aaron Daniels, Dennis Slopak, Robert Aldi, James Maloney, Mark Kulos, and Patricia Staley.

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Abby I. Dolliver, Superintendent
Dr. Thomas J. Baird, Assistant Superintendent
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, The Bulletin

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Dr. Jacaruso asked Joyce Werden to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2018 special meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE:

Lebanon Public School's Superintendent and Board Chairman, along with administrators from Lyman Memorial High School gave a detailed presentation on Lyman High School as a possible high school choice for Norwich students.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Jacaruso reported on a letter received from NFA's David Klein and Sarette Williams.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Kelly STEAM autobiographical student essays
- United Way campaign
- CAUS meeting
- City of Norwich Strategic Planning Session
- IDCS and Early Childhood upcoming legislative breakfasts
- Kelly STEAM winter concert: January 23, 2019
- PTO Leadership Meeting: January 10, 2019
- Food Services hot supper program two days per week

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

Peter Camp, Principal of Uncas Network School presented the School Improvement Plan including three areas of focus: Instruction & Assessment, Teacher-Led Collaboration and Culture, Climate and Family Engagement. A significant decline in the number of chronically absent students was discussed as well.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Baird reported on:

- The new Accountability Index and school rankings-not released yet
- Updated District Improvement Plan
- Finalized changes to Educator Evaluation Plan
- Partnership with surrounding districts on Inter-district grant
- Samantha Cholewa awarded Mohegan Tribal Education Grant-Wequonnoc School
- FIRST Lego Jr., FIRST Lego League & FIRST Tech Challenge being implemented in district
- Extended School Hours Community Provider Grant competition
- Veterans School-\$1,000 grant from the Target Youth Soccer Program
- The magnet lottery is now open and a link is available on the NPS web-site

COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on January 23rd at 4:00 pm in the central office conference room.

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve Policy #5300-Uniform Policy, Policy #5110-Student Attendance and Truancy, Policy #5114-Student Discipline and Policy #5131.6-Drug and Alcohol Use by Students. Motion passed 7-2. Heather Romanski and James Maloney voted in opposition.

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Tricia Staley) to approve Policy #4112.4-Hiring of Certified Personnel. The motion was tabled until the February meeting.

Budget Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel reported on:

- 2017-2018 updated deficit calculations

- Food Service reimbursement
- Technology firewall installation
- Munis conversion training schedule

Transportation Committee

Athena Nagel reported that three representatives from First Student met with her, Abby Dolliver and James Maloney to discuss the struggles they have been having with substitute drivers. They presented a staffing overview at the meeting. There are now 87 new buses that have been received, 47 of them are now on the road. The new buses use gasoline instead of diesel fuel. The wi-fi for the cameras is being installed next week. There is a new First View software app that will be available to parents with real time busing information that is at no cost to the district.

Leadership Evaluation Committee

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Mark Kulos) to approve the Leadership Evaluation Committee next steps and changes to the Leadership Evaluation Process and Timeline. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to disband the Leadership Evaluation Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

School Facilities Committee

Tricia Staley reported that there has not been a meeting since her last report. The survey is still up and live. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2019.

BOARD REPORTS:

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Tricia Staley) to add an action item to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to appoint The New England School Development Council (NESDEC) as the personnel search consultant for the Superintendent position. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (Tricia Staley) to go into Executive Session. The motion passed 8-0. Dennis Slopak was not present in the room when the vote was taken.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:40 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:55 pm. There were no votes take in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Joyce Werden) to add an action item to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to remove the word “interim” from Kristie Bourdoulous’ title and to appoint her principal of Moriarty Environmental Sciences Magnet School. Motion passed 8-1. James Maloney voted in opposition.

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Tricia Staley) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Romanski

Heather Romanski,
Secretary