

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
February 13, 2019
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

ABSENT: Robert Aldi, Aaron Daniels

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, WICH/WCTY

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

Dr. Jacaruso asked Tricia Staley to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Tricia Staley (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2019 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Jacaruso reported on:

- City Strategic Planning Session on February 9th
- Upcoming dates for Superintendent search committee and timeline

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Swaranjit Singh Khalsa of 56 Briar Hill Road spoke about the education budget and how education directly effects economic development in the city. He is working with the district in many ways and talking and respecting one another should be a priority for the children of Norwich.

Sheila Hayes of 382 Laurel Hill Road thanked Superintendent Dolliver for including middle school students and staff at the recent MLK luncheon held at NFA.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver asked Principal Scott Fain to come forward and thanked him for his years of service and dedication to the students of Norwich. Mr. Fain will be retiring at the end of the 18-19 school year.

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- 2019-2020 school calendar
- Starbucks/Mahan driveway traffic issue
- Utility cost adjustment
- CAPSS Summary of Legislation
- NESDEC membership & enrollment study request
- Adult Education updates
- MLK luncheon held at NFA
- Legislative Breakfasts at IDCS and Three Rivers

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

Principal Donna Funk gave an update on Mahan's School Improvement Plan including a focus on culture & climate, social-emotional curriculum, family engagement, parent communication, writing curriculum and monthly attendance recognition. They are doing weekly student collaboration for math as well as parent surveys after students complete their unit math tests.

Principal Susan Lessard gave an update on Stanton School's SRBI focus objectives. She discussed the high population of EL learners and collaboration with classroom teachers. Their Instructional Specialist is modeling small group instruction for classroom teachers. Culture and climate focuses on consistent "teacher language" as well as adult action plans to support students. She discussed their PBIS program, attendance and family engagement.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Baird and Jamie Bender reported on:

- The new Accountability Index and school rankings-not released yet
- Collaboration with CT State Dept. of Ed. for Special Education and literacy intervention
- Partnering with Families evening-Smarter Balanced assessment
- Re-focus on attendance
- In-school and Out-of-school suspension rates
- Magnet Schools of America Policy Conference
- CTE Perkins Grant
- Supplemental middle magnet schools competitive grant
- 21st Century Community Learner Centers grant
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance grant
- SIG Grant for Veterans School

COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on March 27th at 4:00 pm in the central office conference room.

The following policies were presented to the Board for First Read:

- Policy#1008-Automatic External Defibrillators

- Policy#2400-Retention of Electronic Records and Information
- Policy#2500-Holds on Destruction of Electronic Information & Paper Records
- Policy#5115-Confidentiality & Access to Education Records
- Policy#5141.2-Wellness Policy
- Policy#5141.25-Management Plan for Students with Food Allergies/Glycogen Storage Disease
- Policy#5141.3-Regulations Regarding Health Screenings
- Policy#5141.31-Regulations Regarding Immunizations
- Policy#5143-Administration of Student Medications in the Schools
- Policy#5144-Physical Restraint & Seclusion of Students
- Policy#6177-Video & Digital Tools in the Classroom

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Tricia Staley) to approve Policy #4112.4-Hiring of Certified Personnel (Option #3-Alternative Option). Motion denied 3-4. Dennis Slopak, Tricia Staley and Mark Kulos voted for the motion. Heather Romanski, Yvette Jacaruso, James Maloney and Joyce Werden voted in opposition.

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by James Maloney) to approve Policy#4112.4-Hiring of Certified Personnel (Option #2). Motion passed 6-1. Tricia Staley voted against.

Budget Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel reported the next meeting is on February 21st at 6pm in the Kelly Community Room.

Transportation Committee

Athena Nagel reported that all new buses are now on the road. She discussed fuel challenges as well as the seatbelts and harness difficulties with the new seats. The new radios and wireless cameras are working well. There was a recent diesel fuel spill.

Athena Nagel also reported on:

- Munis conversion training
- W2s and 1099s have been sent out
- Food Services monthly updates
- The new Firewall needs to be re-installed
- Dime Bank donation of servers to the district
- Technology requests and updates
- Completion of projects by the Facilities Department
- On-going facility projects

School Facilities Committee

Tricia Staley reported that the initial survey results are in. There were 481 responses. The survey is open until March 15th. Initial results indicate a desire for Pre-K-5 schools with school facilities available to the community as well as a swimming pool. The next meeting will be on April 3rd.

LEARN Liaison

Aaron Daniels did not attend the meeting but sent a report. The new facility in New London is in use. The consolidation of services means that fees for 2019-2020 year are not going increasing.

NFA Liaison

Aaron Daniels did not attend the meeting but sent in a report. NFA's tuition increase is about 5%. Mr. Daniels believes this is due to its foundation contribution.

BOARD REPORTS

Mark Kulos reported that he attended:

- Meeting with Sikh community members at Teachers on January 11th
- Legislative Breakfast at IDCS on January 17th
- MLK Luncheon at NFA on January 18th
- Rachel's Challenge presentation at NFA on January 22nd
- Kelly STEAM Music presentation on January 23rd
- Legislative Breakfast at Three Rivers/Early Childhood Education on January 25th

MOTION: Made by Tricia Staley (seconded by Joyce Werden) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7-0; Dennis Slopak was not present for the vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Romanski

Heather Romanski,
Secretary