

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
April 10, 2018
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

PRESENT: Dr. Yvette Jacaruso, Joyce Werden, Heather Romanski, Dennis Slopak, Robert Aldi (arrived at 5:46pm), James Maloney, Mark Kulos, and Patricia Staley.

ABSENT: Aaron Daniels

STAFF: Abby I. Dolliver, 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

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Dr. Jacaruso asked Wequonnoc School students in attendance at the meeting to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Mark Kulos) to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2018 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Jacaruso reported on:

- Choose Love Program at Uncas-Senator Blumenthal visit

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Invention Convention-9 students from NPS to the state level at UCONN on 4/28
- Boy Scout Outstanding Leadership Award-Jim Strauss from Mahan School
- CASE Adult Education conference
- Central Office administration completing budget updates at schools
- Uncas 3rd grade student Kenderlin Pena Urraca on the cover of CT Grown magazine

- Uncas Choose Love program
- Maine conference with the CT State Dept. of Education on attendance/chronic absenteeism
- Magnet lotteries & evaluations
- Admin Team & staff walkthroughs
- Huntington Autism Health & Wellness Fair-4/12 from 5-7 pm
- Moriarty Health & Wellness Fair-4/26 from 5:30-7 pm

Mrs. Dolliver invited Principal Scott Fain, Fourth Grade Teacher Samantha Cholewa and several students from Wequonnoc School to present to the Board their “Geometry Book Project”. A woman from Colorado had contacted Mr. Fain and was in possession of a geometry book that a former teacher at NFA had published from 1897. Students from Ms. Cholewa’s class explained how they used inquiry based learning to research the book’s history and how they conducted journalistic interviews to learn about the book and history of Taftville.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

Sheila Osko, Director of Language and Translation presented on English Learners (ELs) in the Norwich Public Schools. Topics covered included current number of ELs in Norwich and over time, linguistic diversity, identification and placement of students, services and programs, as well as next steps to be considered.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT

Dr. Baird was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written update regarding:

- Transition to magnet middle schools continues
- First site visit by Federal evaluation team on April 2nd-very positive
- First lottery for middle schools took place on April 10th
- CT State Dept. of Education-accountability index
- Donation from fundraiser by Norwich Department of Social Services

COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee

The following policies were presented for First Read:

- Policy #5110-Student Attendance, Truancy & Chronic Absenteeism
- Policy#5114-Student Discipline
- Policy#5115-Confidentiality and Access to Student Records
- Policy#4154/4254-Employment Checks
- Policy#4117.1(a)/4217.1(a)-Employee Retirement

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Mark Kulos) to remove discontinued Policy#4113- Use & Disclosure of Criminal Justice Information. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel reported at this time that the City Manager has recommended a 2% budget increase. The next Budget Expenditure meeting will be held on April 25th at 6pm in the KMS Community Room. Thursday, April 12th is the first public budget Hearing for the schools at City Hall at 7:30 pm. At the

April 16th City Council Meeting, the bond request to merge NPS & the City with MUNIS financial accounting system will be held. May 14th is the 2nd public budget hearing for the schools before the City Council.

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Robert Aldi) for approval to return the MOPEEP building to the City as of July 1, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

Transportation Committee

Athena Nagel asked the Board for guidance in moving ahead with First Student to build the new buses for the fleet as well as formulate the bus runs for next school year. The bid award has been signed with First Student; next year's needs versus budget constraints was discussed.

LIAISONS:

Integrated Day Charter School Liaison

Joyce Werden reported that the last meeting was cancelled due to the weather. The next meeting will be held on April 11th at 5:30 pm.

BOARD REPORTS:

Patricia Staley reported that the first session of the School Facilities Committee was held. Meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of each month at City Hall at 6pm.

Robert Aldi read an e-mail he had received from Mark Kalinowski, of Norwich regarding school violence and walk-outs that have been planned in response throughout the country. He states that educational time should not be used to promote such agendas.

Dennis Slopak spoke in response to an e-mail he had received from Superintendent Dolliver concerning district testing. He congratulated Uncas and Veterans School for being the only two schools that reported improvement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:19 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:02 pm. There were no votes take in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Patricia Staley) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Romanski

Heather Romanski,
Secretary