

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
March 15, 2018
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

ABSENT: James Maloney

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

MEDIA: The Day, The Bulletin, WICH/WCTY

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Jacaruso reported on:

- The Dr. Grace Sawyer Jones Debate at Three Rivers Community College
- The Science Fair at Teachers' Memorial Global Studies Magnet Middle School
- Moriarty Environmental Sciences Magnet School STEM Expo
- Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School internet safety presentation

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stacy Gould of 1 Meadow Lane spoke in regards to the recent Budget Expenditure Meeting. She spoke in response to a previous comment that the City Council doesn't care. She stated figures from the Department of Education website on the per pupil expenditure that Norwich spends versus other towns. She said the City Council is trying to find a balance between education, public safety, other expenses and what the taxpayers can afford.

Jennifer Kayser of 18 Maplewood Court submitted a letter to be read during public comment. She has asked the Board to look at the budget proposal to find extra cost savings and reductions. She

asked the Board to look at how they can offer quality education in the district at an affordable and reasonable cost.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- ESL Enrollment
- March 14th walk-out event/remembrance-Florida school shooting
- Mahan-School of Distinction
- Stanton School-state capitol visit
- Wequonnoc former custodian, Jack Brown-donation to classroom teachers
- All City Music Festival
- Adult Education enrichment programs
- NAEYC Accreditation-Bishop Early Learning Center
- PTO Leadership Meeting
- March 9th-Stu Bryer Show
- Maine conference with the State Department regarding attendance & chronic absenteeism.

Mrs. Dolliver presented each Board of Education member with a framed piece of art work from a student at their Adopt-A-School for Board Appreciation month.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION & ASSESSMENT

Dr. Thomas Baird reported on:

- Continued work on the transition to middle magnet schools
- Lottery for all four magnet schools will take place on April 10th at 9:30 am
- Alliance & Priority grants-approved by the CT State Department of Education
- Update on Veterans' School SIG grant
- HSCSS initiative for Moriarty Environmental Sciences Magnet School
- CT State Department new teacher mentor program

COMMITTEES:

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee meeting scheduled for March 7th was rescheduled due to the weather. The next meeting will be held on April 4, 2018 at 4pm in the Central Office conference room.

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel gave detailed information on the proposed budget as well as the First Student Transportation RFP award. There have been no changes to the proposed budget since the last Budget Expenditure meeting. She spoke extensively about the annual cost of fuel and the transportation contract requirements.

MOTION: Made by Patricia Staley (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to amend the proposed budget to \$83,062,353. Motion passed 5-3. Joyce Werden, Dennis Slopak and Yvette Jacaruso voted in opposition.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the amended 2018-2019 Norwich Board of Education proposed budget. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the First Student Transportation RFP award. Motion passed 7-1. Patricia Staley voted in opposition.

Leadership Evaluation Committee

Joyce Werden reported that Heather Romanski and Tricia Staley have joined the committee. The committee has looked at the evaluation time line and has decided to move the Board self-evaluation to the Fall.

BOARD REPORTS:

Dennis Slopak reported that Math Team student; Jacob Lively was a finalist for the Invention Convention and has advanced to the regional competition.

Heather Romanski reported that she attended the All City Concert on Monday, March 12th.

Mark Kulos reported that he was one of the judges for the Invention Convention at Moriarty School.

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso reported that she was a judge for the Science Fair at Teachers' Memorial.

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Mark Kulos) for the Board of Education, Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f. to certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Patricia Staley) to allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Mark Kulos) for the Board of Education to allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2)

the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Aaron Daniels (seconded by Joyce Werden) to accept the Kelly Middle School construction project 104-0112 as complete. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Aaron Daniels) 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 7:52 pm. There were no votes take in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Aaron Daniels (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to approve the contract 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 7-1. Dennis Slopak voted in opposition.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Romanski

Heather Romanski,
Secretary