

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF:
December 12, 2017
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, 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: None

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

Aaron Daniels asked Dennis Slopak to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held for Wequonnoc teacher, Sara (St. George) Davis who passed away Tuesday morning.

Aaron Daniels appointed Patricia Staley as the temporary Board Secretary.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Joyce Werden) to nominate Dr. Yvette Jacaruso as Board Chairperson. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Robert Aldi) to nominate Joyce Werden as Board Vice-Chairperson. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by James Maloney) to nominate Heather Romanski as Board Secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Mark Kulos) to cast one vote for Yvette Jacaruso as Board Chair, Joyce Werden as Vice-Chair and Heather Romanski as Secretary.
Motion passed unanimously.

The following Board members were voted in as officers by unanimous vote:

Chairperson: Dr. Yvette Jacaruso

Vice-Chairperson: Joyce Werden

Secretary: Heather Romanski

The Board took a 5 minute recess from 5:40-5:45 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joseph DeLucia, of 37 Sherwood Lane congratulated the new Board. He spoke of providing quality education to the young people in the community. He encouraged the Board to reach out to the City Council in hopes of working together to improve the lives of the citizens of Norwich.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Students displaced by hurricane in Puerto Rico
- Special Education students-new to district
- Middle school magnet update
- Mahan Blue Ribbon award-visit by Senator Chris Murphy and Congressman Joe Courtney
- Bacon Academy in Colchester visit
- Board invite to City Strategic planning session-January 20, 2017
- Otis Library traveling exhibit-Anne Frank
- Alliance funding
- Congratulations to Matt Warzecha-Lead Technician

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:

Lynn DePina, Director of Bishop & Case Street Early Learning Centers and Cheryl LaMothe, Curriculum Coordinator showed a Power Point presentation on the Early Learning Centers. They gave an overview of the ELCs, expectations of students, student's needs as well as language development. Families and cultures are incorporated into their curriculum to form a partnership between home and school. Social-emotional curriculum was discussed as well as budgetary needs.

GRANTS:

Dr. Baird reported on:

- Alliance & Priority Grants
- 21st Century After School Grant
- General Improvement to Alliance District's School Buildings Grant
- No word on Safety & Security Grant for telephone system
- Chelsea Groton Bank Foundation-KMS
- Title IV Part A Grant

MOTION: Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the Title IV, Part A Federal Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

CURRICULUM COUNCIL:

Dr. Baird reported that the Curriculum Council met in November and approved the K-5 Math Curriculum. Susan O'Connell will be coming back to the district to do Grade 4 & 5 fraction professional development in February.

COMMITTEES:

Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee

The December 11, 2017 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2018.

Policy Committee

Student Discipline Policy #5114 and Physical Restraint & Seclusion Policy #5144 were presented for First Read. The next meeting will be held on January 30, 2018 at 4pm at Central Office.

Budget/Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel reported that there has been no meeting held since the last Board meeting in November. There are no new updates besides the Alliance grant funding. Athena Nagel distributed the Budget Handbook to the Board members.

Transportation Committee

Athena Nagel reported that she is in the final stages of the bid process for the busing contract. It will now go to the City Purchasing agent and then out to RFP; probably around the beginning of January. She has requested 5 additional regular education buses and 5 additional special education buses. Some of the current buses are almost filled to capacity with the current bus runs. Norwich is transporting around 7,000 students at this time.

LIAISONS:

Integrated Day Charter School Liaison

Joyce Werden reported that she is looking further into the percentage of minority students in the charter schools. Anna James, the Director of IDCS is gathering more information at this time. The percentage of Free & Reduced lunch students is 35% at IDCS currently and this is concerning because the charter school is supposed to mirror the rest of the Norwich Public Schools in terms of percentage of Free & Reduced lunch students. There is a large gap currently.

Otis Library Liaison

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso reported that Otis Library will be hosting a traveling exhibit on Anne Frank from January 3rd until January 30th.

LEARN Liaison

Aaron Daniels reported that the next meeting will be held on December 14, 2017.

BOARD REPORTS:

Aaron Daniels reported that he attended the NFA Board meeting. A former Norwich Public Schools student was recently awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Award at NFA. He attended the CAFE conference in November. He also attended the Staff Follies held on December 1st and he had a fantastic time.

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 7:20 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:04 pm. There were no votes take in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Patricia Staley (seconded by Robert Aldi) to approve the contract between the Norwich Board of Education and the Norwich Teachers' League. Motion passed 8-1. Dennis Slopak voted in opposition.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Romanski

Heather Romanski,
Secretary