

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:  
November 14, 2017  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION  
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

**PRESENT:** Aaron Daniels, Yvette Jacaruso, Margaret Becotte, Joyce Werden, Dennis Slopak, Kevin Saythany, Robert Aldi and Rashid Haynes.

**ABSENT:** Angelo Yeitz

**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:** The Day, WICH/WCTY

Aaron Daniels called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Mr. Daniels asked Dr. Yvette Jacaruso to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Margaret Becotte was appointed as acting secretary due to Angelo Yeitz's absence.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Kevin Saythany) to approve the minutes of meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Dennis Slopak abstained.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:**

Mr. Daniels reported on:

- Superintendent's CAPSS Award ceremony that occurred prior to the board meeting. The following students were recognized: Huntington School: Elijah Ramsey, Mahan School: Vanessa Demonte, Moriarty School: Amy Zhang, Stanton School: Ailyn Gonzalez Nila, Uncas School: Matthew Louie, Veterans School: Emmanuella Prempeh, Wequonnoc School: Lauren Deane, Kelly Middle School: Jackson Bell, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy: Vidal Rivadeneyra Serna, Norwich Transition Academy: Tyler Palmer

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Heather Romanski of 297 Scotland Road thanked the Board for their dedication and service to the students of Norwich. She extended her congratulations to the re-elected & newly elected Board members and good luck to those not returning.

Sheila Hayes of 382 Laurel Hill Avenue thanked those that have served the past two years. She stressed the importance of educating children in up to date buildings that serve their needs. She presented maps/dining guide from the Norwich Historical Society to Superintendent Dolliver.

### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Recognition of Rashid Haynes, Margaret Becotte, Angelo Yeitz, Kevin Saythany
- New London magnet schools (K-8) currently have 139 Norwich students attending
- 18 families have relocated to Norwich due to the hurricane in Puerto Rico
- Rotary luncheon at the Holiday Inn honoring CAPSS recipients on November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Rotary Club donations: parent transportation fund, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade dictionaries, coat drive
- CAUS Superintendent's meeting
- Budget (Alliance and Priority Funding)
- Scarlett Lewis-Choose Love curriculum at Uncas School being filmed for Huffington Post
- Norwich Teachers' League meeting regarding middle school transition to magnet schools
- State BOE meeting attending with Principal Peter Camp
- Kelly Middle School band: 3 students in Eastern Region Middle School band
- Kelly Middle School band: participating in Director's Cut Music Festival
- High School Choice Night at KMS on November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Planetarium Grand Opening at 6GA on November 15<sup>th</sup> & Curriculum Night to follow
- Kelly Middle School Curriculum Night: November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
- Teacher of the Year celebration at the Bushnell on November 15<sup>th</sup>
- PTO President meeting held with Superintendent
- Senator Joe Courtney to visit Mahan School on November 20<sup>th</sup>
- Senator Chris Murphy to visit Mahan School on November 21<sup>st</sup>
- TEAM program update

### **DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:**

Bill Peckrul, Principal of Kelly Middle School and Alex Lazzari, Principal of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy updated the Board on the progress of the middle school transition to magnet schools. They have started the hiring process for magnet theme coaches and they have met with their "identified" partners. They are working on the budget and will begin purchasing in the near future. Student interest surveys were completed. The schools have upcoming vision/curriculum nights this week.

### **GRANTS:**

Dr. Thomas Baird reported on:

- State budget and Alliance funding
- Title I, Title II, & Title III grants
- Bilingual grant application
- Letter of intent-Community Foundation of Eastern CT-Extended Learning Summer Program
- Uncas Network School & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy letter of intent for after school activities
- Stanton School grant application for Girls on the Run Program
- Veterans School grant application for Fuel Up to Play 60
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Grant

**CURRICULUM COUNCIL:**

The Curriculum Council met in October and accepted the K-5 Math Curriculum as a First Read. They will vote to approve the curriculum later this month.

**COMMITTEES:****Teacher Evaluation/Professional Learning Committee**

The committee met on November 13<sup>th</sup> and continued to unpack the professional learning standards and drafted goals for the committee.

**Policy Committee**

Joyce Werden reported that the last policy committee was held on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Five policies were discussed; several of them will be presented for First Read at next month's Board meeting. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at Central Office.

**Budget/Expenditure Committee**

Athena Nagel reported that there has not been a recent Budget Expenditure meeting. Athena Nagel and Abby Dolliver have met several times with the City Manager regarding Alliance Funding.

**Transportation Committee**

Athena Nagel reported that she is currently creating a bid. She is working on combining Regular Education and Special Education transportation contracts into one. This has to go out to bid by February 1<sup>st</sup> but will most likely be ready by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**LIAISONS:****Integrated Day Charter School Liaison**

Joyce Werden reported that on October 19<sup>th</sup> the IDCS held a Legislative breakfast. There was much talk of a sense of belonging and a feeling of connection to the community and the school. November 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm is the next meeting.

**Otis Library Liaison**

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso reported that the Otis-a-Festival will be held this Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm. Abby Dolliver, Susan Lessard, and Yvette Jacaruso will be "celebrity-parkers".

**LEARN Liaison**

Al Daniels reported that he attended the meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup>. He reported that the New London Special Education centralized campus is on track to open this fall and this will provide our district with significant savings, including transportation costs. The Superintendent from Guilford spoke at the meeting regarding high school age students, their sleep schedules, and the start time for high school. Their average class size is 18 students.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

**MOTION:** Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:18 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:52 pm.

There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

**MOTION:** Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve the contract between the Norwich Board of Education and the Norwich School Administrators Association. Motion passed 7-1. Margaret Becotte voted in opposition.

**MOTION:** Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Joyce Werden) to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and settle a pending Workers' Compensation claim. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Robert Aldi) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Margaret A. Becotte*

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Acting Secretary