

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:  
September 13, 2018  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION  
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

**ABSENT:** Robert Aldi

**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:** None

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

Dr. Jacaruso asked James Maloney to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by James Maloney) to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2018, June 26, 2018, and the August 9, 2018 meetings. Motion passed 8-0.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:**

Dr. Jacaruso reported on:

- NPS Convocation
- Teacher of the Year-Katie Ruffo
- Summer work with Administrators and Enrollment Updates

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

Erin Perpetua, Director of Food Services reported that the U.S. Department of Agriculture visited Uncas School to see the processing kitchen. She reported that 17,000 breakfasts and 24,000 lunches were served over 43 days this summer. Stanton, Uncas, Wequonnoc and Veterans are participating in the Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Program. She explained the Community Eligibility Provision program which allows all students in the district to receive free meals regardless of income. This is reimbursement by the federal government.

Mrs. Dolliver introduced Sheri Tanner, the new Principal of Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Staggered school opening
- Heat issues first few days of school
- Peter Camp-awarded Commissioner's' Mathematics Leadership Award
- Sheila Osko retirement
- Dolores Thayer retirement
- Funding for displaced students from Puerto Rico: \$198,750.00
- John Kendall from Preston donated handwritten Norwich register from 1904
- School supplies donated from Norwich Young Professional Network to Mahan School
- School supplies donated to entire district from United Way & NPU
- Stanton School-"Operation Warm" donation of winter coats

**DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES:**

Sheri Tanner, Sarah Duso and Sue Kessler from Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School as well as Alex Lazzari and Victor Turbes from Teachers' Memorial Global Studies Magnet Middle School presented to the Board. They described the mission and vision process, curriculum and instruction, social and emotional learning, scheduling and safety operations as well as family engagement. Kelly STEAM has a focus on science technology, engineering, drama, media arts, robotics, music and chorus. Teachers' Global has a focus on core values as global citizens including global competency, service learning projects, Spanish and Chinese.

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Baird reported on:

- Curriculum and professional development over summer
- Summer School funding
- Priority/Alliance Grant approval
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Scores
- Updated District Improvement Plan
- State Extended School Hours Grant
- School Based Diversion Initiative stipend to Kelly STEAM and Teacher's Global Studies
- Stipend from CSDE for sexual health education
- Fuel Up to Play grant to Veterans School
- Title I, II, III and Bilingual & Immigrant Grant applications

**COMMITTEES:**

**Policy Committee**

Joyce Werden reported that the next Policy Committee will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> in the Central Office Conference Room at 4pm.

**Budget/Expenditure Committee**

Athena Nagel reported on the contract and tuition reduction request responses. The district is in a current freeze with the exception of grants and safety & security items.

**Transportation Committee**

Athena Nagel reported that the first few days of school ran smoothly with some issues on the third day with the start of the middle schools. She updated the Board on a transportation situation that occurred with New London Science & Technology Magnet high school that has now been resolved.

**Leadership Evaluation Committee**

Joyce Werden reported the Board Self Evaluation will be completed prior to the next meeting. The committee should meet for reflection to evaluate the new plan.

**School Facilities Committee**

The committee is still working on the parent/community survey. It is expected to be completed prior to Parent Teacher Conferences in December. The next meeting is on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm.

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

Joyce Werden reported the new IDCS director is Ellen Retelle. Out of the 338 students attending the charter school, 28 students have IEPs. They have expressed interest in having more connection with NPS. Their next Board retreat is on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**LEARN Liaison**

Al Daniels reported that LEARN had their convocation on-line on the morning of September 13<sup>th</sup>. They are on track for the new Special Education building to open by November of 2018. A security report was provided by LEARN at their last board meeting regarding patterns in discipline.

**NFA Liaison**

Al Daniels reported that the NFA board will meet next week. Abby Dolliver reported that she attended NFA's District Partnership meeting; the new school to work curriculum track was discussed.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Al Daniels provided Wequonnoc school with NPU water bottles during the heat wave. He also attended the Uncas Back to School event.

Heather Romanski attended Moriarty's Back to School barbecue.

Mark Kulos and Dennis Slopak attended the Wequonnoc and Moriarty Back to School events.

Tricia Staley attended the Bishop Early Learning Center orientation.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Made by Aaron Daniels (seconded by Mark Kulos) to go into Executive Session. Motion passed 8-0.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:00 pm.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:36 pm. There were no votes take in Executive Session.

**MOTION:** Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve the initial food service workers' union agreement. Motion passed 8-0.

**MOTION:** Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve a successor agreement for the Administrative Assistants. Motion passed 7-1. Dennis Slopak voted in opposition.

**MOTION:** Made by Aaron Daniels (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve Teachers' contract negotiations. Motion passed 7-1. Dennis Slopak abstained.

**MOTION:** Made by Aaron Daniels (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8: 39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Heather Romanski*

Heather Romanski,  
Secretary