

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:  
March 12, 2019  
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, and Patricia Staley.

**ABSENT:** Aaron Daniels and James Maloney

**STAFF:** Abby I. Dolliver, Superintendent  
Dr. Thomas J. Baird, Assistant Superintendent  
Athena L. Nagel, Business Administrator  
Amber Rutigliano, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent  
Administrators, Principals and Teachers

**MEDIA:** WICH/WCTY, The Day

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

Dr. Jacaruso asked Mark Kulos to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Mark Kulos) to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2019 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**HIGH SCHOOL CHOICE:**

Waterford Public School Superintendent, Thomas Giard III, Assistant Superintendent, Craig Powers, Waterford High School Principal, Andre Hauser and Assistant Principal, Alison Moger gave a detailed Power Point presentation on Waterford High School as a school choice for Norwich students.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:**

Dr. Jacaruso reported on:

- Congressman Joe Courtney's recent visit to Kelly STEAM Magnet Middle School

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Stacy Weckwerth of 26 Flyers Drive wanted to show her support in favor of the proposed budget. She knows that the Board of Education has the best interests of the students in mind, although she feels the City Council does not. She stated that as a parent the uncertainty of the budget is very unsettling. She urged the Board to have appropriate class sizes and staffing as well as access to resources and she is opposed to any type of reconfiguration of the schools.

Swaranjit Singh Khalsa of 56 Briar Hill Road spoke of his role as a panelist at the March 8<sup>th</sup> event at Teachers' Memorial Global Studies Magnet Middle School. There are deep concerns about the barriers that exist to embrace diversity and there are no guidelines in place to address them. He gave suggestions about solutions that were discussed during this event.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment
- Accountability Index (with Dr. Baird)
- Meeting with CSDE regarding the Accountability Index
- Mahan traffic situation meetings
- Urban Society panel-visits to places in the community & with community leaders
- All City Music Festival-March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm
- Meeting with PTO leadership teams
- Rebecca Pellerin-retirement
- The Bulletin Editorial Board meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>

She presented each board member with an original signed piece of art work from a Norwich Public School student for Board Appreciation month.

**MOTION:** Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Robert Aldi) to approve the 2019-2020 school calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

**DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE/BUDGET EXPENDITURE**

Athena Nagel, Dr. Baird & Abby Dolliver reviewed the proposed 2019-2020 budget and provided information/documentation to further answer any questions board members had.

**MOTION:** Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to approve the 2019-2020 Norwich Board of Education Proposed Budget. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Baird reported on:

- Veterans, Uncas and Stanton grant funding
- Middle School-magnet site visits
- Diversity & Equity Collaboration meeting
- District Data Team meeting: walkthrough data
- Data system implementation
- Title IV grant funding
- Summer School sessions
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Grant (IDEA)
- School Readiness grant
- Smart Start grant
- Wellness Advisory Committee: wellness goals and guidelines
- Structure of the Accountability Index

**REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**

Athena Nagel reported on:

- Munis training
- 7 schools now serving hot suppers & mobile stations are up and running for breakfast
- Cisco Firewall installation complete
- Update on facilities projects completed including Stanton School portable classroom
- New buses no on the road and all radios are converted and working well

**Policy Committee**

The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in the central office conference room.

**MOTION:** Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Robert Aldi) to approve the following policies.  
Motion passed unanimously.

- Policy#1008-Automatic External Defibrillators
- Policy#2400-Retention of Electronic Records and Information
- Policy#2500-Holds on Destruction of Electronic Information & Paper Records
- Policy#5115-Confidentiality & Access to Education Records
- Policy#5141.2-Wellness Policy
- Policy#5141.25-Management Plan for Students with Food Allergies/Glycogen Storage Disease
- Policy#5141.3-Regulations Regarding Health Screenings
- Policy#5141.31-Regulations Regarding Immunizations
- Policy#5143-Administration of Student Medications in the Schools
- Policy#5144-Physical Restraint & Seclusion of Students
- Policy#6177-Video & Digital Tools in the Classroom

**BOARD REPORTS**

- Mark Kulos reported that March 14<sup>th</sup> is national Pi Day and March 20<sup>th</sup> is the first day of spring.
- Dennis Slopak wished his wife a Happy Birthday. He reported that the Uncas Math Team includes 3-5 grade students and he is very pleased with their performance.
- Tricia Staley reported that she attended the Bishop Art Fair.

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

The meeting was adjourned 7:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Heather Romanski*

Heather Romanski,  
Secretary