

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
December 11, 2018
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ROOM**

PRESENT: Dr. Yvette Jacaruso, Joyce Werden, Heather Romanski, Aaron Daniels, Dennis Slopak (arrived at 5:34 pm), Robert Aldi (arrived at 5:34 pm) Mark Kulos, and Patricia Staley (arrived at 5:50 pm)

ABSENT: James Maloney

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: The Day, WICH/WCTY, The Bulletin

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 Joyce Werden (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Joyce Werden) to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 special meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Jacaruso reported on the CABE/CAPSS Convention on November 16 & 17th (attended by Yvette Jacaruso, Abby Dolliver, Mark Kulos, Al Daniels and Tricia Staley). Items discussed were legislative issues, CT Lighthouse Project, how to increase minority educator recruitment, DCF reporting, social & emotional learning and community engagement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Beryl Fishbone of 19 Bliss Place presented to the board free event supplies that she had received for National School Choice week.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Mrs. Dolliver reported on:

- Enrollment (including exclusion of VLA students)
- Percentage of ELL learners: 18.8% (633 students)
- Meeting with Director of IDCS
- Kelly STEAM drama production of Cinderella
- Rotary luncheon for CAPSS award recipients
- Lions Club 2nd grade book donation
- Celebrity parkers at Otis Library for holiday fair
- Developing Partnership Workshop attended with Yvette Jacaruso
- Huntington poster contest winners for CHRO 75th anniversary
- November decreased suspension rates

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

Heidi Davis, Principal of Huntington School presented their School Improvement Plan to the Board with a focus on three focus areas: Culture & Climate, Teaching & Learning and Family & School Engagement. She discussed how Huntington uses the RULER approach as well as Huntington's Emotional Intelligence Charter.

Kristie Bourdoulous, Principal of Moriarty Environmental Sciences Magnet School presented to the Board Moriarty's Team & Communication Structure as well as student survey data. Their main focus area at this time is Culture & Climate and reinforcing positive behavior.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Baird reported on:

- Opportunity District meeting with the CSDE on November 26, 2018
- New Accountability Index and school rankings for grant purposes
- Family engagement work with District Data Team & Administrative Team
- Inter-district grant meeting on November 19, 2018
- LEARN EXPECT Magnet Schools Assistant Program Grant
- Health Advisory Council-including Board members on this committee

COMMITTEES:**Policy Committee**

Joyce Werden reported on the Policy Committee meeting that took place on November 28th. The next meeting is on January 23, 2019 at 4:00 pm in the central office conference room.

The following policies were presented to the Board for First Read:

- Policy #5300-Uniform Policy
- Policy #5110-Student Attendance and Truancy
- Policy #5114-Student Discipline
- Policy #5131.6-Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

MOTION: Made by Tricia Staley (seconded by Al Daniels) to approve the amended motion for the approval of the following policies with the exclusion of Policy #4112.4, Hiring of Certified Staff. Motion passed unanimously.

- #1000-Visitors and Observations in Schools
- #1050-Non-Discrimination-Community/Board Operations
- #4112-Non-Discrimination-Personnel
- #4112.1-Plan for Minority Educator Recruitment
- #4112.2-Employment Checks
- #4112.5-Hiring of Non-Certified Staff
- #4118.112(a)-Sex Discrimination & Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- #4116-Employees and Section 504
- #4119-Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children by School Employees
- #4119.5-Suspected Abuse of Adults with Intellectual Disability
- #5001-Child Sexual Abuse & Assault-Non-School Employees
- #5121-Non-Discrimination-Students
- #5145.5-Students-Sex Discrimination & Sexual Harassment

Budget Expenditure Committee

Athena Nagel reported on:

- Auditors in district
- Continued spending freeze
- Money from 17-18 for the hurricane in Puerto Rico
- Food Services breakfast, lunch & supper participation
- Firewall equipment has arrived and will be installed soon

Transportation Committee

Athena Nagel reported that it has been a difficult last few weeks with shortage of personnel at First Student as well as numerous communication issues. There are problems with substitute drivers as well as notification to parents when there is a bus running late.

Leadership Evaluation Committee

Joyce Werden presented to the Board recommendations for next steps as well as timeline changes. These will be voted on at the next Board of Education meeting.

Robert Aldi left the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

School Facilities Committee

Tricia Staley reported that the survey is live and has gotten a large response after the first few days. Schools were assisting parents during parent teacher conferences to access the survey. There is no meeting in January.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to go into Executive Session. Motion passed 7-0. Bob Aldi was absent at that time.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. There were no votes take in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Al Daniels (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Bob Aldi was not present at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Romanski

Heather Romanski,
Secretary