

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:  
November 12, 2019  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION  
KELLY STEAM COMMUNITY ROOM**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Yvette Jacaruso, Joyce Werden, Heather Romanski, Dennis Slopak, Aaron Daniels, Mark Kulos, Patricia Staley, Robert Aldi and Kevin Saythany.

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Dr. Kristen E. Stringfellow, 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, The Bulletin

Dr. Yvette Jacaruso called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Dr. Jacaruso asked Bob Aldi, Joyce Werden and Dennis Slopak to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Made by Al Daniels (seconded by Kevin Sathany) to approve the amended minutes of the October 10, 2019 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION OF THE GARLAND COMPANY:**

Gordon Rossi of the Garland Company and Ed Guntner, NPS Facility Supervisor gave a detailed presentation on the status of the NPS roofs. Priorities were discussed as well as the need for immediate work to be done on the Stanton and Wequonnoc roofs.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:**

Dr. Jacaruso reported that she attended the Veterans Day Celebration at Stanton School and Board members Aaron Daniels, Tricia Staley and Joyce Werden were also in attendance. The school did an outstanding job of honoring members of the Stanton family that have served in the armed forces.

Dr. Jacaruso and Dr. Stringfellow thanked Bob Aldi, Dennis Slopak and Joyce Werden for their dedication and service to the Board of Education. They were presented with a certificate, paperweight and were asked to say a few words in closing.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

Dr. Stringfellow reported on:

- Enrollment
- Garland Roofing presentation

- Recognition Awards: Tatyanny Jacobsen (The Key is Me), Kate Stelik (I Make a Difference) and Jordan Sullivan McLaurin (You Inspire Me)
- Request from registrars of voters to cancel school on April 28, 2020
- First View Transportation App (Press Release)
- Bus Passes & Student Handbooks going paperless
- Board of Education Orientation and BOE 101
- Dates for Key Stakeholders Meetings
- Online Registration
- Online Cumulative Records
- English Learner (EL) Teacher
- Griswold High School Option
- Thank you to Board of Education Members: Dennis Slopak, Bob Aldi & Joyce Werden
- Events Attended & Upcoming Events

**MOTION:** Made by Al Daniels (seconded by Bob Aldi) to approve Griswold High School as an additional high school option for Norwich students. Motion was withdrawn and postponed until the December meeting for further discussion.

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

Dr. Baird reported on:

- Breakdown of state and federal grant awards for this year compared to last year
- Academic interventions being tracked in student database
- School/district technical assistance model for student attendance
- CT Dept. of Education academic data conference on October 17<sup>th</sup>
- Sexual Harassment training for all employees
- Advanced Title IX investigation and reporting training attended
- Student Climate surveys completed

#### **REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

Athena Nagel reported on:

- **Food Service:** Implementing environmental friendly changes to the schools
- Metal flatware ordered for Moriarty, Uncas, Veterans and Kelly
- Uncas-FFVP snack program
- Food Service-Administrative Review
- **Technology Department:** October: Answered & resolved 270 technical requests
- Technology Department new ticketing system
- New Chromebooks and I-Pad devices received through Alliance funding
- **Facilities Department:** Report of Completed and On-Going projects
- **Business Office:** Claims ran at 87% of expected for the month & the plan is running at 82% of budget for the plan year 7/1/19-9/30/19
- **Transportation:** First View rolled out to all schools & families week of October 19<sup>th</sup>
- Over 3,000 students are now on First View allowing parents to have live access to busing info

#### **Policy Committee:**

Next Policy Committee meeting is on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm in the CO conference room.

The following policies were presented for First Read:

- Policy#1050-Community-Non-Discrimination
- Policy#4112-Personnel-Non-Discrimination
- Policy#4118.112(a)-Personnel-Sexual Discrimination
- Policy#4119-Personnel-Reports of Suspected Abuse & Neglect
- Policy#4152.6/4252.6-Personnel-Family & Medical Leave
- Policy#5131.8-Students-Bullying Prevention & Intervention
- Policy#5141.25-Students-Food Allergies
- Policy#5121-Students-Non-Discrimination
- Policy#5114-Students-Discipline

**Board Retreat Committee:**

The Board Retreat Committee met last week and are in the process of compiling packets for new and returning board members for the Board 101 on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Otis Library Liaison:**

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Otis-a-Festival will be held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Integrated Day Charter School Liaison:**

Joyce Werden discussed the role of the liaison and the connection and collaboration that occurs because of this relationship. She urged a current board member to take over this role.

**NFA Liaison:**

Al Daniels reported on the meeting he attended on October 15<sup>th</sup> regarding restorative practices.

**Board Reports:**

Joyce Werden reminded the Board and the audience about the Staff Follies on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm with a pre-show at 6:00 pm. The UCONN jazz band will be performing along with numerous staff and several Board of Education members. First Student has generously donated a bus for transporting the UCONN jazz band.

Dennis Slopak announced that his granddaughter has made the U.S.T.A. junior championships.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Tricia Staley) to go into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:45pm. The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:05 pm. There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

**MOTION:** Made by Bob Aldi (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to authorize the Superintendent to enter into negotiations with Norwich Free Academy regarding a new contract. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Made by Bob Aldi (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Heather Romanski*

Heather Romanski,  
Secretary