

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
October 10, 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 (arrived at 5:41 pm), Patricia Staley, Robert Aldi and Kevin Saythany (arrived at 5:50 pm).

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 Bulletin

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

Dr. Jacaruso asked Robert Aldi to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Tricia Staley (seconded by Robert Aldi) to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 meeting. Motion passed 7-0. Mark Kulos & Kevin Saythany were not present at the time of the vote.

GRISWOLD HIGH SCHOOL:

Superintendent Sean McKenna and High School Principal, Erin Palonen presented to the Board a presentation regarding Griswold High School so that the Board may consider adding Griswold High School as an option for Norwich students. This will be voted on at the November meeting.

NORWIC PUBLIC UTILITIES SCHOOL AUDIT REPORT:

Jeff Brining, Fawn Walker & an independent consultant presented the final audit report for the NPS facilities. The report included health of the buildings, energy star scores, water usage & consumption as well as a breakdown for each school facility.

NORWICH TEACHER OF THE YEAR: SAMANTHA CHOLEWA:

Samantha Cholewa, Norwich Public Schools Teacher of the Year showed a PowerPoint presentation containing inspirational photos from her students and classroom. A cake was served for the celebration in her honor.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Dr. Jacaruso reported that she attended the Freedom Fund dinner at the Norwich Inn & Spa on October 3rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Swaranjit Singh of 56 Briar Hill Road reported that he has visited the NPS schools during his campaign for the Board of Education. He commended the board for being caring and supportive.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. Stringfellow reported on:

- The NPU Energy Star Rating Audit of Schools
- NPS Teacher of the Year Samantha Cholewa
- Request to not hold school on April 28, 2020 due to the primary election
- Establishment of a Residency Hearing Board
- Registration Update
- Recognition Awards: Marianne Vakos (The Key is Me), Angel Martinez (I Make a Difference) and student, Adriana Amado Rodrigues Silva (You Inspire Me).
- First View Transportation App
- Technology Dept. & Facilities Dept. online work order portal
- Board of Education Orientation and BOE 101
- School Messenger update
- Legal Training for Food Services, Maintenance, Facilities Technology administrators
- Instructional Rounds
- Communication Efforts Relative to District Strategic Planning
- Events Attended & Upcoming Events

MOTION: Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to revise the Norwich Public Schools 2019-2020 school calendar to cancel school on April 28, 2020 due to the primary election per a request from the Registrar of Voters. Motion denied 8-1, Dennis Slopak voted in favor of the motion.

MOTION: Made by Al Daniels (seconded by Tricia Staley) to establish a Norwich Public Schools subcommittee of three Board members, designated by the Board Chair, to conduct residency hearings when required. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Jacaruso appointed herself, Tricia Staley and Kevin Saythany to serve on the Residency Hearing Committee. Mark Kulos will serve as an alternate.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Baird reported on:

- Alliance/Priority Grant application scheduled to be released on October 10th
- Update on Title I-IV and Bilingual grant applications
- Veterans School unused SIG funding and School Improvement Grant
- School Readiness, Quality Enhancement & Family Resource Pre-School grants approved
- No official word on Federal School Climate Transformation Grant
- Not moving forward with providing contracted teaching and learning services to other district
- Site visits for Magnet Schools of Assistance Program grant
- First District & School Improvement Collaborative (DSIC) meetings
- First Curriculum Council meeting of the year

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

Athena Nagel reported on:

- Food Service: CACFP Administrative Review by the state, addition of a part-time dietitian for the department, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program and meal participation numbers
- Technology Department: Technical requests for September, addition of Gaggle & Zammad programs, compatibility issues with I-pads
- Facilities Department: Completed projects & On-going projects
- Business Office: Health insurance claims for July & August, New Public Act 19-117, Sec. 290
- Norwich Public Utilities streetlight conversion project
- Transportation: New Coordinator: Ben Henry & FirstView update

LEARN Liaison:

Al Daniels reported on computer system updates for LEARN, Smarter Balanced Test Results, Groton building project and reimbursement for construction costs discussed at the last LEARN meeting.

Board Reports

Tricia Staley reported that she attended Stanton and Bishop Early Learning center opening day.

Heather Romanski reported that she attended the NPS Color Run and there was a huge turn-out. She also reported on the Moriarty Pasta Dinner hosted by the Taftville Lions.

Mark Kulos reported that he attended the Freedom Fund dinner.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to go into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:00 pm. The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:01 pm. There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Al Daniels (seconded by Robert Aldi) to execute the Memorandum of Agreement discussed in Executive Session with the Administrative Assistants Union. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Made by Robert Aldi (seconded by Al Daniels) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Romanski

Heather Romanski,
Secretary