

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:  
September 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, 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:** WICH/WCTY, The Day, 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 Dennis Slopak (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the amended minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Made by Joyce Werden (seconded by Kevin Saythany) to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2019 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:**

Dr. Jacaruso reported on the start of school and back-to-school events in the district.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

New administrators, Brandi Lumpris (Kelly STEAM Assistant Principal), Salman Hamid (Kelly STEAM Assistant Principal) and Peter Fragola (Huntington School Principal) were introduced.

Dr. Stringfellow reported on:

- The first week of school
- Transportation
- Enrollment
- Registration
- Registration of newly enrolled English Learner students
- Recognition awards for teachers, students and support staff
- NPU Energy Star Rating Audit of Schools
- NFA expelled students formerly educated in NPS Virtual Learning classroom

**MOTION:** Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Al Daniels) to reorder the agenda, moving the report of the School Facilities Committee to this point in the Superintendent's report. Passed 8-1. Dennis Slopak voted in opposition.

**PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE NORWICH SCHOOL FACILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

Mark Bettencourt, Chairman of the committee reviewed the report of the Facilities Committee including recommendations for each building based on the size of the site as well as suitability for expansion. The Community Survey results were discussed briefly as well. He answered questions from the Board regarding the report.

**MOTION:** Made by Aaron Daniels (seconded by Joyce Werden) to accept the report of the Norwich School Facilities Review Committee so that the City Council may dissolve the Facilities Committee and establish a Building Committee. Motion passed 8-1. Dennis Slopak voted in opposition.

Dr. Stringfellow continued her report to include:

- Board Timeline adjustments-recommendation
- Areas of focus 2019-2020 (Academics, Staffing & Safety)
- Events Attended
- Upcoming Events

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Baird reported on:

- Update on Alliance/Priority grant application
- Title 1-4 grant application update
- School Climate Transformation grant
- 2 year CT State After School grant
- Veterans Memorial Fuel Up to Play grant
- Middle school implementation plan grants
- Summer curriculum grant funded projects
- Meeting with CSDE Academic Office
- Summer School program
- Regional collaborative services
- Updated District Improvement Plan
- Attendance data relating to possible board action on calendar change
- Educator and Administrator Evaluation Plan

**MOTION:** Made by Tricia Staley (seconded by Mark Kulos) to accept the Norwich Educator Evaluation & Development Plan. Motion passed 8-0. Dennis Slopak abstained.

**MOTION:** Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Dennis Slopak) to accept the Norwich Administrator Development & Performance Plan. Motion passed 8-0. Dennis Slopak abstained.

**REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

Athena Nagel reported on:

- Food Service Summer meals served and changes made to kitchen facilities
- Food Service 19-20 school year
- Technology Department summer projects
- Facilities Department (summer programs hosted in buildings, training with Mystic Air Quality, completed projects by location)
- Business Office Munis conversion & annual filing for the state submitted & certified
- Transportation updates on first week of school

**MOTION:** Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Robert Aldi) to approve an instructional supply transfer from individual accounts to the curriculum account. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Made by Dennis Slopak (seconded by Mark Kulos) to revise the Leadership Evaluation Timeline to change the November Board retreat to a Board of Education 101 & New Member Orientation so that the full Board of Education retreat can be planned for Summer of 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

**Board Reports**

Mark Kulso, Yvette Jacaruso, Tricia Staley, and Heather Romanski attended various Back to School events and Open Houses in the district.

**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 8:01 pm. Kevin Saythany left the meeting at 8:08 pm. The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:54 pm. There were no votes taken.

**MOTION:** Made by Tricia Staley (seconded by Al Daniels) to accept the Superintendent's goals and to approve a Workers Compensation settlement. Motion passed 8-0.

**MOTION:** Made by Al Daniels (seconded by Mark Kulos) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Heather Romanski*

Heather Romanski,  
Secretary