

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
January 14, 2020
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY STEAM COMMUNITY ROOM**

PRESENT: Heather Romanski, Aaron Daniels, Mark Kulos, Patricia Staley, Kevin Saythany, Christine DiStasio, Carline Charmelus, Swaranjit Singh Bhatia.

ABSENT: Dr. Yvette Jacaruso

STAFF: Dr. Kristen E. Stringfellow, 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

Heather Romanski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

Mrs. Romanski asked Aaron Daniels to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Aaron Daniels (seconded by Mark Kulos) to approve the amended minutes of the December 10, 2019 meeting. Motion passed 8-0.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Heather Romanski reported on the Board of Education committee assignments, Adopt-a-school assignments and Board of Education liaisons. She had an entry meeting with Pauline Lisi and Teresa Eagan, the interim Assistant Superintendents. She also noted that the agenda format will have some changes for the February meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Timothy Moore, of 14 Laurel Circle Drive, has lived in Norwich since 1991 and he has always paid for his children to attend Griswold Public Schools. He has a 7th grade student that is interested in attending Griswold High School. He feels the small size of the school with 535 students as well as the excellent sports, drama department and administration makes Griswold an ideal option for Norwich residents. He urged the Board to approve Griswold as an option for Norwich students.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. Stringfellow reported on:

- Enrollment
- Recognition Awards: Tiffany Bucko (The Key is Me), Caycee Williams (I Make a Difference) and Michelle Dong (You Inspire Me)
- Board of Education sub committees
- Board of Education liaisons

- Board of Education Adopt-a-School
- NPS Web-site re-design
- Revised Norwich Public Schools 19-20 school calendar
- Residency issue updates
- On-line registration and magnet lottery
- NESDEC enrollment projection
- Budget sub-committee meetings
- Pre-school students and flu vaccine update
- Events attended
- Upcoming events

Dr. Stringfellow asked Pauline Lisi and Teresa Eagan to come forward and introduce themselves to the Board.

MOTION: Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Swaranjit Singh Bhatia) to add Griswold High School as an additional high school option for Norwich students. Motion passed 5-3. Aaron Daniels, Mark Kulos, Swaranjit Singh, Kevin Sathany & Heather Romanski voted in favor. Christine DiStasio, Patricia Staley and Carline Charmelus voted in opposition. Yvette Jacaruso was absent.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

Athena Nagel reported on:

- **Food Service:** Update on December meals served and update on metal flatware
- **Technology Department:** Answered & resolved 115 technical requests for the month of December, focus on moving retired equipment from all locations over the winter break and upgrading server software/security updates for the migration to Windows Server 2019
- **Facilities Department:** Completed projects, upcoming projects and Stanton gym/cafeteria floor update
- **Business Office:** Update on claims for the month of December and plan for year to date

Policy Committee:

The next Policy Committee meeting is on March 25, 2020 at 4:00 pm in the Central Office conference room. The Board discussed at length updates that the Policy Committee may want to consider to the Uniform Policy at their next meeting.

MOTION: Made by Patricia Staley (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the following policies: Motion passed unanimously

- Policy#1331-Smoke Free Environment/Prohibition Against Smoking
- Policy#4118.231/4218.231-Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug-Free Workplace
- Policy#5118.1-Homeless Children & Youth
- Policy#5135-Physical Activity & Student Discipline
- Policy#5136-Sunscreen Application in School

LEARN Liaison:

Aaron Daniels reported on the most recent LEARN meeting that he attended. State funding, minority teacher recruitment and Goodwin University (formerly Goodwin College) were discussed.

Board Reports:

Mark Kulos reported that he attended the Negotiation committee meeting on January 6th as well as Diversity Day at the senior center. He also noted it was Benedict Arnold's birthday.

Swaranjit Singh Bhatia wished everyone a Happy New Year and encouraged the Board to include other cultural and religious events and holidays on the school calendar and web-site. He attended a Kwanza celebration on December 28th, the Negotiation committee meeting on January 6th and will attend Discovery Day at the Otis Library on January 25th.

Aaron Daniels reported that he is the Census 2020 representative for the Norwich Public Schools. Norwich has been underrepresented in the past and he will work with the district to encourage families to participate in the census.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Made by Kevin Saythany (seconded by Swaranjit Singh Bhatia) to go into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:57 pm. The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:55 pm. There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Aaron Daniels (seconded by Swaranjit Singh Bhatia) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carline Charmelus

Carline Charmelus,
Secretary