

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:
February 4, 2020
REGULAR BOARD MEETING – BOARD OF EDUCATION
KELLY STEAM COMMUNITY ROOM**

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

ABSENT: Dr. Yvette Jacaruso, Aaron Daniels

STAFF: Dr. Kristen E. Stringfellow, Superintendent
Athena L. Nagel, Business Administrator
Jamie H. Bender, Director of Student Services & Special Education
Amber Rutigliano, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Administrators, Principals and Teachers

MEDIA: The Day, The Bulletin

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

Mrs. Romanski asked Christine DiStasio to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for the Kelly 7th grade student that passed away recently.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Patricia Staley (seconded by Mark Kulos) to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:

Heather Romanski reported on the Moriarty School Snow Ball held on January 23rd and the Discovery Day event held at Otis Library on January 25th.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Dr. Stringfellow reported on:

- Recognition Awards: Kai-Leigh Palmer (The Key is Me), Eric Johnson (I Make a Difference) and Adnel Martinez (You Inspire Me)
- Draft 20-21 school calendar
- Dual Language & Arts Middle School closing
- Magnet Registration Update
- Kelly STEAM named National Magnet School of Distinction
- School Spring on-line teacher recruitment
- AESOP-Absence Management on-line platform
- Students displaced from Puerto Rico earthquake

- NFA tuition increase
- State Accountability Index results including Mahan school being named a school of distinction
- Budget sub-committee meetings
- Events attended
- Upcoming events

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

Athena Nagel reported on:

- **Food Service:** Update on January meals served and update on metal flatware
- **Technology Department:** Answered & resolved 147 technical requests for the month of January, SchoolMint implemented for registration
- **Facilities Department:** Completed projects, upcoming projects and Stanton gym/cafeteria floor update
- **Business Office:** Update on claims for the month of January and plan for year to date, three open business office positions filled, update on FMLA and Substitute service search/bids

Budget Expenditure:

Next Meeting: February 5th at 6:00 pm-Kelly STEAM Community Room

School Facilities Review Committee:

Patricia Staley reported that the City Council accepted the final report of the School Facilities Review Committee. The committee has been disbanded and a new School Building Committee has been established by the City Council.

NFA Liaison:

Heather Romanski reported that she attended the most recent Board of Trustees meeting. Her and Dr. Stringfellow are meeting with the Board Chair on February 5, 2020 to discuss the NFA contract.

Board Reports:

Mark Kulos reported that the 3rd annual Dr. Grace Sawyer Jones debate for area high schools will take place at Three Rivers Community College on February 24th.

Swaranjit Singh Bhatia reported that he attended the MLK Jr. luncheon at NFA on January 17th. He attended an NACA meeting regarding the 2020 census as well as the press conference regarding the census with the Lt. Governor. This is the first time in 125 year that the Sikh American is being recognized on the census with a separate ethnic code. He also attended the Norwich Discovery Day at Otis Library. World Religion Day was celebrated on January 20th and of note, January 27th was the 75th anniversary of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

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 6:38 pm. The Board returned from Executive Session at 7:23 pm. There were no votes taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: Made by Swaranjit Singh Bhatia (seconded by Christine DiStasio) to authorize the Superintendent to finalize a settlement agreement with a former employee as discussed in Executive Session. Motion passed 7-0.

MOTION: Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Patricia Staley) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carline Charmelus

Carline Charmelus,
Secretary