

**NORWICH BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Norwich, Connecticut**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF:  
April 7, 2020  
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

**ABSENT:** None

**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  
Jessica Dolliver, Manager of Media Communications  
Matt Warzecha, IT Director  
Erin Perpetua, Director of Food Services

**MEDIA:** The Day, The Bulletin

Heather Romanski called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Made by Kevin Saythany (seconded by Mark Kulos) to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020 Regular Board of Education meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Kevin Saythany) to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2020 Special Board of Education meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON:**

Heather Romanski reported that prior to the COVID-19 closures, she attended a CABA BOE roundtable conference for Board chairs. She will be attending weekly calls with Dr. Stringfellow, Senator Cathy Osten, the Mayor and the City Manager. She expressed her appreciation to the staff, teachers and families that are working tirelessly and navigating these uncharted waters. She also expressed the Board's appreciation to Erin Perpetua, Director of Food Services for feeding our students.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

Dr. Stringfellow reported on:

- Appreciation to staff, parents and students during these difficult times
- Commissioner's decision on further school closure expected within two days

- Closure plan details
- Discussion of tracking attendance and grades
- 2019-2020 calendar changes due to primary election day change
- Food Service update: 3,000-6,000 meals a day at approximately 30 locations
- Distance Learning plan updates
- Events attended
- Upcoming events

**REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:**

Athena Nagel reported on:

- **Food Service:** update to meals served (delivering meals to the community on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays with twenty-eight sites using school buses)
- **Technology:** Answered and resolved 61 technical requests in March, focused exclusively on providing support to staff and students working from home
- **Facilities:** update on completed and on-going projects
- **Business Office:** setting up essential employees to work remotely from home, coordination with the City, working on furloughs, reassignment of duties and coordination for device deployment, and new FFCRA and Executive Orders issued
- NPS donated hand sanitizer to Norwichtown Rehab Center and to American Ambulance.
- Community and staff donations of masks for NPS food service workers

**MOTION:** Made by Patricia Staley (seconded by Aaron Daniels) to approve the IDEA Grant for fiscal year 2020-2022. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Swaranjit Singh Bhatia) to move the primary election day from April 28, 2020 to June 2, 2020 on the 2019-2020 school calendar. Motion passed unanimously

**MOTION:** Made by Aaron Daniels (seconded by Patricia Staley), Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f to certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. (The certification shall include food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in the connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school

store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Made by Mark Kulos (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Made by Yvette Jacaruso (seconded by Patricia Staley) to approve the 2020-2021 Norwich Public Schools calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Swaranjit Singh Bhatia reported that he stopped by the Huntington school site to applaud the efforts of staff members who are on the front lines and distributing meals. He also reported that he attended a grab-and-go community meal program outside the Royal Punjabi Restaurant. Upcoming events are April 9<sup>th</sup>: Board Member virtual meeting with Commissioner Cardona, April 14<sup>th</sup>: Vaisakhi Day recognized at the federal level as National Sikh Day and April 29<sup>th</sup>: 34<sup>th</sup> year of Sikh Declaration of Independence Day.

**MOTION:** Made by Patricia Staley (seconded by Yvette Jacaruso) to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carline Charmelus*

Carline Charmelus  
Secretary