

**CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NORWICH  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**January 15, 2013**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Norwich, in the County of Chenango, New York, was held at the District Office Conference Rooms #1 & #2, 89 Midland Drive, Norwich, New York, in said District on Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

**PRESENT:** Mrs. Heather Fredenburg, President; Dr. Linda Horovitz, Vice-President; Mr. Joseph McBride; Mr. Thomas Morrone; Mr. Luke Murphy; Mr. Gerard O'Sullivan, Superintendent and Mr. Robert Wightman, District Clerk.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Perry Owen; and Mr. Joseph Stagliano.

Mrs. Heather Fredenburg, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** – On a motion by Tom Morrone, seconded by Luke Murphy and carried 5-0, the minutes from the December 18, 2012 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was approved.

**II. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS –**

1. 2000-01 and 2012-13 Enrollment Comparisons – Mr. O'Sullivan provided a chart with information relating to student enrollments (see attached) and alerted the Board that overall enrollments across the region by school district are dropping, some more dramatically than others, however the rate of loss of students in Norwich is at a lesser rate than what other districts are experiencing. Mr. O'Sullivan was then asked by Mr. McBride about what he considered the future projection to be, Mr. O'Sullivan replied that he felt it was going to be flat over time.
2. Budget Calendar – Mr. O'Sullivan spoke about the upcoming budget process, the areas of expenditures reviewed to date, and some of the fiscal challenges districts (Maine Endwell was cited as the example) are currently facing in coping with reduced aid and balancing budgets.
3. Governor Cuomo's State-of-the-State – Mr. O'Sullivan mentioned that contained in the Governor's speech, are nine (9) new and different initiatives concerning education. The concern the Mr. O'Sullivan expressed for those initiatives ultimately revolves around available funding and finding resources for them.

Mr. Perry Owen arrived at 6:40 p.m. Mr. Stagliano arrived at 6:52 p.m.

**III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS –**

- A. General** – Mr. O'Sullivan spoke to the Board about recent safety assessments by Chief Angelino in the District. Norwich PD conducted these security assessments on building-by-building basis. Mr. O'Sullivan thanked Chief Angelino for his ongoing efforts and indicated that he had learned much in the process concerning Homeland Security and First Responders. Mr. O'Sullivan indicated that the District will be further assessing emergency preparedness and practicing evacuation drills. Officer Clarke will have a presence at Gibson and Perry Browne. Site security of the District has been enhanced by the nearly 50 security cameras installed a year ago. Norwich PD will be evaluating our safety plan and the District will post some elements of the plan for parents to our website per NYS SED directive.
- B. Positive Points** – Mr. O'Sullivan mentioned the recent success of the holiday clothing drive and thanked Ms. Kelly Colosi-Collins for all of her efforts in organizing it. Mr. Downey, Wrestling Coach had two Norwich Wrestlers (Frankie Garcia and Tristan Rifanburg) take big wins in their divisions at Eastern States Tournament held over the holidays. The District's APPR Plan was approved by SED, Mr. O'Sullivan thanked Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Gerchman, Ms. Willow and Mr. Wightman for all of their efforts in achieving plan approval. Fifteen Norwich Cheerleaders helped collect donations for Roots and Wings. Mr. O'Sullivan concluded his remarks by mentioning a recent letter of thanks in the Evening Sun about an anonymous Norwich Middle School girl who turned in a lost Apple Ipad.

**IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS –****A. Academics –**

Principal Building Reviews – Middle School (Scott Ryan); Perry Browne (Jen Post); and Stanford Gibson (Dara Lewis). Information is attached to the official minutes of the District.

**B. Finance – (Rob Wightman) – Information is attached to the official minutes of the District.**

Regular Education  
Employee Benefits

Mr. Stagliano left the meeting due to an emergency at 8:10 p.m.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT -**

Misty Davis spoke to the Board about her ongoing concerns regarding District's dismissal plan.

Kerry Roberts spoke to the Board about her concerns regarding the dismissal policy as well, and reiterated much of the same concerns as Mrs. Davis.

**VI. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS –** On a motion by Linda Horovitz, seconded by Tom Morrone and carried 5-0, the Board approved the following instructional staff and support staff recommendations:

**Instructional Staff****Appointment - Interim**

Name	Area	Stipend	Effective
Kisten Giglio	Secondary Principal	\$35.77 p/hr	11/15/12 – 6/30/13

**Support Staff****Leave of Absence - Unpaid**

Name	Position	Effective
Pamela Steward	Keyboard Specialist	12/11/12 – 1/21/13

**Appointments – Probationary**

Name	Position	Salary	Effective
Alana Golden	Director of Human Resources	\$53,500 (pro-rated)	1/16/13
Randy Brown	Maintenance Worker	\$12.50 p/hr	1/22/13

**Appointment – Probationary – Civil Service Exam**

Name	Position	Effective
Julita Cushman	School Lunch Cashier	1/16/13

**Appointment – Permanent**

Name	Position	Effective
Michael Ward	Cleaner	1/16/13

**Extension of Probationary Appointment**

Name	Position	Effective
Ericka Behr	Teaching Assistant	2/22/13 – 2/22/14

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA –** Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and on a motion by Tom Morrone, seconded by Perry Owen and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved the following actions within the Consent Agenda: (Information is attached to the official minutes of the District.)

- A. BOCES Monthly Bill
- B. Special Education & Preschool Special Education Reports

VIII. ACTION ITEMS –

- A. **Approval of Donation** - Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and on a motion by Joseph McBride, seconded by Perry Owen and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved a donation from NEO in the amount of \$650. (Information is attached to the official minutes of the District.)
- B. **Approval of Overnight Trip** – Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and on a motion by Joseph McBride, seconded by Perry Owen and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved the request for an overnight trip for the Norwich Purple Tornado Field Band to Disney World from February 16-21, 2013. (Information is attached to the official minutes of the District.)
- C. **Approval of Overnight Trip** – Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and on a motion by Joseph McBride, seconded by Perry Owen and carried 6-0, the Board of Education approved and overnight trip request from US First Team to attend a tournament in Rochester, New York.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE – Gerard O’Sullivan discussed the updates with the Board.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION –

On a motion by Tom Morrone, seconded by Joseph McBride and carried 6-0, the Board of Education entered into Executive Session to discuss the personnel history of six employees. Mr. William Tammaro, DCMO BOCES Superintendent was asked to join Executive Session.

Mr. Morrone left Executive Session at 10:06 p.m.

On a motion by Perry Owen, seconded by Joseph McBride and carried 5-0, the Board of Education adjourned Executive Session and returned to the Regular Meeting at 10:21 p.m. to complete the following business.

The Board of Education considering the information supplied to it regarding an employee of the Norwich City School District, on a motion by Linda Horovitz, seconded by Perry Owen it is

**RESOLVED**, that charges be preferred against an employee of the Norwich City School District in accordance with Civil Service Law '75 and the employee be given notice of such charges. Michael D. Sherwood, Esq. is hereby appointed hearing officer. Because of the need to proceed expeditiously, request for proposals have not been made but it is noted that Mr. Sherwood has the background and qualifications to serve as hearing officer and has acted in the past as hearing officer for other Boards of Education.

Two members were not present: Joseph Stagliano and Perry Owen.

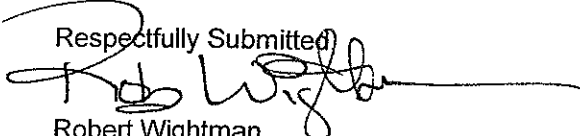
AYE: Heather Fredenburg; Linda Horovitz; Joseph McBride; Tom Morrone; and Perry Owen.

NAY: None

ABSTAINED: None

On a motion by Joseph McBride, seconded by Perry Owen and carried 5-0, the Board of Education adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted



Robert Wightman  
District Clerk  
RW