

**Please Note: These minutes are pending Board approval.
Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut**

Minutes of the Board of Education meeting on February 27, 2018 at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers

M. Ku, Chair	L. Rodrigue
R. Harriman-Stites, Vice Chair	J. Evans Davila
D. Cruson, Secretary	R. Bienkowski
D. Leidlein	40 Staff
J. Vouros	1 Press
A. Clure	15 Public
D. Delia(absent)	

Item 1 – Call to Order

Mrs. Ku called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Item 2 – Public Participation

Item 3 – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Appointment of Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Ku stated that the selection of Superintendent of Schools is one of the Board of Education's most important decisions for the school district and the community. She thanked the Superintendent Search Committee for their many hours of dedicated service towards finding and selecting the candidate who embodies the defined qualities and vision that will best advance our Newtown Public School district forward for the long term. Mrs. Ku then expressed her appreciation to all those who gave input on the needed qualities of the district's future Superintendent by participating in the Board of Education Community Forum and the District Survey. In addition, she thanked the Central Office staff, Mary Broderick (the search consultant from CABA) and her fellow Board members who were all-in throughout this process, as well as a special thank you to Superintendent Search Committee Chair, Rebekah Harriman-Stites.

MOTION: Mr. Cruson moved that the Board appoint Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue as Superintendent of Schools, effective March 19, 2018, and moved further that the Chairperson of the Board be authorized to execute the proposed contract on behalf of the Board with respect to Dr. Rodrigue's employment as Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Vouros seconded.

Mrs. Harriman-Stites reiterated Mrs. Ku's sentiments and thanked the Board members again for being all-in for this long process and told them that their integrity is unmatched and that they are a true pleasure to work with. She also thanked Dr. Rodrigue for her commitment to Newtown's students, the district and the community as a whole, and said that "I know that you have what it takes to be the leader that Newtown needs right now."

Mrs. Leidlein told Dr. Rodrigue that she has shown passion for the district in coming back to lead Newtown High School as Principal and in stepping in as Interim Superintendent of Newtown Public Schools when there was a need. Mrs. Leidlein then said, "When you again stepped up to apply for the position of Superintendent of Schools for Newtown, we knew that you were the one for us."

Mr. Vouros welcomed Dr. Rodrigue and said that we have great teams working in all of our Newtown Public Schools and he has been very fortunate throughout his teaching career to have been a part of that. He then stated that he is very pleased and excited that Dr. Rodrigue is now joining this Board of Education team and, "We are now 8 members working on behalf of Newtown's students."

Mr. Clure told Dr. Rodrigue that, in that same team concept, he was originally not going to be able to make this very special Board meeting, due to a personal conflict, but his daughter made it possible

because she knew how important it was to him. He thanked his daughter and said he was very glad to be here to welcome Dr. Rodrigue tonight.

Mrs. Ku read a letter of strong support for Dr. Rodrigue from Mr. Delia, who had a prior engagement and was not able to be present at the meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Rodrigue thanked the members of the Board, the staff and the community for giving her this opportunity and said that she was extremely honored to be selected Superintendent of Schools for a district that she has so much respect for and cares so deeply about. She said that the teachers care for their students, the staff members support each other and, with its talented and visionary leaders, it is a system that serves each other well. She also thanked the Newtown Public Schools' parents and stated that they are the "true heroes of this district." Dr. Rodrigue then thanked the administrative team, the central office staff and her team at Newtown High School, especially David Roach who stepped in as Interim Principal, and Assistant Principals Dana Manning, Kim Longobucco and Aaron Blank. Finally she thanked her husband and her son for their love and incredible support.

Dr. Rodrigue stated that she is confident as she looks forward to working with a district that invests in a quality education, innovative curriculum and instruction, works hard to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of all students and, of course, continues to work towards healing and recovery. She then said, "I thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me this opportunity."

Mrs. Ku thanked Dr. Rodrigue and said that the Superintendent Search pool was robust and that, while the candidate interviews and reference checks were thorough and impressive, she emerged as the unanimous choice of the Search Committee. Mrs. Ku stated that Dr. Rodrigue's deep knowledge of the district and familiarity with the community, as well as her range of leadership experience and vision will serve us well and the Board of Education is very pleased to now continue working with her for the long term.

Item 4– Public Participation

Item 5 – Adjournment

MOTION: Mrs. Leidlein made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Cruson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Daniel J. Cruson, Jr., Secretary