

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
March 23, 2011

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko,
Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Haney, Dr. Sewall (arrived at 7:07 PM)

BOARD ABSENT: Mrs. Collins

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: Abbey Baldarelli, Alison Risley, Matthew Poirier

OTHERS PRESENT: general public, staff, administrators, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the March 23, 2011, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Rayhall led the Board and the public in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

March 9, 2011, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes (Ref. 1)

(197)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the March 9, 2011, Regular Board of Education minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Lambert

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Adamo, Mrs. Haney

The motion passes: 5-0-2

February 28, 2011, Special Board of Education meeting minutes (Ref. 1A)

(198)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the February 28, 2011, Special Board of Education minutes, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Haney, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Lambert

The motion passes: 3-0-4

March 10, 2011, Special Board of Education meeting minutes (Ref. 1B)

(199)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the March 10, 2011, Special Board of Education minutes, Reference 1B.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Haney, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Lambert

The motion passes: 3-0-4

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan informed the Board that Mrs. Collins could not attend tonight's meeting due to a family commitment
(Dr. Sewall arrived.)

RECOGNITION

The Windham High School girls' basketball team was recognized as this year's CIAC Class M State Champions. State Representative Susan Johnson presented a citation to the team from the Connecticut General Assembly and Mayor Ernie Eldridge recognized the team with a proclamation from the Town. Basketball players Cara Begley, Caitlin Coleman, Carlee Smith, Justine Lambert, Jackie Riera, Danyelle Rodriguez, Kelly Leist, Haley Mather, Taylor McBride, Katie Nelson, Ali Risley, Megan Phelps, Bridget Desautels, and Haley Roberts were presented with certificates from the Board of Education. Mr. Folan, Principal Mr. Merlino and Athletic Director Mr. Risley all commended the team members for their exceptional contributions to the school and to the team. The players, head coach Ken Valliere, and assistant coaches Melissa Kissane and Tim Lagace were congratulated for their outstanding season.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Matt Poirier reported that there is a staff vs. senior class basketball game at the high school at 7:00 PM on Friday and Mr. Windham will be held on April 1. The annual Leadership Conference is being planned for May 26 at Eastern Connecticut State University and this year's theme is *community service*. A keynote speaker has yet to be chosen. Members will be guides for parent conferences and also work at the Dollars for Scholars phone-a-thon in early April.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

██████████, speech therapist in the Early Childhood program on Prospect Street, said that she considers it a privilege to work with special needs children and respectfully asked that the Board not accept the request for the nonrenewal of her contract.

Peter Quercia, Willimantic, said that the American flag flying outside at the high school is left up all of the time and is tattered and torn. He also had pictures of cars parked in the fire lane and on the lawn of the high school and said that he has written a letter to the Town Manager about the situation and asked why no one at the high school knew about the letter. He also spoke about the article in Sunday's *Hartford Courant* regarding Windham schools.

Tara Risley, Willimantic, said that she wanted to have sports reinstated at the Middle School and is willing to join a Booster Club to help raise money. She asked that money be put in the budget for that purpose. She said that the girls who played on this year's state championship team were part of the last group of girls to play sports at the middle school.

Neida Rosado, Windham, congratulated the high school girls' basketball team. She said that she agreed with Ms. Risley about putting money into the budget for middle school sports. She is working to form a Booster Club and said there is a petition being circulated.

Lashawn McBride, Windham, agreed that involvement in sports is a way for students to come together and have pride in their school, community and themselves and asked if money could be put in the budget for this purpose. She asked the Board to think about the children and their future.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(200)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2, along with the addendum distributed at tonight's meeting.

Resignations

- Lynda Nappi, Kindergarten Teacher/North Windham School effective June 30, 2011 for the purpose of retirement.
- Rolando Navarro, Bilingual Teacher/Windham Middle School effective approximately April 15, 2011.
- Philip Cowit, Special Education Teacher/Windham High School effective June 20, 2011.

Resignations - addendum

- Janna Churchill-Bos, Special Education Teacher/Windham Middle School effective June 30, 2011.
- Ada DeJesus, Bilingual Teacher/North Windham School effective June 30, 2011 for the purpose of retirement.
- Diane Gallo, .40 Art Teacher/Natchaug School effective June 30, 2011.
- Hector Jimenez, Custodian/Natchaug School effective April 8, 2011.

Appointment

- Daisy Battle Vargas, Assistant Cook/Prospect Street Head Start Program effective February 28, 2011. Hourly rate is \$10.73, replaces Celia Negron who resigned.

Leave of Absence

- Charlene LaGasse, General Cafeteria Worker/Windham Center School, medical leave of absence effective March 14, 2011, duration unknown.

Leave of absence - addendum

- Emmanuel Perez De Ayala, Paraprofessional/Sweeney School, medical leave of absence effective March 10, 2011, duration unknown.

There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

Sweeney School Field Trip Application (Ref. 3)

(201)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip request for Sweeney School students to attend Nature's Classroom in Andover, Connecticut, from Wednesday, April 27, 2011, to Friday, April 29, 2011, to participate in the Nature's Classroom program and activities, in accordance with Board policy 6153. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Windham High School Windham Administrative Support Personnel Scholarship (Ref. 4)

(202)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education accept with deep gratitude the Windham High School Administrative Support Personnel Scholarship. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Folan thanked the Administrative Support Personnel for their generosity.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Capital Improvement Plan (Ref. 5)

(203)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Mrs. Rayhall explained that the list of projects has been prioritized. Once the Board approves the plan, a letter will be sent along with the plan to the Board of Finance requesting that \$295,000 be bonded so that State mandated projects, which are long overdue, can be accomplished.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Sheltered Team at Windham Middle School (Ref. 6)

Ms. Negrón reported that, according to mandates, seventh and eighth ELL students were not receiving adequate support. To address this issue, a new team at the Middle School was created comprised of three

classroom teachers. Ms. Negrón provided the Board with information about the program structure and said that there have been positive outcomes as a result of the program's implementation. She answered questions from the Board and Mr. Folan thanked her for her report.

Eastern Regional Academy (Ref. 7)

Mr. Forman provided the Board with information regarding the two-year plan to transition students from Eastern Regional Academy to Windham High School, Windham Middle School and the Partial Day Program. Funds will be redirected to provide additional resources and added support to the schools which will also benefit additional students and strengthen core programming in the district. Mr. Forman answered questions from the Board and Mr. Folan thanked him for the update.

Financial statement (February 2011) (Ref. 8)

Mr. Nelson said that he didn't have anything to add to the financial statement for February 2011. There were no questions.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 9)

Included are the April District Calendar and the Windham Federation of Teachers Newsletters, *The Spectrum*, for March 7 and March 14, 2011. There was no discussion.

Board of Education

First reading of proposed 2011-2012 school calendar (Ref. 10)

Mr. Forman reviewed the results of the data collected from the Survey Monkey that was available for staff and parent participation regarding the 2011-2012 school calendar. He said that the committee also reviewed the Columbia calendar and regional calendar from EASTCONN and two versions of the calendar were posted for the survey. The committee is proposing the version that received the majority of positive responses with the start of school after Labor Day, a two-day break in February, and last day of school on June 14, 2012.

Subcommittee Reports:

Facilities/Maintenance: Mrs. Rayhall reported that work was done on the Capital Improvement Plan.

Program Development/Evaluation: Mr. Adamo reported that the instructional consultants attended and provided the committee with a comprehensive report.

Student Services: Mr. Forman reported that the school calendar and survey results were reviewed. Also, Ms. Negrón and Mr. Harris attended to discuss hall monitors and security guards at the Middle School and High School.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo reported that a representative from the legislative lobbyist firm provided updates, the quarterly financial report was given, an update on the status of the building project was provided, and the nonrenewal of non-tenured staff was approved.

Personnel: Dr. Switchenko reported that Mrs. Banks provided the committee with an extensive report on staff and there was an executive session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Adamo asked that the instructional consultants present to the full Board. Mrs. Haney asked for the background on the academic history of the students on the girls' basketball team. Mrs. Rayhall asked for a report regarding a Middle School booster club. Mr. Doyle also asked to take a look at a booster club at the Middle School.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mary Lou DeVivo, North Windham, asked the Board to begin looking now for a location to move the preschool. She asked members to support the Willimantic Public Library.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(204)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:35 PM for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to nonrenewal of non-tenured teachers' contracts.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Haney, Dr. Sewall

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:45 P.M.

(205)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board add to the agenda at this time the recommended approval of the nonrenewal of employment contracts.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

(201)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the nonrenewal of the employment contracts for the following non-tenured teachers upon contract expiration at the end of the current school year: [REDACTED], Windham Preschool; Donna Hendry, Sweeney School; and Jennifer Florian, Windham Center School.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

(206)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:45 P.M.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary