

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT

Special Meeting

July 14, 2010

(Held in place of the Regular July 7, 2010, meeting)

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

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Fuller, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Director Mrs. Banks

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVE: No one

OTHERS PRESENT: general public

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the July 14, 2010, Special Board of Education meeting to order at 7:08 P.M. in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. Folan asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mary Stambaugh, grade four teacher at Sweeney School, who recently passed away.

Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Doyle and members of the Board and community for their work to get the vote out for the last referendum.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

June 9, 2010 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

(4) Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the June 9, 2010, Regular Board of Education minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

July 7, 2010 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

(5) Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the July 7, 2010, Special Board of Education minutes, Reference 1A.

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

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney, Dr. Sewall

The motion passes: 4-0-5

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

STUDENT COUNCIL

There was no report.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Daniel Dalub, Port Lucie, Florida, who plans to relocate to Connecticut and is looking at schools in the area for his daughter, asked about funding for the choir position at the high school. Ms. Fuller said that a part-time choir position has been posted and at this time, the position is in the budget

Mark Phelps, Windham, said he was disappointed that the budget did not pass yesterday and said that possibly at some point the state might need to get involved. He also said that it is important and may be helpful to get information out to the people about what mostly likely will be cut from the budget. He has seen a change in programs offered to students over the years.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(6) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2 including the addendum that was distributed at tonight's meeting.

Resignations

- Lydia Collazo, Special Education Paraprofessional/Natchaug School effective June 30, 2010.
- Cheryl Lemire, Custodian/Windham High School effective August 31, 2010 for the purpose of retirement.
- Jacquelyn Bergeron, P/T Paraprofessional/Preschool Program effective June 30, 2010.
- Elsie Maldonado, Family Resource Center Coordinator/North Windham School effective August 2, 2010.
- Selena Musumeci, Social Worker/Windham Center School effective June 30, 2010.

Resignations – Addendum

- Doreen Fuller, Superintendent of Schools effective July 31, 2010.
- Joseph Piacentini, Assistant Principal/Windham Middle School effective July 23, 2010.
- Nivea Torres, Principal/Windham Center School effective August 6, 2010.
- Diane Forster, Kindergarten teacher/North Windham School effective July 12, 2010.

Appointment

- [REDACTED], Speech Language Pathologist/Preschool Program effective August 30, 2010. Salary is MA+15/13, \$66,296, replaces Joanne Hokanson who retired.

Appointment – addendum

- Lisa Gebhardt, Special Education Teacher/ERA, effective August 30, 2010. Salary is MA/3, \$41,245 pending certification, replaces Benis Richards who resigned.

Leaves of absence

- Angel Vazquez, Head Start Cook/Boston Post Road, medical leave of absence effective June 18, 2010 through July 12, 2010.
- Suzanne Krach, Special Education Teacher/Windham Middle School, child bearing/rearing leave of absence effective approximately September 21, 2010 through November 2, 2010.

Leave of absence – addendum

- Neicia Doucette, Early Head Start Teacher/Preschool Program, medical leave of absence beginning June 28, 2010, duration unknown.

Schedule A-2 & A-4 appointments

- See Attached 2010-2011 A2 & A4 Appointment List

Ms. Fuller's resignation was accepted with deep regret.

On the motion: Aye: Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Lambert, Dr. Sewall

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Folan, Dr. Switchenko

The motion passes: 7-0-2

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Ana V. Ortiz as Acting/Interim Superintendent of Schools (Ref. 3)

(7) Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Assistant Superintendent Ana V. Ortiz as Acting/Interim Superintendent for the district effective August 1, 2010. Mr. Folan thanked Ms. Ortiz for accepting the appointment.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Dr. Sewall asked to consolidate references four through eight with one motion; however, Mrs. Collins said that she would prefer that each grant be voted on separately so that Board members may comment or ask questions for each individual reference. Mr. Folan took each reference separately.

Education for Homeless Children Youths grant application (Ref. 4)

(8) Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve submission of the Education for Homeless Children and Youths grant application. In answer to Mrs. Haney, Ms. Fuller said that this is a continuation grant and does not cover all expenses.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Mr. Folan asked that participation in the Healthy Food Certification program be added to the agenda as an action item, reference 10A.

(9) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that participation in the Healthy Food Certification program be added to the agenda as an action item, reference 10A.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Before and After School Extended Literacy Program grant application (Ref. 5)

(10) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve submission of the Before and After School Extended Literacy program (21st Century Community Learning Centers) grant application. In response to Mrs. Haney's question about measuring the grant's effectiveness, Ms. Fuller said that she will ask Dr. Olezza to provide a report to the Board.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Windham Middle School Extended Day Program grant application (Ref. 6)

(11) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve submission of the Windham Middle School Extended Day program (21st Century Community Learning Centers) grant application. Dr. Olezza's report will also address this grant.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Natchaug Family Resource Center grant application (Ref. 7)

(12) Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve submission of the Natchaug Family Resource Center grant application. In reply to Mrs. Rayhall, Ms. Fuller said that the program runs for ten months and employees are ten-month employees.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

North Windham Family Resource Center grant application (Ref. 8)

(13) Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve submission of the North Windham Family Resource Center grant application. Mrs. Collins commended the work done by Ms. Maldonado, Coordinator, and said that it will be difficult to fill her shoes. In response to Mrs. Lambert's question, Ms. Fuller said that even though the resource centers are located in two schools, they serve all children regardless of the school they attend. There was discussion about how information is

disseminated about the family resource centers. Mrs. Collins said that material is distributed through preschool programs and the School Readiness Council is regularly updated.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Dr. Sewall acknowledged Dr. Olezza's efforts in putting together almost \$600,000 in grant money with the grant application submissions approved at tonight's meeting.

Community-Based Task Force on Educational Improvement (Ref. 9)

After some discussion, Board members approved the proposed outline of the charge and objectives of the Community-Based Task Force on Educational Improvement as presented with changed wording as suggested by Dr. Sewall. Mr. Folan explained that committee members, however, will refine the exact wording when meetings commence in September. The committee will meet from September to January and be comprised of citizen volunteers. A report will be made to the Board at the completion of the committee's work in January.

(14)Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve the charge and objectives as outlined of the Community-Based Task Force on Educational Improvement.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Budget reductions (Ref. 10)

(15)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve cuts for the 2010-2011 budget as presented by Ms. Fuller with the exception of the security supervisor position. She explained that these are the cuts that have already been proposed, however, more cuts may be made.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Lambert, Dr. Sewall

Nay: Mrs. Rayhall

Abstained: No one

The motion passes: 8-1-0

Healthy Food Certification Statement (Ref. 10A)

(16)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the continued participation of Windham Public Schools in the Healthy Food Certification program for the 2010-11 school year. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Preliminary financial statement – June 2010 (Ref. 11)

There were no comments.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 12)

- Fourth Quarter Windham High School Honor Roll
- Windham High School's *The Whippet*
- Windham Federation of Teachers' newsletter *The Spectrum*

There were no comments.

Board of Education

First reading of Policies (Ref. 13, 13A, 13B)

The following policies are included for a first reading with final action planned for the August 18, 2010, Board of Education meeting: Personnel-Certified-Staff Development 4131(a) (Ref. 13); Students-Admission/Placement 5111(a) (Ref. 13A); and Students-Dropouts 5112.3 (Ref. 13B). Mr. Doyle asked if

our policy and procedures are up to date with the new laws regarding sports and concussions. Ms. Fuller said that they are in the process of being developed.

Subcommittee Reports:

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle explained that the Board of Finance has not made any decisions regarding the results of Tuesday's referendum. There will be a meeting of the Board of Finance next Wednesday.

Magnet School: Mrs. Haney reported that the architects have moved from the schematic to the design development stage and plans are underway to get information out to the community. Committee members were informed that the architect has fulfilled the requirements made by the fire department. Dr. Sewall asked about the driveway design and Mrs. Collins explained that this will be resolved and will be discussed at Tuesday's Town Council meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Adamo asked for an update on the summer school programs.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mary Lou DeVivo, North Windham, commended the Board for forming a community-based task force. She said that the magnet school is a hot topic in the community and a good solution might be to turn Natchaug School into a charter school. She asked why the Family Resource Center is in operation for only ten months when it used to run for twelve months. She spoke to a person who was very rude to her on the telephone about a summer program. She said that she would be willing to pay to have the Natchaug Family Resource Center open for the summer. Mrs. DeVivo commented that the Board voted to hold its meetings at the high school but still are holding its meetings in the Kramer conference room. Mr. Folan said that meetings will be held in the high school auditorium beginning with the September 8th meeting.

Daniel Dalub, Port Lucie, Florida, asked what could be done about students who drop out of school. Mr. Folan said that there are multiple programs in Windham and the drop out rate has been substantially reduced over the years. Mr. Dalub had many questions about the Magnet School. Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Haney responded but also said that the meeting minutes are available on the web site and meetings are open to the public.

Roger Nadeau, North Windham, commended Ms. Fuller for the wonderful job she has done as superintendent. He said that earlier the Board had looked at ways to save money by researching the possibility of hiring an outside food service company. He said that more should be done to save money in the schools with energy conservation and looking at other programs that are available to save costs. He offered assistance to help and said that other people from outside the school system could also help. Mr. Nadeau also commented that the district's web site is not kept current.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(17) Motion by Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 7:51 PM for the discussion of bargaining unit negotiations and personnel matters.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Fuller, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Director Mrs. Banks

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:30 P.M.

(18) Motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board add to the agenda at this time the following: recommended approval to adopt the Town PPO (Plan 003137-xxx) for all non-affiliated staff; recommended approval of the proposed revision to the technology plan, eliminating one position and restructuring a second position, at no additional cost to the district; recommended approval of the appointment of JoAnne Guerraz to the Information System Administrative Assistant position and Aaron Fagan to the data specialist position; and recommended approval to appoint Danny Deptula to be the lead maintenance and custodial person in the absence of the department supervisor with the stipend to be negotiated as has been past practice.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

(19) Motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the adoption of the Town PPO (Plan 003137-xxx) for all non-affiliated staff.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

(20) Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education approve the proposed revision to the technology plan, eliminating one position and restructuring a second position, at no additional cost to the district.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Lambert, Dr. Sewall

Nay: Mrs. Rayhall

Abstained: No one

The motion passes: 8-1-0

(21) Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of JoAnne Guerraz to the Information System Administrative Assistant position and Aaron Fagan to the data specialist position.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Lambert, Dr. Sewall

Nay: Mrs. Rayhall

Abstained: No one

The motion passes: 8-1-0

(22) Motion by Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve appointing Danny Deptula to be the lead maintenance and custodial person in the absence of the department supervisor with the stipend to be negotiated as has been past practice.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney, Dr. Switchenko, Dr. Sewall

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Lambert

The motion passes: 8-0-1

(23) Motion by Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education add to the agenda the recommended approval to sustain 2009-2010 salary levels for first line supervisors, technicians, confidential secretaries, and non-union administrators.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

(24) Motion by Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve sustaining 2009-2010 salary levels for first line supervisors, technicians, confidential secretaries, and non-union administrators.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

(25) Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board meeting adjourn at 8:18 P.M.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary