

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
(held in place of the regularly scheduled March 27, 2013, workshop meeting)  
April 2, 2013

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Dr. Sewall, Mrs. Osuba, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. French, Ms. Tinker, Mr. Adamo, Mrs. Lambert, Dr. Switchenko

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Deputy Superintendent Ms. England, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Barker-Jones, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson, Communications Officer Ms. Markey

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Special Master Dr. Adamowski, general public, staff, administrators, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Sewall called the April 2, 2013, Board of Education special workshop meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ACTION ITEM

Uniform Policy (Ref. 1)

**Motion by Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board approve the proposed revised School Uniform Policy.** This is the second reading of the policy.

**On the motion: Aye: Mrs. Osuba, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. French, Mr. Adamo, Ms. Tinker, Dr. Switchenko**

**Abstention: No one**

**Nay: Mrs. Lambert**

**The motion passes.**

WORKSHOP SESSION

Recommendations for Visual and Performing Arts Programs

Members of the Windham High School Jazz Ensemble were thanked for performing this evening. The following visual and performing arts faculty members attended tonight's meeting with Ms. Barker-Jones: Joe Tomanelli, WMS music; Annette Schleicher, NWS art; Raymond Sinclair, WHS music; Beverly Goslin, WHS art; Vincent Iovine, WHS theater & drama; Sarah Jordan, WMS music; Jacquelyn Darbyshire, WMS music, Kyle Gould, NWS music; Sheila Clark, Natchaug and WCS music; Brenda Anderson, Natchaug art; as well as Linda Neely, University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education, who is providing consultation and professional development services to the music department. The team's vision for the visual and performing arts program was presented which includes the following three goals: Goal 1: to

create a feeder program in grades Pre-K through 5 that prepares students to pursue more advanced Visual and Performing Arts Programming at the middle and high school level; Goal 2: to create school environments that are enhanced by the Visual and Performing Arts as the venue to teach and enhance core academics and overall student success; and Goal 3: to partner with community organizations such as Windham Arts, EASTCONN, the University of Connecticut, Eastern Connecticut State University, to create a support system for developing and sustaining Visual and Performing Arts Programs in the Windham Public Schools. Ms. Barker-Jones gave an overview of the department's work to date. Student accomplishments in art and music were also shared. A summary was provided of the K-5 art and music programs, 6-8 art and music programs, and 9-12 art and music programs. Recommendations for both visual art and performing arts were noted which highlighted budgetary issues, facilities, student schedules and professional learning teams for PreK-12. Financial needs were presented, as well as some ways to meet these needs. Staff spoke about their programs and answered questions, along with Ms. Barker-Jones. Ms. Barker-Jones said these teachers are a phenomenal team. They were thanked for their informative presentation.

### PUBLIC DIALOGUE

James Flores, Willimantic, said that money is needed for both art and music and the budget needs to be passed. He is concerned about the budget passing because, in the past, Windham Public Schools' staff members who are part of the community don't all go out and vote. He said that all parents, community members and Windham community staff need to support the budget and vote. If only 20% of staff who are eligible vote on the budget, it won't pass.

Joe Tomanelli, said that a concert and an art show should be put on when the budget meeting is held.

Al Korczunski, Willimantic, said that he knows how important the arts are and how committing to arts and music has helped his sons. He said that there is a correlation between academics and arts which is important. He said that there are parents in the community who are willing to help so that the students have all they need to excel. He said that he appreciates everything the teachers have done.

M.K. Crowley, Mansfield, said that she respects the work of the art team and is happy to see that people are fighting to put the arts back into the curriculum. Creativity and the arts are important to engineering design. The basis for problem solving has a relationship to the arts.

David Fenn, Windham, thanked the Board for having this presentation which shows that the Board is taking the arts seriously. He said that there was a theater program at the high school which was part of the curriculum. He asked about the philosophy and the reason that arts and music are important. Mr. Fenn indicated that there is a tremendous amount of research about the impact of the arts on brain technology. He said that Mr. Adamo always pushed his students to stretch themselves to think of new ways and new ideas the way music does. He said that great scientists were all highly involved with musical and art endeavors. He said that art should be the basis of your ideology. Art is at the middle and humanities are to one side to which the arts feed and science is to the other side to which art also feeds with music bringing both sides together. He said that someone is really needed at the elementary school level and \$130,000 should be taken from the central services budget earmarked for telecommunication for that purpose.

Kevin Brolin, Windham, said that his daughter had been involved with drama program, and he sees a lot of good things happening. He said that he and Dan Chase jumped in to help Mr. Iovine because he has been a one-man show with help from students. Mr. Brolin feels there is a lot of opportunity for cross budgeting. Students who are talented can build sets and this allows the sharing of resources. Selling tickets and running the concession stand are opportunities for students to learn about running a business. The arts can feed into these endeavors which can be income streams. He said that the winter show was fantastic but there were no tickets and concessions which were lost opportunities for income. Mr. Brolin said he doesn't know the

logistics of all of these ideas and if there are any limitations but he would be willing to help with any of these ideas and opportunities.

Casey Dieter-Leeds and Jeremy Cruz,, president and vice president of the WHS band. Jeremy commended Mr. Tomanelli for taking him under his wing in middle school. Casey said music has done a lot for him in his life such as helping him to communicate, learn about business and network and was a great learning opportunity. He's had the opportunity to play with other bands and has traveled and met a lot of different people. Music has made him a well-rounded person and helped him develop his social skills. He said that students who are involved with music and art have higher test scores on standardized tests. He said that he's been to All State for two years; has been first in eastern Connecticut for two years for trumpet: won the Superintendent's award this year, is valedictorian, and will be attending the Coast Guard Academy on July 1. He said that a lot of this wouldn't have been possible without the skills and structure that music brought to his life, and he hopes that everyone realizes the importance of the arts.

Mr. French commended Coach Risley, who was in the audience, and his wrestlers for winning the State S Championship.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs., that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 8:45 PM.**

**On the motion: Aye, unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Luz Osuba, Secretary