

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2014

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Vice-chair Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Dr. Sewall, Mr. French, Dr. Gomez, Mrs. Osuba (arrived at 7:15 PM)

BOARD ABSENT: Ms. Tinker, Mr. Quamme

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper, Directors Mrs. Banks, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Cunha, Communications Officer Ms. Markey

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Special Master Dr. Adamowski, Analyst for District Support and Supervision Eldrin Deas, general public, staff, administrators, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lambert called the April 9, 2014, Board of Education regular business meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Gomez led the Board and the public in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

The March 12, 2014, business meeting (Ref. 1) and the March 26, 2014, workshop meeting (Ref. 1A) were accepted as submitted.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Student Recognition

School Breakfast Recipe Contest

The following students received recognition for winning the School Breakfast Recipe Contest sponsored by Food Services Director Eric Volle and the Food Services Department with Kate Callahan from Food Corps:

Abigail Flake (Fruit Tortilla) – Windham Center School; Jess Meikle (Breakfast Wrap) – Sweeney School; Abigail Moore (Fruit Kabobs and Vanilla Yogurt for dipping) – North Windham School; Angela Alva (Super Blue Oatmeal) – Natchaug School; and Jaeda Pierce, Alejandro Torres, Ashley Rosado Sanchez, Samuel Ortiz Sanchez and Olivia Lira (Banana Blitz Smoothie) – Natchaug School.

Fire Prevention Poster Contest

Laisha Chaparro from North Windham School and Bailey Gaylor from Windham Center School, County winners of this year's Fire Prevention Poster Contest, received recognition. Their posters will be showcased in next year's calendar. Fire Marshall Licata attended the meeting to extend his congratulations to the students, as well.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Bill Powers, Windham, spoke about the revised Magnet Schools/Enrollment Outside of Attendance Districts' policy that is included on tonight's agenda. He said that as a teacher in the district, he felt that students whose parents are staff members in the district should be allowed to attend the Magnet School and it is a mistake to open it up to only Magnet School staff members' children. He said that the rest of the teachers in the district should be taken into consideration as well. If that is not the case, he said the overenrolled seats should be made available to other children in Windham.

(Mrs. Osuba arrived.)

Mr. Powers said that he didn't think that five weeks is enough time to prepare TFA teachers to teach students considering the time and preparation, including clinical internships, that others take part in before becoming certified to be a teacher.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Middle School and High School Attendance and Truancy Reports

Ms. Ortiz reviewed CT General Statute 10-198a regarding student absenteeism. Attendance data for the Windham School district and the State were compared for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. Windham Middle School attendance rates were shown by date, month and grade. Windham High School attendance data was also reviewed to date. Rates by the academies and upper class were compared for 2012-13 and 2013-2014. There was discussion and Ms. Ortiz answered questions.

Committee Reports

Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. French reported that the consolidation of the Town and Board finance departments will be taking place and the Town's staff will be moving their offices to Kramer. The Town will pay for the materials to renovate the space and the district maintenance staff will do the necessary work. A tractor for Barrows Academy and a pick-up truck are one time purchases that will be considered by the Town's Board of Finance. It was reported that special education and transportation had major shortfalls; however, savings in personnel benefits and Town reimbursement for some one-time purchases helped to offset these, as well as some savings realized from the Green Project and utilities. Mr. Johnson reported that as the year ends, the budget is in good shape. Budget transfers presented by Mr. Johnson were also reviewed by the Committee at its meeting.

Mr. Montalvo said he is a member of the Finance Committee but does not get any of the financial information prior to the meetings. He asked if he could receive the information ahead of time giving him time to review the material so that he can be knowledgeable and prepared to make recommendations.

School Planning and Design Committee

Mrs. Lambert reported that the Committee has met and is moving forward with the revised ten-year Facilities Master Plan. The updated project, budget and schedule were discussed. The committee also reviewed the education specifications for the tile replacement at the High School, as well as the design and plans for the floor tile replacement and abatement at the High School. These are on tonight's agenda for approval.

Executive Committee

Mrs. Lambert reported that the committee has not met.

Ad Hoc Policy Committee

Mrs. Osuba reported that the committee will need to discuss the attendance and retention policies to ensure that they are up to date.

Superintendent Search Committee

Mrs. Lambert reported that CABE has created a brochure for the search and the surveys being conducted will close on April 11. A profile and rubric for the position will be developed.

Mrs. Lambert reminded committee chairs to provide a list of meeting dates for the Town Clerk's office.

ACTION ITEMS

Revised Magnet Schools/Enrollment Outside of Attendance Districts Policy (Ref. 2)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board of Education approve the revised Magnet Schools/Enrollment Outside of Attendance Districts Policy 5117.11. Changes made were at the recommendation of Dr. Sewall at the first reading.

On the motion: Aye: Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Dr. Gomez, Mr. French, Dr. Sewall

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Osuba

The motion passes: 6-0-1

Educational Specifications for Micro Grid at Sweeney School (Ref. 3)

Educational Specifications for Micro Grid at Windham Middle School (Ref. 4)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Desaulniers, that the Board of Education approve the Educational Specifications for the Sweeney School Micro Grid project and the Education Specifications for the Windham Middle School Micro Grid project. Mr. Donaldson clarified that two separate applications are required.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Educational Specifications for Tile Replacement at Windham High School (Ref. 5)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board of Education approve the Educational Specifications for the tile replacement at Windham High School.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Design and Plans for Windham High School Floor Tile Replacement and Abatement (Ref. 5A)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board of Education approve the design and plans for the floor tile replacement and abatement project at Windham High School.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Annual Healthy Food Certification Statement (Ref. 6)

Motion of Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education approve the continued participation of Windham Public Schools in the Healthy Food Certification program from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, certifying that all food items sold to students will meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Class of 1992 Alumni Memorial Scholarship (Ref. 7)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Desaulniers, that the Board of Education accept with deep gratitude the Class of 1992 Alumni Memorial Scholarship.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Approval of Appointment

Motion of Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education approve the following appointment:

1. Michele Presutti, to the position of Elementary Teacher at Natchaug School effective April 7, 2014.
Replacement.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Board comments

Dr. Sewall spoke about issues recently in the newspaper. He said that the district is required to abide by laws when dealing with personnel matters and the administration needs to take its time before anyone is notified. He said that School Governance Council policy should be followed and it is important that the Governance Council be involved in hiring school leaders.

Mrs. Lambert wished the High School band good luck at its competition next week in Florida. She said that the baseball team is also going to Florida. Mrs. Lambert asked if there were any objections to scheduling trainings for Board members. No one voiced any objections. She also clarified that the School Based Health Center at the High School is not closing contrary to information reported on social media.

Special Master's Report

Dr. Adamowski reported that he will meet with Administration to review district expenditures from state funding. A contract will be developed for approval by the Board of Education in May so that these funds will be available on July 1. Once approved by the local Board, the contract will go to the State Board of Education for approval and then to the Attorney General's office. Funding used for completed projects will be available, while funding for other projects which may not be completed for one or more years is still in progress. EASTCONN will be the fiscal agent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:31 PM for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to nonrenewal of non-tenured teachers' contracts.

The motion is unanimously approved.

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Vice-chair Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Dr. Sewall, Mr. French, Dr. Gomez, Mrs. Osuba

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Deputy Superintendent Gaspar, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Cunha

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mrs. Lambert reconvened regular session at 8:50 P.M.

Motion of Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board add the nonrenewal of the employment contracts to the agenda at this time.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Motion of Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Dr. Sewall, 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: Ana Marie Bertrand, Windham High School; Greg Sykes, Windham High School; Santiago Sanchez Barbas, Sweeney Elementary School; Samantha Clifford, Windham Center Elementary School; Julie Conley, Windham Center Elementary School; and Sheena Martin, North Windham Elementary School.

The motion is unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board meeting adjourn at 8:51 P.M.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Montalvo, Secretary