

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
August 22, 2012

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Dr. Sewall, Vice-chair Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Osuba, Mr. Adamo, Mr. French, Mrs. Lambert, Dr. Switchenko

BOARD ABSENT: Ms. Tinker, Mr. Desaulniers

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Special Master Dr. Adamowski; Intern to Special Master Ms. Gabrielle Ramos, general public; staff; administrators; news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Sewall called the August 22, 2012, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. French led the Board and the public in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following minutes were approved as submitted:

Board of Education June 14, 2012, special meeting minutes (held in place of regular June 13, 2012, meeting) (Ref. 1)

Board of Education June 14, 2012, special meeting minutes (Ref. 2)

Board of Education June 27, 2012, special business and workshop meeting minutes (held in place of regular June 27, 2012, workshop meeting (Ref. 3)

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Teresa Androlli, Willimantic, spoke about her concerns with the lack of bus transportation to her daughter's daycare and her inability to find a daycare within the limits of transportation. She explained that there is a bus that goes to the Compañeros program at North Windham School that stops at the daycare and is not at full capacity. She said that she did not receive any notice over the summer and does not receive the newspaper nor have time to watch the news. There was some discussion with Ms. Ortiz, Dr. Adamowski and Board members regarding her transportation concerns.

Mary Gallucci, Willimantic, said that there is an apparent lack of urgency by the district to convene families for a meeting regarding the Natchaug roof issue in spite of State legislation requiring low performing school districts to create School Governance Schools and a federal grant stipulating that a school must enhance parental involvement. She commented that the Board of Education addressed the issue at a workshop meeting held on June 27, 2012, which was three months after the report was submitted and after school ended. She also commented that maintenance at the school has been neglected for years. She

reviewed parts of the report and comments previously made by Board members and Dr. Adamowski. She said that no one has answered her questions regarding Natchaug and the ramifications of how it impacts the SIG funding. She hopes that there is an open forum for Natchaug parents.

Mary Lou DeVivo, Willimantic, spoke for Barbara Swol, chair of the Historical Society, who could not attend tonight's meeting. It is Ms. Swol's understanding that one of the academies at the High School is going to do a local history project, and she would like to let someone at the High School know that the Historical Society is willing to offer assistance and to display the students' project in the Jillson House.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Ortiz reported that the Windham Middle School Technology Student Association Chapter was the recipient of the 2011-2012 Career and Technical Student Organization Outstanding Service Project Award and was recognized by the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education.

2011-2012 Fourth Quarter and Final Financial Report

Mr. Nelson reported that the June 30, 2012, financial statement is the final report for the year and reflects a tentative surplus which is subject to approval by the Finance and Audit Committee. Mr. Nelson will provide more details at the committee meeting. The Special Funds report will be placed on the website.

Committee Reports

Finance and Audit Committee

In Ms. Tinker's absence, Mr. French provided the report. He said that the committee will review the year-end report at its meeting. He also reported that the Town is going out for a new audit contract and hopefully someone will be in place in September.

School Planning and Design Committee

Mrs. Lambert reported that the committee met today with Friar Associates and provided them with district mandates. Regarding the Natchaug roof, it is important to receive the maximum reimbursement. The committee requests that the following resolution be added to tonight's agenda: **Based on recommendations of the School Planning and Design Committee, members would like to replace the roof of the Natchaug building during the 2012-2013 school year and authorize Friar Associates to begin work on the ED 049 and begin work to replace the roof and move Natchaug students back into Natchaug school as early as September of next school year.**

Motion by Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board of Education add the resolution noted above to the agenda. Mr. Adamo and Mr. French indicated that they will vote in favor of adding this resolution to the agenda for a point of discussion.

On the motion: Motion is unanimously approved.

This resolution will be added under Action Items on the agenda.

Executive Committee

Dr. Sewall reported that the Board of Education held a retreat for one and one-half days at the end of July. He provided a brief summary of CMT and CAPT data results that were reviewed at that time.

Ad hoc Transportation Policy Committee

Mr. French reported that the committee has met and looked at many difference scenarios due to new bell times; however, start times were kept the same with fifteen minutes added to the end of the day in order to be more cost effective. Walking distance, bus stops and routes were looked at to try to create some financial savings. He said that transportation continues to be a work in progress.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution Regarding the Feasibility of Repurposing Current School Buildings (Ref. 4)

Dr. Sewall indicated that the Windham Board of Education Resolution as follows is brought forward by the School Planning and Design Committee for Board approval.

Where As: The Board of Education has adopted a Vision, Theory of Action and Strategic Operating Plan designed to improve student achievement through development of high-performing schools of choice.

Where As: The Board has retained Friar Associates to develop a ten-year Facilities Master plan (FMP) to insure all Windham children are able to attend a school that is safe, modern, compliant with current building codes and able to support its educational program.

Where As: The Board wishes to facilitate completion of the FMP by exploring the feasibility of improving school buildings to support school programs that would meet the needs of Windham students and their families.

Therefore,

Be It Resolved: The Board directs Friar and Associates to examine the feasibility of repurposing current school buildings to support the following educational programs:

- 1. A public, non-graded Montessori School at the Primary, Lower Elementary, and Upper Elementary levels;*
- 2. A school that promotes the acceleration of student learning and defeats regression through an additional 300 hours of instruction in a “year-round” school schedule.*
- 3. A “recuperative”, alternative high school for over-age, under-credited secondary school students based on the Carnegie Foundation’s Good Shepard School and Opportunity High School models.*
- 4. A Dual-Language Magnet School that connects advanced, second language study to the program of the Arts and Humanities Academy at Windham High School.*

Moreover, to the extent feasible, the Board wishes to reduce student transitions, increase coherence of instruction and promote neighborhood stability by:

- 1. Capitalizing on gains in student learning that result from the creation of K-8 and K-12 programmatic pathways.*
- 2. Guide decisions on school retention, development and size in a manner that accommodates parents who wish their children to attend the school closest to their residence.*

These considerations are intended to provide policy guidance and direction for the improvement of each school’s program and facility and reflect the Board’s commitment to Windham’s development as a regional center of educational excellence and the first choice of Windham families.

There was some discussion. In order for Friar Associates to develop plans, several community forums will be held so that proposals can be vetted. This resolution will provide direction to move forward on the plans.

On the motion: Motion is unanimously approved.

Dr. Sewall moved forward with the resolution added to the agenda earlier in the meeting at the request of the School Planning and Design Committee to replace the Natchaug roof and have Friar Associates submit form ED-049 to the State. Mrs. Lambert said, based on recommendations of the School Planning and Design Committee, the committee would like to replace the roof of the Natchaug building during the 2012-2013 school year and authorize Friar Associates to begin work on the ED 049 and begin work to replace the roof and move Natchaug students back into Natchaug school as early as September of next school year. Mrs. Lambert reported on different options that were discussed with Friar at today’s meeting. Natchaug could be used as swing space to reduce renovation costs during the seven to ten years that other school buildings are being renovated and repurposed as a result of the findings of the ten-year

facilities plan. In that case, the roof would need to be replaced. The committee would like to have Natchaug students move back to their school next September for three years until the Magnet School is fully enrolled and renovations begin on the other buildings. To get full reimbursement from the State, the building would need to be used as a school for ten years until 2023. It would then be turned back to the Town for use after ten years with a good roof. Mrs. Lambert explained that the replacement of the Natchaug roof would have to go to referendum; however, tonight's motion will begin the process. There was discussion regarding the process and the options of turning the building over to the Town; repairing the existing roof which would not be reimbursable; or replacement of the roof with the Town paying 20% of the cost and receiving 80% reimbursement from the State.

On the motion: Aye, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Lambert.
Nay, Mr. Adamo, Mr. French

Motion passes: 4-2

Dr. Sewall asked that appointments be moved to this point on the agenda.

Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board approve the following appointments noted on the agenda including an addendum. Ms. Ortiz introduced administrators, Bryan Olkowski, Carey Edwards, Dorothy Potter and Suzanne Krach.

Approval of appointments

- Bryan Olkowski to the position of Principal at Windham Middle School, effective August 13, 2012.
- Carey Edwards to the position of Headmaster of Arts & Humanities Academy at Windham High School effective August 13, 2012.
- Dorothy Potter to the position of Headmaster of STEM Academy at Windham High School effective August 13, 2012.
- Suzanne Krach to the position of Assistant Principal at Windham High School effective August 13, 2012.
- Lu Bao to the position of Mandarin Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.
- Jacqueline Darbyshire to the position of Music Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Darryl Bordeleau to the position of Mandarin Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Sarah Kaplan to the position of Autism Teacher at North Windham School effective August 23, 2012.
- Emily Rasicot to the position of Special Education Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Sarah Menon to the position of 2nd Grade Teacher at Windham Center School effective August 23, 2012.
- Tess LaFleur to the position of Speech Language Pathologist at Natchaug/North Windham School effective August 23, 2012.
- Sarah Jordan to the position of Music Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Mark Schultz to the position of Special Education Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.
- Kathleen Reagan Welch to the position of Speech Pathologist at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Nicole Jaser to the position of Grade 2 Teacher at Natchaug School effective August 23, 2012.
- Elizabeth Russel to the position of English Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.
- Heather Aston to the position of Kindergarten Teacher at North Windham School effective August 23, 2012.

- Stefani Petrucelli to the position of Marketing Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.
- Paula Puma to the position of Special Education Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Patricia Patino to the position of Grade 4 Dual Language Teacher at North Windham School effective August 23, 2012.
- Ryan Edgar to the position of .50 FTE Special Education Teacher at Windham Center School effective August 23, 2012.
- Shelley McCone to the position of Preschool Teacher at Prospect Street Preschool effective August 23, 2012.
- Hiab Debessai to the position of Reading/Language Arts Teacher at Windham Middle School. effective August 23, 2012
- Andrew Gionfriddo to the position of English/Reading Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.
- Melissa Genovese to the position of Kindergarten Teacher at North Windham School effective August 23, 2012.
- Danielle Grimm to the position of Reading/Language Arts Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Glenn Kim to the position of Social Studies Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Brendan Martin to the position of Math Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Kristen Odegaard to the position of Grade 1 Teacher at Natchaug School effective August 23, 2012.
- Emily O'Reilly to the position of Grade 5 Teacher at Sweeney School effective August 23, 2012.
- Karen Poon to the position of Grade 8 Math Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Adriana Santamaria to the position of Spanish Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.
- Katherine Womboldt to the position of Grade 3 Teacher at Windham Center School effective August 23, 2012.
- Catharina Gress-Wright to the position of Reading/Language Arts Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Stephanie White to the position of English/Reading Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.
- Amy Wiese to the position of Social Studies Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Kate Lackman-Rodriguez to the position of Preschool Teacher at Windham Center School effective August 23, 2012.
- Sarah DiPinto to the position of Social Studies Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Rebecca Cronin to the position of Special Education Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.
- Christopher Pilling to the position of Technology Education at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Emalie Berke to the position of Grade 2 Teacher at Natchaug School effective August 23, 2012.
- Faith Heaphy to the position of English/Language Arts Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.

Addendum

- Betsy Warner to the position of Grade 8 Language Arts at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- John Gordon to the position of Math Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.
- Jennifer Broderick to the position of Grade 6 Math Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 23, 2012.
- Sarah McHugh to the position of Spanish Teacher at Windham High School effective August 23, 2012.

On the motion: Motion is unanimously approved.

Returned to the order of agenda.

Approval of Young Parents Program grant application (Ref. 5)

Motion by Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve submission of the Young Parents Program grant application. The assistant coordinator is running the program until a new coordinator is hired. Interviews are taking place. The program is completely grant funded.

On the motion: Motion is unanimously approved.

Approval of 21st Century Community Learning Center grant application (Ref. 6)

Motion by Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve submission of the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant application. Ms. Barker-Jones explained the grant.

On the motion: Aye, unanimous.

Approval of Food Service Policies (Ref. 7)

Motion by Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board of Education approve the following policies: 3542 & 3542 (a), (b), (c) – Food Service; 3542.1 – Food Service Purposes and Facilities; 3542.31 & 3542.31 (a) – Free or Reduced Price Lunches; 3542.33 & 3542.33 (a), (b) – Food Sales Other than National School Lunch Program; 3542.34 – Nutrition Program; 3542.42 (a), (b) – Food Service Finance; and 3542.43 (a), (b) – Food Service Charging Policy. This is the second reading of these policies.

On the motion: Aye, unanimous.

Approval of School Accountability Policy (Ref. 8)

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education approve Windham's School Accountability Policy. This is the second reading of this policy.

On the motion: Aye, unanimous.

Approval of Date Change for September 12, 2012, Regular Board of Education Business Meeting

Motion by Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board of Education approve changing the September 12, 2012, Regular Board of Education Business meeting date to a Special Board of Education Workshop meeting date on September 5, 2012. Friar Associates will provide a report to the Board at the September 5, 2012, meeting. The September 26, 2012, meeting will be a business meeting.

On the motion: Aye, unanimous.

Special Master's Report

Dr. Adamowski introduced Ms. Ramos, who has been recently selected by the Eli Broad Foundation as a resident in the highly selective program to prepare urban reform policy leaders. Ms. Ramos will have a role

in the Commissioner's network and alliance districts and will work with Dr. Adamowski in Windham and in New London. Dr. Adamowski reported that he is working with the Executive Committee and the Superintendent regarding a performance based evaluation of the Superintendent. At the September business meeting, the Board will be asked to adopt the implementation of steps from the Strategic Operating Plan. Parameters have been set and the Superintendent's evaluation is contingent on meeting the performance targets. The search for the Communications Director has been re-opened. The Communications Director will work with Friar Associates to schedule a series of public forums for community input. A contract addendum will be needed for Friar Associates to serve as project manager for the Natchaug Roof and submittal of the ED-049 form.

Mrs. Lambert asked for a future report on the music and instrumental programs. Dr. Adamowski said that this could be a workshop topic.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 8:56 PM.

On the motion: Aye, unanimous.