

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 2014

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

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Quamme

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Garcia; Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper, Director Mr. Johnson; Communications Officer Ms. Markey

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: Kathy Oyola and Nathan Cusson

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lambert called the December 10, 2014, Board of Education regular business meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Motion of Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board of Education approve the November 12, 2014, business meeting minutes (Ref. 1) and the November 19, 2014, workshop meeting minutes (Ref. 1A).

The motion is unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Reports (student recognition follows approval of minutes)

Student recognition

Windham Middle School student, Savannah Shannon, was congratulated for winning an award from the New England Chapter of Autism Speaks for her efforts to raise \$1,300 as part of the Autism Speaks Walk-A-Thon. She was also recognized for being the youngest award recipient. Savannah received a certificate and was congratulated by the Superintendent and Board of Education members.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE (return to the order of the agenda)

There were no public speakers.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Regional District 11 agreement

Dr. Garcia reminded the Board of Education that the agreement with Regional District 11 expires in 2015 and a decision will need to be made about its renewal. She reported that there are currently eleven students attending Parish Hill. It was noted that a decision should be made by the summer and the Executive Committee will include this item on a future agenda.

Retention Data

Dr. Garcia reviewed retention data for the elementary schools for 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15. Overall the number of retained students has decreased. She also reviewed retention data for the High School.

Development of District Strategic Plan

Dr. Garcia reported that Strategic Planning meetings are scheduled to take place on January 8, 14, and 21, 2015, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM. Beginning next week, coaches will be working on a plan to develop curriculum, which will involve the Board, teachers and administrators.

Windham Middle School Presentation

Mr. Olkowski explained that the Middle School is working on its major goal which is to align curriculum, instruction and assessment. He introduced the three small learning community leaders, Dr. Yvette Santiesteban, Ms. Tara Cramer, and Ms. Brett DuBow. Work is taking place to connect the district Strategic Operating Plan with the Turnaround Plan at the Middle School. Professional development for staff, student choice for enrichment classes, and learner focused acceleration were reviewed. Coaches Ms. Auster, Mr. McNamar and Mr. Kerster were introduced. Mr. Olkowski answered questions.

Committee Reports

Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. French reported that the committee reviewed the first quarter financials. He reported that Dr. Garcia is looking into the needs of special education.

School Planning and Design Committee

Mr. Kalajian reported that Dr. Garcia provided information on the process regarding the High School renovations and referendum.

Executive Committee

Mrs. Lambert reported that the committee meeting was postponed and will be rescheduled.

Ad Hoc Policy Committee

Mrs. Osuba said that she would like to schedule a meeting next Wednesday before the Board's workshop meeting and would like to have committee meetings on the third Wednesday of the month. Mrs. Osuba said that there is a policy on tonight's agenda for a first reading that is being recommended for approval.

ACTION ITEMS

Windham High School field trip to Madrid, Spain (Ref. 2)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board of Education approve the trip request to Madrid, Spain, for Windham High School students from March 10, 2015, to March 26, 2015, in accordance with policy 6153 (Ref. 2). Assistant Principal Mrs. Krach and Ms. Martin, advisor for the trip, answered questions.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Friar Proposal for Services for Project Management and Design Services (Ref. 3)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Dr. Gomez, that the Board of Education approve the proposal from Friar Associates for Project Management and Design Services for the pre-design planning of the Windham High School renovations and reconfiguration of the Windham Schools' Master Plan (Ref. 3). There was discussion. Dr. Garcia congratulated the committee for the work that has been accomplished during the last two meetings. It is planned that a presentation will be made at the January Board meeting.

Aye: Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. French, Dr. Sewall, Mrs. Osuba, Mr. Kalajian, Dr. Gomez

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Lambert

The motion passes.

2015 Board of Education meeting dates (Ref. 4)

Motion of Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Dr. Gomez, that the Board of Education approve the proposed meeting dates for January – December 2015 as presented (Ref. 4). Mrs. Lambert reminded Board members that brief minutes need to be posted for committee meetings.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Personnel (Ref. 5)

Motion of Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board of Education approve the appointments and accept the resignations as follows (Ref. 6):

Appointments

- Yadira Santiago Soto to the position of Administrative Assistant at Central Office effective December 1, 2014, hourly rate \$20.09. Replacement.
- Nabil Mansouri to the position of Grade 8 Math Teacher at Windham Middle School effective November 21, 2014, salary \$MA/3 \$44,412. Replacement.
- John DeVento to the position of Music Teacher at Windham Center and Natchaug Schools effective November 24, 2014, salary BA/3 \$41,950. Replacement.
- Adely Ortiz Rios to the position of General Cafeteria Worker at Windham High School effective November 4, 2014, hourly rate \$10.77. New Position.
- Alicia Klauer to the position of Tutor at Natchaug School effective December 8, 2014, hourly rate \$15.00. Replacement.

Resignations

- Barbara Lynn Frazier, Teacher at North Windham School effective June 30, 2015 for the purpose of retirement.
- Laura Goderre, Teacher at Natchaug School effective November 7, 2014.
- Nicole Lareau, Guidance Counselor at Windham Middle School effective October 31, 2014.
- Margaret Levine, Social Worker at Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy effective November 14, 2014.
- Lynelle Schumacher, Tutor at Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy effective November 5, 2014.

The motion is unanimously approved.

First reading of Evaluation, Termination and Non-Renewal of Athletic Coaches policy (Ref. 6)

Mrs. Osuba brought the Evaluation, Termination and Non-Renewal of Athletic Coaches policy in the Personnel 4000 series to the Board for a first reading. This policy was written by Shipman & Goodwin and is based on a new state statute. Final action on this policy will be taken at the January 14, 2015, meeting.

Board comments

Mrs. Lambert said that the High School has a concert on December 18th and sixth and seventh grade students from Barrows and the Middle School will participate. She also announced that David Foster and the Shaboo All Stars will be performing at a fundraising event at the High School on January 16 and tickets

are available through the music department. Mrs. Lambert said that the Superintendent's Awards ceremony was held last evening and outstanding students, parents and staff, along with the teachers of the year, were recognized. She said that there is a meeting tomorrow evening at Town Hall for members of the Town Council, Board of Finance and Board of Education to meet with state legislators to discuss concerns and priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board enter into executive session for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to personnel matters at 7:51 P.M.

The motion is unanimously approved.

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

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Garcia

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board meeting adjourn at 9:20 P.M.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Montalvo, Secretary