

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2013

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

BOARD ABSENT: Ms. Tinker, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Gomez

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper, Directors Mrs. Banks, 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 December 11, 2013, Board of Education regular business meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

The November 13, 2013, business meeting minutes (Ref. 1); the November 20, 2013, workshop meeting minutes (Ref. 1A); and the November 11, 2013, special workshop meeting (Ref. 1B) were accepted as submitted.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Moises Flores, Willimantic, said that he met with the school principal regarding uniforms. He also said that he will bring a petition to the next meeting regarding one of the security guards who harasses students at the high school.

Bethany Zimnoch, Lebanon, has four children including twins who both attend Barrows. She voiced her concerns about the current lottery process regarding sibling preference and said that it is difficult, as a parent, to be involved in both schools. She said that when children attend different schools, there is also a financial impact because of different school calendars, as well as emotional stress to the family.

Jerri Levenson, Ashford, has four children and two of her sons attend Barrows. She spoke about the lottery process and said that it is difficult for parents to split their time between two schools. She submitted a petition to the Board with thirty-three signatures requesting sibling preference.

Kyleigh Miller, Willimantic, said that she was sad when her brother didn't get into Barrows and she did. She said that siblings should be able to go to the same school.

Amy Miller, Willimantic, spoke about the Barrows lottery process. She said that she didn't realize that her children's bonding was a result of being in the same school and she is advocating for keeping siblings together.

Monique Adams, Windham, addressed the importance of putting the sibling preference policy into place. She said that Windham is a Title I school and it is the law to promote parent involvement in schools. She said that having sibling preference keeps families together and supports family stability, strength and success.

Connie King, Windham, is a parent of twins and one attends Barrows. She said that it is difficult having her children attend different schools. She said that she hopes that the Board will consider the sibling preference policy.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Student recognition

Ms. Ortiz recognized members of the Windham Middle School boys' soccer team and their coach, Don Collins for winning their league tournament. The following team members attended the Board meeting with their coach: Ricardo Baltazar, Alexander Korczynski, Leonardo Melchor, Kayden Parilla, Allan Sfakios, AJ Tejada and Eric Vazquez-Rojas. The team and Coach Collins were congratulated for their winning season.

Ms. Ortiz also recognized Windham High school student Lindsay Phaneuf who achieved the Advanced Level on the mathematics, reading, writing and science subtests on the 2013 Connecticut Academic Performance Test and received a letter from Commissioner Pryor. Lindsay was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Waiver for technology

Ms. Ortiz presented a waiver of the competitive bid process in accordance with Board of Education policy 3323, section IV, to award a contract for the purchase of software, servers, computers and related equipment that is required to upgrade the infrastructure to successfully implement the State required Smarter Balanced Assessment in the spring.

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Quamme, that the Board add the technology waiver in accordance with Board of Education policy 3323, Section IV, to the agenda.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. French reported that the committee met on November 25. He said that the audit is close to being completed on a timely basis for the first time in four years. At its meeting, the committee discussed the continuation of the NFA contract and the cost to the district per year. Committee members' recommendation at this time is not to continue with the contract, and this will be brought forward to the full Board in January. Mr. French also reported that the committee discussed a capital request to be presented to the Board of Finance consisting of some one-time purchases, along with funds to get Natchaug School up and running, amounting to approximately \$311,000. Mr. French said that the Natchaug renovations are progressing. The 2013-14 budget was reviewed by the committee and work will begin on the 2014-15 budget. Mr. Johnson is working on developing a new contract with Columbia to allow siblings in grades five through eight of present Columbia students attending the High School to also attend Windham High School even though Columbia will not be sending students to Windham High School in the future.

School Planning and Design Committee

Dr. Sewall reported that the committee reviewed the current revision to the Facilities Master Plan to move forward with the High School renovations. In order to get the full reimbursement allowed by the State, the

High School would have to house 1340 students. Combining Early Childhood Center students with High School students would increase enrollment in the building.

Executive Committee

Mrs. Lambert reported that the committee has not met.

ACTION ITEMS

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 Magnet Schools/Enrollment Outside of Attendance Districts policy 5117.11.

There was discussion regarding providing preference to twin and multiple birth siblings, and Dr. Sewall presented the following amendment to #3 under *The lottery process may give preference in the following order to* section of the proposed policy to read: ***Twins or other multiple birth siblings who live within the same household shall be drawn as a single unit unless parents request otherwise only if sufficient seats are available. Sufficient seats means that multiple birth siblings must receive a lottery number low enough to provide for all in the unit. For example, if 20 students are to be selected, twins must receive a number of 19 or less to be accommodated; otherwise neither is accepted, and the last seat will go to the student whose selection number is 21.***

Amendment to the motion seconded by Mr. French.

The motion is unanimously approved.

There was discussion regarding providing preference to staff members' children.

Motion of Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education amend #6 under *The lottery process may give preference in the following order to* section of the proposed policy to read: *Students whose parent is a certified staff member of the magnet school or school/program of choice for which they are applying, only if there is a seat available.*****

Aye: Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Quamme

Nay: Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. French, Dr. Sewall

Abstained: No one

The motion fails.

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education amend the previous motion to read: *Students whose parent is a staff member of the magnet school or school/program of choice for which they are applying, only if there is a seat available, at the discretion of the principal.*****

Aye: Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Quamme, Dr. Sewall, Mr. French

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Desaulniers

The motion passes.

Motion of Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mr. Quamme, that the Board of Education approve the Magnet Schools/Enrollment Outside of Attendance Districts Policy 5117.11 including the two approved amendments.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Board of Education meeting dates (Ref. 3)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education approve the proposed meeting dates for January – December 2014. There was discussion regarding the July dates for the Board retreat due to receiving the test scores later in the year and the motion was amended.

Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education amend the motion to include the elimination of the July 17 and 18, 2014, Board of Education retreat dates and add August 15, 2014, as the Board of Education retreat date.

Aye: Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Quamme, Mr. French, Dr. Sewall

Nay: Mr. Desaulniers

Abstained: No one

The motion passes.

Motion of Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education amend the motion to include the elimination of the August 20, 2014, Board of Education business meeting.

Aye: Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Quamme, Mr. French

Nay: No one

Abstained: Dr. Sewall

The motion passes.

Motion of Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education approve the Board of Education meeting dates as amended.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Connecticut Teen Parent Initiative grant application (Ref. 4)

Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Connecticut Teen Parent Initiative grant application.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Approval of Appointment

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

1. Rana Hafiz to the position of Director of Math and Science at Central Office effective December 20, 2013. New position.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Ms. Hafiz was introduced. She said that she is pleased to be in Windham and looks forward to working with everyone.

Technology Waiver

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education approve the technology waiver of the competitive bid process in accordance with Board of Education policy 3323, section IV, to award a contract for the purchase of software, servers, computers and related equipment that is required to upgrade the infrastructure to successfully implement the State required Smarter Balanced Assessment in the spring.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Board comments

Mrs. Lambert said that she recently attended the Parent SEE (Parents Supporting Educational Excellence) graduation and said that graduates of this program are assets to the school district. She attended the Fill the

Bus project on Saturday with students from the High School and Ken and Kelly Folan where over 700 food items were collected for distribution.

She also announced the following Board of Education committee assignments:

Finance and Audit Committee will be chaired by Mr. French. Mr. Quamme and Mr. Montalvo will also serve on the committee.

School Planning and Design Committee will be chaired by Ms. Tinker. Dr. Sewall and Dr. Gomez will also serve on the committee.

Policy Ad Hoc Committee will be chaired by Mrs. Osuba. Dr. Sewall and Mr. Desaulniers will also serve on the committee.

The Executive Committee will be comprised of Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Desaulniers and Mr. Montalvo

Special Master's Report

Dr. Adamowski reported that the organizers for a Montessori charter school in Windham will make a presentation at next week's Board of Education workshop meeting. He also reported that a legislative appropriation of approximately one million dollars will be used to support work in Windham and he will provide the Board with a document outlining expenditure details. GPS equipment is in the process of being installed in all buses and this will provide the capacity to track the buses on an ongoing basis which will be cost effective. Dr. Adamowski also reported that Commissioner Pryor visited Windham Middle School today which is one of the Commissioner's Network Schools. In February the Commissioner will meet with the Middle School redesign committee. The three objectives this year at the Middle School are the following: ninety minutes of ELA and math, school climate improvement, and SRBI continuum in math and reading.

Ms. Ortiz said that a presentation on the TIME Collaborative and the Commissioner's Network will be made to the Board at the January workshop meeting and a dual-language proposal will be presented at the February workshop meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Desaulniers, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:45 PM for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations.

The motion is unanimously approved.

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Quamme, Dr. Sewall, Mr. French

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper, Director Mrs. Banks and Mr. Cunha

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mrs. Lambert reconvened regular session at 8:58 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board meeting adjourn at 8:58 P.M.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Montalvo, Secretary