

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
December 14, 2011

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

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. French

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: Katelynn Person

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Sewall called the December 14, 2011, Regular Board of Education meeting, to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Dr. Sewall announced the following: (1) Packets for Board of Education meetings may be accessed on the district's website. All documents will be available some time on Monday prior to Wednesday Board meetings. (2) After presentations made at Workshop meetings, there will be an opportunity for public comments related to the workshop topic. (3) Open office hours with the Superintendent and Board Chair will begin again in January and a list of dates for the remainder of the year will be posted shortly on the district website.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Mary Gallucci, Willimantic, said that she takes exception to the characterization of Windham High School students in the presentation of the reorganization of Windham High School. She said that many Windham students do attend universities and are equal to students in other towns. She also commented that the goal of producing college ready students should be changed to that of producing students who can complete college and have a life time of learning. She said that Windham has trouble passing budgets and cannot attract a wide pool of candidates when hiring teachers because hiring is done at the last minute. She is in favor school choice and the magnet school; however, entering a lottery is not a choice and she has some objections.

Mary Lou DeVivo, Willimantic, feels that the Kramer building is unsafe for preschool children and hopes that there is a plan to move the preschool from that location. She asked who should be called if a student or students are seen that appear to be skipping school. She said that there should be a central number to call for reporting these incidents. She also said that the Natchaug Family Resource Center should be rethought because her granddaughter was the only one in attendance there this week and it is not worth her going if there aren't other children in attendance.

Kelly Prescott, Windham, expressed concerns about the bullying issue at Windham Middle School. She went to the school and asked to check the log again, which was located within two minutes this time; however, she found that her child's initials were not noted which is required. She has spoken with Ms. Negrón about the issue and was told that she would check and get back to her. Ms. Prescott said that the Windham Middle School Parent Handbook is not being followed. She asked the Board where they stand regarding approval of the Safe School Climate Plan which is to be submitted to the State Board of Education by January 1, 2012. Ms. Ortiz answered that it is required to be submitted to the State by January 1 but does not require Board approval first. It will be presented to the Board of Education for review at a Board meeting in January and then brought back for approval at the next meeting. Ms. Prescott asked why schools would print handbooks and then not follow the guidelines listed in them.

Henry Crane, Willimantic, said that his taxes are spent in the school system and believes that the goal of having college ready students also means that they are job ready. He would like to have students who can pay taxes right along with him. He said that having a goal that students graduate from college is a good one so that they can succeed. He would like to see goals set that are attainable in the near future. He said that if students are college ready and employed, it is most likely that they will graduate from college. He realized that it will take some doing to get to that point.

## REPORTS

### Superintendent's Report

There is no report at this meeting; however, Ms. Ortiz will report on the writing and science scores for students in third through eighth grade and in tenth grade at the January meeting. She said that Saturday's food drive at Windham High School was a success and over 1000 items were received and will be distributed to individuals in the community who are in need.

### Committee Reports

Dr. Sewall said that there are no committee reports at this time; however two of the committees will be scheduling meetings. Ms. Tinker is the chair of the Finance and Audit Committee and Mrs. Lambert is the chair of the School Planning and Design Committee.

### Action Items

#### Appointments (Ref. 3)

Dr. Sewall said that Items A, B, and C are required for action by statute and the motion can be assumed.

#### **Motion to approve the following appointments as presented:**

- Janet Billiter to the position of Grade 7-8 Reading Teacher at Windham Middle School, effective December 5, 2011.
- Donna Hendry to the position of Bilingual Kindergarten Teacher at Sweeney School, effective December 5, 2011.
- Tammy Leahy to the position of Grade 7 Reading / Language Arts Teacher at Windham Middle School, effective November 28, 2011.
- Robyn Luczkow to the position of Grade 8 Math Teacher at Windham Middle School, effective December 12, 2011.

Board members asked for an explanation of positions being filled and how new positions are being funded. Ms. Ortiz explained that the new positions were already in the budget and Mrs. Banks clarified each position being filled.

Unanimously approved.

#### 2012-2013 School Calendar (Ref. 1)

**Motion to approve the 2012-2013 school calendar as presented.** Mrs. Lambert brought up the fact that High School report cards are mailed on November 8; however, parent conferences aren't scheduled until December 10 and 11. There was discussion about rescheduling conferences to a date closer to November 8. Mrs. Lambert moved to amend the 2012-2013 school calendar by changing Windham High School parent conferences to November 15 and 16 from December 10 and 11. The amended motion was seconded by Ms. Tinker.

Unanimously approved.

**The 2012-2013 calendar as amended was presented for approval.**

Unanimously approved.

#### 2012 Board of Education Meeting Schedule (Ref. 2)

**Motion to approve the 2012 Board of Education meeting schedule as presented.** There was no discussion.

Unanimously approved.

#### Strategic Operating Plan: Vision, Measures and Theory of Action (Ref. 3)

**Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the Strategic Operating Plan: Vision, Measures and Theory of Action for Windham Public Schools.** Dr. Sewall said that this was reviewed at the recent Workshop meeting. Dr. Adamowski explained that this is the first segment of the Strategic Operating Plan and more strategies will be forthcoming to the Board in February and will list the changes that will be occurring.

Unanimously approved.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

##### BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Board of Education minutes for the following meetings were adopted as submitted:

November 16, 2011, meeting (Ref. 4)

November 30, 2011, Special Workshop meeting (Ref. 5)

December 7, 2011, Special Work session meeting (Ref. 6)

#### Special Master's Report

Dr. Adamowski asked the Board to consider a monthly meeting schedule with established meeting times for the Finance and Audit Committee and the School Planning and Design Committee. He spoke about the graduation rate for the High School and said there is considerable variation regarding rates. He reviewed the Board Policy Agenda for January – June 2012 which includes the following policies: School Accountability Policy; Student Transportation Policy; School Uniforms Policy; Resource Allocation Policy; and District Office Roles and Responsibilities. Dr. Adamowski explained that these policies are fairly compelling in terms of timing and relation to areas of district reform. Policies will be discussed at Workshop meetings. There was some discussion regarding bullying, gifted program, discipline policy and preschool.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 7:56 P.M.**

Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Luz Osuba, Secretary

## 2011 Cohort Graduation Rates and Other Outcomes – School Results

School Name	Category	Cohort #	4-Year Graduates	4-Year Rate	Still In School	Certificate	Other
Windham High School	All Students	251	158	62.95	16.33	0.00	20.72
	Hispanic	130	62	47.69	24.62	0.00	27.69
	Non-Hispanic	121	96	79.34	7.44	0.00	13.22
	Indian	2	2	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Asian	2	2	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Black	20	15	75.00	20.00	0.00	5.00
	White	97	77	79.38	5.15	0.00	15.46
	Male	131	77	58.78	25.95	0.00	15.27
	Female	120	81	67.50	5.83	0.00	26.67
	ELL	44	18	40.91	25.00	0.00	34.09
	Non-ELL	207	140	67.63	14.49	0.00	17.87
	Eligible For Lunch	137	61	44.53	24.81	0.00	30.66
	Not Eligible For Lunch	114	97	85.09	6.14	0.00	8.77
	Special Education	42	20	47.62	30.95	0.00	21.43
	Non-Special Education	209	138	66.03	13.40	0.00	20.57

Source: 2011 Public School Information System

Note:

- ELL stands for English Language Learner
- With the exception of cohort column which is a count, the rest of the columns are in percentages. Row percentages may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding
- A student is included in the ELL, special education, or free/reduced lunch subgroup or any combination of them, if he/she was reported in that subgroup in at least one of the Public School Information System data collections over the course of his/her high school career
- In reporting race/ethnicity student's last reported category is used
- Special Education students who are still in school after four years but subsequently graduated are not counted in this calculations because of **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** restrictions
- **The Cohort Count** is as of the end of 2010-11 school year
- **4-Year Graduation Rate** is percentage of students who received a standard diploma within four years including early and summer graduates out of the cohort.
- **Still Enrolled** means students were still in school after four years
- **Other** include students who enrolled in a GED program, transferred to postsecondary education, or have an unknown status

# **Board Policy Agenda**

**January – June**

**2012**

1. School Accountability Policy
2. Student Transportation Policy
3. School Uniforms Policy
4. Resource Allocation Policy
5. District Office Roles and Responsibilities

SA

12/14/2011