

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2013

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Osuba, Mr. Quamme, Dr. Sewall, Mr. French (Mr. French attended the Windham Board of Finance meeting this evening and arrived at 8:17 PM)

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Ms. Tinker, 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

Chair Mrs. Lambert called the December 18, 2013, Board of Education Workshop meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mrs. Lambert asked if there were any objections to moving the workshop items on the agenda to take place prior to the action items. There were no objections.

WORKSHOP SESSION

Dual-Language Montessori Local Charter

Ms. Haynes explained that the Dual-Language Montessori local charter is a local effort for local students only and is a public school that uses district union teachers. It is governed by a local board of directors and is managed by a professional charter management organization, which in this case would be CREC. Local charter schools receive additional funding from the State. Ms. Haynes reviewed the application process which includes the development of the full application which is due on January 24, 2014, to both the Windham Board of Education and the State. Once it is approved by the local Board and a public hearing is held, State approval of the application is required. Ms. Haynes asked the Board to provide a letter of support endorsing the collaborative application process and she also asked the Board and the Superintendent to appoint representatives to sit on the advisory board. Dr. Sewall volunteered to be the Board of Education representative.

Ms. Haynes answered questions from the Board throughout her presentation.

Local Charter Application Process

Mr. Deas provided an overview of local charter schools in Connecticut reviewed the difference between a State charter school and a local charter school. He also reviewed the charter school approval process and

explained funding for the school. Mr. Deas outlined the proposed next steps and necessary time line to follow. Dr. Nee from CREC was present and also answered questions.

Due to the short time line, Board members present endorsed submitting a letter supporting its collaboration regarding the local charter school process and Mrs. Lambert will contact Board members who are not present at tonight's meeting prior to writing the letter of support.

(Mr. French arrived.)

ACTION ITEMS

ED 049 Application for Micro Grid (Ref. 1)

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board approve the ED 049 application to the State of Connecticut for reimbursement for the cost to install a micro grid at Windham Middle School and Sweeney Elementary School. Mr. Donaldson provided an overview of the installation plan which requires Board approval because the micro grid will be located on school properties.

On the motion: Aye, 5-0; unanimous.

Natchaug Proposal (Ref. 2)

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board approve the first day of school in the Natchaug School home building of January 21, 2014, with February 19, 2014, as a back-up date. Ms. Mishriky explained the two proposals that are being brought forward to the Board. Both proposals have costs involved.

On the motion: Aye, 5-0; unanimous.

Energy Saving Program Contract with Connecticut Light and Power (Ref. 3)

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Quamme, that the Board approve entering into a contract with Connecticut Light and Power for the energy saving program for Windham High School, Windham Middle School, Natchaug School and Windham Center School. Mr. Donaldson reviewed the energy saving projects at each school and the cost savings. He explained that he is waiting for the cost to do only the exterior lighting at the Middle School and revamping the interior lighting in the building during the following year due to the large size of the entire project.

On the motion: Aye, 5-0; unanimous.

WORKSHOP SESSION (moved

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PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Mary Gallucci, Willimantic, spoke about her many apprehensions about the Dual-Language Montessori Local Charter proposal, including the difficulty to staff such a school. She questioned the lateness that the proposal is being presented to the Board of Education. Ms. Gallucci would like to know who is on the Board of Directors and who are the pro bono consultants involved in the proposal. She questioned the charter school examples given in the presentation. She asked that the Board proceed with caution regarding this proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:52 P.M.

On the motion: Aye, 5-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Lambert, Chair