

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2014

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper, Directors Mrs. Banks, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Cunha, Communications officer Ms. Markey

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: No One

ALSO 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 February 19, 2014, Board of Education special workshop meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and the public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION ITEM

Mr. Johnson presented highlights of the list of budget transfers for the first quarter of 2014 to be approved by the Board. Finance and Audit committee members have reviewed these transfers and are bringing them forward for full Board approval.

Budget transfers are unanimously approved

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED DUAL LANGUAGE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Dr. Sewall said the public hearing on the proposed dual language Montessori school will take place next Tuesday at 6:00 PM at Windham Middle School. Dr. Sewall said that the Board must first decide if the dual language Montessori program will fit into the programs offered to Windham students. The second step is for the Board to decide if the proposed program is a credible program; and the third step is for the Board to decide if the proposal is financially sound. He said that the Board should think about the viability of this program in all three areas. The full application is available on the Windham Public Schools' website. Mr. Nee clarified training costs and amount of time needed for the training of teachers.

WORKSHOP TOPICS

NWEA DATA

Dr. Gasper, Ms. Velazquez, Ms. Hafiz and Mr. Mercier presented information on NWEA testing and data. The NWEA test is given to students in fall, winter and spring in reading, language usage and mathematics. Test results are used as part of the district's SRBI or tiered instruction program to provide information regarding student intervention instruction needs. Results also help staff gauge how well students are ready for the new common core state standards since the test is strongly aligned to those standards. Data for

grades three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine and ten were reviewed for spring 2013, fall 2013 and winter 2014. There was discussion and Board members' questions were answered.

DUAL LANGUAGE PROPOSAL

Ms. Brunet presented information on the proposal to expand the district's dual-language program in 2014-2015. Ms. Finsmith and Ms. Caraganis assisted her at the meeting. Ms. Brunet reviewed historical information about the program, information regarding the current programming, and future program planning. She shared student performance data. Budget and program priorities for 2014-2015 for the addition of preschool and grade seven were reviewed. Additional program staffing needs; additional program curriculum, instruction and assessment needs; and additional program policy needs were presented by Ms. Brunet. She discussed concerns and challenges, along with solutions to the challenges. There was discussion and questions were answered.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

No one spoke.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board meeting adjourn at 10:12 P.M.
Motion is unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Tracy Lambert, Chair