

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
February 25, 2015

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

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Quamme

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Garcia; Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Conner; Directors Ms. Beghetto and Ms. Markey

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: Kathy Oyola and Nathan Cusson

OTHERS PRESENT: general public; staff; administrators; news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mrs. Lambert called the February 25, 2015, Board of Education Workshop meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Nathan Cusson led the Board and the public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORKSHOP TOPIC

Mission, Vision and Goals

Mrs. Lambert thanked members of the Board who attended the workshop meeting where work took place on the mission, vision and goals of the district. Mrs. Lambert said that the Executive Committee will work on these but would like feedback from all Board members. She provided mission and vision statements from various other districts as samples.

Dr. Garcia explained that as the district moves forward with the strategic plan, there needs to be a clear mission and vision. Four areas of the goals in progress are students, staff, community engagement and organization. Priorities for the next school year were reviewed. These came about as a result of data gathered and the needs assessments that occurred.

Dr. Garcia explained that the mission describes what the district stands for and its purpose while the vision describes what is trying to be created for the future of the district. The vision provides direction for planning. Dr. Garcia shared feedback that was gathered from staff members and the three strategic planning sessions that were held. The profile of a Windham graduate was also highlighted.

There was much discussion among Board members, central office administrators and student representatives.

2015-2016 Budget Update

Dr. Garcia said that tonight's second budget workshop was very well attended and important questions were asked. At the workshop, expenditures by school were reviewed, as well as the allocations for the elementary schools, the middle school and the high school. The allocation to central services was also

provided. Increases by line in the budget were also reviewed. Dr. Garcia said that there is no new state funding and grant funding is decreasing. Mr. French said that ways to save money are continuing to be reviewed. He said that there have been several community budget workshops informing the community about the budget and feedback has been received from those attending these workshops.

There was discussion.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Mrs. DeVivo, Windham, commented that the letterhead has Windham Public Schools on the top of it and Willimantic, Connecticut, is printed on the bottom. June 30 it will be the Willimantic District. She said that it was always the Windham Public Schools in Windham, not Willimantic. Mrs. DeVivo said that it should Willimantic should be changed to Windham. She also commented on the survey that she received and said that it was excellent.

Ms. Markey said that surveys are available in English and Spanish at the schools, at the public library, and on the district website. They are to be returned by March 4th and results will be reported at the March 5th School Planning and Design Committee meeting.

Mrs. Lambert reminded everyone that the Board of Education will hold another budget workshop on March 4th and a special Board of Education meeting regarding the 2015-2016 education budget on Thursday, March 5th. Both meetings are at 7 PM in the Windham High School Library Media Center. The School Planning and Design Committee will meet on March 5th prior to the Special Board of Education meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 7:59 P.M.
Motion is unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Tracy Lambert, Chair