

Approved 1/27/10

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
January 13, 2010

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs.  
Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney, Mrs.  
Collins, Dr. Sewall, Mrs. Lambert

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Fuller, Assistant  
Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Victoria Buffington  
Columbia – No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, staff, general public, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the January 13, 2010, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Kramer School. He asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Lambert's mother, Mrs. Carol Caouette, who passed away on December 23, 2009, and Mr. Blain's mother-in-law, Mrs. Helen Savoie, who passed away on January 9, 2010.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Ortiz led the Board and the public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

November 18, 2009 Regular Board of Education meeting (Ref. 1)

(122) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the November 18, 2009, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

January 7, 2010, Special Board of Education meeting (Ref. 1A)

(123) Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the January 7, 2010, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1A. Mrs. Lambert noted that a correction should be made to motion 120 to read Mrs. Lambert instead of Mrs. Sewell.

On the motion with noted correction: Aye: Mr.  
Folan, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs.  
Collins, Mrs. Lambert, Dr. Sewall

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Rayhall, Mrs. Haney

The motion passes: 7-0-2

## PRESENTATIONS

### Windham High School Community Projects

Mayor Ernest Eldridge spoke about the importance of volunteerism and read a proclamation proclaiming January 13, 2010, as Windham High School recognition day for all of the work students and staff have done volunteering within the community. Ms. Lazzari was present to accept the proclamation on behalf of Windham High School. Mr. Folan also acknowledged all of the community work that students and staff have done during the first four months of school. He said that he was very impressed by these accomplishments and proud of the work done by the school. Ms. Pekarovic was present on behalf of WHIPS (Windham High Impacting People through Service) and Mr. McNamar was present to represent the Fill the Bus fundraiser. Sports programs were also recognized. Ms. Lazzari thanked everyone for their involvement.

### Windham Performing Arts Alumni

A check was presented to the Board of Education in the amount of \$3,854.76 by members of the Windham Performing Arts Alumni. This money will be divided among the music programs at the middle and high schools and Windham Players. James Baran and Steve Kaminski spoke about the commitment of alumni members to support student interest in the arts while at Windham Public Schools. Ms. Fuller thanked them for their efforts and commended them for their support and enthusiasm for the programs offered at the middle and high schools. Mr. Folan thanked them on behalf of the Board and commended them for the wonderful reunion show in November. Mr. Kaminski spoke about a documentary he is putting together chronicling the development of the Windham Performing Arts Alumni. It will be shown at ACT in March.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Haney talked about a preschool parent who was very impressed with a gift she received. It was a calendar with pictures of her child wrapped in paper decorated by her child. Mrs. Haney passed around the calendar for all to see and commented that this was another wonderful thing that the schools are doing.

Mr. Adamo extended greetings and wishes for a successful year from Dr. Summa. He showed an article about her appointment to the Killingly Board of Education.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Victoria Buffington reported that high school members helped at the eighth grade orientation night at the high school. Preparations are being made for a Big Brothers Big Sisters event, as well as the annual spring leadership conference.

## CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mary Lou DeVivo, North Windham, spoke about the banners that are being sold and will be displayed around town to promote reading. She asked who she could contact to set up various groups to read to students (Ms. Ortiz asked Mrs. DeVivo to give her the information and she will let the schools know).

During school vacation, she mentioned that books will be read during the Recreation Department's program thanks to Mrs. Rayhall's suggestion and donation of books. Mr. Adamo said that he will be reading to a bilingual class at the middle school.

Joe Tomanelli, Windham Middle School teacher, said that the change in the middle school's schedule has immensely benefited the music programs. The number of students participating has increased which also helps at the high school. He thanked Ms. Negrón.

Charlene Crosswaithe, school bus driver, said that she was not representing the bus company but was present to say that the behavior of middle school students on the bus is rude and disrespectful. She had notified security but did not get a good response. She was given the superintendent's phone number to set up an appointment.

Peter Lillpopp, Windham High School teacher, said that the number of students at the high school participating in the band program has increased and also thanked Ms. Negrón for her efforts at the middle school level.

Mr. Folan suggested that Mr. Tomanelli and Mr. Lillpopp attend a Program Development and Evaluation Committee to discuss ideas to continue growth of the music program.

### SUMMARY ACTION

#### Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(124) Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2:

#### Resignations

- John Bello, Companeros Teacher/Windham Middle School effective December 31, 2009 for the purpose of retirement.
- Valentin Arias, Special Education Paraprofessional/ERA effective December 2, 2009.
- Kristine Person, Speech Assistant/Sweeney School effective December 31, 2009.
- Sheila Koch, Cafeteria Manager/Windham Center School effective December 4, 2009.
- Linda Feliciano, Administrative Specialist II/Central Office effective January 1, 2010 for the purpose of retirement.
- Melissa Bergeron, English Teacher/Windham High School effective January 22, 2010.
- Cesiah Rosario, BASP Program Coordinator/Windham Center School effective January 20, 2010.
- Lisa McRoberts, Career Center Assistant/WHS effective December 30, 2009.

#### Appointments

- Helen Egan, Companeros Teacher/North Windham School effective January 4, 2010. Salary is MA/3, \$39,001 prorated, replaces Roman Pope who resigned.
- Mary Catherine Peterson, Guidance Counselor/Windham Middle School effective December 14, 2009. Salary is MA/3, \$40,436 prorated, replaces Liza Ronzello who resigned.
- Brendan O'Neill, AIS Technician/Central Office effective November 16, 2009. Hourly rate is \$18.60, replaces Steven Decker who transferred.
- Cynthia Bouchard, Part Time Secretary/ERA effective November 20, 2009. Hourly rate is \$15.01, replaces April Shepaum who transferred.
- Heather Michaud, Secretary II/AIS Department effective January 6, 2010. Hourly rate is \$14.66, replaces Pam Irwin who resigned.
- Jessica Medina, Secretary I/Windham High School effective January 4, 2010. Hourly rate is \$12.05, replaces Beth Mercado-Colon who resigned.

- Lori Smith, Speech Assistant/Sweeney School effective January 7, 2010. Hourly rate is \$20.38, replaces Kristine Person who resigned.
  - Jackie Bergeron, Part Time Special Education 1:1 Paraprofessional/Windham Preschool Program effective January 4, 2010. Hourly rate is \$11.43, new position.
  - Kristen Gooden, Nurse/North Windham School effective January 4, 2010. Salary is \$39,641 prorated, replaces Meredith Shea who transferred.
  - Amy Finsmith, Companeros Teacher/Windham Middle School effective January 4, 2010. Salary is BA+30/12, \$59,450 prorated, replaces John Bello who retired.
  - Cheryl Nadeau, Cafeteria Manager/Windham Center School effective January 4, 2010. Hourly rate is \$13.90, replaces Sheila Koch who resigned.
- Leaves of absence
- Cecily Silva, Early Head Start Family Services Manager/Boston Post Road Preschool, childbearing/childrearing leave of absence beginning October 29, 2009 through approximately February 4, 2010.
  - Andrea Gendron, Grade 1 Teacher/Sweeney School, childbearing/childrearing leave of absence beginning March 15, 2010 through December 31, 2010.
  - Joyce Christianson, Reading Consultant/Windham Middle School, medical leave of absence beginning January 5, 2010 through approximately February 9, 2010.

There were no comments.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

#### ACTION ITEMS

##### Recommended approval of the second reading of Board of Education meeting dates for 2010 (Ref.3)

(125)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve the Board of Education meeting dates for 2010. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

##### Title II, Part D ARRA grant application (Ref. 4)

(126)Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board Education approve the submission of the Title II, Part D ARRA grant application.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

##### Young Parents Program grant application (Ref. 5)

(127)Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Young Parents Program grant application. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

##### Project Opening Doors (Ref.6)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education endorse and approve participation in Project Opening Doors.

#### REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### Superintendent's Reports

Early Head Start Expansion grant information (Ref. 7)

Ms. Fuller included this EASTCONN application for the Board's information.

Financial statements – November 2009 and December 2009 (Ref. 8 and 8A)

There was no discussion

Announcements/Information (Ref. 9)

Windham High School Honor Roll

*The Whippet* – Edition 1

Windham High School Library Media Center newsletters

November 2009 (in December 9, 2009, packet)

December 2009

Windham Federation of Teachers' newsletter, *The Spectrum*

November 16, 2009 (in December 9, 2009, packet)

November 23, 2009 (in December 9, 2009, packet)

November 30, 2009 (in December 9, 2009, packet)

December 7, 2009

December 14, 2009

December 21, 2009

January 4, 2010

Board of Education

First reading of proposed Salary Guides – Advancement on Salary Scale policy (Ref. 10)

This is the first reading. Action is planned for the next Board meeting. There was no discussion.

Subcommittee Reports:

*Personnel/Budget:* Mr. Doyle reported that the committee has begun formation of the 2010-2011 budget.

*District wide PTO.* Mrs. Haney reported there was election of officers.

*Magnet School:* Mrs. Collins reported that the committee presented to Town Council. The traffic study report is completed. Architects are working on schematics and site orientation. A Construction Manager has been hired. We are moving forward. There was discussion. Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Haney answered questions.

*Student Services.* Mrs. Collins reported the meeting was cancelled.

*Facilities/Maintenance.* Mrs. Rayhall reported on the status of facility repairs in the district and the status of the energy upgrade at Kramer. Use of Facility fees policy was put on hold and will be reviewed before September.

*Program Development/Evaluation.* Mr. Adamo reported that the committee discussed the following: Technology: Smart Boards at the middle school, cost analysis of technology at the elementary schools, and the reading initiative. Future agenda items will include update on all core content areas and an estimate of the cost to purchase the new math programs at the elementary and middle schools.

*EASTCONN.* The Board welcomed new members and the Executive Director gave a report. Mr. Cronin gave an update on programs. The Principal at ACT and students gave a presentation. A Headstart update was given.

*Policy/Planning.* Dr. Sewall reported that several policies were reviewed and will be forthcoming to the full board for approval.

*Program Development.* Mrs. Collins and Dr. Sewall reported that student handbooks should be online.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Folan reported that the WMS Discipline Referral report will be presented to Student Services.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(128)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board enter into executive session at 8:00 P.M., for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0, unanimous.

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Sewall, Mrs. Lambert

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Fuller, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:24 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

(129)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:24 P.M.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Adamo, Secretary