

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
January 22, 2014

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Desaulniers, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Sewall, Ms. Tinker, Dr. Gomez, Mr. French

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Quamme

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; general public; staff; administrators; news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mrs. Lambert called the January 22, 2014, Board of Education Workshop meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and the public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2014-15 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Ms. Ortiz presented the proposed 2014-15 school calendar. She explained that based on teacher negotiations an additional professional development day has been included in the calendar. Options for consideration are including it next to one of the following holidays on the calendar: Three Kings' Day, Martin Luther King Day or Presidents' Day. The WAA and WFT presidents have received copies of the proposed calendar for review. This is the first reading of the calendar.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS

**Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education approve the following appointments:**

1. Angela Kiss, to the position of Executive Principal at Sweeney School and The Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy effective February 6, 2014. New Position.
2. Jennifer Geragotelis, to the position of Interim Assistant Principal at The Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy effective February 6, 2014. New Position.
3. Kathryn Firth to the position of Interim Assistant Principal at Sweeney School effective February 6, 2014. New Position.

**The motion is unanimously approved.**

Ms. Kiss and Ms. Firth were present and thanked the Board for the opportunity these positions present and look forward to a smooth transition. Ms. Geragotelis was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a funeral.

WORKSHOP SESSION

## Time Collaborative and Commissioner's Network

### Sweeney School

Members of the Sweeney Time Collaborative Committee and School Governance Council reviewed the Sweeney proposal for Extended Learning Time (ELT) and the process that brought Sweeney School to this point in the plan. From February to April, plans will be finalized with implementation planning and support taking place from May through July in order to implement extended learning time for the next school year. Work has included how extra learning time will be used to provide the utmost benefit. Requirements for extending the school day that will require additional funding were also presented. The School Governance Council passed a resolution recommending that the Time Collaborative Plan go forward once the Board of Education makes a five-year financial commitment to the program. Discussion followed the presentation.

### Windham Middle School

Mr. Olkowski spoke about the work done by Turnaround Committee and Time Collaborative Committee members. A plan for a new school day is being developed incorporating Time Collaborative objectives. The major objectives of the Time Collaborative are ensuring that the school is a high quality extended learning time school, as well as a sustainable extended learning time school. Mr. Olkowski reviewed what is needed to address this initiative. The next steps include approval of the Time Collaborative proposal by the Turnaround Committee; signing off on the school budget by the WMS School Governance Council; determination by the Board of Education whether or not to move forward with the Time Collaborative Initiative; and then if approved by the Board of Education, acceptance of the final proposal by the Time Collaborative.

Mrs. Lambert informed Board members that the February workshop meeting will take place on February 19, 2014, so that a presentation on the budget can be made at the February 26, 2014, meeting.

Mrs. Lambert said that the Executive Committee met and is recommending that the nine members of the Board of Education, along with a representative from the administrators' union and a representative from the teachers' union, comprise the Superintendent Search Committee. She asked that approval to name the Superintendent Search Committee be added to the agenda as an action item.

**Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board add an action item to the agenda to name the Superintendent Search Committee comprised of nine Board of Education members and one representative from the administrators' union and one representative from the teachers' union.**

**The motion is unanimously approved.**

**Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board approve that the Superintendent Search Committee be named comprised of the nine Board of Education members, a representative from the administrators' union and a representative from the teachers' union.** Mrs. Lambert said that Randall Prose will represent the teachers and Kathleen Goodwin will represent the administrators on the committee.

**The motion is unanimously approved.**

## PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Tom Drewry, Willimantic, spoke about the process used to hire a new superintendent. He said that it is the right and the responsibility of the local Board to elect the new superintendent. Mr. Drewry said that it is public knowledge that the Commissioner of Education desires input into the selection process and offers compensation such as cash to supplement the new superintendent's salary and to help with the search process, as well as use the right granted under the reform bill that allows the Commissioner to unilaterally

appoint a superintendent and possibly dissolve the position of special master if the candidate meets certain criteria. Mr. Drewry said that the Commissioner's record of appointments is dismal, and he outlined specific examples. He asked that the Board establish clear criteria for the candidate for superintendent and he said that these qualities would be the same qualities of Windham's present superintendent. He also said that the role of the new superintendent must be clearly defined to avoid the potential conflict of serving both the state and the local community because Windham must come first.

Mary Gallucci, Willimantic, spoke about three concerns she has regarding the time collaborative initiative. Her first concern is the work conditions for teachers that will include longer school days and she asked if other salary enhancements are included to compensate for a longer day. Ms. Gallucci's second concern is using volunteers to staff enrichment activities and then being able to sustain these activities as a result. Ms. Gallucci's third concern is the staggered day mentioned and therefore, the ratio of adult to children during the school day. She also asked why the names of the search firms being interviewed have not been published.

Ms. Ortiz answered that teacher salaries will be through impact bargaining and professional development will be part of that process. There will be more time during the school day for collaboration. Twenty-six different agencies support Windham schools and many use volunteers.

Mrs. Lambert said CAFE and CES are the two firms being interviewed.

Susan Johnson, Willimantic, invited Board members to a Tri-Board meeting on February 11, 2014, from 7 to 9 pm. She asked that suggestions for legislation be e-mailed to her prior to February 5 when the legislative session convenes. She also said that she hopes to have a presentation on the Sheff movement and the reason for magnet schools looking towards the future. She also commented that the extended school day looks like a great initiative.

Ms. Ortiz reported that students and staff are back at Natchaug School and she publicly thanked Wayne Donaldson and Melissa Mishriky and all of the staff members for the work that they did to make this happen.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:12 P.M.

**On the motion: unanimous**

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Montalvo, Secretary