

Approved 2/24/10
WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
January 27, 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, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Forman, Principals Mr. Blain, Mrs. Negron, Assistant Principals Mr. O'Day and Mr. Piacentini.

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Haley Dunnack
Columbia – Chairman Nelson Petrone

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the January 27, 2010, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Folan led the Board and the public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 13, 2010 Regular Board of Education meeting (Ref. 1)

(130)Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the January 13, 2010, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

PRESENTATIONS

AP/ECE Environmental Science class – WHS students

WHS students Corrie Roe and Hayley Dunnack presented “Join Our Team With Single Stream”. Their focus was on improving the WHS recycling efforts. They would like to implement improvements within the cafeteria, classrooms, offices, and custodial staff.

CAUS Plaques

Ms. Fuller reported that Windham was presented two plaques by CT Association of Urban Superintendents recognition of Windham Public Schools growth in the CMT/CAPT testing.

EASTCONN Adult Education (Ref. 6)

Director of Adult and Community Services, Richard Tariff, presented information on the GED Program and the success they have had with Windham residents. Prior and current GED recipients did presentations on how the program helped them and their families. Mr. Tariff also made mention that they will be starting remedial math services at no charge for individuals interested in pursuing a college degree. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Tariff and the presentors for their time. Mr. Switchenko asked Mr. Tariff if he could provide the Board with following up data as to where the graduates are now and their success.

COMMUNICATIONS -None

STUDENT COUNCIL

Haley Dunnack indicated that the Student Council was planning for the May Leadership Council and "Bowl For Kids Sake".

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS - None

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(131)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve

Reference 2:

Appointments

- David Blanchfield, English/Reading Teacher/Windham High School effective January 22, 2010. Salary is BA+30/5, \$43,307 prorated, replaces Melissa Bergeron who resigned.
- William Perez Jr, Before/After School Coordinator/Windham Center School effective January 13, 2010. Hourly rate is \$16.00, replaces Cesiah Rosario who resigned.
- Betzaida Arvelo, General Cafeteria Worker/Middle School effective January 21, 2010. Hourly rate is \$9.82, replaces Carolyn Taylor who transferred.

Leave of absence

- Gail Manley, Paraprofessional/Windham Center School, medical leave of absence effective December 14, 2009 through approximately January 28, 2010.
- Hector Jimenez, Custodian/Natchaug School, medical leave of absence effective January 6, 2010 through approximately February 3, 2010.
- James Taylor/Crossing Guard, medical leave of absence effective December 21, 2009, duration unknown.

There were no comments.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Recommend the approval of Windham High School field trip (Ref. 3)

(132)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve Reference 3.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

Recommended approval of Advancement on Salary Scale policy (Ref.4)

(133)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve the policy of Advancement of Salary Scale Reference 4.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Recommend the appointment of Ellen Gustafson to represent the Town of Windham on the Region #19 Agriculture Science and Technology Consulting Committee (Ref. 5).

(134)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve Reference 5. Mr. Folan commented that Mrs. Gustafson is an outstanding parent.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

WHS Mission Statement (Ref. 7)

Mr. Blain and the Board members wanted to commend the staff for the work they put into this.

Windham High School scheduling (Ref. 8)

Mr. Blain presented on the advantages of changing the current rotating schedule to a fixed schedule. Mr. Doyle asked how this would effect CAPT testing . There was discussion if the school start time had been evaluated, with the concern that it was too early for students.

WMS Discipline Report (Ref. 9)

Mrs. Negrón presented the discipline data. Discussions were held regarding bullying concerns and cell phone usage among students. Ms. Collins commented on how the towns perception is negative towards the students behavior at WMS and that the Board of Education sees the need to help with the discipline. Mr. Folan suggested to Ms. Collins that she address this need at the Student Services Committee.

Expansion of Uniforms to grades K-4 (Ref. 10)

There was discussion about how the current uniform policy is working at WMS and if it should be implemented in the elementary schools. Suggestions were made that the logo should remain the same throughout the district and that elementary school students should be able to wear their uniform gym clothes on the day they are scheduled for gym. Mr. Folan suggested a questionnaire be presented to parents and asked that this be taken to a subcommittee.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 11)

Distributed the Windham Federation of Teachers' newsletters. There were no comments.

Board of Education

First reading of proposed policy 1230(a) Community Relations; 3524.1 Business/Non-Instructional Operations; 4217.4 Personnel/Non-Certified Dismissal/Suspension; 6114.1 Instruction Fire Emergency Drills (Ref.12).

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

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel/Budget: Mr. Doyle reported that the State has lowered the amount of reimbursement for Excess Cost. There was discussion about a possible 2% increase for the 2011-2012 budget.

District wide PTO. Mrs. Haney reported that family involvement is very strong in our schools. PTO's are doing many fundraisers, participating in Curriculum Night, and having discussions around uniforms.

Magnet School: Mrs. Collins reported that the Town Council voted in favor of moving forward and not having to go back to a referendum as a result of a petition submitted to Town Council. There will not be a need for any changes or improvements to Tuckie Road. Architects are working on different plans and ideas with regards to the building orientation and general layout. There will possibly be a Public Hearing in March. Town Council asked the State to change the conservation maps, changing the conservation area, thereby allowing for public water and sewer at the site. There was discussion.

Student Services. Mrs. Collins reported the meeting was rescheduled.

Facilities/Maintenance. No verbal report.

Heart Safe. Mrs. Rayhall reported that the State now recognizes Windham as being a Heart Safe Community. The Town Council will be honoring the Heart Safe Committee at a February 14th Gala. They will be purchasing 3 more AED's which will go to North Windham Elementary, Windham Center School, and St. Mary-St. Joseph School. They are working towards having AED's in all the schools.

Program Development/Evaluation. Mr. Adamo reported on the committee meetings that were held. They are putting together a Summer Reading list for students.

EASTCONN. Five new members are on the EASTCONN Board. EASTCONN received approval for the expansion of their Hampton facility.

Policy/Planning. There was discussion regarding the Curriculum Committee. Dr. Sewall reported that the policy for pagers is outdated and should be revised to include cell phones.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Collins brought an article from the New York Times asking the Board members to read; "Large High Schools in the City Are Taking Hard Falls".

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Alana Tarksanis spoke on behalf of parent concerns regarding the cost and availability of school uniforms.

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

(135)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:30 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,
John Adamo, Secretary

