

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
June 25, 2014

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Montalvo, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Sewall, Mr. French, Mr. Quamme, Mr. Kalajian

BOARD ABSENT: Vice-Chair Mr. Desaulniers, Dr. Gomez

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: No One

OTHERS PRESENT: Analyst for District Support and Supervision Eldrin Deas; general public; staff; administrators; news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mrs. Lambert called the June 25, 2014, Board of Education Workshop meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy Cafeteria.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ACTION ITEMS

Late Entry Criteria & Lottery Process for Dual Language Program Policy (second reading) (Ref. 1)

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board approve the Dual Language Immersion Program Late Entry Criteria & Lottery Policy. This is the second reading. There was no discussion.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Connecticut Science Center Agreement (Ref. 2)

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board approve the contract with the Connecticut Science Center. There was no discussion.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Approval of Appointments

Motion by Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mr. Quamme, that the Board approve the following appointments:

- 1. Angela Kiss, to the position of Executive Principal at Sweeney School and CH Barrows STEM Magnet School, effective July 1, 2014. Continuance of 2013-14 assignment.**
- 2. Katherine Firth, to the position of Assistant Principal at Sweeney School, effective July 1, 2014. Continuance of 2013-14 assignment.**

Ms. Kiss, Ms. Firth and Ms. Geragotelis were present and spoke about their positions. There was discussion and they answered Board members' questions.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board add Tom DeVivo to the agenda.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Mr. DeVivo said that there are some items at Barrows that need to be finished before the building project is complete. Mr. DeVivo informed the Board that an award for best practices in teamwork by project participants was received from the Connecticut Building Congress. He said that this recognition dates back to the previous committee, co-chaired by Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Haney, when the key people and companies were hired. A Connecticut Real Estate Blue Ribbon Award was also received for adding value to the neighborhood. Ms. Ortiz thanked Mr. DeVivo for chairing the Building Committee.

Ms. Ortiz shared a letter from a parent of a recent Windham High School graduate. The parent spoke about how well prepared her daughter is to attend the University of Connecticut in the fall compared to other incoming freshmen from area high schools who attended a recent orientation at the university. She said that her daughter had a far better understanding of the expectations of college and had done all of the preparations required prior to attending the orientation. Her daughter will be entering UConn with fifteen college credits (and possibly more once AP testing results are known).

This is Ms. Ortiz's last Board meeting and Mrs. Lambert presented her with flowers to thank her for her work in Windham.

WORKSHOP TOPIC

Roles and Responsibilities of the Board – Attorney Mooney, Shipman & Goodwin

Attorney Mooney spoke about the function of the Board of Education. Its basic responsibility is to set policies that guide the operation of the school district. The Board also acts as an impartial judge during certain circumstances. Throughout Attorney Mooney's presentation, there was discussion and questions were answered.

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board add the M&J revised contract to the agenda.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board approve the new M&J bus contract which is a five-year contract with savings specified in the new plan and is contingent upon ending the EASTCONN contract. Mr. French provided an overview of revisions to the contract due to the extended day at the Middle School and start and end times at the schools which were discussed at the Finance and Audit Committee. Buses will be added; however, there will be a savings due to the negotiated changes with M&J.

Motion is unanimously approved.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Mary Lou DeVivo, Willimantic, said that an exit poll of children that do not go to Windham High School should be conducted. She also asked the Board to move the students from the Kramer building.

Ms. Ortiz said that Ms. Markey sent out a survey to parents this past year.

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board enter into executive session for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations at 8:55 P.M.

Motion is unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Montalvo, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Sewall, Mr. French, Dr. Gomez
OTHERS PRESENT Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper, Directors Mrs. Banks, Mr. Cunha and Mr.
Johnson

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED

Mrs. Lambert reconvened regular session at 9:23 P.M.

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board add the ratification of the tentative agreement between the Windham Board of Education and the Windham Federation of Education Personnel.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board move the ratification of the tentative agreement between the Windham Board of Education and the Windham Federation of Education Personnel

Motion is unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 9:24 P.M.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Montalvo, Secretary