

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
March 9, 2011

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall (arrived at 7:10 PM), Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Lambert

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Adamo, Mrs. Haney, Dr. Sewall

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: Abbey Baldarelli

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the March 9, 2011, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Switchenko led the Board and the public in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

February 23, 2011, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes (Ref. 1)

(174)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the February 23, 2011, Regular Board of Education minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 5-0; unanimous

February 24, 2011, Special Board of Education meeting minutes (Ref. 1A)

(175)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve the February 24, 2011, Special Board of Education minutes, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Lambert

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Folan

The motion passes: 4-0-1

February 28, 2011, Special Board of Education meeting minutes (Ref. 1B)

These *draft* minutes will be back on the March 23, 2011, agenda for recommended approval since Mr. Folan is the only member present tonight who attended the February 28, 2011, Special Board meeting.

March 2, 2011, Special Board of Education meeting minutes (Ref. 1C)

(176)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the March 2, 2011, Special Board of Education minutes, Reference 1C.

On the motion: Aye: Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Doyle

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Folan

The motion passes: 4-0-1

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Lambert announced that the concert and jazz bands are holding a fundraising concert on March 30 at Windham Middle School to raise money for students to attend Concerts in the Park where they will publicly perform. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Lillpopp and the students for the exceptional concert held last night at Windham High School. He said the talents of many students were showcased at the concert and the program has excelled under Mr. Lillpopp's leadership.

STUDENT COUNCIL

There was no report.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mr. Peter Quercia, Willimantic, thanked the Board for holding meetings at the high school and said the location made it easier for him to attend. He asked that the superintendent and administrators make the budget contingent on their taking a 10% salary decrease. He also thanked Mrs. Shirley Mustard for making the call that got the Walnut Street gate closed. He said that he has written letters to the local newspapers representing the silent majority of people who are on set incomes and is asking tonight that the Board have compassion for these people. He said that \$100,000 should be earmarked for referendums this year.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(177)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2.

Resignation

- Agnes Riera, School Psychologist, Windham High School effective June 30, 2011 for the purpose of retirement.

Appointment

- Randy Moore, Sr Accountant/Central Office effective February 28, 2011. Hourly rate is \$27.55, replaces Celine Pisch.

Leaves of absence

- Neicia Doucette, Head Start Lead Teacher/Boston Post Road, medical leave of absence effective March 24, 2011 through May 5, 2011.
- ~~Mildred~~ *Michele (corrected at 5/11/11 meeting)* Serrano, Special Education Paraprofessional/Windham Middle School, childbearing/childrearing leave of absence effective approximately May 20, 2011 through June, 2011.

There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 5-0; unanimous

(Mrs. Rayhall arrived.)

Windham High School Field Trip Application (Ref. 3)

(178)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approved the overnight field trip request for Windham High School students to spend the night in the Windham High School auditorium from Saturday, March 12, 2011, to Sunday, March 13, 2011, to participate in a lock down event to raise money for the Windham Players, in accordance with Board policy 6153.

On the motion: Aye, 6-0; unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

Proposed 2011-2012 Education Budget (Ref. 4)

Ms. Ortiz reviewed budget principles, major goals that drive the budget now and into the future, and major assumptions. She said that an increase of 4.74% is necessary which is \$1,986,713. Ms. Ortiz reviewed salaries for new positions that are crucial to support students in need at the elementary, middle and high school levels. She indicated positions that could fall under the education American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Monies/Education Job Funds monies and positions repositioned from ERA or grants. Ms. Ortiz also reviewed changes that have been implemented thus far and said that all possible resources from the Connecticut State Department of Education and grants are being used so that the monies from the Board of Education budget are not used. Mr. Folan thanked administrators, teachers, and parents who have been involved from the ground up in this year's budget process. He said that the increase is necessary for the Board to meet state and moral mandates to educate the children in Windham. He said that it is with mixed emotions to ask for this increase but it is needed to improve our school district and help our children. Mr. Folan said that once the proposed budget is approved by the Board, it will be forwarded to the Town's Board of Finance and hard work will continue to get it approved. Mr. Doyle said that the next step is the presentation to the Town Board of Finance which will take place next Wednesday at Town Hall. Following that, the Town will schedule one or two public forums. Mr. Doyle said that the Board's budget book will be available to the public and the meetings and forum held by the Board have all been televised. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Doyle for all of his efforts.

(179) Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve the proposed 2011-2012 budget as presented in the amount of \$43,858,224.

On the motion: Aye, 6-0; unanimous

Policy/regulation Approvals (Ref. 5, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D, 5E)

(180) Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the following policies and regulations:

Ref. 5 Instruction, Internet/Computer Networks Use, Online Social Networking, policy and regulation 6141.326(a)(b)(c);

Ref. 5A Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified, Rights, Responsibilities and Duties, Acceptable Computer Network use (Employee Use of Technology), Social Networking Websites, policy and regulation 4118.51(a)(b), 4218.51;

Ref. 5B Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified, Cellular Telephones, policy 4118.6, 4218.6;

Ref. 5C Students, Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect, policy 5141.4;

Ref. 5D Students, Dropouts, policy 5112.3(a)(b);

Ref. 5E Students, Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process, policy 5114(a)through(o); and

Ref. 5F Students, Conduct and Discipline, policy and regulation 5131(a)through(s)

Mr. Folan thanked Dr. Sewall for his work on these policies.

On the motion: Aye, 6-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Ms. Ortiz announced that March is Board of Education Appreciation Month and today, March 9, 2011, is Board member Appreciation Day. She publicly thanked Board members for all that they do on behalf of the entire school district.

Bridges Program at Windham High School (Ref. 6)

Mr. Forman and Ms. Lazzari spoke about the Bridges program located at Windham High School which provides a self-contained, alternative education setting for students who require behavioral support and hands-on experiential learning. The program consists of Bridges I, which is a full day program, and Bridges II, which is a partial-day program. Staff members, Tera Juszczyk, Joanna Caserta and Phil Cowit, who work

with students in the program, were introduced and questions from Board members about the program were answered. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Forman, Ms. Lazzari, Ms. Juszczuk, Ms. Caserta and Mr. Cowitt.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 7)

Included are the Windham High School Honor Roll for Marking Period 2 and the Windham Federation of Teachers Newsletter for February 28, 2011. There was no discussion.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

Districtwide PTO: Ms. Ortiz reported that members discussed participation in a Town Spring Family Day Activity on June 12, plans for participation in Third Thursdays, a possible movie night, programs presently in place for Windham parents, and a possible “Fill the Bus” with school supplies activity. Using Survey Monkey to survey parents to find out what they would like to know more about was also discussed. Many school activities were highlighted during roundtable.

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle reported that a presentation will be made to the Town’s Board of Finance next Wednesday night. The Town will then hold budget forums on the budgets for the community.

Lighthouse Training: Dr. Switchenko reported that the training is extremely beneficial. Data and test scores over time were reviewed at the last session and discussion continues on how to address these issues, along with other issues the district faces.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mr. Peter Quercia, Willimantic, asked if there were any strategies in place to address the Governor’s plan to have towns take over the technical schools.

Mr. James Flores, Willimantic, said that Windham staff members need to mobilize in order to get the budget passed this year. He said that it is important to get out and vote the first time.

Ms. Belinda Clark, Willimantic, said that her son graduated from Windham and now she has grandchildren in the school system and volunteers at the Middle School. She said that the teachers at the Middle School are phenomenal and more funding needs to be put there. She wants to see the kids succeed and said the school and the town are failing the students, not the teachers.

Mr. Bill Powers, Windham resident and teacher at Windham High School, commended and congratulated the Board of Education and Superintendent for this year’s budget process and the transparency of the budget that has been presented. He said that team leaders and teachers in the district have been involved in the process and, as a teacher and taxpayer in Windham, he appreciates that effort. He said that the staff and every voter in the community have the information this year and they now have to do their duty as voters. He feels that passing the budget this year will be successful.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(181)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:00 PM for the discussion of bargaining unit negotiations and personnel matters.

On the motion: Aye, 6-0; unanimous.

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:15 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

(182) Motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board meeting adjourn at 8:15 P.M.

On the motion: Aye, 6-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Folan, Chair