

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
May 27, 2015

BOARD PRESENT: Vice-chair Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Dr. Sewall, Mrs. Osuba, Mr. Kalajian, Dr. Gomez, Mr. French

BOARD ABSENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Quamme

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Garcia; Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Conner, Directors Ms. Beghetto and Ms. Markey

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: No one

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

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-chair Mr. Desaulniers called the May 27, 2015, Board of Education Workshop meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

WORKSHOP TOPICS

On behalf of Board of Education Chair Mrs. Lambert and Board member Mr. Quamme, Dr. Garcia gave their apologies for not being able to attend tonight's Board meeting.

Proposed Change of Dates for Board Retreat

Since the retreat dates were set early in the year and there have been changes in people's schedules, Dr. Garcia asked Board members to take a look at changing the Board retreat dates from two full days on August 14 and 15, 2015, to one-half day on August 21, 2015 (from approximately 1 PM to 4 PM or 5 PM), and one full day on August 22, 2015. There was some discussion.

**Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, to change the dates of the Board of Education retreat from two full days on August 14 and August 15, 2015, to one-half day in the afternoon on August 21, 2015, and one full day on August 22, 2015.**

**Motion is unanimously approved.**

Tentative Date for Board Training

Dr. Garcia said that a tentative date for Board training has been set for June 25, 2015, and she explained that the April training session with the attorney from Shipman & Goodwin had been canceled. She asked Board members if they would like to have the training on Thursday, June 25, 2015, from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. There was some discussion.

**Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that a Board of Education training session be scheduled with the attorney from Shipman & Goodwin on Thursday, June 25, 2015, at 6 PM.**

**On the motion:**     **Aye: Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Gomez, Mr. French, Mr. Kalajian**  
                          **Nay: No one**  
                          **Abstained: Dr. Sewall**  
                          **The motion passes: 6-0-1**

### July Meeting

There is a regular Board of Education meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2015. Board members discussed canceling this meeting.

**Motion of Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board of Education cancel the July 15, 2015, regularly scheduled meeting.** There was discussion.

**On the motion:**     **Aye: No one**  
                          **Nay: Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. French, Mr. Kalajian, Dr. Sewall**  
                          **Abstained: Mr. Montalvo, Dr. Gomez, Mrs. Osuba**  
                          **The motion fails and there will be a Board of Education meeting on July 15, 2015.**

### Mission

*What does the Windham Public Schools stand for? What is the purpose of Windham Public Schools?*

Dr. Garcia explained that Board members worked on draft Mission and Vision statements at a previous workshop meeting. These drafts were then reviewed and some revisions were made by Dr. Garcia and her staff. The Mission and Vision statements are now being brought back to this workshop meeting for a final review by Board members before they are finalized.

Board members discussed the draft Mission Statement in small groups at tonight's meeting. Some additional revisions were shared with all members and the Mission Statement was finalized.

**Motion of Dr. Gomez, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board of Education approve the following Mission Statement for the Windham Public Schools:**

*Windham Public Schools provides all students equitable access to a high quality education and graduates students who are prepared to become productive members of society. The school district and community hold a commitment to support cultural and linguistic diversity, deep student engagement, and the pursuit of lifelong learning.*

**Motion is unanimously approved.**

### Vision

*Where would we like to see Windham Public Schools five years from now?*

Board members then discussed the draft Vision Statement in small groups. An additional revision that was shared with all members was made and the Vision Statement was finalized.

**Motion of Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board of Education approve the following Vision Statement for the Windham Public Schools:**

*Every student, every day, in every classroom will be deeply engaged in their own learning, challenged by high expectations, supported by staff, family, and community, and will graduate with the competence and confidence needed for success.*

**Motion is unanimously approved.**

Dr. Garcia explained that the process to develop the Mission and Vision statements began months ago by obtaining feedback at community forums and having many conversations with the community during the coffees with the Superintendent held throughout the year. These statements were developed using input from the community, staff and members of the Board prior to their approval by the Board of Education at tonight's meeting.

#### Theory of Action

*What do we do? What are our outcomes? What are the actions we need in order to improve teaching and learning? What evidence do we need of the actions taken? As a result of those actions, what will be accomplished?*

Dr. Garcia explained that work will not begin on the Theory of Action for the district which will be aligned with the Vision and Mission statements. Board members discussed ideas in small groups and then shared and discussed their ideas as a whole. The same process that was used for the Mission and Vision statements will be used for the Theory of Action. After tonight's meeting, Dr. Garcia will take the Board's input back to her staff and then the Board will review the Theory of Action at its June workshop before it is finalized.

Dr. Garcia thanked the Board members for their input and said that she and the staff appreciate the Board's involvement. She also thanked the staff for their time. Dr. Garcia explained that part of the design of the change process is having the Board, along with teachers, and parents, involved in the change process so that everything is in alignment.

#### PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Henry Crane, Willimantic, said that he is very happy that the Board has a budget, and he hopes that the Board received the funding that it originally requested. He said that now the Board has funding, he expects to see a measurable amount of improvement which will be discussed during the next budget season. Mr. Crane said that he was happy that the amount was not negotiated down; and the community should now see what it will get with this budget. He said that he was very happy that tonight's discussion had something to do with the whole community including parents, grandparents, and senior citizens. He said that the senior citizens are the people who always show up to vote. Mr. Crane said that caring adults can make a difference. Nothing is impossible, and building families is essential. He said that he believed that has been achieved. He said that many children accompanied their parents to the polls and he was happy to see that occur.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:26 P.M.**

**Motion is unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Montalvo, Secretary