

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
(held in place of May 9, 2012, Regular Board of Education Business meeting)  
May 9, 2012

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Dr. Sewall, Vice-chair Mrs. Collins, Mr. French, Mrs. Lambert (arrived at 7:30 PM), Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Desaulniers

BOARD ABSENT: Mrs. Osuba, Ms. Tinker, Mr. Adamo

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Barker-Jones, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: Hossai Jabary, Katelynn Person

OTHERS PRESENT: Special Master Dr. Adamowski; general public; staff; administrators; news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Sewall called the May 9, 2012, Board of Education Special Workshop meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ACTION ITEM

Summer Food Service Program (Ref. 2)

**Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education authorizes Superintendent Ana V. Ortiz to sign the Summer Food Service Program Agreement and related claims for reimbursement, and in her absence, Jeffrey I. Nelson, Director of Finance and Management, is authorized to submit claims for reimbursement.** Mr. Koschmieder explained the program which is federally funded.

**Unanimously approved.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. French provided the report due to the absence of committee chair Ms. Tinker. The committee met to discuss insurance options. Dr. Sewall and Mr. French will represent the Board of Education on the ad hoc committee on health insurance appointed by the Town Council which will meet on Monday evening.

School Planning and Design Committee

Dr. Switchenko provided the report due to the absence of committee chair Mrs. Lambert. Thirteen architectural firms responded to the committee's request for proposals to evaluate school facilities and develop a master plan. After reviewing all proposals, four firms were interviewed. Following the interview process, the firm of Friar and Associates was unanimously selected. Dr. Sewall thanked Mrs. Lambert and Ms. Tinker for the work that they've done regarding this project.

## WORKSHOP SESSION

(Mrs. Lambert arrived during the presentation.)

### Strategic Operating Plan (SOP)

Ms. Ortiz continued the presentation of the SOP from the April 25, 2012, Board meeting, reviewing Goals IV, V and VI including strategies and implementation steps at tonight's meeting. As previously explained, there are a varied number of strategies comprised of many implementation steps within each of the six goals. Tonight's workshop meeting reviewed the following: Goal IV: Improve Instruction for All Students, which is comprised of eight strategies; Goal V: Improve the Management of Public Resources, which is comprised of three strategies; and Goal VI: Increase Parent and Community Involvement and Support, which is comprised of six strategies. Each implementation step within the three goals and the many strategies were reviewed. Throughout the meeting, there was discussion and questions were answered regarding the strategies and implementation steps of the last three goals of the proposed SOP.

## PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Mary Gallucci, Willimantic, asked why Windham Center School is the only school mentioned as a possible Montessori school; why are other schools such as Sweeney not mentioned as possibilities? Ms. Ortiz said that two schools may fall under the Commissioner's Network and until specifics are known, no decisions can be made. Dr. Adamowski said that all schools will be looked at upon receipt of the results of the facilities master plan. Ms. Gallucci said that she is concerned about local people losing their jobs and asked how many bus drivers would be affected due to the new bus program? Mr. French replied that the transportation plan is in the early stages at this time. Dr. Adamowski said that if there were a new bus contractor, local people would more than likely be hired by that company. Dr. Adamowski said that it is the Board's responsibility to provide the best education for students as possible and, therefore, needs to create more teaching and instructional jobs and fewer jobs in the support areas that do not deliver education. Ms. Gallucci said that it would be wonderful if people who graduated locally in the education field could have access to these jobs but that is being curtailed. Ms. Gallucci said she would like to know more about having a Local Education Fund (LEF) since there are only about forty in the country. She said she has concerns about outside people donating money and then having a say in the running of a school. Dr. Adamowski said that would not be the role of the LEF and Dr. Sewall said he didn't see it as an issue in Windham.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:43 P.M.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Murphy Sewall, Chair