

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
November 16, 2011

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins, Dr. Sewall

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: Hossai Jabary, Katelynn Person

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mrs. Rayhall called the November 16, 2011, Regular Board of Education meeting, to order at 7:30 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Haney led the Board and the public in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Rayhall announced that the Willimantic Rotary Club distributed over three hundred dictionaries to Windham third grade students. On behalf of the Windham Board of Education, she thanked the Rotary Club and said that the members have been providing dictionaries to Windham students for the past eight years.

Ms. Ortiz said that the Middle School and High School bands performed at the Veterans' Day ceremony in Willimantic.

Dr. Adamowski did not attend tonight's meeting as he had a prior commitment.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2011 (Ref. 1)

(35) Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the October 12, 2011, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

October 26, 2011 (Ref. 1A)

(36) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the October 26, 2011, Board of Education Workshop minutes, Reference 1A.

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

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Adamo

The motion passes: 7-0-1

November 2, 2011 (Ref. 1A)

(37)Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve the November 2, 2011, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1B.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Math Results on CMT and CAPT (Ref. 2)

Ms. Ortiz provided information on the district's 2011 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and 2011 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) mathematics results. The purpose of the CMT is to measure student performance in the areas of mathematics, reading, writing and science. She reviewed the four standards that are assessed which are comprised of 25 content strands. Ms. Ortiz reviewed CMT mathematics statistics for the percent of students at the proficient level for grades three through eight from 2006 to 2011 in the following categories: free/reduced lunch; full price lunch; ELL students; and not ELL students. Information at each level for the four elementary schools and Windham Middle School was presented from 2006 to 2011. Ms. Ortiz reviewed a chart that compared Windham students by grade level with the State and the AYP target. Information on the necessary gains over the next three years to close the CMT mathematics gap was also presented.

Ms. Ortiz reviewed the CAPT standards for the assessment of mathematics which is given to tenth grade students. A chart indicating the percent of students proficient at each level for 2007 to 2011 was reviewed. Comparisons were made for students in the following categories: free/reduced lunch vs. not free/reduced lunch and ELL students vs. not ELL students. Ms. Ortiz spoke about what it will take to close the gap and answered questions from the Board.

District Vision Statement (Ref. 2A)

Ms. Ortiz provided the Board with the final version of the District Operating Plan Vision and the action plan for the next three years.

Action Items

Donation (Ref. 3)

(38)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education accept with deep gratitude a donation in the amount of \$10,000 from Mary Lou DeVivo for Windham Middle School sports to be used for supplies and transportation. Mr. Doyle expressed appreciation for Mrs. DeVivo's donation and said that next year's budget would have to be closely looked at in order to keep this program running. Board members and Ms. Ortiz thanked Mrs. DeVivo for her generous donation which is greatly appreciated.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Appointments (Ref. 4)

(39)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the following appointments as presented:

- Jennifer Vowles to the position of Grade 5 Literacy Teacher at Windham Middle School, effective October 24, 2011.
- Kevin Hartery to the position of Health/PE Teacher at Windham Middle School, effective November 10, 2011.

There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

District Federal Consolidated grant (Ref. 5)

(40) Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve submission of the District Federal Consolidated grant application for FY 2011-2012.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

State Bilingual grant (Ref. 6)

(41) Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve submission of the State Bilingual grant application for FY 2011-2012.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Hearing Officer (Ref. 7)

(42) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Attorney Elisa Bartlett, Rappe & Bartlett LLC, as the expulsion hearing officer for Windham Public Schools. Ms. Ortiz explained that the appointment of a hearing officer is the recommendation of the Special Master. There was discussion. Mr. Adamo and Mrs. Collins said that they felt it was their obligation as Board members to attend hearings. Mrs. Lambert asked about funding the position. Mrs. Haney said that attending hearings provided the Board with more understanding of the administration and programs in the district.

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

Nay: Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney

Abstained: No one

The motion fails: 4-4-0

All funds 2011-2012 budget (Ref. 8)

(43) Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the final all funds budget for 2011-2012. Mr. Nelson explained that three different grant components have been added to the all-funds budget. These are federal, state, and other grants and donations. This information will be included in next year's budget document as well. Included is a comparison of last year's figures with this year's grant figures. There was discussion about the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR), as well as entitlement grants.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

2012-2013 School Calendar (Ref. 9)

This is a first reading of the proposed 2012-2013 calendar which will be brought back to the Board at its December 14, 2011, meeting for final approval. There was some discussion about the March vacation and schedule of parent/teacher conferences. Ms. Ortiz explained there is a possibility that there will be trimesters. There was discussion about following a regional calendar. Ms. Ortiz explained that due to professional development activities in Windham, this would not be feasible.

2012 Board of Education meeting schedule (Ref. 10)

This is a first reading of the 2012 Board of Education meeting schedule with final action planned for the December 14, 2011, Board meeting, in order to file the meeting dates with Town Clerk in accordance with Connecticut General Statute Section 1-225.

(44) Dr. Sewall made a motion to edit the 2012 Board of Education meeting schedule document by removing the public dialogue session noted from 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM, beginning the meetings at 7:00 PM and including public comment as part of the meeting. Mrs. Collins seconded the motion. Dr. Sewall commented that the Board should be flexible with how public comment takes place. Mrs. Collins agreed and said that it is important as elected officials to listen to what parents and community members have to say

since it is the public's right to speak and the Board's obligation to hear what they have to say. Mr. Doyle also agreed that the Board should listen to the public at meetings and everyone who wants to speak should have an opportunity. Mrs. Rayhall said that she likes public comment at the beginning and also at the end of the meeting to give people a chance to speak on different topics that may be discussed during the meeting. The 2012 Board of Education meeting dates will be brought back to the Board of Education at its December 14, 2011, meeting for final approval.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Committee Reports (no reports)

Special Master's Report (no report)

ADJOURNMENT

(45) Motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:42 P.M.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary