

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2013

BOARD PRESENT: Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. French, Mr. Gomez, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Montalvo, Ms. Osuba, Mr. Quamme, Dr. Sewall, Ms. Tinker

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: Nicole Moore, Dakota Fleming

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

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Ms. Ortiz served as the moderator and called the November 20, 2013, Board of Education Workshop meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and the public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair of the Windham Board of Education

Motion by Ms. Tinker that Dr. Sewall be nominated as Chair of the Windham Board of Education.

Motion by Mr. Desaulniers that Mrs. Lambert be nominated as Chair of the Windham Board of Education.

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. French, that nominations for Chair be closed. Unanimous

On the motion nominating Dr. Sewall for Chair:

Aye: Ms. Tinker, Dr. Gomez, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Sewall

On the motion nominating Mrs. Lambert as Chair:

Aye: Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. French, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Quamme, Mrs. Lambert

Mrs. Lambert is the Chair of the Windham Board of Education.

Superintendent Ms. Ortiz turned the meeting over to Chair Mrs. Lambert.

Chair Mrs. Lambert asked for nominations for Vice Chair

Vice-Chair of the Windham Board of Education

Motion by Mr. French that Mr. Desaulniers be nominated as Vice-Chair of the Windham Board of Education.

Motion by Dr. Gomez that Mrs. Osuba be nominated as Vice-Chair of the Windham Board of Education.

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Gomez, that nominations for Vice-Chair be closed. Unanimous

On the motion nominating Mr. Desaulniers for Vice-Chair:

Aye: Mr. French, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Quamme, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Desaulniers

On the motion nominating Mrs. Osuba for Vice-Chair:

Aye: Ms. Tinker, Dr. Gomez, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Sewall

Mr. Desaulniers is the Vice-chair of the Windham Board of Education.

Secretary

Motion by Mr. Desaulniers that Mr. Montalvo be nominated as Secretary of the Windham Board of Education.

Motion by Dr. Sewall that Dr. Gomez be nominated as Secretary of the Windham Board of Education.

Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Desaulniers that nominations be closed. Unanimous

On the motion nominating Mr. Montalvo for Secretary:

Aye: Mr. French, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Quamme, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Desaulniers

On the motion nominating Dr. Gomez for Secretary:

Aye: Ms. Tinker, Dr. Gomez, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Sewall

Mr. Montalvo is the Secretary of the Windham Board of Education.

Mrs. Lambert called for a three-minute recess.

Chair Mrs. Lambert reconvened the meeting and thanked everyone for their support.

ACTION ITEMS

Bylaws of the Board/Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials (Electronic Tablets for Board Members) Policy 9324 (Ref. 1)

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Ms. Tinker, that the Board approve the revised Bylaws of the Board Advance Delivery of Meeting Materials Policy 9324. Dr. Sewall clarified that *to the board* should be deleted under item 2.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

Band Instrument Vendor (Ref. 2)

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board approve the recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee comprised of the Finance Director, the Windham High School Headmaster of the Arts and Humanities Academy and the Windham High School Band director to approve Music & Arts as the Band Instrument vendor. Mr. Sinclair provided some background information about upgrading the band instruments at the High School. The High School instruments will then be used at the Middle School.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

WORKSHOP SESSION

Curriculum Audit

Dr. Gasper conducted an audit of available curriculum documents in the district. At tonight's meeting, he shared three charts which summarized audit findings across all content areas, grades, and courses offered in the district. The charts displayed the presence of detailed curriculum documents by area, by level, and by area and age. He explained that many curriculum documents are outdated and have not been written to address the new Common Core State Standards. There is a substantial amount of work going forward to bring curriculum up to date, and work has begun to develop curriculum in certain areas and a curriculum committee is being formed. There was discussion and Dr. Gasper answered questions.

Windham High School Accreditation Update

Mr. Harris and Mr. Drewry provided an update on the NEASC accreditation process at the High School. Preparations for the spring 2015 visitation by the accreditation committee have begun and were outlined. A self-study must be written describing to what extent and exactly how Windham High School meets the criteria spelled out in the seven NEASC standards. Evidence that supports the claims of the self-study will then be gathered. Members of a steering committee and the seven standards committees have been

appointed, and the process of soliciting input for the revision of core values, beliefs, and learning expectations is underway. An outline of dates and activities to accomplish prior to the spring 2015 visit was presented. The accreditation process is driven by staff and each teacher involved serves on one of the seven standard committees. Mr. Harris and Mr. Drewry answered questions.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Dawn Brolin, Windham, congratulated newly elected Board members and thanked all of the Board members for volunteering their time for the betterment of the students. She also thanked them for voting in favor of the vendor for the band instruments. Her daughter is in the Arts and Humanities Academy. She said that students in the Arts and Humanities Academy have chosen to attend the High School rather than attending the Arts Magnet School on Main Street, and Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Iovine are critical to the curriculum for that Academy. She encouraged the Board to choose the superintendent because Board members know what the school needs; an outside consultant doesn't know what the students need. She said that the superintendent is a position that guides and leads and as a parent and taxpayer, she asked Board members to keep that in mind as they move forward with the search.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Ms. Tinker, that the Board enter into executive session at 8:10 PM for the discussion of strategy for the superintendent search.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Vice-chair Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Dr. Gomez, Dr. Sewall, Mr. French, Ms. Tinker, Mrs. Osuba, Mr. Quamme

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Mrs. Lambert reconvened regular session at 8:43 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:43 P.M.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Montalvo, Secretary