

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 2012

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Dr. Sewall, Mrs. Osuba, Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. French, Dr. Switchenko, Ms. Tinker, Mrs. Lambert (arrived at 7:30 PM)

BOARD ABSENT: Mrs. Collins, Mr. Adamo

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Special Master Dr. Adamowski, Intern to Special Master Ms. Ramos, general public, staff, administrators, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dr. Sewall called the November 28, 2012, Board of Education workshop meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and the public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE NAME OF WINDHAM'S MAGNET SCHOOL

There was discussion regarding the name for the new magnet school. The subcommittee of the Town Council has proposed that the school be called *Charles H. Barrows Academy*. Dr. Sewall explained that Mr. Barrows is a Willimantic inventor born in 1841. Some Board members felt that it was important to include STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in the name that the Town chooses for the school. A public hearing will be held on December 5, 2012, 7:00 PM, at the Town Hall, for public input regarding the school's name.

(Mrs. Lambert arrived.)

Motion by Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education would like STEM included in the name of the new magnet school. It was agreed that Dr. Sewall would attend the December 5, 2012, subcommittee meeting of the Town Council to relay this information.

On the motion: Aye: Mrs. Osuba, Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. French, Dr. Switchenko, Ms. Tinker

Abstention: Mrs. Lambert

The motion passes.

Motion by Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Tinker, that the Board add to the agenda the approval of the contract for the enrollment projection study conducted by DataCore Partners LLC. Mrs. Lambert said that money has been allocated for this study and accurate enrollment projections will assist with the ten-year Facilities Master Plan. There was discussion regarding the study.

On the motion: Aye, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board approve the contract for the enrollment projection study conducted by DataCore Partners LLC under contract to Friar Associates.

On the motion: Aye, unanimous.

WORKSHOP SESSION

STEM Magnet School Operating Plan

Incoming Magnet School principal Mr. Wihbey, STEM coordinator Holly Harrick, team leaders Nicole Bay and Jennifer Geragotelis, some building committee members, senior project manager with ARCADIS Norm Benjamin, and Kathy Cowles from id3A were present and provided information at the meeting. Mr. Wihbey said that the science, technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) theme for the magnet school is linked into the 21st century movement in education and it is vital to include STEM in the name of the school. Ms. Harrick spoke about the school's curriculum which integrates science, technology, engineering and mathematics in all content areas and uses inquiry-based instruction. A curriculum and development committee is in the beginning stages and will be comprised of the principal, STEM coordinator, team leaders, university staff, teachers in waiting and parents. Mr. Wihbey spoke about the operations plan which includes a three-year roll out as follows: kindergarten through grades 2 and 5 and 6 will be enrolled during year one; grades 3 and 7 will be rolled out during year two; and grades 4 and 8 will be added in year three completing the enrollment roll out process. Mr. Wihbey explained that due to changes at the State level, options for enrolling Pre-K students will be explored. Benefits for district partners include common professional development, access to STEM curriculum, and community service projects in district partner districts. STEM school partners will include community organizations, businesses, the Connecticut Science Center, the University of Connecticut and Eastern Connecticut State University. EASTCONN, the transitional management agreement partner, will assist in the opening of the school in the areas of transportation, management of tuition, recruitment, advertising, and the lottery process. Mr. Wihbey reviewed the staffing structure of the school and the STEM hierarchy. Mr. Benjamin and Ms. Cowles provided an update on the status of the furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E) package that will go into the structure. The school, which was originally designed around an environmental theme, has had changes made to rooms to accommodate the change to a STEM school which has also required revisions to the FF&E purchases. Throughout the presentation, there was discussion and questions were answered.

Tom DeVivo, Chairman of the Magnet School Building Committee, asked Board members to approve authorization for Dr. Sewall to sign the necessary documentation to move forward with the additional funding as requested due to the change of the school's theme.

Motion by Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board add to the agenda the authorization of the additional FF&E purchases and authorization of the Board Chair to sign the necessary contract.

On the motion: Aye, unanimous.

Motion by Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Tinker, that the Board authorize the purchase of additional FF&E purchases and authorization of the Board Chair to sign the necessary contract.

On the motion: Aye, unanimous.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Mark Phelps, Windham and member of the original and present Magnet School Building Committee, spoke about the work done by the original building committee. He said that Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Haney,

the original co-chairs, and the original members of the committee should be acknowledged for their efforts and many hours of work to get the project up and running.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 9:21 PM.

On the motion: Aye, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Luz Osuba, Secretary