

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
November 7, 2007

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Diaz

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Mr. Perzanoski, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Summa, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Alex Marrotte
Columbia – No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators and general public

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the November 7, 2007, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:30 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

MINUTES

October 24, 2007, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education approve the October 24, 2007, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Rayhall

The motion passes: 7-0-1

October 24, 2007, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the October 24, 2007, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Rayhall

The motion passes: 7-0-1

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan shared an invitation to Board members for a luncheon on November 15, 2007, at 11:00 AM, at the Natchaug Family Resource Center.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Alex Marrotte reported that twenty-seven students participated in the recent American Cancer Society Relay for Life and raised \$2,000. On November 18, 2007, students will walk in the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry Walk for Warmth as they have done in past years. Also, Student Council members will

serve as guides during the upcoming parent/teacher conferences at Windham High School. Mr. Folan asked Alex to extend the Board's gratitude to his classmates for their involvement in community service.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Laiza Collazo, Sweeney parent, felt that many announcements that are sent home are poorly translated; and if there is translation available at an event, it isn't noted on the information sent home. She also commented that during the Commissioner of Education's visit in October, only certain portions of the forum were translated. She indicated that she appreciates the efforts being made but would like to see a better job done which would help improve parent involvement within the Hispanic community.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2.

RESIGNATION

- Jessica Groat, Tutor/ERA terminated effective October 17, 2007.

APPOINTMENT

- Amber Sanetrik, Special Education Teacher/Systemwide effective October 31, 2007.
Salary is MA/8, \$43,440 prorated. New Position.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- Catherine Aillon Pomo, Grade 3 Bilingual Teacher/North Windham School, childbearing/rearing leave of absence beginning approximately December 3, 2007 through February 11, 2008.
- Patricia Schwager, Assistant cook manager/Natchaug School, medical leave of absence beginning October 29, 2007 through approximately December 17, 2007.

SCHEDULE A-4/EXTRA CURRICULAR APPOINTMENTS

- Lindsey Hepple, Yearbook Advisor/Windham High School, stipend is \$3,077.
- Carlos I. Flores, Head Swimming Coach/Windham High School, stipend is \$3,620.
- Emily Phillips, Asst Head Swimming Coach/Windham High School, stipend is \$2,172.

There was no discussion.

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

Natchaug Donation (Ref. 3)

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve, with deep appreciation, acceptance of the donation of two new bicycles and helmets from Willimantic Police Officer, Doug Glode, to deserving students at Natchaug School. Mr. Folan expressed the Board's appreciation to Officer Glode for his generosity.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Quinebaug Valley Middle College Resolution (Ref. 4)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the following resolution: "Be it resolved that Windham Public Schools agrees to be a partner district in the Quinebaug Valley Middle College High School (QVMCHS) Magnet which entitles Windham Public Schools to participate on the Governance Board of the School and further commits Windham Public Schools to an allocation of a total of 33 student slots over four years beginning with school year 2008/2009." Mr. Perzanoski replied to questions from Mr. Clements about the student lottery pool. Mr. Clements said that two of his concerns were that Windham students would be divided and there would be a diversion of very gifted professional staff. Mr. Perzanoski indicated that there are choices available now at the high school level such as the technical high school, the arts magnet school, as well as other program offerings.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney,
Mrs. Collins

Nay: Mr. Clements

Abstained: No one
The motion passes: 7-1-0

Medical and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Program (FSA) (Ref. 5)

Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the selection of Group Dynamic, Inc., of Falmouth, ME, as the Third Party Administrator (TPA) for Windham's FSA program. Mr. Nelson explained the primary reasons for contracting out to a third member administrator and reviewed the benefits that would be received for minimal cost. Mr. Doyle felt that participation in this program should be done through negotiations. He was concerned with adding more burden to the budget. There was some discussion about the feasibility of using a third party administrator.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Clements, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins

Nay: Mr. Doyle

Abstained: No one

The motion passes: 7-1-0

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

2006-07 Strategic School Profiles (Ref. 6)

Mr. Perzanoski reported that the 2006-2007 Strategic School Profiles for the District were recently received and will be reviewed at the December 5, 2007, Board meeting. However, per State Statute they are being presented to the Board at this meeting.

Class Size Report (Ref. 7)

Mr. Perzanoski said that he is fairly pleased with the class size levels. At the secondary level, numbers in many of the classes are lower than in the past; however, the New Arrivals class at Windham Center is being monitored. In reply to Mrs. Collins' question, Mr. Perzanoski will check on the levels at the high school that have higher class sizes. Mr. Adamo would like to see more consistency with the format used by the elementary schools.

Staff Recognition (Ref. 8)

Mr. Perzanoski announced with great pleasure that Sweeney School principal, Angela Kiss, received the 2007 Pi Lambda Theta Outstanding Educator Award and Sweeney teacher, Christina La Rosa, was recently initiated into the Pi Lambda Theta Honor Society. The Board and Mr. Perzanoski congratulated them for receiving these outstanding professional honors.

Financial statement October 2007 (Ref. 9)

Mr. Nelson said that he will have more detailed budget information at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting next week.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 10)

There were no comments.

Series 6000 (students) and Series 7000 (construction) (Ref. 11)

This is the first reading of Series 6000 (students) and Series 7000 (construction) policies and administrative regulations. Final action will be taken at the December 5, 2007, Board of Education meeting.

2008 Board of Education Meeting Dates (Ref. 12)

This is the first reading of the proposed Board of Education meeting dates for January through December 2008. Final action will be taken at the December 5, 2007, Board of Education meeting.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

Districtwide PTO: Mrs. Haney reported that there will be a movie night on November 16 at Windham Middle School. Members received an update from Mr. Perzanoski on the assessment visit by Cambridge Associates; Mrs. Collins gave a presentation on the dental services that will soon be available to students; and plans were discussed for engaging parents through districtwide programs.

Magnet School Building: Mrs. Collins said that land options were discussed as well as plans for the building and classrooms to present to the architect. The next meeting will be on November 15.

Student Services: Mrs. Haney reported that Officer Alex Coriaty presented information on lockdown procedures that were used at the Middle School and recommended that other schools in the city limits also have their procedures reviewed. He will be scheduled to speak to administrators at an upcoming Council meeting.

Policy/Planning: Mrs. Collins reported that Judy Sanborn is reviewing policies for the use of two defibrillators. Dr. Anderberg said that Mrs. Banks has asked that The Return-to-Work policy be included in the new set of policies and this will be forthcoming for Board approval.

Schoolbased Health: Mrs. Collins reported that there will be a forum to address the needs for school mental health staff and Mr. Clements will be the facilitator. Letters of invitation will be sent out shortly.

Personnel: Dr. Switchenko reported that Mr. Forman requested three additional paraprofessionals to service new students in the district; the Committee of Review submitted coaching requests that were reviewed; a request to alter the maternity leave policy was reviewed; and the time lines for the principal searches and assistant superintendent search were discussed.

Alternatives to Suspensions/Expulsions: Mr. Perzanoski reported that legislation effective July 1, 2008, requires districts to have plans for alternatives to suspensions and expulsions. The committee, made up of a cross section of district staff, held its first meeting and will work on addressing this issue so that the district complies with the mandate. Mr. Perzanoski said that the committee will meet on early release days and he invited any interested Board members to attend.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Clements would like the Board to discuss planning a meeting of some length to work on priorities.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board enter into executive session at 8:18 P.M., for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations.

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

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Mr. Perzanoski, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Summa, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:29 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:29 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary