

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
October 12, 2011

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins (arrived at 7:17 PM), 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: Special Master Dr. Adamowski, general public, staff, administrators, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mrs. Rayhall called the October 12, 2011, Regular Board of Education meeting, to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Switchenko led the Board and the public in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Rayhall asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mike McGlew, Windham Public Schools' Director of Building and Grounds, who passed away last Friday.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2011 (Ref. 1)

(22)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve the September 14, 2011, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

September 28, 2011 (Ref. 1A)

(23)Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the September 28, 2011, Board of Education Workshop minutes, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye: Mrs. Rayhall, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko. Dr. Sewall  
Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Adamo

The motion passes: 6-0-1

COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Rayhall announced that Open Office Hours with the Superintendent and Board of Education Chair have been re-scheduled from October 17 to October 25 due to a schedule conflict.

Ms. Ortiz announced with pleasure that the Windham Early Childhood Program earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which is the nation's leading

organization of early childhood professionals. She commended Director Ms. Crotty and staff members for receiving this accreditation which nationally recognized the program for high quality early education.

Mrs. Lambert asked to have student representatives, Ms. Hossai Jabary and Ms. Katelynn Person, excused from attending Board of Education Workshop meetings in the future. The Board unanimously agreed that this would be acceptable.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Ortiz explained that beginning with the next Board of Education business meeting on November 16, 2011, public comment would take place from 6:30 to 7:00 P.M. A sign-in sheet will be available at each meeting for those who wish to speak, which will include name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. This will provide an opportunity to respond to members of the audience.

Jeff Viens, taxpayer, asked if Board members would be at the public comment portion. He said that there has been a gag order for people on the Board of Education and he would like to see that lifted with the new members so that they can be open and honest.

Peter Quercia, Willimantic, thanked the Board of Education for meeting at the high school which is next door to his house. He also mentioned that he had spoken with Mr. McGlew many times and did not know he had passed away. He said that he had met with Mr. Harris regarding constantly having police called when he is walking on public property at the high school. He was recently told by a police officer that he and his dogs are not welcome on the high school property. Mr. Quercia said he has sixteen citations and just would like to be left alone.

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, said that she has no children at the high school but would not want anyone's dogs on the property. She said that she would like to talk about some of recommendations made by Dr. Adamowski. She said that many of his recommendations have been put forth by members of the community but nothing has been done. Ms. Jeffers said teachers were given notebook computers and asked when students would be given books. She said that people turned the middle school building down over and over again at referendum until it eventually passed by four votes. She said that she hoped the magnet school would be cut. She said that she believed the high school was built to hold 1800 students. She suggested that the middle school consist of grades seven, eight and nine and the high school consist of grades ten through twelve with a school built for the elementary grades on the major parcel. She said some options are seen as excluding students.

(Mrs. Collins arrived.)

Mary Lou DeVivo, Willimantic, thanked Board members for their hard work over the last many years. She said that as part of the Town government, the Board of Education has always been considered a secretive group and members need to be careful about public comment time.

### Action Items

#### Appointments (Ref. 2)

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

#### Appointments

- Stephen Carey, LA Intervention Specialist/Windham High School effective September 1, 2011. Salary is BA/3, \$38,783, New Position.
- Michele Garcia, Family Liaison/North Windham School effective September 19, 2011. Hourly rate is \$15.00, New Position
- Anabelitza Lozada Morales, .8 FTE Family Liaison/Windham Center School effective September 19, 2011. Hourly rate is \$15.00, New Position.

- Ingrid Otero Cruz, Family Liaison/Sweeney School effective September 19, 2011. Hourly rate is \$15.00, New Position.
- Normaliz Acosta-Setaram, Family Liaison/Windham High School effective September 19, 2011. Hourly rate is \$15.00, New Position.
- Robinson Camacho, Family Liaison/Windham Middle School effective September 19, 2011. Hourly rate is \$15.00/New Position.
- Rose Hernandez, Family Liaison/Windham Middle School effective September 19, 2011. Hourly rate is \$15.00/New Position.
- Sorangel Fandino, Family Liaison/Natchaug School effective September 19, 2011. Hourly rate is \$15.00/New Position.
- Dimiri Leon Crespo, Bus Monitor/WECC Head Start Program/Prospect Street effective September 26, 2011. Hourly rate is \$8.65, replaces Tania Ortiz Ojeda who resigned.
- Andrea Rosario, P/T Homeless Outreach Worker/Central Office effective September 15, 2011. Hourly rate is \$15.00, replaces Anabelitza Lozada Morales who transferred.
- James Currier, Crossing Guard/Natchaug School effective October 6, 2011. Hourly rate is \$12.26, replaces David Folk who transferred.
- Michael Nowek Jr, LA Intervention Specialist/Windham High School effective September 12, 2011. Salary is MA/5, \$44,173 prorated, New Position.
- Shaun Wrinn, English Teacher/Windham High School effective September 1, 2011. Salary is MA/3, \$41,245, replaces Jennifer Ohlund who resigned.
- Stacey Lewis, Guidance Counselor/Windham High School effective September 1, 2011. Salary is MA/6, \$45,637, replaces Joanna Caserta who resigned.
- Jacquelyn Shutsky, Grade 6 Math Teacher/Windham Middle School effective September 1, 2011. Salary is MA/10, \$52,960, replaces Lisa Jurovaty who transferred.
- Jennifer Chobot, Special Education Paraprofessional/Windham Middle School effective October 3, 2011. Hourly rate is \$11.98, replaces Michele Serrano who resigned.
- Robin Mott, 1:1 LPN/Windham Middle School effective September 26, 2011. Hourly rate is \$22.28, replaces Jessica Calvo who resigned.

There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

#### Windham High School Field Trip Application (Ref. 3)

(25)Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the Windham High School trip application request for Windham High School DECA students to attend the North Atlantic Region Leadership Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from Friday, November 18, 2011, to Sunday November 20, 2011, in accordance with Board policy #6153. Mrs. Lambert asked what would happen if there were an emergency with only one adult chaperone with the students. Ms. Ortiz said that she will check with Ms. King. Mr. Adamo said since there were only four students attending, he didn't see it as a problem.

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

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Lambert

The motion passes: 7-0-1

#### Superintendent's Report

#### 2011 CMT and CAPT Reading Results (Ref. 4)

Ms. Ortiz and Ms. Barker-Jones provided information on the district's 2011 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and 2011 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) reading results. Ms. Ortiz reviewed the purpose of the CMT and the levels of achievement. She explained the two assessments for reading which are degrees of reading power and reading comprehension; each comprising fifty percent of the total score. Scores by grade level were compared for students on free or reduced lunch versus full price lunch and ELL students versus not ELL students. Charts were provided that showed results for third through eighth grade from 2006 to 2011. Charts for each school also showed scores from 2006 to 2011. A chart graphed the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) target versus Windham's scores for reading proficiency in 2011. Windham targets to close the gap were reviewed as well as gains that are necessary to achieve this over the next three years. Targets to reach reading proficiency as compared to the state were also provided through 2014 for each elementary school and the middle school. The intent is to have 100% of Windham students reach reading level proficiency by 2014.

Ms. Ortiz reported on the CAPT, which is a standardized summative assessment for tenth grade students, and is comprised of two assessments, response to literature and reading for information. Each assessment makes up fifty percent of the total score. Charts were reviewed indicating the percent of students who were proficient from 2007 to 2011, as well as comparison of students who were on free or reduced lunch versus full price lunch and Ell students versus non ELL students. A chart showed the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) target versus Windham's scores for reading proficiency in 2011. Windham targets to close the gap with the State were reviewed, as well as the necessary percentages Windham needs to gain each year through 2014. Steps being taken to close the proficiency gap between Windham and the State were highlighted at all school levels. Ms. Ortiz and Ms. Barker-Jones answered questions from Board members.

#### District Vision Statement (Ref. 4A)

Ms. Ortiz reviewed the Strategic Operating Plan Vision development for the district thus far. The purpose of the vision is to describe what will be in the future that inspires hope and individual effort with the goal to achieve excellence and equity for all students. Work on the development of the Vision will continue at the next Board of Education workshop meeting, with an additional workshop meeting scheduled for November 30, 2011. Dr. Adamowski encouraged Board members to provide individual input to the Superintendent. Board candidates are invited to provide input, as well, and to participate in the next workshop meeting.

#### Committee reports (no reports)

Board members asked about the Student Council report that has been provided in the past at Board meetings. Dr. Adamowski clarified the role of the student representatives to the Board of Education and said that the students should be encouraged to participate in the meetings; however, they do not cast votes. The report of activities at the High School by Student Council representatives is different and can be done periodically at meetings throughout the year.

#### Special Master's report

Dr. Adamowski reviewed three items that are works in progress. (1) He said that adjustments to the 2011-2012 budget document will be made and adopted in November making it an all funds budget showing all revenues and expenditures. The present budget format is a general funds budget and special funds are not included. (2) He explained that because of his concern with instructional time, the 2011-2012 calendar will be developed to include one-hour early dismissals on professional development days, as well as holding professional development on non-federal holidays and voluntarily on at least one federal holiday. Payment to staff will be based on the contractual rate. (3) The long-term plan to raise student achievement will include the redesign of the High School and the Middle School. The Board Workshop schedule includes the

following: October 26, 2011, Targets and Vision which will focus on the redesign of the High School; November 30, 2011, Theory of Action including Vision and Targets; and January 2012, Three-Year Operation Plan review and planning process for the new magnet school. Workshop topics after January will include a budget workshop, a workshop on the ELL program, and workshops in other areas as seen significant by the Superintendent.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

(26) Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:39 PM for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations and superintendent's evaluation and contract.

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

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

#### ADMINISTRATION

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

(Assistant Superintendent Ms. Barker-Jones, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson, and Special Master Dr. Adamowski left the meeting at 8:45 P.M.)

#### REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mrs. Rayhall reconvened regular session at 10:08 P.M.

(27) Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education add to the agenda the tentative agreement with the Windham Association of Administrators and the continued discussion of the Superintendent's evaluation and contract as a Special Board of Education meeting on November 2, 2011.

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

(28) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education approve the tentative agreement with the Windham Association of Administrators.

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

(29) Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education continue discussion of the Superintendent's evaluation and contract at a Special Board of Education meeting on November 2, 2011.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

(30) Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 10:10 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary