

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2014

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

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Garcia; Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper; Directors Ms. Beghetto, Mrs. Banks, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Cunha; Communications Officer Ms. Markey

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: Kathy Oyola and Nathan Cusson (Ms. Oyola and Mr. Cusson were present to be introduced to Board members and will begin attending meetings on September 24, 2014.)

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Lambert called the September 10, 2014, Board of Education regular business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mrs. Lambert asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Angelo Tambornini, grandfather to Mr. Quamme, and in memory of Ms. Enilda Patterson, sister to Dr. Garcia.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Desaulniers, that the Board of Education defer approval until the September 24, 2014 meeting of the minutes for the June 11, 2014 business meeting; June 25, 2014 workshop meeting; June 18, 2014 special meeting, July 2, 2014 special meeting, July 8, 2014 special meeting and August 11, 2014 special meeting.

The motion is unanimously approved

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Windham High School's Assisted Work Program

Shannon Bryda, Nason Casanova, and Angelo Santiago were recognized by the Board of Education and Dr. Garcia for their active participation in Eastern Connecticut State University's (ECSU) Best Buddies program. ECSU's Best Buddies Program won the most outstanding chapter award at the 25th Annual Best Buddies International Leadership Conference this summer, in part, due to their involvement in this important program. Mr. Mark Shultz, Windham High School Vocational Coordinator, and Mr. Peter Cavanagh, a member of the ECSU adjunct faculty, work collaboratively to run the Best Buddies Program. The students were congratulated and received certificates of recognition.

Windham Middle School Technology Student Association

Recognized by the Board of Education and Dr. Garcia were Brenna Lynn, Timothy Hill, Alex Merced, Matthew Morin and Dylan Werth. These Middle School students attended the TSA National competition in Washington, DC, competing against 6500 other students from the United States and Germany and received national recognition in many events. Parent Ms. Alicia Lynn was recognized for receiving the advisor of the year award for middle school chapters for Connecticut. The students were congratulated and received certificates of recognition.

PUBLIC DIALOGUE

Dorothy Potter, WHS Principal, said that the start of the school year at the High School has been the best she's seen in the three years that she has been there. She said that a culture on academics with a strong focus on college readiness and preparing for tests that can have a major impact on life is beginning to be built, and teachers are engaged in critical discussions regarding the common core and its rigor and how to engage students. Ms. Potter said that the Open House is an event to promote what is being done at the High School and a time to enlist the support of parents and guardians in that effort, and she was disappointed to see this undermined by people who used the event for political advertising and distributing information that contradicts the High School's core values and beliefs. Ms. Potter said that she understands that the group had a right to be near school grounds but would have liked to have been approached ahead of time to work out a compromise. Ms. Potter said that she appreciates the support she has received from the Board and the district and takes the responsibility of being principal very seriously. Ms. Potter said that the Windham High School student planners have arrived and the student/parent handbook and calendar of events has been published in English and Spanish.

James Flores, Willimantic, thanked Dr. Garcia for spending time in the community. He said that teachers should use their energy and resources to get the budget passed and not to attack him. He thanked the Latino people. He said that the budget didn't pass because only 1000 people voted out of 17,000; and if every single Windham Public Schools' staff member voted, the budget would pass. Mr. Flores said that Windham Public Schools has one of the biggest work forces in the Town.

Mr. French thanked Mr. Flores for the back pack program. Mr. Flores thanked everyone, including Dr. Garcia and Mr. French for their support of the program.

Kathleen Koljian, Willimantic and Windham High School teacher, said that she was concerned about the presence of several anti-common core advocates who distributed literature outside the High School during its open house. She said that anti-common core literature was passed out in a packet that included a campaign flyer for John French for State Senate. Ms. Koljian said that she found it highly inappropriate for individuals to place signs and to campaign on school property and is concerned that a Board member seems to be affiliated with a group that is opposed to goal four of the School Improvement Plan. She said that everyone at the High School wants students to take their work and take testing seriously, and the actions of the individuals at the open house undermine these efforts which is disappointing.

Mary Lou DeVivo, Willimantic, said that she would like all children to be reading on grade level by grade three. She also reiterated that no children should be housed at Kramer. Mrs. DeVivo said that literature was also distributed outside a school in Mansfield when she attended an open house there and it is just "our political way of doing things" and it will end after November 4.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Opening of School

Dr. Garcia reported that the opening of school was very successful and thanked central office and principals for the smooth opening. She said that the water situation at Windham Center School and the evacuation of the High School were two minor challenges that took place.

Windham Center Well Sanitization

Dr. Garcia reported that sanitization of the well at Windham Center School took place and will continue if necessary.

Community Forums

Dr. Garcia reported that she will be attending three community forums next week and thanked Mr. Stover and his staff, as well as Ms. Markey, for helping to organize these events. Dr. Garcia thanked community members and parents for attending the forums and providing her with their feedback. She said that she will take their feedback back to her staff as they work on strategic planning to move the district forward.

Needs Assessment with Education Resource Strategies and the Connecticut Council for Education Reform

Dr. Garcia reported that there is a great opportunity for the district to take advantage of a district needs assessment at no cost to the district. The needs assessment will be conducted by Education Resource Strategy and will be divided into the following two parts: Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School System Funding Analysis. The completed assessment will be used as a tool for strategic planning to move the district forward.

Committee Reports

Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. French reported that the committee met this evening and reviewed the year end financials with the Finance Director. There is a \$28,755 surplus that will go back into the general fund. Budget transfers were also reviewed at the meeting, and Mr. French asked that their approval be added to tonight's agenda for action. The \$200,000 cut by the Town Board of Finance to the Board of Education's budget was also discussed. Dr. Garcia reported tonight that cuts will not be made at the classroom/instructional level, and efficiency at the administrative level will be reviewed.

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board of Education add the recommended approval of budget transfers as presented to the agenda.

The motion is unanimously approved.

School Planning and Design Committee

Mr. Kalajian reported that committee meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of the month which began in September; however, the committee also met on the last Wednesday in August. The committee is continuing the work that has been done thus far and is looking at developing a vision of what is expected out of the school buildings keeping in mind that the buildings are an integral part of the support system for the educational programs in the district. Members are working on ideas on how this can be accomplished.

Executive Committee

Mrs. Lambert reported that the committee will be meeting on the first Mondays of the month beginning in October.

Ad Hoc Policy Committee

Mrs. Osoba reported that she spoke with Mr. Masturo at CABA regarding the policy update that is in the process of being conducted. She said that Mr. Masturo indicated that all policies will be up to date and up to

standards sometime next week. Mrs. Osuba said that a committee meeting won't be scheduled unless she is notified that there is a specific policy that requires review.

ACTION ITEMS

Authorized Signatures Change Form (Ref. 2)

Motion of Mrs. Osuba, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board of Education approve the *ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs' Authorized Signatures Change Form* and therefore authorizes Superintendent Patricia Garcia to sign the Connecticut State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs agreement and related claims for reimbursement, and in her absence, Christian S. Johnson, Finance Director, is authorized to sign claims for reimbursement.

The motion is unanimously approved.

All-Hazards School and Safety Plans for Natchaug School, North Windham School and Charles H. Barrows STEMS Academy (Ref. 3, 3A, 3B)

Board members agreed to vote on all three plans together. Mrs. Lambert thanked Mr. Donaldson and the school principals for their work on these plans. The remaining plans will be voted on at the September 24, 2014, meeting.

Motion of Dr. Gomez, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board of Education approve the All Hazards School and Safety Plans as presented for Natchaug School, North Windham School and Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy.

The motion is unanimously approved.

Approval of Appointments

Motion of Mr. Desaulniers, seconded by Mr. Quamme, that the Board of Education approve the following appointments:

1. Beatriz Andino to the position of Preschool Teacher at WECC Prospect Street, one year appt. effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/3 \$41,950. Replacement.
2. Dani Aponte to the position of Bilingual Teacher at Sweeney School, one year appt. effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/3 \$41,950. Replacement.
3. Lilyana Auster to the position of Math Coach at Windham Middle School effective August 20, 2014, salary 6th Yr/13 \$72,535. New Position.
4. Donna Bartolomei to the position of Special Education Teacher at Windham High School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA+15/3 \$45,737. Replacement.
5. Eva Beermann to the position of ESOL Teacher at CH Barrows STEM Academy effective August 20, 2014, salary MA+30/13 \$72,535. Replacement.
6. Rosalia Campos to the position of Grade 2 Dual Language Teacher at North Windham School, one year appt. effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/3 \$41,950. Replacement.
7. Samantha Clifford to the position of Preschool Teacher at WECC Prospect Street effective August 20, 2014, salary BA+30/3 \$44,412. Replacement.
8. Christine Colenbaugh to the position of Grade 4 Teacher at Sweeney School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/3 \$44,412. Replacement.
9. Chamari Davis to the position of Grade 2 Teacher at Sweeney School effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/3 \$41,950. Replacement.
10. Daniela De Sousa to the position of Art Teacher at Windham Center School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/3 \$44,412. New Position.
11. Amanda Ericson to the position of Grade 1 Teacher at CH Barrows STEM Academy effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/3 \$41,950. Replacement.

12. Laura Faucher to the position of Preschool Teacher at WECC Prospect Street effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/3 \$41,950. Replacement.
13. Craig Fournier to the position of Grade 7 Math Teacher at CH Barrows STEM Academy effective April 22, 2014, salary BA/4 \$43,197 prorated. New Position.
14. Danielle Fratoni to the position of Grade 4 Teacher at Natchaug effective August 25, 2014, salary MA/3 \$44,412 prorated. New Position.
15. Alexis Galloza to the position of Dual Language Grade 6/7 Science Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/3 \$41,950. New Position.
16. Louise Gauthier to the position of Reading Teacher at Windham Center School effective September 2, 2014, salary MA/5 \$47,340 prorated. Replacement.
17. Laura Goderre to the position of Literacy Facilitator at Natchaug School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA+15/12. New Position.
18. Matthew Greaney to the position of Grade 6 Math Teacher at CH Barrows STEM Academy effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/3 \$44,412. New Position.
19. Sylvia Grzybowski to the position of Grade 7/8 Social Studies Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 20, 2014, salary BA+30/3 \$44,412. Replacement.
20. Daniel Knoblauch to the position of Guidance Counselor at Windham Middle School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/5 \$47,340. New Position.
21. Zachary Konopka to the position of Social Science Teacher at Windham High School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/3 \$44,412. Replacement.
22. Nicole Lareau to the position of Guidance Counselor at Windham Middle School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/4 \$45,875. Replacement.
23. Allison McMahon to the position of Reading Teacher at CH Barrows STEM Academy effective August 20, 2014, salary MA+30/15 \$80,803. New Position.
24. Lisa Martin to the position of Spanish Teacher at Windham High School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/10 \$56,127. Replacement.
25. Philip Medeiros to the position of School Psychologist at Windham Middle School effective August 20, 2014, salary 6th Yr/3 \$47,122. Replacement.
26. Christina Milton to the position of Grade 4 Teacher at Natchaug School effective August 21, 2014, salary MA/4 \$45,875 prorated. Replacement.
27. Simon Phillips to the position of Grade 7/8 Special Education Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 20, 2014, salary PHD/5 \$54,354. Replacement.
28. David Ricker to the position of Grade 7 Math Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/9 \$53,195. Replacement.
29. Claire Rowland to the position of Preschool Teacher at WECC Prospect Street effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/3 \$44,412. Replacement.
30. Melanie Sabrowske to the position of Grade 8 ELA Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/3, \$41,950. Replacement.
31. David Sanz Rovira to the position of Social Worker at Natchaug School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/14 \$72,051. New Position.
32. Dario Sarmiento to the position of Bilingual Support Teacher at CH Barrows STEM Academy, one year appt. effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/1 \$39,864. Replacement.
33. Brian Stern to the position of Music Teacher at North Windham School effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/3 \$41,950. Replacement.
34. Sharon Ternowchek to the position of Instructional Consultant at Sweeney School effective August 20, 2014, salary 6th Yr/9 \$57,032. Replacement.

35. Patricia Wilding to the position of School Psychologist at North Windham/Windham Center School effective August 20, 2014, salary 6th Yr/3 \$47,122. Replacement.
 36. Jordan Whipple to the position of Grade 3 Teacher at Windham Center School effective August 20, 2014, salary BA/3 \$41,950. New Position.
 37. Aida Ortiz to the position of Dual Language Teacher at North Windham School effective date TBD, salary MA/15 \$76,077. Replacement.
 38. Chelsea Brashear to the position of Special Education Teacher at Natchaug School effective August 20, 2014, salary MA/3 \$44,412. Replacement.
- There was discussion regarding the number of positions remaining to be filled.
The motion is unanimously approved.

Board comments

Mrs. Lambert said that the Board's retreat went very well on August 15. She congratulated Ms. Markey for her upcoming wedding. Mrs. Lambert said that Dr. Garcia will be an asset to the district and looks forward to working with her. She thanked Mrs. Banks for her years of service.

Motion of Mr. Kalajian, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education amend the reason to go into Executive Session to also include the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to a personnel matter.

The motion is unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Mr. Kalajian, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 7:40 PM for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations and exempt documents pertaining to a personnel matter.

The motion is unanimously approved.

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

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Garcia, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper, Directors Mrs. Banks, Ms. Beghetto and Mr. Cunha

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mrs. Lambert reconvened regular session at 9:00 P.M.

Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education approve the budget transfers as presented earlier in the meeting.

The motion is unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board meeting adjourn at 9:02 P.M.
The motion is unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Montalvo, Secretary

