

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
April 8, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall (arrived at 7:27 PM), Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Clements, Mr. Doyle

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Diaz

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Mrs. Fuller, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Haley Dunnack
Columbia – No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, staff, general public, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the April 8, 2009, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:07 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School. A moment of silence was taken in memory of Iris Soto, grandmother to several children who are students in the Windham Public Schools, who was killed earlier this week in a car accident.

Mr. Folan asked for a motion to add an executive session to the agenda for discussion purposes only of personnel matters.

(171) Motion of Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that an executive session for discussion purposes only of personnel matters be added to tonight's agenda.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous.

MINUTES

March 25, 2009, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

(172) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the March 25, 2009, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous.

March 31, 2009, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

(173) Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education approve the March 31, 2009, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Collins, Mr. Clements, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Haney

The motion passes: 2-0-5

Windham High School Transition to Work Program (Tom Dufort)

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Folan commended Mr. Dufort for the success of the Windham High School Transition to Work program. Mr. Dufort spoke about the growth of the program over the past three years. Job Coach, Ms. Taylor, and student, Alex Gomez, were also present. Mr. Dufort was

presented with a certificate of accomplishment and commended for his work with the program. Mr. Folan and Mrs. Fuller congratulated everyone involved in the program for its success.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Switchenko was wished a happy birthday.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Haley Dunnack reported that Council members assisted with the set up and break down for the recent Craft Show to benefit Project Graduation. On April 2, Student Council members heard a presentation from a Big Brothers/Big Sisters representative and will plan a future fundraiser with the organization. The Annual Leadership Conference will be held on May 19 and Lyman Memorial High School Student Council members will be invited to participate. Mr. Folan thanked Haley for her report and asked her to inform Student Council members that their work and community involvement are appreciated.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There was none.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(174) Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2:

Resignations:

- Mabell Rosado, Secretary III/Supplemental Services Office effective April 3, 2009.
- Felipe Andiarena/Autistic Tutor/Prospect Street Preschool effective March 26, 2009.
- Maria Antonia Finnegan, Even Start Toddler Teacher effective March 17, 2009.

Appointments:

- Veronica Elaine Rosales, Even Start Toddler Teacher/Prospect Street effective March 24, 2009. Hourly rate is \$18.00, replaces Maria Antonia Finnegan who transferred.
- Whitney Peterson, Special Education Paraprofessional/North Windham School effective January 16, 2009. Hourly rate is \$12.14, replaces Jessica Welden who resigned.
- David Folk, Crossing Guard/Natchaug School effective March 12, 2009. Hourly rate is \$11.90. Replaces Ann Lachapelle.

Leaves of absence:

- Lisa Jurovaty, Grade 6 Teacher/Windham Middle School. Medical leave of absence effective May 5, 2009 through June 1, 2009.
- Linda Couture, 1:1 Special Education Paraprofessional/Sweeney School. Medical leave of absence effective April 6, 2009 through June, 2009.

There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS

2009-2010 School Calendar (Ref. 3)

(175) Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve draft #3 of the proposed 2009-2010 school calendar. Mrs. Collins explained that the Policy and Planning Committee reviewed the proposed calendar and the conference dates have been revised so that all of the schools have conferences on the same two dates in the fall and in the spring. Conference days are early dismissal days. To avoid a conflict, the middle school and high school would hold conferences on different evenings. The committee felt that having two days of conferences provides parents with more of an opportunity to attend the conferences.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

Middle School Before and After School Program Grant (Ref. 4)

(176) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Middle School Before and After School grant application. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

School Uniforms at Windham Middle School (Ref. 5)

Mr. Piacentini, middle school 7th and 8th grade assistant principal, explained that a committee was formed in October of this past year to research either revising the current dress code or implementing school uniforms. After doing some research and reviewing a survey sent to staff and parents, the committee decided to pursue the idea of having students wear school uniforms. Students at Windham Technical High School wear school uniforms and the school has been a good resource, providing the committee with helpful information. Administration at the Middle School believe that school uniforms will have a positive impact on all aspects of the school, as well as be cost effective for families. This concept was presented previously to the Board's Student Services Committee.

(Mrs. Rayhall arrived.)

Board members' questions were answered and there was some discussion. Mrs. Fuller explained that once parent forums are held, the policy will be brought to the Board for action. Board members were in support of school uniforms and agreed that choices should be kept simple and standards be set at the beginning for both uniform tops and bottoms.

Middle School Improvement Measures (Ref. 6)

Ms. Negrón reviewed the current team configuration and explained the changes that Middle School administration will incorporate next year to align with the goals and objectives of the school's improvement plan. She explained the benefits that would result with the implementation of this initiative. Ms. Negrón answered Board members' questions. This information was recently presented to members of the Student Services Committee.

CMT Performance and Time in Windham Public Schools (Ref. 7)

Mrs. Fuller explained that this data is for informational purposes and is a general analysis and comparison of performance on CMTs and time in the Windham Public Schools. Data shows that there is no correlation between time in Windham Public Schools and students' performance on the CMT.

Financial report (Ref. 8)

Mr. Nelson updated the Board on the energy performance contract and asbestos removal expenses. There was some discussion and it was decided that a letter would be written to the consultant and contractor regarding the unexpected expense of removing the asbestos that was found when replacing windows at the high school. Mr. Nelson also reported that staff from the business office and grants department recently met to review expenses for the remainder of the year. He indicated that the budget will be tight through the rest of the year.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 9)

There were no comments.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle reported that the Town's Board of Finance has requested to meet again tomorrow night to ask some questions.

Magnet School Building: Mrs. Haney reported that the committee met and reviewed the results of the education programming consultant interviews. Mrs. Collins reported that two independent appraisals are being done on the Tuckie Road property. A report done on the property stated that it is a great place to put the school. She reviewed the steps that will be taken before the land can be purchased and ground broken to begin building.

Policy/Planning: Mrs. Collins reported that the committee reviewed the 2009-10 school calendar. There was a scheduling conflict and the committee did not meet with teachers regarding the attendance policy as planned. This will be re-scheduled for another date.

Program Development/Evaluation: Mr. Adamo reported that the newsletter from the Curriculum Office was distributed; an update was given on the Compañeros program; and it was decided that physical education and art in the elementary schools will be on a future agenda.

Personnel: Dr. Switchenko reported that the committee reviewed the organizational chart, the substitute teacher orientation schedule, and new job descriptions. Upcoming bargaining unit negotiations were discussed in executive session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Adamo asked for an update on this year's senior projects at the high school.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(177)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board enter into executive session at 8:15 P.M., for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to personnel matters.

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Mrs. Fuller, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:42 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

(178)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:43 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary