

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
April 28, 2010

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

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Fuller, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson
Director Mr. Forman

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVE: Hayley Dunnack

OTHERS PRESENT: General public, staff, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the April 28, 2010, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Dunnack led the Board and the public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

April 14, 2010 Regular Board of Education meeting (Ref. 1)

(204)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve the April 14, 2010, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1, with the following corrections noted by Mrs. Rayhall: *Resignations* changed to *Appointments* and location for Olga Morris changed to *Windham Middle School* from *Windham High School*.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

PRESENTATION OF 2010 STUDENT PHILOSPHER

Hayley Dunnack presented copies of the *2010 Student Philosopher* to Board members. She read the Prologue, *Tomorrow*, written by Leanna Piscetello. Mr. Folan thanked Hayley and said that publication is always a source of pride for the high school, as well as for the entire district.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Adamo reported that the students on the recent trip to Baltimore, Washington and Gettysburg were exceptionally well behaved and it was a pleasure to travel with them. Mr. Folan reviewed plans for reminding people to vote during the budget referendum which will include use of Alert Now, sending flyers home to parents, advertisements sponsored by WFT's LPAC and the Board of Education's Vote Yes Education Matters PAC, displaying signs in front of the schools, and making telephone calls.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Hayley Dunnack reported that members are still working on plans for next month's leadership conference.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

No one spoke.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(205)Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2

Appointment

- Dianne Nelson, BASP Coordinator/Windham Center School, effective April 12, 2010. Hourly rate is \$16.75, replaces William Perez who resigned.

Resignations

- Inara Roman, Head Start Aide/Boston Post Road, effective May 19, 2010, for the purpose of retirement.
- William Perez, BASAP Coordinator/Windham Center School, effective April 9, 2010.
- Jessica Millott, Grade 1 Teacher/Sweeney School, effective June 30, 2010.

There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Windham High School field trip applications (Ref. 3 and Ref. 3A)

(206)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the following two field trip applications:

(Ref. 3) Approval for the girls' basketball team to travel to Orlando, Florida, from Sunday, December 26, 2010, to Friday, December 31, 2010; and

(Ref. 3A) Approval for the wrestling team to travel to Orlando, Florida, from Sunday, December 26, 2010, to Thursday, December 30, 2010.

Both are in accordance with Board policy 6153. Coaches Risley and Valliere were present and answered questions regarding fundraising activities for both trips.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

Students - Electronic Devices Policy approval (Ref. 4)

(207)Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve Policy 5131.81 Students – Electronic Devices. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Student recognition (Ref. 5)

Ms. Fuller was pleased to announce that Windham High School students, Arthur (Bart) Crosbie and Jesse Kohn, are the recipients of this year's CAS art awards and Windham High School students, Hayley Dunnack and Kevin Wikholm, are this year's CAS Scholar-Athletes. The Board congratulated these students for achieving such noteworthy statewide recognition.

Donations (Ref. 6)

Mr. Folan thanked author Caroline B. Cooney for the donation of books written by her and Eleanore Provençal from the Connecticut Agricultural Foundation for the donation of books, lesson plans and other classroom materials. The Board of Education is grateful for these gifts to the school system.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 7)

- May 2010 District Calendar of Events
- Schedule for Promotion and Graduation Ceremonies
- Windham Federation of Teachers' *The Spectrum* newsletter

There were no comments.

Board of Education

First reading of policies (Ref. 8)

The following policies were on the agenda for a first reading and will be brought back to the Board for final approval at its May 12, 2010, meeting: Policy 4122 Student Teachers – existing policy with suggested modification to reflect new legislation; Policy 4131(a) (b) (c) Staff Development - existing policy with suggested revision to reflect new legislation; and Policy 1212 and Regulations 1212(a) (b) School Volunteers – revised sample policy to consider. There was no discussion.

Subcommittee Reports:

Policy/Planning: Dr. Sewall reported that the policies submitted for a first reading to the full Board were reviewed at the last committee meeting. There are a couple of policies that are being worked on to make them more compatible with one another and these will be brought forward at a future date. The committee's next meeting is May 12th prior to the Board meeting.

Student Services: Mrs. Collins reported that the majority of parents are in agreement with implementing the uniform policy in the lower grades. The committee agreed to move forward with it and ask that it be put on the next Board of Education agenda for action. Mrs. Collins also reported that Ms. Negrón attended the meeting and spoke about discipline at the middle school and procedures that have been put in place to address these issues, including bus issues. There was some discussion after Mrs. Collins' report regarding the uniform policy including the use of logos on shirts.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo reported that a new Board member representing the Killingly Board of Education was welcomed; the supervising Head Start office will be doing onsite monitoring of the EASTCONN Head Start program in the fall; three members of the EASTCONN staff reported on the Advanced Placement Programs; there was a report on the Regional Summit for Northeastern Connecticut; RESC Alliance resolutions were approved; the financial quarterly report was given; forty-seven positions were eliminated with the approval of the non-renewal of nontenured staff; a report on Project Opening Doors and an update on the Head Start program were presented. Mr. Adamo reminded everyone that they are invited to the annual meeting on May 25 at the Capitol Theater. The meeting will begin at 3 PM with the program starting at 4 PM.

Districtwide PTO: Mrs. Haney reported that committee members discussed obtaining insurance as a non-profit group. Ms. Fuller said that since the Districtwide PTO meeting, she has spoken with the insurance provider and obtained additional information. It would be best for each PTO to have its own insurance policy rather than be under one umbrella policy. Each PTO would have to file for non-profit status and be its own entity.

Magnet School: Mrs. Haney and Mrs. Collins reported that plans are moving forward with wetlands and water run off management, the traffic study, signed contracts and the land purchase. A meeting will be forthcoming with the State Police and fire chiefs.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Doyle asked that all of the school groups, such as Project Graduation, be informed about becoming a 501c non-profit entity so everyone has the same information regarding obtaining insurance for activities.

Mrs. Haney asked that a report be provided on professional development activities and how we can be assured that the activities are beneficial. Mrs. Collins also asked if there is follow up regarding teacher attendance.

Mrs. Collins was pleased with the summer reading list distributed at tonight's meeting. Ms. Fuller explained that Ms. Ortiz and Mrs. Packer met with teachers to compile the list and have coordinated the selection of books with school and public libraries in the area. Ms. Ortiz is representing Windham at a state data fair this evening.

Dr. Sewall said that he would like to have regular student and teacher participation on the Policy and Planning Committee.

Ms. Fuller said that the special education report will be given at the next meeting.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mrs. DeVivo, North Windham, said that Gulemo's could put logos on shirts for \$3 each. Mrs. Collins did indicate that Gulemo's had been contacted but were not interested in doing it for the district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(208)Motion by Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board enter into executive session at 7:42 P.M., for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 7:46 P.M.

(209)Motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board add to the agenda at this time the recommended ratification of the tentative agreement between the Windham Board of Education and the Windham Federation of Maintenance Workers on a one-year contract extension.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

(210)Motion by Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education move to ratify the tentative agreement between the Windham Board of Education and the Windham Federation of Maintenance Workers on a one-year contract extension.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

(211)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board meeting adjourn at 7:47 P.M.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary