

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
August 18, 2010

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

BOARD ABSENT: Dr. Sewall

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVE: No one

OTHERS PRESENT: general public, staff, news media, Commissioner of Education Mark McQuillan,
Bureau Chief Deborah Richards, State Board of Education Chair Alan Taylor

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the August 18, 2010, Regular Board of Education meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. Folan asked for a motion to table the 2010 CMT and CAPT reports to the September 8, 2010, meeting due to the time constraint of tonight's meeting.

(31) Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education table the 2010 CMT and CAPT reports to the September 8, 2010, meeting.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Mr. Folan welcomed State Department of Education Commissioner Mark McQuillan. The Commissioner addressed the Board of Education regarding concerns he has about the instability in leadership and the lack of student achievement in the Windham Public Schools. He outlined some dramatic steps that the State feels are necessary to take to intervene. The Commissioner also said that the lack of funding is a very serious issue. The Commissioner spoke about the immediate need to have a superintendent in place to begin working with the district as soon as possible. He said that unfortunately there were very few candidates in the pool for this position and most were from out of state and would not fit the needs of Windham. He strongly urged the Board of Education to accept candidate Marion Martinez, a member of the State Department of Education staff and former Superintendent of Schools in East Hartford, as superintendent in Windham. He indicated that she could be in the position for the opening of school and she would be able to work closely with the State Department of Education so that all of the available State resources could be available for Windham as soon as possible. The Commissioner spoke about the requirement that all Board of Education members participate in the Lighthouse Training program, which is a program tailored to meet the needs of school boards. He spoke about a state statute that confers a wide range of powers giving the Commissioner the authority to intervene in districts when students are not making progress. He stated that if progress is not made, the long-term possibilities could be the reconstitution of the Board with a potential State takeover. He said that he understands that this message is not easy to hear but reiterated that changes have to be made and the State has come forward to act as a partner with the Windham Public Schools. The

Commissioner, Ms. Richards and Mr. Taylor answered questions from the Board regarding the lack of funding in Windham, available state resources for Windham, and training for Board members.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

July 14, 2010 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

(32)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the July 14, 2010, Regular Board of Education minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

August 3, 2010 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

(33)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve the August 3, 2010, Special Board of Education minutes, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

STUDENT COUNCIL

There was no report.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

Mr. Adamo asked that the resignations be voted on separately.

(34)Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the resignations in Reference 2 including the resignations in the addendum that was distributed at tonight's meeting. Mr. Adamo said that he is sad to see the resignations of Donna Young and Margaret Pekarovic and that they will both be greatly missed.

Resignations

- Donna Young, Grade 5 Teacher/Windham Middle School effective July 23, 2010 for the purpose of retirement.
- Sandra Granchelli, Reading Teacher/Sweeney School effective July 16, 2010.
- Dawn Banks, Special Education Paraprofessional/Windham Middle School effective August 31, 2010.
- Jennie Guitard, Special Education Paraprofessional/Windham High School effective August 15, 2010.
- Margaret Pekarovic, Custodian/System-wide effective November 2, 2010 for the purpose of retirement.
- Dianne Nelson, Before/After School Program Coordinator/Windham Center School effective August 2, 2010.
- Lori Smith, Speech Assistant/Sweeney School effective August 3, 2010.
- Celine Pisch, Senior Accountant/Central Office effective September 3, 2010.

Resignations – Addendum

- Laurie Cote, Grade One Teacher/North Windham School effective September 16, 2010 for the purpose of retirement.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

(35)Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the appointments and leave of absence requests in Reference 2 including those listed in the addendum that was distributed at tonight's meeting.

Appointments

- Brandon Strout, Health Teacher/Windham Middle School effective August 30, 2010. Salary is BA/3 \$38,783, replaces David Gruber who transferred
- Yvonne Muniz, Social Worker/Windham Center School effective August 30, 2010. Salary is MA/12, \$60,639, replaces Selena Musumeci who resigned.
- Brittani Mango, Science Teacher/Windham High School effective August 30, 2010. Salary is MA/3, \$41,245, replaces Victor Funderburk who retired.
- Adele Lanza, Special Education Teacher/Sweeney School effective August 30, 2010. Salary is MA/3, \$41,245, replaces Christina Conde who transferred.
- Jesse Hayes, Tech Ed Teacher/Windham High School effective August 30, 2010. Salary is BA/10, \$48,754 pending certification.
- Katharine Donahue, Early Head Start Toddler Teacher/Prospect Street Preschool effective August 23, 2010. Hourly rate is \$17.00, replaces Sandra Cabrera who transferred.

Appointments – Addendum

- Kathleen Goodwin, Elementary Special Education Coordinator effective August 30, 2010. Salary is MA/6th Year/14, \$76,836, new position.
- Kristen Berger, Head Start Health Manager/Preschool Program effective August 23, 2010. Hourly rate is \$26.00, replaces Maria Nieves who transferred.
- Hector Gonzalez, BASP Coordinator/Windham Center School effective August 25, 2010. Hourly rate is \$16.75, replaces Dianne Nelson who resigned.

Leaves of absence

- Helen Egan, Bilingual Teacher/North Windham School, childbearing/rearing leave of absence effective October 29, 2010 through December 31, 2010.
- Catherine Gagnon-Fahrenheit/Special Education Teacher/Windham Middle School, childbearing/rearing effective October 18, 2010 through January 24, 2011.
- Jennifer Lamberson, Guidance Counselor/Windham High School, childbearing/rearing effective December 24, 2010 through April 4, 2011.

Mr. Adamo asked for an explanation for the high salary of one of the appointments. Mrs. Banks explained that this position has been created in place of the special education supervisor position and is a reduction in the salary for that position.

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

Abstained: No one

The motion passes: 6-2-0

ACTION ITEMS

Authorized Signature Form Change for Child Nutrition Programs (Ref. 3)

(36)Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the revision of the *Authorized Signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs* and therefore authorizes Acting Superintendent Ana V. Ortiz to sign the Connecticut State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs' agreement and related claims for reimbursement, and in her absence, Jeffrey I. Nelson, Director of Finance and Management, is authorized to sign claims for reimbursement. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

State Bilingual Grant Application (Ref. 4)

(37)Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve submission of the State Bilingual grant application for FY 2010-2011. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

State Consolidated grant application (Ref. 5)

(38) Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve submission of the State Consolidated grant application for FY 2010-2011. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Approval of Policies (Ref. 6)

(39) Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the following policies as presented: Ref. 6: Personnel – Certified – Staff Development 4131(a) (b) (c); Ref. 6A: Students – Admission/Placement 5111(a) (b) (c); and Ref. 6B: Students – Dropouts 5112.3. This is the second reading of these policies which were revised to reflect new legislation and there have been no changes made since the first reading.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

2010 CMT and CAPT reports (Ref. 7)

This has been tabled to the September 8, 2010, Board of Education meeting.

2010 Summer School Programs (Ref. 8)

Reports included for the Board's information. Mr. Folan asked Board members to contact administration with any questions.

Before and After School Programs (Ref. 9)

This report is included for the Board's information. Mr. Folan asked Board members to contact administration with any questions.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 10)

- District Calendar – September 2010
- Open house Dates – 2010-2011
- Windham High School Library Media Center Vital Statistics – 2009-2010

There were no comments.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

No meetings have been held and there were no committee reports.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(40) Motion by Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 6:30 PM for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations and personnel matters.

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

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

BOARD ABSENT: Dr. Sewall

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Interim Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 7:05 P.M.

(41)Motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education add the budgetary change of the supervisory security position at the high school to a position (non-supervisory) at the middle school to include adding one hall monitor to each school to the agenda.

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

(42)Motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the budgetary change of the supervisory security position at the high school to a position (non-supervisory) at the middle school to include adding one hall monitor to each school.

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

(43)Motion by Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education add the postponement of the ratification of the nurses' contract until the budget passes to the agenda.

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

(44)Motion by Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education postpone the ratification of the nurses' contract until the budget passes.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

(45)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board meeting adjourn at 7:06 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary