

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
February 11, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins (arrived at 7:04 PM), Mr. Clements, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Diaz

BOARD ABSENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall

ADMINISTRATION

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

ADMINISTRATION

ABSENT: Superintendent Mrs. Fuller

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Laurie Jenkins
Columbia – No one

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

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Mr. Adamo called the February 11, 2009, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:03 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School. Mr. Adamo said that Mr. Folan and Mrs. Fuller are lobbying for education funding in Hartford and Mrs. Rayhall is held up in traffic on her way back from out of state.

(Mrs. Collins arrived.)

MINUTES

January 14, 2009, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

(118) Motion of Mr. Doyle seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the January 14, 2009, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

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

January 27, 2009, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

(119) Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the January 27, 2009, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Adamo, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Collin, Mr. Doyle

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Diaz

The motion passes: 6-0-1

PRESENTATIONS

Six-lane Timing Board for the Windham High School Pool

The following were recognized with certificates of appreciation for their fundraising efforts and donations made towards the purchase of a six-lane timing board for the Windham High School pool: parents Pat Crosbie, Lynne Weeks, Sue Husta and Sandi Phillips (not present); Girls' and Boys' Swim teams represented by girls' swim team senior captains Aiden Weeks, Laurie Jenkins and Stephanie Ossowski and boys' swim team senior representative Cedric Williams; as well as donations from the Booster Club

represented by Gerry Liskom and the Whippet Golf Tournament. Mr. Adamo thanked them for their fundraising efforts and contributions towards this worthwhile purchase.

Windham High Impacting People through Service (WHIPS)

Advisor Kathy Pekarovic explained that she began this community service club at Windham High School to show the community that Windham cares. She introduced students, Abbey Baldarelli and Viktoria McCormack, who spoke about the club and its activities. One of the projects undertaken by the club has been the collection of knitted squares which were then made into blankets and given to the No Freeze Shelter. The club is looking for ways to impact the community and are open to suggestions. Mr. Adamo thanked them for their good work.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Laurie Jenkins reported that money is being raised for schools in Uganda under a new program and plans are underway for the Spring Leadership Conference at Eastern Connecticut State University.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(120)Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2 with the following revision: resignation of Carlos Flores is effective February 13, 2009.

Resignations

- Sean Boardman, Mathematics Teacher/Windham High School effective January 12, 2009.
- Giselle Lopez, Family Advocate/Head Start effective January 21, 2009.
- Carlos Ivan Flores, Math Teacher/Windham High School, resignation date to be determined.
- Wanda Rexach, Head Start Aide/Prospect Street effective November 21, 2008.

Appointments

- Rebecca Spears, Early Head Start Teacher/Boston Post Road effective January 5, 2009. Hourly rate is \$19.60, replaced Delicia Garcia who resigned.
- Jeanne Morascini, Reading Tutor/Sweeney School effective January 8, 2009. Hourly rate is \$16.01, new position.
- Lucinda Marsalisi, Reading Tutor/Sweeney School effective January 20, 2009. Hourly rate is \$16.01, new position.
- Ninoshka Valentin-Torres, Head Start Aide/Prospect Street effective February 2, 2009. Hourly rate is \$10.53, replaces Wanda Rexach who resigned.
- Bethany Chartier, Job Coach/ERA effective February 13, 2009. Hourly rate is \$15.45, replaces Mike Warriner who resigned.
- Daniel Landeck, Math Teacher/Windham High School effective January 29, 2009. Salary is BA+30/2 \$37,501 prorated, replaces Jason Shea who resigned.
- Ivelisse Antonetty, Head Start Family Advocate/Prospect Street effective February 2, 2009. Hourly rate is \$13.55, replaces Giselle Mercado who resigned.
- Kristine Person, Speech Assistant/Windham Middle School & Preschool Program effective February 2, 2009. Hourly rate is \$20.00, new position.

Leaves of absence

- Katherine Tellier, Music Teacher/Windham Middle School, childbearing/childrearing leave of absence beginning January 22, 2009 through approximately March 5, 2009.
- Nicole Bay, Grade 5/6 Teacher/Windham Middle School, medical leave of absence beginning February 4, 2009 through approximately April 1, 2009.
- Bonnie Lee Morgan, Paraprofessional/Windham Middle School, medical leave of absence beginning January 20, 2009 through approximately February 26, 2009.

Mr. Diaz was concerned with the loss of two math teachers at the high school. Mrs. Banks and Mr. Blain explained that one position is already filled and plans are underway to have someone in place for the second position by the Monday after February vacation.

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

Windham High School Field Trips (Ref. 3 and Ref. 3A)

(121) Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mr. Diaz, that the Board of Education approve the following two field trip requests: Ref 3: An overnight fundraiser to be held in the Windham High School auditorium to benefit the Windham Players from Saturday, March 14, 2009, to Sunday, March 15, 2009; and Ref. 3A: A trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania, for the Windham High School Concert Band to perform and compete from Friday, May 29, 2009, to Saturday, May 30, 2009; both in accordance with Board Policy 6153.

In response to a question from Mrs. Collins regarding reference 3, Mr. Blain assured the Board that students stay in the auditorium for the entire night; and if a student had to leave for some reason, contact would be made with the parent.

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

ACTION ITEMS

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Windham High School Distance Learning Center (Ref. 4)

Mr. Hubbard, the coordinator of the Windham High School Distance Learning Center, explained the concept of Virtual High School (VHS), some of the courses available, and the participation of Windham students in the program. Throughout his presentation, both he and Mr. Blain answered questions from the Board. At Mrs. Collins' request, a list of available courses will be made available and will be included in the next Board packet.

Windham High School Auditorium Curtains (Ref. 5)

Mr. Iovine thanked Board members for giving him the opportunity to provide the Board with an update on the status of the stage curtains. He explained that he has researched the cost to repair, clean and fire proof the curtains and found only one company that would take the curtains down and put them back up. He presented the Board with a quote for the replacement of the curtains which did not include the cost of labor which would be donated. Mr. Iovine read a letter from parent Mrs. Hull, and parents Mrs. Crosbie and Mrs. Edelman both spoke about the importance of replacing the curtains. There was discussion about ways to raise funds for this project. Mr. Doyle indicated that if this project isn't included on the Town's Capital Improvement list, it should be added.

EASTCONN Letter (Ref. 6)

Mr. Adamo said that a clear and comprehensive letter was sent by EASTCONN's Executive Director.

Financial statement – January 2009 (Ref. 7)

Mr. Nelson said that this will be reviewed in detail at the next Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 8)

Mr. Adamo said that the following have been included: February district calendar, Library Media Center newsletter, and Windham Federation of Teachers' newsletters.

Board of Education

First reading of the following policies: Bullying, Parent Involvement and Homework (Ref. 9)

Mr. Adamo said that these will be brought to the Board for final action at the next meeting.

First reading of the following job descriptions: School Crossing Guard, Elementary Instructional Consultant and Health Consultant/Manager (Ref. 10)

Mr. Adamo said that these will be brought to the Board for final action at the next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

Student Services/Policy&Planning: Mrs. Collins reported that the policies on this agenda for a first reading were reviewed by the committee.

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle reported that there was a good turnout at last night budget's forum which was informative for those in attendance. Until information is received on what the federal and state governments are doing, it is difficult to make any budgetary decisions. This year's budget thus far is holding its own.

Districtwide PTO: Mrs. Haney reported that all of the schools reported on their many activities, movie night has been changed to March 4th, Mrs. Fuller provided preliminary budget information, and the committee is still discussing plans to have a book reading for the entire district.

Open Office Hours: Neither Mr. Folan nor Mrs. Fuller were present to report.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo said that the following reports were given: EASTCONN publications by Jim Huggins, science initiative by Nancy Vitale, Head Start update by EA Aschenbrenner, and a personnel matter was discussed in executive session.

Magnet School: Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Haney reported that the committee is considering the Tuckie Road property. Two appraisals will have to be completed before the property is presented to the Board of Selectmen. The process to hire a curriculum consultant has begun and RFPs have been sent out.

Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen's Recreation, Arts and Culture subcommittee: Mr. Doyle said that the use of athletic fields was discussed.

Mr. Adamo welcomed Mr. Ortiz back from her tour of duty in Iraq.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mrs. Weeks, Windham, spoke about the positive effects of Virtual High School and the wonderful opportunity it was for her daughter to take classes that wouldn't otherwise be offered.

ADJOURNMENT

(122)Motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Haney that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:10 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary