

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
FEBRUARY 24, 2010

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

BOARD ABSENT: Mrs. Haney

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT:

Representative Susan Johnson
Ms. Lorraine McDevitt, Windham Regional Arts Council

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, staff, general public

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Adamo's brother who passed away this week. Mr. Folan called the February 24, 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

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 27, 2010 Regular Board of Education meeting (Ref. 1)

(141) Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the January 27, 2010, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1. Dr. Sewall asked that the last sentence be removed from the Expansion of Uniforms to grades K-4 (Ref. 10).

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

February 1, 2010 Special Board of Education meeting minutes, (Ref. 2)

(142) Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the February 1, 2010, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 2.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

PRESENTATIONS

Windham Regional Arts Council

Mrs. McDevitt, Secretary, presented on how WRAC would like to help support the public schools with regards to art/culture and fill in the gaps where there may have been cuts. In March, the acappella chorus will be doing a performance at WHS. WRAC awarded grants to pay for all 3rd graders in the public schools, including St. Mary-St. Joseph, to attend the Big Blue Marble at the Hyde Cultural Center. Also in April they will be paying for the transportation for all 5th graders to attend the opera in Mansfield. Ms.

Betty MacDonald, President, presented information on a music competition for students in grades 7-12. Students will compete for cash prizes and the chance to perform a solo with the Willimantic Orchestra.

Representative Susan Johnson

Representative Johnson presented information on the legislation that subcommittees were working on during their last session. She highlighted the M.O.R.E program (Municipal Opportunities & Regional Efficiency), MEHIP plan (Municipal Employees Health Insurance Plan), and the LEARN Committee, detailing how they are looking at ways to saving money for municipalities.

WHS Art Student Recognition-will be rescheduled

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Mr. Folan thanked all of those that contributed to the budget P.A.C. that is currently being set up. Mr. Folan also acknowledged receiving a "thank you" card from Mr. Gene Blain.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Haley Dunnack stated that they are currently setting up teams for the Big Brothers Big Sisters "Bowl for Kids Sake" which will be held in March. They are also getting ready for their Leadership Conference which will be held at ECSU.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS - None

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 3)

(143) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve

Reference 3:

Appointments

- Omar Rosario, After School Coordinator/Windham Middle School effective January 25, 2010. Hourly rate is \$16.00/New Position.
- Ernest Koschmieder, Food Service Director/Central Office effective February 22, 2010. Salary is \$49,000 prorated, replaces Carol Foster who resigned.
- Sandra Cabrera, Early Head Start Cooperating Teacher/Prospect Street Preschool effective February 9, 2010. Hourly rate is \$13.55, new position.
- Rosa Rojas, Part Time Early Head Start Teacher Aide/Prospect Street Preschool effective February 9, 2010. Hourly rate is \$10.84, new position.

Resignations

- Ashley Reichelt, Social Studies Teacher/Windham High School effective February 26, 2010.
- Linda OFarrill, 1:1 Special Education Paraprofessional, verbal resignation effective January 22, 2010.
- Jo Ellen Devlin, Non Certified Librarian/North Windham School effective July 1, 2010 for the purpose of retirement.
- Cythia Ocasio, Head Start Aide/Boston Post Road effective February 2, 2010.
- Sharon Haight, Bilingual Teacher/North Windham School effective June 30, 2010 for the purpose of retirement.
- Zoraida Rivera, Head Start Bus Monitor/Prospect Street Preschool effective March 8, 2010.

Leave of absence

- Annette Schleicher, Art Teacher/Systemwide, medical leave of absence effective January 20, 2010, duration unknown.
- Yolanda Cruz, Custodian/Windham High School, medical leave of absence effective February 11, 2010 through March 11, 2010.
- Haydee Ramos, Paraprofessional/Prospect Street, medical leave of absence beginning January 22, 2010, duration unknown.

Mr. Adamo questioned who would be covering the elementary schools during the absence of the Art teacher. Ms. Fuller stated we have scheduled a long term substitute teacher.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Recommend the approval of audio equipment to Windham High School (Ref. 4)

(144)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education approve Reference 4.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

Recommended approval of the appointment of Hayley Dunnack as a student representative to the BOE (Ref.5)

(145)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Hayley Dunnack as a student representative to the BOE.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Recommend approval of Sweeney School overnight field trip (Ref. 6)

(146)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education approve Sweeney School overnight field trip, Reference 6.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Financial Statement (Ref. 7)

Mr. Nelson stated that Excess Cost will be capped this year at 84% instead of 77%.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 8)

Distributed the Windham Federation of Teachers' newsletters, Districtwide PTO meeting minutes, and school newsletters and activities. There were no comments.

Board of Education

First reading of proposed policy 1230(a) Community Relations; 3524.1 Business/Non-Instructional Operations; 4217.4 Personnel/Non-Certified Dismissal/Suspension; 6114.1 Instruction Fire Emergency Drills (Ref.12).

This is the second reading. There was no discussion.

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel/Budget: Dr. Switchenko reported that they are looking into the District Improvement Plan and the hiring of new teachers. The Superintendent will be more directly involved in the hiring of new teachers. They are having discussions regarding the District Improvement Teacher Survey and looking into the 2010-2011 budget as it relates to personnel.

District wide PTO. No verbal report.

Magnet School: Mrs. Collins reported that the architects are coming up with ideas concerning space issues. There was discussion regarding the Traffic Study in regards to the turning lane. Ms. Fuller reported that there will be no need for a conservation area waiver or amendment from the State for the water and sewer plan. They are working on the easement with St. Joseph Living Center for the water line.

Student Services. Mrs. Collins reported that WMS will be starting a baseball team under the auspices of the Windham Recreation Department. The committee is looking into reviewing the bus behavior policy and working with the bus company regarding the cameras and their effectiveness. Mr. Folan suggested that Dr. Sewall research through CABA to see if there is already a policy on bus restrictions. There was discussion regarding the timeliness of the buses getting to WMS early. Ms. Fuller stated that there is now a staff member that meets the bus that arrives early and escorts those children into the building. The committee is also looking into the security needs at WMS. The school calendar is being worked on and should be available for review at the next board meeting. A questionnaire is being developed for parents of elementary school students regarding school uniforms and will be handed out during the March Parent Conferences. The nurse and nurse practitioner feel that the contraceptive program is working well with good response. There was general discussion regarding the report.

Facilities/Maintenance. No verbal report.

Heart Safe. Mrs. Rayhall reported that Windham became a Heart Safe Community on February 14th. In a couple of weeks the AED's will be placed at North Windham Elementary School and Windham Center School.

Program Development/Evaluation. No verbal report

Policy/Planning. Dr. Sewall reported that they will be looking into a policy for electronic devices such as MP3 players, PDA's, cell phones, etc.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mrs. Devivo commented on fundraising and donation solicitations for Windham Public Schools and if the Board of Education was aware of all of them. Mr. Doyle suggested that all of the approved fundraising should be put on the website. Dr. Sewall reported that the Booster Club policy is being reviewed. The Windham Reads Program has been successful with 62 banners sold thus far. There was discussion.

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 7:50 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

(147) Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 7:50 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,
John Adamo, Secretary