

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
February 25, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Haney (arrived at 7:02 PM), Mrs. Collins, Mr. Clements, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Diaz

BOARD ABSENT:

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Gina Croteau
Columbia – No one

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the February 25, 2009, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School. Mr. Folan asked for a moment of silence in memory of crossing guard, Ann LaChappelle, who recently passed away, and retired assistant supervisor of buildings and grounds, Roger Mongeau, who passed away in January.

MINUTES

February 11, 2009, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

(123)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve the February 11, 2009, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Adamo, Mr. Clements, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Diaz

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Folan

The motion passes: 6-0-1

February 5, 2009, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

(124)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the February 5, 2009, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1A.

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

February 9, 2009, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1B)

(125)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Folan, that the Board of Education approve the February 9, 2009, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1B.

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

Nay: No one

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

The motion passes: 2-0-5

(Mrs. Haney arrived.)

February 11, 2009, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1C)

(126)Motion of Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the February 11, 2009, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1C.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Adamo, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Folan, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Diaz

The motion passes: 3-0-5

PRESENTATIONS

Basketball Accomplishments – Amie Toner

Mr. Folan, Dr. Switchenko and Mrs. Fuller presented Amie Toner with a Certificate of Accomplishment for scoring her 1000th point at a basketball game on December 22, 2008. She is the seventh girls' basketball player to accomplish this feat and recently became the program's all time leading scorer. She was commended for her outstanding achievements.

North Windham Elementary School Career Fair – Eastern Connecticut State University Interns

Eastern Connecticut State University Social Work interns at North Windham Elementary School spoke about the Career Fair that will be held on April 24, 2009, at North Windham School for third and fourth grades. They asked that any interested volunteers contact them. Mr. Folan thanked them for their work and extended congratulations to Catina Caban-Owen for receiving her doctorate.

CMT and CAPT Accomplishments

Mrs. Fuller presented a plaque received from the Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents citing Windham for growth in CMT and CAPT scores.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Gina Croteau reported that Student Council will be seeking volunteers to work at the Special Olympics in March; members will serve as guides at the March 26th parent/teacher conferences; and plans are underway for the May leadership conference. The theme for this year's conference will be ethnicity and culture.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Dr. Olezza presented posters representing famous paintings for Board members to view. The posters were received as part of the *Picturing America* grant and will be posted throughout the Middle School and incorporated into the school's language arts, social studies and art curricula.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(127)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2: Resignations

- Eva Figueroa, general cafeteria worker, verbal resignation, effective February 2, 2009
- Richard Murphy, crossing guard, effective February 10, 2009, for the purpose of retirement.

There was no discussion.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Title II, Part D – Enhancing Education Through Technology – Technology Experiences Assured for Middle School (TEAMS) grant (Ref. 3)

(128)Motion of Mr. Diaz, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Title II, Part D – Enhancing Education Through Technology – Technology Experiences Assured for Middle School (TEAMS) grant application. Dr. Olezza answered a question concerning available technology resources, explaining that this grant will assist in increasing the number of computers in classrooms.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Computer Assisted Writing, Instruction and Testing grant (Ref. 4)

(129)Motion of Mr. Diaz, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Computer Assisted Writing, Instruction and Testing grant application. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Job Descriptions (Ref. 5)

(130)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the following job descriptions as presented: school crossing guard, elementary instructional consultant, and health consultant/manager. No changes have been made to these job descriptions since their first reading. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Policies (Ref. 6)

(131)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the following policies as presented: parent involvement and homework. These two policies remain unchanged since the first reading; however, the bullying policy still has some revisions to be made and will be brought back to the Board for approval.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Homeless Report (Ref. 7)

As a point of interest and information, Mrs. Fuller presented the Board with a report, prepared by Mr. Stover, with statistics and information regarding the number of homeless students in the district. There has been a significant increase in these numbers over the last two years. Board members' questions were answered by Mrs. Fuller and Mr. Forman.

Discipline and Student Achievement Reports (Ref. 8)

Ms. Ortiz reviewed elementary school student discipline data. There was some discussion about corrections needed in this report. A corrected copy will be presented at the next Board of Education meeting.

Ms. Ortiz also reviewed data by grade and by school for math and reading comprehension gathered from online testing done in November. Windham is participating in the State's pilot program for third through eighth grade math and reading benchmark assessments. Ms. Ortiz also reviewed LAS Links testing data, a K-12 assessment that all ELL students take once each year. Results are used to monitor student growth and plan for student placement. Ms. Ortiz provided the Board with data from DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), which is given to students in kindergarten through sixth grade, and IDEL (Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura), the Spanish version introduced this year, which is given to students in kindergarten through third grade. These tests provide information on student assessment. Participation in DIBELS, IDEL and LAS Links is not part of the State's pilot program. There was

discussion and questions were answered by Ms. Ortiz, Mrs. Fuller and Dr. Olezza throughout the presentation.

Mr. Folan thanked Ms. Ortiz for her reports.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 9)

There was no discussion.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

Districtwide PTO: Mrs. Haney reported that the committee continues to research ways to acquire the same book for everyone to read in a districtwide reading program and plans are being made for a movie night on March 6th at Windham Middle School.

Magnet School Building: Mrs. Collins reported that the committee is waiting to receive the land report.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo reported that Ms. Colen presented a report on the results of a questionnaire sent to various schools; Ms. Kaplan from the State Department of Education gave a presentation on 21st Century Skills and Secondary School Reform; and Ms. Aschenbrenner provided an update regarding the Head Start program.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

(132)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:20 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary