

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
January 14, 2009

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

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Mrs. Fuller, Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Olezza, Director Mrs. Banks (Mr. Nelson was absent)

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Mrs. Camie Niland-Poirier for Celia Niland Poirier
Columbia – No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, staff, general public

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the January 14, 2009, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:18 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School. Mr. Folan explained that there was a prior meeting and apologized for the delay.

Mrs. Haney led Board members in a moment of silence for Matthew Treiber, who had at one time been a substitute teacher in Windham, and extended the Board's condolences to his family.

MINUTES

December 17, 2008, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

(102)Motion of Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Diaz, that the Board of Education approve the December 17, 2008, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

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

December 23, 2008, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

(103)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the December 23, 2008, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1A.

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

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Collin, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Doyle

The motion passes: 3-0-6

PRESENTATION

Mr. Folan and Mrs. Fuller presented a certificate of appreciation to Big Brothers Big Sisters for conducting a clothing drive for a family in need at Windham Middle School. Lorin Charanian, Site-based Mentoring Supervisor for the Northeast Region, accepted the certificate and thanked the Board for its continued support of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan received a communication from the New Britain Board of Education president.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Mrs. Camie Niland-Poirier reported on behalf of her daughter, Celia, Student Council president, who could not attend the meeting. Members are in the beginning stages of planning the annual leadership conference which will take place in May. A subcommittee will meet to decide on the conference theme. National Honor Society and Student Council members will attend an Eastern Regional Leadership Conference at Griswold High School on January 27th and hope to get some ideas for their spring conference.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mary Lou DeVivo, Main Street, Willimantic, said that she and others are concerned with students' reading scores. She said that the Victorian Home Association has indicated an interest and Shirley Mustard suggested that a community-wide effort in the spring could be planned. Mrs. DeVivo also spoke about video taping Board meetings and said that references should be read so that the viewer is aware of what the Board is voting on and, therefore, it is not necessary to edit the tape.

Mr. Doyle asked that the Board add the ACT program and recent occurrences there to tonight's agenda for discussion and possible action. He would like the Board to request, from EASTCONN, information about what is being done to rectify the situation there. Mr. Folan asked for a consensus from the Board to allow the Superintendent to write a letter voicing the Board's concerns and requesting a formal response. Board members agreed; and, therefore, it was not formally added to the agenda.

In response to Mrs. DeVivo's request, Mr. Folan will read each reference.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(104) Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2.

Resignations

- Corianne M. Olsen, English Teacher/Windham High School effective January 13, 2009.
- Carol Belli, Grade 8 Social Science Teacher/ Windham Middle School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2009.
- Jessica Welden, Special Education Paraprofessional/North Windham School effective December 23, 2008.
- Michael Warriner, Job Coach/ERA effective January 12, 2009.

Appointment

- Sean Boardman, Mathematics Teacher/Windham High School, effective January 7, 2009. Salary is BA+30/8 \$45781, prorated. Replaces Jason Shea who resigned.
- Angela Brower, English Teacher/Windham High School, effective January 13, 2009. Salary is MA/2 \$37501, prorated. Replaces Corianne Olsen who resigned.
- Bryan Hawes, 1:1 Special Education Paraprofessional/North Windham School, effective December 4, 2008. Hourly rate is \$11.77, replaces Alba Trevino who transferred.
- Selena Landon, Accounts Payable Bookkeeper/Business Office, effective January 7, 2009. Hourly rate is \$18.71, replaces Betty Simpson who retired.

Leaves of absence

- Patricia Doyle, Guidance Counselor/Windham High School, medical leave of absence from December 22, 2008 through January 19, 2009.
- Barbara Hood, Coordinator of Natchaug Family Resource Center, medical leave of absence from January 22, 2009 through April 20, 2009.

Schedule A-4 appointment

- Paul Martineau, Freshmen Boys Basketball Coach/ Windham High School. Stipend is \$2,220.00 – pending receipt of CT coaching permit.
Mr. Doyle asked if the freshmen boys’ basketball coach’s stipend is being paid from fundraising efforts. Mrs. Banks said that it is.
On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS

Job Descriptions (Ref. 3)

(105)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Diaz, that the Board of Education approve the following job descriptions as presented: Bilingual Office Secretary; Supplemental Education Services/Summer School Secretary; District Literacy Coordinator K-8; WHS Bank Coordinator; Food Services FCCLLA; Jazz Ensemble Advisor; Marching/Concert/Pep Band Advisor; National Honor Society Advisory; Student Activity Coordinator; The Student Philosopher Advisor; Student Council Advisor; Windham Players Advisor; Windham Players Stage Technical Advisor; Yearbook Advisor; and Windham High School Coaches. Mr. Doyle indicated that he was pleased that three signatures are required on the Assistant Coach Evaluation form.

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

Resolution regarding budget (Ref. 4)

Mr. Folan explained that he received correspondence from the New Britain Board of Education President asking DRG I districts to join New Britain by passing a resolution requesting that all DRG I districts be exempt from any state cuts in education funding. Mr. Folan said that he will be attending a meeting with other DRG I Board presidents and chairs to discuss working together regarding education funding.

Mr. Adamo read the following resolution into the record: Whereas, the State Board of Education, in order to comply with a directive from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), has prepared 10 percent reduction options for the 2009-10 current services budgets; and Whereas, the State Board citing the high percentage of the State Department of Education (SDE) budget represented by funds designated for local districts and municipalities recognizes that such cuts, directed by OPM, are nothing more than a transfer of the fiscal crisis from the State to the local districts and municipalities that will not be able to make up the lost funds without curtailing their support for education; and Whereas, the Town of Windham, which is 168 out of 169 towns on the 2008-09 ECS wealth rankings and 169 out of 169 towns for the 2009-10 year on the State equalized grand list, does not have the capability to make up for the proposed cuts; and Whereas, the State Board directed the Commissioner to inform the OPM, the Governor, and General Assembly that it urges such cuts not be done; and Whereas, the Windham Board of Education was forced to eliminate 25 certified positions in the current budget year; Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Windham Board of Education fully endorses the statement of the State Board of Education that cutting aid for education should be the last option for resolution of the State’s current budget crisis, and be it further Resolved, that proposed 10 percent cuts will necessitate drastic and dramatic measures by the Windham Board of Education that will inevitably harm the educational well-being of Windham students; and further Resolved, as a Priority School District, as a District Designated in Need of Improvement, the State has recognized the disproportional needs of the Windham Public Schools and undermines its own purpose by proposing, nevertheless implementing such damaging cuts to education. And Be It Further Resolved that the Windham Board of Education respectfully requests that all DRG I school districts be exempt from State reductions in education funding.

(106)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Diaz, that the Board of Education accept the resolution as read by Mr. Adamo.

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

Advisory Committee for High School Reform (Ref. 5)

(107)Motion of Mr. Clements, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve Windham's participation on the Advisory Committee for High School Reform. There was discussion regarding Windham's participation in this initiative in view of the enormous cost involved. Board members agreed that it is important that Windham be part of the process for secondary school reform but are hesitant due to the cost.

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

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Financial Statement – December 2008 (Ref. 6)

Mr. Doyle said that the Budget and Finance Committee will be meeting next week.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 7)

Mr. Folan said that the Windham High School Library Media Center newsletter and the Windham Federation of Teachers' newsletters are included for Board members' information.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel: Dr. Switchenko reported that members reviewed updated job descriptions, evaluated sub pay rates, reviewed advertisements for current open positions; and discussed upcoming bargaining unit negotiations.

Facilities/Maintenance: Mrs. Rayhall reported that the following items were reviewed: Capital Improvement Plan; pool improvements at the high school and Kramer; fire update; work completed over the holiday break; gate repair at the high school; and upcoming walk throughs by the fire marshal.

Magnet School: Mrs. Haney and Mrs. Collins reported that the committee is waiting to receive independent appraisals before a decision on the land is made. There were some concerns about the property near the Fish and Game Club because of the location of a firing range on the Club's land.

Capital Improvement Plan: Mr. Doyle said that a meeting of the Capital Improvement Plan committee was held and the committee will meet again in February to develop a five-year plan.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

(108)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle that the Board adjourn its meeting at 7:55 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary