

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
June 9, 2010

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall (arrived at 7:04 PM), Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins, Dr. Sewall, Mrs. Lambert (arrived at 7:06 PM)

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVE: Hayley Dunnack

OTHERS PRESENT: general public

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the June 9, 2010, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Doyle led the Board and the public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Folan asked that the following two items be added to tonight's agenda: discussion and possible action to establish a community-based task force for educational improvement and the recommended approval of the transfer of funds.

(239)Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board approve adding discussion and possible action to establish a community-based task force for educational improvement to tonight's agenda.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

(240)Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board approve adding the recommended approval of transfer of funds to tonight's agenda.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

(Mrs. Rayhall entered the meeting.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 26, 2010 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

(241)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the May 26, 2010, Regular Board of Education minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

May 25, 2010 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

(242)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the May 25, 2010, Special Board of Education minutes, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney, Dr. Sewall
Nay: No one
Abstained: Mrs. Collins
The motion passes: 7-0-1

May 26, 2010 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1B)

(243)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the May 26, 2010, Special Board of Education minutes, Reference 1B.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Sewall
Nay: No one
Abstained: Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney, Dr. Switchenko
The motion passes: 5-0-3

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan received a thank you card from retired employee Linda Feliciano.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Hayley Dunnack reported that Student Council elections were held last week and Megan Phelps will be next year's Student Council president. It has not yet been decided if she will be the student representative to the Board of Education.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

(Mrs. Lambert entered the meeting.)

Dennis Cronin, Willimantic, said that he is disappointed that the budget did not pass again. He said that it is difficult to pass the budget when there are many undocumented parents who can't register to vote and have no voice to represent their children. He said that the Board is doing a commendable job but needs to be more vocal to defend its actions in the newspaper and media.

Alana Tartsinis, Windham, said she was also disappointed that the budget didn't pass. She spoke about having the resource officer at the Middle School and would like to have more community and parent involvement there by using volunteers to assist in classrooms. She would also like the district to be a lot stricter about parental responsibility and accountability. She mentioned contracts that used to be signed by students and parents at Windham Center School specifically stating responsibilities.

Mary Lou DeVivo, North Windham, said that the children in the birth to three program in the Natchaug School Resource Center are extraordinarily delayed with their speech. She asked the district to be more proactive with this age group and have someone evaluate the children's speech.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(244)Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2 including the addendum that was distributed at tonight's meeting.

Resignation

- Elizabeth Graf, paraprofessional/preschool program, effective August 23, 2010, for the purpose of retirement.

Resignation – Addendum

- Barbara Zirakzadeh, internal literacy facilitator/Sweeney School, effective August 1, 2010.

Appointment

- Pamela Johnson, .40 nurse/Windham Center School, effective August 30, 2010. Salary is \$39,641 prorated, replaces Susan Sheckley who retired.

Appointments - Addendum

- Kathryn Ward, Spanish teacher/Windham High School, effective August 30, 2010. Salary is MA/3, \$41,245, replaces Luis Diaz Cruz who retired.
- Julie Cryer, Spanish teacher/Windham High School, effective August 30, 2010. Salary is BA/3, \$38,783, replaces Ana D'Agostino who resigned.
- Shayne Stedman, math teacher/Windham High School, effective August 30, 2010. Salary is MA/12, \$60,639, replaces Scott Perron who resigned.
- Jennifer Kelchner, math teacher/Windham High School, effective August 30, 2010. Salary is MA/3, \$41,245 pending certification, replaces Daniel Landeck who resigned.

Leave of absence

- Paula Steele, AIS technician/central office, childbearing/rearing leave of absence beginning approximately July 21, 2010, through September 1, 2010.

Leaves of absence – Addendum

- Ruth Rivera, Head Start aide/Boston Post Road, medical leave of absence, effective June 1, 2010, through July 3, 2010.
- Kristi Dudek, math teacher/North Windham School, childbearing/rearing leave of absence, effective approximately September 13, 2010, through January 3, 2011.
- Ivelisse Gonzalez, Head Start aide/Boston Post Road, childbearing/rearing leave of absence, effective June 2, 2010, through July 20, 2010.

Mr. Adamo said that Ms. Zirakzadeh is an outstanding teacher and he is sorry to see her leave the district.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Windham Public Schools Food Services/Culinary Arts Scholarship (Ref. 3)

(245)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education accept, with deep gratitude, the Windham Public Schools Food Services/Culinary Arts Scholarship. In reply to a question about the funds for this scholarship, Mr. Nelson said that money was collected over the years and set aside for this purpose.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

Carl D. Perkins grant application (Ref. 4)

(246)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve submission of the Carol D. Perkins grant application. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Coaching positions (Ref. 5)

(247)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve that the varsity field hockey and golf coaching positions be restored in place of freshman girl's basketball and freshman baseball. In answer to a question about the source of funds to reinstate these positions, Dr. Switchenko explained that the funds were included in the budget and are being re-distributed.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Budget reductions (Ref. 6)

Ms. Fuller said that most of the positions that have been cut from the budget were managed through retirements. There was some discussion about taking a formal vote on the budget reductions; however, it was decided to review the proposed cuts at the subcommittee level at this time prior to a Board of Education

vote. Mr. Doyle suggested that a Special Board meeting may be needed on either June 23 or 30. No action was taken at this time.

Location of Board of Education meetings (Ref. 7)

Mr. Adamo said that he would like to have the location of meetings changed because the room used presently is not conducive to conducting Board meetings and parking at Kramer is also a problem. Mr. Doyle said that if meetings were held at the high school, they could be televised. Mrs. Haney said that meetings were moved to Kramer from the high school to allow for access to necessary documents and copies if needed during meetings.

(248) Motion of Mrs. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that Board of Education meetings be held at Windham High School beginning in September. Dates of upcoming meetings will be forwarded to the principal.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Community-Based Task Force on Educational Improvement (Ref. 7A)

Mr. Folan explained that this task force would be community based to address educational improvement for our schools and would be in place for a specified length of time. The specifics of the mission of the task force would be developed over the next few weeks and then resumes for interested participants would be solicited through the web site and a press release.

(249) Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board approve the establishment of a community-based task force on educational improvement. (motion amended; see below)

There was much discussion about developing the task force's charge and Dr. Sewall was concerned that the charge of the task force should be discussed prior to Board approval of establishing the task force. There was also discussion about the importance of engaging the community in the process. After discussion, the motion was amended to include that the mission statement be developed and brought to the full Board at a Special Board meeting scheduled for the end of June.

Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Haney amended motion #249 as follows:

(249) Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board approve the establishment of a community-based task force on educational improvement with the full mission statement developed and brought to the full Board at a Special Board meeting scheduled for the end of June.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Budget Transfers (Ref. 7B)

(250) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that budget transfers be made as presented by Mr. Nelson. Mr. Nelson explained that funds were transferred to the curriculum textbook account to cover the cost of purchasing K-4 math textbooks. In answer to a question, Mr. Nelson said this money was already encumbered and would not be needed elsewhere at the end of the year.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Windham High School beautification project (Ref. 8)

Ms. Fuller informed the Board that the Windham High School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is sponsoring a beautification project at the Windham High School auditorium entrance. Mrs. Lambert said that Mrs. Rouse is spearheading this project.

Financial report – May 2010 (Ref. 9)

Mr. Nelson said that finances are still in the black.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 10)

- Windham High School Library Media Center newsletter
 - Windham Federation of Teachers' newsletter
- There were no comments.

Board of Education

First reading of possible revisions to Discipline of Professional Staff policy (4117) and Suspension policy (4117.41) (Ref. 11)

Dr. Sewall reported that the Policy and Planning Committee met this evening to review these policies and would like the Board to table these policies until committee members can seek input from Board members regarding language clarification.

Subcommittee Reports:

Personnel: Dr. Switchenko reported that the following items were discussed: advancement of teachers on the salary schedule; staffing for 2010-2011; the athletic coaches' stipends which were voted on tonight; and an executive session was held for several items.

Facilities/Maintenance: Mrs. Rayhall reported that the following were reviewed and discussed: work done at each school; summer help; lighting by Con Edison, and minor adjustments to Capital Improvement Plan.

Policy/Planning: Dr. Sewall reported that the Discipline of Professional Staff and Suspension policies were discussed for most of the meeting. There will be three other policies brought before the Board with revisions as required by legislative action.

Dollars for Scholars: Mr. Doyle reported that scholarships were presented Monday night during the high school's scholarship awards' presentations. This is the eleventh year for the program and 496 scholarships have been presented totaling \$198,000, with \$20,000 being raised this year.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Collins said that she would like fifth grade students recognized who participated in a program where they ran a marathon over time. She would like to get more information about the program and see it done at all of the schools.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Alana Tartsinis, Windham, said that she likes the idea of a community task force and feels that it is important to ask people for their input. She said that issues being looked at right now may be different than what the community sees as being important issues to address.

Mary Lou DeVivo, said that it is apparent to her that parents need some place where they feel comfortable to go and tell their stories about what is happening to them. When they have spoken to her, they need someone to translate so she is not sure if what she is hearing is accurate. Parents are afraid to speak to administration or to the Board. Mr. Folan suggested that they go to the Welcome Center in the Kramer Building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(251)Motion by Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:00 PM for the discussion of personnel matters.

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

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Ms. Fuller, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Director Mr. Nelson

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:30 P.M.

(252)Motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board add to the agenda at this time the recommended approval of the renewal of the Assistant Superintendent's contract as written.

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

(253)Motion by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the renewal of the Assistant Superintendent's contract as written.

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

Nay: Mrs. Rayhall

Abstained: No one

The motion passes: 8-1-0

ADJOURNMENT

(254)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board meeting adjourn at 8:30 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary