

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
May 26, 2010

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

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVE: Hayley Dunnack

OTHERS PRESENT: General public, staff, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the May 26, 2010, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES for May 12, 2010 Meeting (Ref. 1)

(229)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve the May 12, 2010, Regular Board of Education minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Presentation – Technology Student Association (TSA)

Mr. Hutson said that the TSA students and he were honored to attend tonight's Board of Education meeting. He commended the students for the tremendous amount of exemplary work that they have done throughout the year. Students placed in eight of the nine events at this year's state competition. He introduced the following Middle School students and their families that were present at tonight's meeting: Braden Lynn, Zachary Norris, Noelle King and Benjamin Duchesne. Mr. Hutson showed a short video and invited Board members to visit the Tech Ed Lab at the Middle School. He said that students are looking forward to attending the national TSA conference at the end of June. Mr. Folan acknowledged the excellent work done by the students and the impressive amount of parental support of the program. He commended Mr. Hutson for the continued growth of the program under his leadership. Parent Ms. Lynn announced that Windham's TSA website is up and running at the following address: www.windhamTSA2010.com. Board members wished them well at the national convention.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Hayley Dunnack reported that the annual Leadership Conference was held last Friday and went very well. Mr. Merlino, the keynote speaker, spoke about *citizens in action*, which was this year's theme.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Dennis Cronin, Willimantic, said that he feels that it is premature to implement the uniform policy at the elementary level at the beginning of the next school year and proposed that it be tabled until the 2011-2012 school year so that more community input could be gathered to see if this is a viable option.

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, agreed with Mr. Cronin. She said that the gentleman from the shirt company explained at last night's Student Services Committee meeting that the best shirts are the ones being purchased and she feels that these shirts are very expensive. She would like to have students wear plain polo shirts without a logo so that they can be purchased wherever people want to buy them.

Mary Lou DeVivo, North Windham, suggested again that meetings be televised so that people would be more informed about issues.

Kymerli Gaylor, Windham, said that she knows that she is in the minority but is still against the uniform policy at the elementary school level and does appreciate that a new survey was taken. Since she doesn't receive the newspaper or listen to the radio, she was unaware that uniforms at the elementary schools were being considered and felt that the decision shouldn't be rushed. The only problem that she sees with students' attire at the elementary schools is weather related and she does not think that polo shirts are conducive for comfort during the hot weather. She would rather see the money go towards education instead of uniforms.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(230)Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2. Mrs. Banks informed the Board that Ms. Parry is not accepting the position; therefore, the motion is revised to exclude the appointment of Lauren Parry as biology teacher at Windham High School.

Resignations

- Susan J. Sheckley, School Nurse at Windham Center School, effective June 30, 2010, for purpose of retirement.
- Kristen E. Berger, 1:1 LPN at Early Childhood Center, effective July 30, 2010.
- Michelle King, Before/After School Teacher Assistant at North Windham Elementary School, effective May 25, 2010.
- Christina McNamara, LPN at Sweeney School, effective June 2, 2010.

There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

TSA field trip (Ref. 3)

(231)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the field trip application for Windham TSA students to travel to the National TSA Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, from Monday, June 28, 2010, through Friday, July 2, 2010, in accordance with Board Policy 6153. Dr. Sewall asked if students pay for the trip rather than receiving funds from the Board of Education budget. Ms. Fuller answered that trips are paid for by fundraising or by the students themselves; however, it would be appropriate for the district to pay since the students are representing Windham but this cost is not included in the education budget.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

IDEA grant application (Ref. 4)

(232)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve submission of the IDEA grant application for the school year 2010-2011. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Revised Student Uniform Policy (Ref. 5)

(233) Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve revising Uniform Policy 5132.1 to include elementary schools. Dr. Sewall questioned that some rewording of the policy that was decided at last night's Student Services Committee was not included in the policy being voted on. Mrs. Haney explained that 82% of the surveys returned from elementary school families were in favor of having uniforms and 67% were in favor of having a logo. Mrs. Collins explained that the policy has worked so well for her grandchild at the Middle School. The shirts wash well and students know exactly what they are wearing every day and look well put together. Mr. Doyle explained that he is not against the policy but would like to have a report to the Board showing how it will be implemented. When Dr. Sewall asked about families who have an economic hardship, Mrs. Haney explained that WAIM assists families with payment vouchers. Mrs. Collins explained that two questionnaires have been sent out and it is not the Board's position to dictate how the policy is implemented. Discussion continued about uniforms and the policy. Some Board members felt that even though they were in agreement that the uniform policy should include the elementary schools as indicated also by the parent survey, they were not ready to move forward with approval. Some members expressed concern that more time should be taken so that the implementation isn't rushed and there is adequate time to develop regulations. Mr. Doyle asked that a report be given to the Board by the principals and teachers on how the policy will be implemented so that many of Board members' questions could be answered.

On the motion: Aye: Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Lambert

Nay: Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Dr. Sewall

Abstained: Mr. Folan

The motion fails: 3-5-1

Budget transfers (Ref. 6)

(234) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the budget transfers as presented by Mr. Nelson. Mr. Nelson reported that these transfers were reviewed at last week's Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Professional Development report (Ref. 7)

Ms. Ortiz answered questions from Board members regarding teacher attendance and teacher input regarding professional development activities. She said that there are sign in sheets and principals are responsible for overseeing teacher attendance. Dr. Olezza surveyed staff members for their input and activities presented during the year are based on the District Improvement Plan. Mrs. Rayhall requested that AED classes be made available to certify staff members for defibrillator use.

Thank you to ECSU Center for Community Engagement (Ref. 8)

Ms. Fuller read the following into the record to formally thank the efforts of the Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) Center for Community Engagement including the following students and professional landscaper and father of one of the students who vigorously worked to beautify the front gardens at North Windham Elementary School: ECSU students Rebecca Wiltse, Reece Painter Payne, Brittany Keegan, Erin Murphy, Gina Murphy, Beth Lewis, Vigil Guaonwsky, Mike Tierney, Megan Wallace, Johanna Cowger, Glenn Rogers and Matthew Hodgins; and Scott Keegan and his assistant who provided professional guidance and donated mulch.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 12)

- June 2010 district calendar
- Windham High School's *The Whippet*

- Windham Federation of Teachers' newsletters
There were no comments.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle reported that the budget transfers approved at tonight's meeting were reviewed. The budget referendum on the education budget is scheduled for June 8th.

Districtwide PTO: Mrs. Haney reported that the committee reviewed non-profit status for Districtwide PTO and school PTOs. More discussion will take place.

Magnet School: Mrs. Haney reported that the committee met with the architects regarding the design and there was discussion about the cultural aspect of the school. A meeting with the fire chiefs from Windham Center and North Windham to discuss emergency access to the building recently took place.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo reported that CABE communication awards were presented; there was a presentation about the addition to the Hampton facility; a June meeting is scheduled because of the volume of activity; Race to the Top was discussed; a legislative update was given by the Executive Director; a preliminary draft of the 2010-11 budget was presented; an update on Head Start funding and expenditures was presented; tuition rates and fees for 2010-11 will remain the same; and an executive session took place.

Student Services: Mrs. Haney reported that the uniform policy and parent surveys were reviewed.

Ms. Ortiz distributed News & Views and updated the Board on the summer reading program, Literacy News and Numeracy News. She acknowledged the work done in the community with regards to the summer reading list by Mrs. DeVivo and Ms. Packer. Mr. Doyle asked that the summer reading list be distributed to the Community Task Force so that area providers will also have the summer reading information.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Collins asked that principals send notification to parents that the uniform policy will not go into effect his September. Mr. Doyle asked for follow up with the IT department regarding televising meetings. Mr. Adamo asked that the meeting location be changed back to the high school.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Lori Jeffers, Willimantic, asked a question about the Town's contract to purchase land. She was referred to the Town or to Magnet School Building Committee members for that information.

Dennis Cronin, Willimantic, said that it is the responsibility of the school to provide education to the student but it is the responsibility of the parent to provide everything else and asked the Board to think about policies that would promote this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(235)Motion by Mrs. Collins, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:12 PM for the discussion of bargaining unit negotiations and personnel issues.

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, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:20 P.M.

(236)Motion by Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board add to the agenda at this time the recommended ratification of the tentative agreement between the Windham Board of Education and the Teamsters Union Local 493 (Custodians) on a one-year contract extension.

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

(237)Motion by Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education move to ratify the tentative agreement between the Windham Board of Education and the Teamsters Union Local 493 (Custodians) on a one-year contract extension.

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

ADJOURNMENT

(238)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board meeting adjourn at 8:20 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary