

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
October 22, 2008

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle (arrived at 7:32 PM), Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements (arrived at 7:32 PM), Mr. Diaz (arrived at 7:34 PM)

BOARD ABSENT: Mrs. Collins

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – No one
Columbia – No one

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the October 22, 2008, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:30 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

Mr. Folan asked for a motion to add an executive session to tonight's agenda for the purpose of discussion of negotiations.

(65) Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that an executive session be added to tonight's agenda for the discussion of negotiations.

On the motion: Aye, 5-0; unanimous.

Mr. Folan wished Ms. Ortiz well during her upcoming deployment to Iraq and a safe return to Windham.

October 8, 2008, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

(66) Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the October 8, 2008, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 5-0; unanimous.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan said that he received information that the Board of Selectmen is forming a subcommittee to look into placing a defibrillator in each Town building and would like two Board of Education members to serve on the committee. Mrs. Rayhall has volunteered and Mr. Folan asked anyone else who might be interested to contact Karen Lewis.

(Mr. Doyle and Mr. Clements entered the meeting.)

STUDENT COUNCIL

There was no report.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were no citizens/delegations.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(67)Motion of Mr. Clements, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2.

Resignations

- Dawn Pagliarini, School Psychologist/ERA effective October 3, 2008.
- Neftali Feliciano, Security Assistant/Windham Middle School effective October 24, 2008.
- Gladys Underwood, Secretary II/Bilingual Department effective January 2, 2009 for the purpose of retirement.

Appointments

- Silas Williams, ISS Tutor/Windham High School effective October 15, 2008. Hourly rate is \$18.57, replaces James Thompson who resigned.
- Alanzo Cherrington, ISS Tutor/Windham Middle School effective September 5, 2008. Hourly rate is \$15.00, replaces Ariana DeSousa who resigned.
- Myriam Irizarry Rivera, Secretary II/Windham Middle School effective September 8, 2008. Hourly rate is \$14.20, replaces Carmen Vazquez who resigned.
- Maria Cranmer, Secretary I/Windham Middle School effective October 15, 2008. Hourly Rate is \$11.67, replaces Myriam Irizarry Rivera who transferred.
- Elizabeth Velez, Secretary II/Windham High School effective October 10, 2008. Hourly rate is \$14.20, replaces Jeannine Spink who retired.

There was no discussion.

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

Donation to Windham High School (Ref. 3)

(68)Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education accept, with deep appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$500 from Mrs. Jeanne Morascini and the Hochberg Holocaust and Human Rights Committee. Mr. Folan thanked Mrs. Morascini and the Hochberg family for their generosity.

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

(Mr. Diaz entered the meeting.)

ACTION ITEMS

District Improvement Plan (Ref. 4)

Mrs. Fuller pointed out that a slight change in wording has been made to the goals which were approved by the Board of Education last month. She provided a broad based summary of the District Improvement Plan and reviewed some of its highlights. Once the plan is approved, it will be sent to the State before the end of the week and will be presented to the State Board of Education on November 5, 2008. Dr. Switchenko commended Mrs. Fuller and the team for the work done on the District Improvement Plan and noted that it would be a "Herculean task" to execute the plan. Mrs. Fuller explained that the entire school system, including the Superintendent and the Board of Education, will be accountable and representatives of the State Department of Education will monitor the activities as they are outlined in the plan. Mrs. Fuller answered questions from the Board. Mr. Folan thanked Mrs. Fuller and the entire staff for the work done on this huge task.

(69)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the Windham Public Schools' District-wide Improvement Plan.

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

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Announcements/Information (Ref. 5)

There were no comments.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

Program Development/Evaluation: Mr. Adamo reported that Ms. Ortiz provided the following updates: curriculum work; October 8 professional development; various committee meetings scheduled throughout the year; evaluation of bilingual programs; ELL programs in the district; materials and placement tests for reading intervention; and materials for the reading tutorial for after-school students. The possibility of a Welcome Center was also discussed.

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle reported that the current year's salary accounts were reviewed and discussion of work on next year's budget took place.

Magnet School: Mrs. Haney said that the meeting was postponed from Monday to tomorrow night.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no items.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

James Flores, Willimantic, said that the majority of the students at the high school are Hispanic and he is concerned that there is no bilingual social worker or guidance counselor at the high school to provide these students with necessary support. He asked the Board to focus on hiring a bilingual social worker and guidance counselor for the students.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(70) Motion by Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 7:49 PM for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to negotiations.

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

(71) Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:00 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary