

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
October 27, 2010

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

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: Abbey Baldarelli, Alison Risley, Matt Poirier

OTHERS PRESENT: general public, staff, administrators

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the October 27, 2010, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. in the Windham High School auditorium. He apologized for the delay to the start of the meeting due to a prior meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board and the public recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Folan asked for a motion to add to the agenda the approval of a new ELL reading teacher position at Windham High School under action items.

(81) Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board add to the agenda the approval of a new ELL reading teacher position at Windham High School to the agenda under action items.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – October 13, 2010 (Ref. 1)

(82) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve the October 13, 2010, Regular Board of Education minutes, Reference 1.

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

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Rayhall

The motion passes: 8-0-1

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan reminded Board members, as well as staff, to complete the electronic survey they received. This is part of the Lighthouse training that the Board is participating in.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Matt Poirier reported that the Relay for Life fundraiser was a huge success and Student Council members are planning to participate in the Walk for Warmth fundraiser in November. Mr. Folan commended the students for their active participation in community fund raising events.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Henry Crane, Willimantic, spoke about the need to find ways to reach out to the Latino community. He said that these students, who are in the majority, are our future and we need to do whatever it takes to get the Latino community more involved.

Peter Quercia, Willimantic, is a neighbor to the high school. He spoke about his concerns regarding a small percentage of students who smoke and litter on his property. He said that his calls to the high school do not get returned by the principal. Also, he suggested that a fenced dog park be put on property next to the High School tennis courts instead of the home that is being proposed to be built there. He asked for better communication between the High School and its neighbors.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(83)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2 including the addendum distributed at tonight's meeting.

There were no resignations.

Appointments

- Roger Jacko, Special Education Teacher/Windham Middle School effective October 15, 2010. Salary is MA/12, \$60,639 prorated, new position.
- Stephanie George, Grade 5 Teacher/Windham Middle School effective October 18, 2010. Salary is MA/3, \$41,245 prorated, new position.

Appointments – addendum

- Katherine Dudzinski, ELL Math Teacher/Windham Middle School effective October 18, 2010. Salary is BA+15/3, \$39,690 prorated, replaces Wayne Caliento who retired.
- Ruth Rodriguez, Early Head Start Teacher/Prospect Street effective November 1, 2010. Hourly rate is \$17.00, replaces Rosa Almonte who resigned.
- Susan Miller, .6 Art Teacher/Windham Center & North Windham School effective October 29, 2010. Salary is BA/3, \$38,783 prorated, new position.

Leaves of absence

- Theresa Trombetta, .4 Math Teacher/Natchaug School, medical leave of absence beginning October 11, 2010 through approximately November 10, 2010.
- Maria Sykes, Kindergarten Teacher/Sweeney School, childbearing/childrearing leave of absence beginning approximately January 26, 2011 through March 9, 2011.
- Danette Abitz, Nurse/St. Mary's School, medical leave of absence beginning September 20, 2010 through approximately November 15, 2010.

Leaves of absence – addendum

- Gabriela Paardenkooper, Special Education Teacher/Windham Middle School. Childbearing/childrearing leave of absence beginning approximately February 16, 2011 through June 30, 2011.
- Donna Draxler, Grade 3 Teacher/North Windham School. Medical leave of absence beginning October 25, 2010 through approximately January 3, 2011.
- Harold White Jr, Crossing Guard/Sweeney & Windham Middle School. Medical leave of absence beginning October 4, 2010, duration unknown.

SCHEDULE A2 & A4 APPOINTMENTS

- Melanie Godbout, .5 Freshman Class Advisor/Windham High School. Stipend is \$588.
- Kathleen Koljian, .5 Freshman Class Advisor/Windham High School. Stipend is \$588.
- Odena Lafreniere, Grade 8 Team Leader/Windham Middle School. Stipend is \$3120 prorated.

There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

District Federal Consolidated grant application (Ref. 3)

(84)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the District Federal Consolidated grant application for FY 2010-2011. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

Engineering Course at Windham High School (Ref. 4)

Ms. Elshakhs, Windham High School science teacher, said that it came to her attention that many students were interested in learning more about engineering and she has been doing some after school activities with these students. She researched a curriculum for an introduction to engineering course with hands on projects and is proposing this as a half-year course. This proposal was presented recently to the Program Development and Evaluation Committee. Ms. Elshakhs answered Board members' questions.

(85)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the proposed introduction to engineering course at Windham High School.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

New Position at Windham High School (Ref. 4A)

Mr. Folan explained that the high school, in reviewing its needs, has requested the addition of an ELL reading teacher. The Personnel Committee has reviewed this request and is bringing it forward to the full Board for approval. Funding would be provided by Stimulus funds. Ms. Ortiz answered Board members' questions.

(86)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the addition of an ELL reading teacher position at Windham High School.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Announcements/Information (Ref. 5)

November District Calendar; 2011-2012 Budget Calendar; Windham High School graduates honored by the Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission; News and Views-Curriculum and Instruction; and Windham Federation of Teachers' newsletter, *The Spectrum*.

Ms. Ortiz explained that the budget calendar is a draft and outlines a timeline of dates for this year for the creation of the 2011-2012 budget. This has been presented to and approved by the Budget and Finance Committee.

Ms. Ortiz highlighted two Windham High School graduates, Jorden A. Salas and Luis C. Organista, who are attending the University of Connecticut and received scholarships presented by the Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission in the State. Juan Perez, also a Windham High School graduate, serves on the Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission and helped to make these awards possible which were presented to eleven students throughout the state.

Ms. Ortiz also spoke about the Curriculum News and Views handout which Mrs. Packer presented to the Program Development and Evaluation Committee.

Board of Education

First Reading of Policies (Ref. 6, Ref. 6A, Ref. 6B, Ref. 6C)

Mr. Folan said that this is a first reading of these policies which will be brought back to the Board for approval at its next meeting. He directed anyone with questions or concerns to contact Dr. Sewall.

Subcommittee Reports:

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle reported that most of the meeting was spent discussing the budget calendar included in tonight's packet. He said that this year there is greater emphasis on including principals, staff

and PTOs in the development of the budget. Another significant change, Mr. Doyle explained, can be called *value added*. In response to the Town Board of Finance, a more aggressive budget will be developed looking at adding to the budget rather than cutting from the budget.

Program Development/Evaluation: Mr. Adamo reported that the main topic of the meeting was the presentation by Ms. Elshakhs and Mr. McCooley about the proposed engineering course that was approved earlier in the meeting. He said that Mrs. Packer reported on the implementation of the new math program in kindergarten through grade four. She also gave an update on the kindergarten standard based report card which has been developed. Each elementary school will hold a meeting on November 4 to explain the report card to kindergarten parents. Possible future presentations at upcoming meetings on reading in the elementary schools and language arts and social studies at the High School were discussed.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo reported that Attorney Littlefield from Shipman & Goodwin was the guest speaker and spoke about school media and implications for school districts. Reports from Head Start and the Building Committee were given.

PTO: Mrs. Haney reported that the meeting was held at Windham Middle School and began with a presentation on the Parent Access Center with parents receiving hands on training. She reported that an insurance company has been found that is affordable and insures individual school PTOs. Possible future activities were discussed. Roundtable provided a list of many activities at each of the schools which have all been well attended.

Ms. Ortiz spoke about the Before and After School programs' Lights On held at the elementary schools last week. She said that they were very well attended.

Student Services: Mrs. Collins reported that a representative from the Silverback Wrestling Club talked about expanding the program and use of the basement in the Kramer building which is also used by the preschool and the Welcome Center. Pat Risley spoke about a proposal to change the district calendar because of a possible conflict with the fall athletic awards; however, after a discussion, it was realized that there is no conflict with the schedule. Justinian Rweyemamu, president of the Connecticut Family Care Services, spoke about services offered. However, this is a for-profit company and he was referred to the administration.

Personnel: Dr. Switchenko reported that the ELL reading teacher position at the High School and a special education position at the Middle School were discussed; the change in the Connecticut teacher tenure law for priority school districts was reviewed; and the revised Head Start teacher aide job description was reviewed.

Facilities/Maintenance: Mrs. Rayhall reported that the following were discussed: the use of space in Kramer for wrestling, replacement of Kramer's second boiler, the fire marshal's report, the key system, lighting needs at Windham Center School, and the Magnet School facilities and maintenance report.

Open Office Hours: Mr. Folan reported that the first open office hours night for this year was held and went well.

Community-based Task Force: Mr. Folan reported that the members of the committee make up a good cross section of the community. The timeline for the committee has been extended to some time in March or April.

SIFT: Mr. Doyle reported that Paula Colen, Executive Director of EASTCONN, attended the last meeting to talk about RESCs and services provided by EASTCONN. Dr. Sewall reported that the committee has spent a good deal of time looking at the expense and revenue sides of the budget.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

James Flores, Willimantic, said that there needs to be a different approach to increase parental involvement. He said that the school district has the largest work force yet can't get its budget passed

because staff don't vote. He said that ways to get the community behind the school system have to be developed.

Mary Lou DeVivo, North Windham, said that Dr. Sewall attended Susan Johnson's committee meeting about resource officers but she did not hear any report. She thanked Mrs. Packer and the school for contacting public libraries in the area. She asked if next month's Program Development and Evaluation Committee meeting could be at the High School and video taped so that the community could be informed about what is happening in the schools.

Henry Crane, Willimantic, said that the Latino members of the community need to be encouraged to attend parent/teacher conferences and be more involved in their child's education. He said that it would be good for the future of everyone. He said that he is happy about the Magnet School being built.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(87)Motion by Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:05 PM for the discussion of bargaining unit negotiations and 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: Interim Superintendent Ms. Ortiz, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:15 P.M.

(88)Motion by Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board add to the agenda at this time the ratification of the tentative agreement with the Windham Cafeteria Employees Union; the proposed teacher retirement incentive for 2010-2011; and the contract for the Interim Superintendent.

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

(89)Motion by Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education move the ratification of the tentative agreement between the Windham Board of Education and the Windham Cafeteria Employees Union, approve the proposed teacher retirement incentive for 2010-2011, and approve the contract for the Interim Superintendent.

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

ADJOURNMENT

(90)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board meeting adjourn at 8:17 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary