

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
October 8, 2008

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

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Katie Lavalette
Columbia – No one

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the October 8, 2008, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:35 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

Mr. Folan asked for a moment of silence in memory of Ryan Evans, a Windham Technical High School student, who passed away this week while warming up for wrestling.

September 24, 2008, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

(57) Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the September 24, 2008, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Collins, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Diaz

Nay: No one

Abstained: Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements

The motion passes: 6-0-3

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan received a letter from Bette MacDonald, President of the Windham Regional Arts Council, thanking the Board for making it possible for the seventh grade at the Middle School to attend the high school's spring musical last year. Plans are underway for middle school students to attend the December and May high school productions this year.

Mr. Folan said that Monday evening's Open Office Hours went very well and e-mail messages were received from staff members commending the concept.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Katie Lavalette reported that members are preparing for the Relay for Life on October 18 and 19 and are also discussing the possibility of organizing a food drive in December.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were no citizens/delegations.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(58)Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mr. Diaz, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2.

Resignations

- James Thompson, ISS Tutor/Windham High School effective October 10, 2008.

Leaves of Absence

- Sheryl Fraser, Physical Education Teacher/Windham Middle School, medical leave of absence effective approximately November 13, 2008 through January 7, 2009.
- Mari Shooks, .60 Nurse/Windham Center School, medical leave of absence effective approximately October 15, 2008 through January 16, 2009.
- Richard Moreau, Special Education Teacher/Windham High School, medical leave of absence effective approximately October 14, 2008 through November 25, 2008.
- David St Jean, Teacher/North Windham School, medical leave of absence effective the 2008/09 school year.

Schedule A-4 Appointments

- Tyler Rowett, Spring Track Assistant Coach/Windham High School, stipend \$3,145.
- Robert Gamache, .50 Freshman Football Assistant Coach/Windham High School, stipend \$1,480.
- Andrew Gonzalez, .50 Freshman Football Assistant Coach/Windham High School, stipend \$1,757.50.
- Timothy Maclure, Freshman Football Head Coach/Windham High School, stipend \$4,995.

There was no discussion.

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

ACTION ITEMS

District Federal Consolidated Grant (Ref. 3)

(59)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the District Federal Consolidated grant application for FY2009. Dr. Olezza indicated that there is a decrease in grant funding from last year.

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

Child Nutrition Programs (Ref. 4)

(60)Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the revision of the *Authorized Signatures Change Form* to revise the Authorized Signers of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs and therefore authorizes Superintendent Doreen D. Fuller to sign the Connecticut State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs agreement and related claims for reimbursement, and in her absence, Jeffrey I. Nelson, Director of Finance and Management, is authorized to sign claims for reimbursement. There was no discussion.

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

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Special Education Presentation (Ref. 5)

Mr. Forman presented information regarding the prevalence rates in Windham schools as compared to State and DRG rates. He reviewed special education data for each school in the district and explained that the plan to reduce these rates is a districtwide effort. During the presentation, there was discussion about strategies used for properly identifying students. Mr. Forman reviewed the principles and components of early intervention. Throughout the presentation, Mr. Forman, along with Mrs. Fuller and Ms. Ortiz, answered Board members' questions. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Forman for his presentation.

Financial Statement – September 2008 (Ref. 6)

Mr. Nelson distributed the September 2008 financial statement and explained that there are a number of deficits shown in salaries due to the shift of payment from grants to the Board. He said that this area will be

reviewed at next Thursday's Budget and Finance Committee meeting and by November, these amounts should be clearer. Mr. Nelson also touched on oil and natural gas rates for this year in reply to a question.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 7)

Mrs. Fuller invited Board members to attend the State Department of Education's upcoming meeting on the Secondary School Reform (SSR) initiative with her on October 29, 2008. Mr. Doyle commented that, even though he is in favor of raising standards, this is not the time to undertake this initiative because of the financial impact.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

Magnet School: Mrs. Haney reported that Mr. Underwood, a selectman, is a new member of the committee and an information sheet has been developed and forwarded to the selectmen. Mrs. Collins said that property negotiations continue.

Personnel: Dr. Switchenko reported that one reclassification was discussed, as well as teams for upcoming negotiations and employee insurance.

Policy/Planning: Mr. Clements reported that the bullying and hazing policy was reviewed and the committee will be reviewing a student restraint and isolation policy.

Facilities/Maintenance: Mrs. Rayhall reported that the committee reviewed the 2008 Summer Maintenance Report and gives special thanks to the maintenance department for the work accomplished. The playground survey was received; the use of facilities policy will be reviewed; and a letter from the Recreation, Arts and Culture subcommittee of the Board of Selectmen was received regarding the use of facilities in collaboration with the Town.

Mr. Doyle said that the *Budget/Finance Committee* will meet on Thursday, October 16, at 7:00 PM, in place of Tuesday, October 21.

Strategic Planning: Mr. Clements reported that members from the town, the university, and school have met to discuss prospects for common action with the focus on cooperation in terms of education. A calendar of common actions noting what people would like to see as cooperation between the town and the schools and colleges/university in the area will be developed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Clements asked about scheduling a retreat.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were no citizens/delegations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(61) Motion by Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:45 PM for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to personnel matters.

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

(62) Motion by Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board approve the addition to the agenda of a secretary reclassification.

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

(63)Motion by Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board approve the reclassification of Omaira Sanchez, Early Head Start Program secretary, from Secretary I, step 7, to Secretary II, step 5, \$14.54 per hour, retroactive to July 1, 2008.

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

ADJOURNMENT

(64)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Diaz, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:58 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary