

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
September 22, 2010

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins, Dr. Sewall, Mrs. Lambert (arrived at 7:21 PM)

BOARD ABSENT: Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVE: No one

OTHERS PRESENT: general public, administrators and other staff

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the September 22, 2010, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. Folan asked for a motion to move Reference 6 to follow Communications on the agenda.

(55) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board approve moving Reference 6, Recommended Approval of Student Representatives to the Board of Education, to follow Communications on the agenda.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – September 8, 2010 (Ref. 1)

(56) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the September 8, 2010, Regular Board of Education minutes, Reference 1.

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

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Folan, Dr. Switchenko

The motion passes: 5-0-2

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan received correspondence from Ellen Gustafson thanking the Board for her appointment to the Regional District #19 Agriculture Science and Technology Consulting Committee. He also received correspondence from the Liberty Bank Foundation announcing that Windham High School was among fifteen schools selected to receive grants under the Liberty Bank Foundation's Academic Grants program.

Reference 6 moved up on the agenda.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Ref. 6)

Mr. Folan explained that the policy calls for two high school student representatives to sit on the Board of Education but he asked that the Board consider the three students who are interested in serving this year. The students will also attend committee meetings as their busy schedules will allow. Alison Risley, Abbey

Baldarelli and Matt Poirier were present at tonight's meeting and introduced themselves to Board members. The students were assisting at tonight's high school open house and could not stay for the entire meeting.

(57)Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve Allison Risley, Abbey Baldarelli and Matt Poirier as student representatives on the Board of Education for the 2010-2011 school year.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

STUDENT COUNCIL

No report was given.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Laurie Jeffers, Willimantic, said that she had received a phone call about Kindergarten students being left at Windham Center School because they missed the bus home and parents had to pick them up. Also, she urged the Board to amend the Middle School's uniform policy. She said that the sweatshirts offered are too expensive and can be bought at Wal-Mart for \$5. She also asked the Board to reconsider the colors and asked for brighter colors so that students can be seen now that it is getting dark earlier. She thanked the Board for its consideration of these matters.

Nicole Bay, Windham resident and Windham Middle School teacher, asked the Board to please consider reinstating the reading and instructional positions that have been cut. She spoke about the importance of these positions at the middle school.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(58)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2.

Resignation

- Richard Moreau, Special Education Teacher/Windham High School effective October 9, 2010.

Appointments

- Donna Tappin, Non Certified Librarian/North Windham School effective August 30, 2010. Hourly rate is \$18.83, replaces JoEllen Devlin who retired.
- Greg Sykes, Special Education Tutor/Windham High School. Hourly rate is \$16.70, replaces Efren Figueroa who resigned.

Leave of absence

- Sandra Cabrera Ortiz, Head Start Aide/Boston Post Road, medical leave of absence beginning August 23, 2010, duration unknown.

There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

Field trip applications (Ref. 3, 3A, 3B)

(59)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the following three field applications in one motion: (Ref. 3) Student Council field trip to participate in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life at the Eastern Connecticut State University field in Mansfield, Connecticut, from Saturday, October 16, 2010, to Sunday, October 17, 2010; (Ref. 3A) DECA field trip to the National DECA SONAR Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, from Thursday, November 11, 2010, to Sunday, November 14, 2010; and (Ref. 3B) DECA field trip to the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida, from Friday, April 29, 2011, to Wednesday, May 4, 2011. Mr. Merlino answered Board members' questions regarding the annual trip to the DECA International Career Development Conference in the spring.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

Head Start grant application (Ref. 4)

(60)Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve submission of the Head Start/Early Head Start grant application. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

Certification of Authorized Signature (Ref. 5)

(61)Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the authorization of Ana V. Ortiz, Interim Superintendent of Windham Public Schools, to be empowered to sign contracts and any amendments hereto, on behalf of the Windham Board of Education, between the Windham Board of Education and the Department of Health. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

Student Representatives on the Board of Education (Ref. 6)

Approved earlier in the meeting.

Lighthouse Training (Ref. 7)

Mr. Folan reported that he had a very positive meeting on Friday with representatives from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and the State Department of Education, along with Ms. Ortiz, regarding participating in the Lighthouse Training program. Mr. Folan felt that it would be positive for the Board of Education to take part in this training.

(62)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve participation in the Lighthouse Training program offered by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and the State Department of Education.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

It was decided to submit the first or third Wednesdays of the month as options for training times.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Head Start Governance (Ref. 8)

Ms. Crotty explained that there will be a federal review of the Head Start program this fall. A requirement is a review of the shared governance and Board of Education responsibilities with the Board. Ms. Crotty provided information regarding the role of the governing board, the Board of Education's responsibilities and Head Start goals for the 2010-2011. Mr. Folan thanked Ms. Crotty.

Homework (Ref. 9)

Ms. Ortiz provided the Board with homework guidelines used at the elementary, middle and high schools. She said that Natchaug School is working on developing more in-depth guidelines. There was some discussion and Ms. Ortiz answered questions. Mrs. Collins said that it is important that parents are informed about the purpose of homework. Mr. Adamo asked for a follow up report regarding the implementation of the homework guidelines.

(Mrs. Lambert arrived.)

Announcements/Information (Ref. 10)

October 2010 calendar; WPS Nurses' Concussion Guidelines (2010-2011); and Windham Federation of Teachers' newsletter (September 13, 2010) were included for informational purposes. There was no discussion.

First Reading of Policies (Ref. 11, 11A, 11B, 11C)

The following policies are included for a first reading and will be brought back to the October 13, 2010, meeting for approval: Ref. 11: Community Relations – Communications with the Public – Parent Involvement (1110.1); Ref. 11A: Bylaws of the Board – Guidelines for Special Advisory Committees (9133); Ref. 11B: Personnel - Certified – Discipline of Professional Staff (4117); and Ref. 11C: Personnel – Certified – Suspension (4117.41). There was no discussion.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle reported that budget items were discussed at the Personnel Committee meeting held prior to tonight’s meeting and a full report will be provided in executive session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(63)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 7:23 PM for the discussion of bargaining unit negotiations and personnel matters.

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

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

BOARD ABSENT: Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall

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

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 7:47 P.M.

(64)Motion by Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board add to the agenda at this time the following items: ratification of the tentative agreement with the nurses; the security stipend and the director of curriculum’s salary; and non-affiliated wages.

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

(65)Motion by Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board of Education move the ratification of the tentative agreement between the Windham Board of Education and the nurses.

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

(66)Motion by Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board approve the security stipend for the middle school and high school and the director of curriculum’s salary at \$111,772, prorated.

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

(67)Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board approve the following non-affiliated wages: 3.25% increase for confidential secretaries; 1.90% increase for technicians; \$1,500 increase for food service director; 1.90% increase for all other non-affiliated positions; interim superintendent’s salary at \$140,000, prorated; and to shift \$2000 from the director of finance’s TSA to his salary, leaving his total compensation at the 2009-10 level.

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

(68) Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board add using job funds for the reinstatement of positions.

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

(69) Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board approve using the job funds as recommended for the reinstatement of positions.

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

ADJOURNMENT

(70) Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Lambert, that the Board meeting adjourn at 7:50 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary