

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
September 23, 2009

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

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Diaz

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – No one
Columbia – No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, First Selectwoman de Smet, staff, general public, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the September 23, 2009, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:07 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

Addition to the agenda

Mr. Folan asked for a motion to add an overnight field trip to the agenda.

(58) Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board approve the addition to the agenda as Reference 3C, the Windham High School overnight student council field trip to the Eastern Connecticut State University field in Mansfield, Connecticut.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

September 9, 2009, Regular Board of Education meeting (Ref. 1)

(59) Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the September 9, 2009, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

September 3, 2009, Special Board of Education meeting (Ref. 1A)

(60) Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the September 3, 2009, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Clements, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Collins

The motion passes: 7-0-1

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Folan welcomed administrators, staff and First Selectwoman de Smet to the meeting to recognize Mr. Clements' and Mr. Diaz's years of service on the Board of Education. Mr. Diaz was unable to attend tonight's meeting. First Selectwoman de Smet presented a proclamation from the Board of Selectmen to

Mr. Clements, and Mr. Adamo presented him with a plaque from the Board of Education. Mr. Folan presented Mr. Clements with a gift from the Board of Education and commended him for his participation on the Board. Mr. Clements said that he leaves, with reluctance, to pursue another opportunity and has the utmost respect for the staff and the dedicated people that he has worked with on the Board.

Mr. Folan called for a short recess at 7:15 PM.

Mr. Folan reconvened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

STUDENT COUNCIL

There was no report.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were no comments.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

(61) Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2:

Resignation

- Pamela Irwin, Secretary II/ERA & Information Systems verbal resignation effective September 3, 2009.

Appointments

- Joanne Caserta, Guidance Counselor/Windham High School effective September 14, 2009. Salary is MA/3, \$40,436 prorated, replaces Laura Jones who resigned.
- Carlee Breton, School Psychologist/Natchaug effective September 21, 2009. Salary is MA/3/6th Yr, \$43,093 prorated, replaces Colleen Dreyfus and Eric Goldberg who transferred.
- Nicole Williams, Career Center Assistant/Windham High School effective October 1, 2009. Hourly rate is \$22.50, replaces Holly Fitch who resigned.

Leaves of absence

- Rosa Tirado, Transition Teacher/Windham Center School medical leave of absence effective August 24, 2009 through approximately December, 2009.
- Catherine Aillon Pomo, 3rd Grade Teacher/North Windham School childbearing/rearing leave of absence effective approximately November 3, 2009 through approximately January 26, 2010.
- Stephanie McNamar, 4th Grade Teacher/Natchaug School, childbearing/rearing leave of absence effective approximately October 19, 2009 through January 4, 2010.
- Jessica Priest, Special Education Teacher/Windham Middle School, childbearing/rearing leave of absence effective approximately January 11, 2010 through approximately April 5, 2010.
- Janette Rivera, Head Start Aide/Boston Post Road, childbearing/rearing leave of absence effective approximately November 6, 2009 through January 4, 2010.
- Beverly Wilkey, Head Start Aide/Boston Post Road, medical leave of absence effective October 20, 2009 through approximately December 2, 2009.
- Jennifer Lamberson, Guidance Counselor/Windham High School, childbearing/rearing leave of absence approximately December 22, 2009 through approximately April 5, 2010.
- James Algiere, Industrial Arts Teacher/Windham High School, medical leave of absence effective September 14, 2009 through approximately October 26, 2009.

Mrs. Collins noted the number of staff requesting childbearing/rearing leaves of absence.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

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

Windham High School DECA North Atlantic Regional Conference (Ref. 3)

(62)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the DECA North Atlantic Regional Conference (NARCON) field trip to Buffalo, New York, from Thursday, November 5, 2009, to Sunday, November 8, 2009, in accordance with Board Policy 6153. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Windham High School DECA Sports and Entertainment Marketing Conference (Ref. 3A)

(63)Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the DECA Sports and Entertainment Marketing Conference field trip to Orlando, Florida, from Tuesday, February 2, 2010, to Monday, February 8, 2010, in accordance with Board Policy 6153. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Windham High School Wrestling and Girls' Basketball Teams (Ref. 3B)

(64)Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the trip to Orlando Florida, for members of the wrestling and girls' basketball teams from Saturday, December 26, 2009, to Thursday, December 31, 2009, in accordance with Board Policy 6153. Mr. Doyle commented that though this is a great opportunity for the students, he doesn't like that it is a marketing scheme planned by Disney. Mrs. Collins said that this is a great opportunity for many students who might not have the chance to otherwise travel to Disney.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Doyle, Mr. Clements

The motion passes: 6-0-2

American Cancer Society's Relay for Life (Ref. 3C)

(65)Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the Student Council field trip to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, from October 17, 2009, to October 18, 2009, which takes place on the Eastern Connecticut State University field in Mansfield, Connecticut, in accordance with Board Policy 6153. Mrs. Haney applauded the students for their participation.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Donations (Ref. 4, 4A)

Donation to Windham Players (Ref. 4)

(66)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education accept, with deep appreciation, an anonymous donation in the amount of \$2000 to the Windham Players. The Board of Education voiced appreciation for this donation.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

Donation to the Athletic Department (Ref. 4A)

(67)Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Swtichenko, that the Board of Education accept, with deep appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$2,000 from Mr. Scott Reagan, a graduate of Windham High School, to the athletic department to be used to repair the scoreboard on Ferrigno Field at the high school. The Board of Education thanked Mr. Reagan for his generosity.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

ACTION ITEMS

Student Representatives on the Board of Education Policy (Ref. 5)

(68) Motion of Mr. Clements, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the Student Representatives on the Board of Education policy. Mr. Clements asked Mr. Blain if the wording to receive academic credit was specific enough. Some discussion followed. Ms. Fuller and Mr. Blain agreed that the wording should be left as is so that the credit received could be formulated at the high school level. There was also discussion about when the policy would take effect. Mr. Blain said that he will work at getting it in place this year.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

(Mrs. Collins left the meeting at 7:39 PM)

School Leader Evaluation and Professional Development Framework (Ref. 6)

(69) Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education approve the School Leader Evaluation and Professional Development Framework as submitted. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous

(Mrs. Collins re-entered the meeting at 7:40 PM and did not vote)

Restoration of Positions (Ref. 7)

(70) Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve restoration of the following positions as recommended by the Personnel Committee: based on fundraising, the following coaching positions could be restored: field hockey, freshman football, golf, freshman boys basketball, freshman girls basketball, freshman baseball; and assistant girls swim and assistant boys swim coaches (potential to use funds to restore), assistant cross country and assistant basketball (authorized per 2009-2010 budget but not currently filled), as well as two coordinators and two parent educators for Family Resource centers. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Announcements/Information (Ref. 8)

There were no comments.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

Magnet School: Mrs. Collins thanked Board members for their support at the Board of Selectmen's meeting. She reported that First Selectwoman de Smet signed the purchase contract for the site and the process is now moving forward; however, the committee was asked to continue looking for potential sites and has done so.

Ad Hoc Cafeteria: Mr. Folan reported that the committee has met and will meet again in another month. Eventually, the meetings will be held as managers' meetings.

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle reported that the 08-09 budget was finalized and the committee reviewed this year's budget.

Program Development/Evaluation: Mr. Adamo reported that Ms. Ortiz reviewed the *News and Views*; standard-based report cards at the elementary level were discussed; the administrator's evaluation plan was reviewed; and an update on science and social studies curriculum was provided.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo reported that Chris Rome, RESC lobbyist, gave an update on the legislation session; financial and Head Start reports were given; and a resolution to allow the Director to sign off on everything was approved.

Student Services: Mrs. Collins reported that the committee met with the Block Foundation regarding its interest in doing an after school athletic program at Windham Middle School.

Kramer: Mrs. Rayhall reported that the work at Kramer is almost complete. An open house will be held some time at the end of October.

Personnel: Dr. Switchenko reported that the committee discussed the restoration of positions that were approved at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Folan thanked Ms. Ortiz for the flag she presented to the Board last summer that flew over Iraq and is now in the Board Conference room. He asked that each Board meeting begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Folan asked Ms. Fuller to remind administrators to notify WILI radio with any good news or happenings at the schools. The station is interested in broadcasting positive things taking place in the district.

Mr. Doyle asked if an excel spreadsheet of key grants could be e-mailed out to Board members.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Doyle asked if there is still a policy about holding sports activities on religious holidays and suggested that the policy be reviewed.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

(71) Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board enter into executive session at 7:51 P.M., for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations and personnel matters.

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary