

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
September 9, 2009

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle (arrived at 7:04 PM), Mr. Clements, Mr. Diaz, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Lance Lambert  
Columbia – No one

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the September 9, 2009, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:03 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Kramer School.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – August 19, 2009 (Ref. 1)

(53) Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the August 19, 2009, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye: Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Clements, Mr. Diaz

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins

The motion passes: 5-0-3

(Mr. Doyle entered the meeting.)

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Adamo distributed bookmarks created by students in Donna Young's class at Windham Middle School as part of their EASTCONN service learning project. The bookmarks were printed through a grant received from the Stop and Shop Supermarket Company.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Lance Lambert reported that Student Council members are currently organizing their participation in the annual Relay for Life fundraiser to benefit cancer. They are also hosting freshmen activity night at the high school on September 11.

Mr. Folan welcomed Eastern Connecticut State University students who were present at tonight's meeting.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mrs. Tamborini, Windham and Florida, presented Mr. Folan with a gift.

SUMMARY ACTION

## Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

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

### Resignations

- Christian Kollegger, Special Education Teacher/Windham High School effective July 22, 2009.
- Neal Benson, Social Studies Teacher/Windham High School effective date to be determined.
- Laura Jones, Guidance Counselor/Windham High School effective date to be determined.
- Dacia Jackson, Special Education Teacher/Windham Middle School effective date to be determined.
- Holly Fitch, Career Center Assistant/Windham High School effective August 26, 2009.
- Hasani Miller, Special Education Paraprofessional/Windham Middle School effective August 26, 2009.
- Elizabeth Torres, Special Education Paraprofessional/Windham High School effective September 16, 2009.

### Appointments

- Brandon Strout, ISS Tutor/Windham High School effective August 26, 2009. Hourly rate is \$18.00, replaces Silas Williams who resigned.
- Corina Dobson, General Cafeteria Worker/Windham Middle School effective August 31, 2009. Hourly rate is \$9.82, replaces Mary Ann Smith who resigned.
- Bernard Barile, .40 Psychologist/ERA effective September 8, 2009. Salary is PHD/14, \$78,882 prorated pending certification replaces Igor Espittia who reduced from 1.0 FTE to .60 FTE.

### A-2 appointments

- William McCooey, .50 Chemical Hygiene Officer/Windham High School, stipend \$2,130.50.
- Pamela Cavanagh, 50 Chemical Hygiene Officer/Windham High School, stipend \$2,130.50.
- Lisa McClean, Student Council/Windham Middle School, stipend \$1,920.

There was some discussion about teacher resignations and salaries. Ms. Fuller said that it is sad to see staff leave; however, people are being hired to fill the vacancies. She indicated that money isn't always the reason that staff resign, but that in some of the recent resignations, it was a major consideration. Mr. Adamo said that Mr. Benson was an excellent student teacher. Board members said that Ms. Jackson will be missed, as well as the other teachers who have submitted letters of resignation.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

## ACTION ITEMS

### State consolidated grant application (Ref. 3)

(55) Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mr. Diaz, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the State Consolidated grant application for FY 2009-2010. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 9-0; unanimous

## REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Superintendent's Reports

#### CMT and CAPT Reports (Ref. 4)

Ms. Ortiz provided an overview of the CMTs from 2006 to 2009 and student strengths and challenges. She reviewed data by grade level, race and ethnicity, free and reduced price meals, and ELL and non-ELL test takers, as well as cohort comparisons for students in grades three through eight. Ms. Ortiz also reviewed performance over time of students taking the CAPT in the areas of math, reading, science and writing. Data by race and ethnicity, free and reduced price meals, and ELL and non-ELL students were compared. She reviewed intended actions for all schools which follow what has been set forth in the District Improvement Plan. Questions were answered and there was discussion throughout the presentation. Ms. Ortiz was thanked for her report.

#### Summer School Reports (Ref. 5)

The summer school reports for the high school and elementary grades one through three for 2009 are included for informational purposes. There were no questions.

Summer Maintenance Work Report (Ref. 6)

The summer maintenance work report from Mr. McGlew is included for informational purposes. There were no questions.

2009 SAT I Results and ACT Scores (Ref. 7)

The 2009 SAT I results and ACT scores are included for informational purposes. There were no questions.

Enrollment Report (Ref. 8)

A detailed enrollment report as of September 2, 2009, is included for informational purposes. There were no questions.

Financial statement – August 2009 (Ref. 9)

There were no questions for Mr. Nelson.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 10)

There were no comments.

Board of Education

Student Representatives on the Board of Education Policy (Ref. 11)

Mr. Folan asked if the clause stating that the students would meet with the Board of Education as part of the election procedure would be included. Mr. Clements said that the clause is not included in the proposed policy. The policy will be brought back for Board approval at the September 23, 2009, meeting.

Subcommittee Reports:

*Magnet School:* Mrs. Collins reported that there are people against the Tuckie Road location for the magnet school and there are also some people who want another vote taken by the townspeople because of the downturn in the economy since the original vote. Mrs. Haney explained that the committee has looked at several sites over time but have ruled them out for various reasons. She clarified that the money from the state is to be used specifically for construction of a magnet school and cannot be used to renovate existing schools. Mrs. Haney and Mrs. Collins said that the committee is looking at other ways to access the site. Mrs. Haney and Mrs. Collins said that they hope that people will attend the Board of Selectmen's meeting on September 15 to show their support of the magnet school proposal.

*Budget/Finance:* Mr. Doyle reported that Bill Magnotta from the State Department of Education and David Title, Bloomfield Superintendent, provided the committee with information on operating expenses of a magnet school. Mr. Doyle suggested that the Budget and Finance Committee's September 15 meeting be changed so that people could attend the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

*EASTCONN:* Mr. Adamo reported that the following took place at the first meeting of the year: Dotty Budnick provided a virtual tour of EASTCONN's facilities; the latest bulletin was distributed, as well as a calendar of meetings; a financial update was given; the building committee has hired Silver - Petrocelli Architects and now work to renovate the Hampton offices will begin; and a Head Start update was given.

*Policy/Planning:* Mrs. Collins reported that the community involvement and use of facilities policies were reviewed.

*Facilities/Maintenance:* Mrs. Rayhall reported that the committee did not meet; however, there have been weekly meetings with JP McGuire. She reported that the work at Kramer is coming along very nicely, and once it is completed, an open house for the public will be held.

*Across the Smiles:* Mrs. Collins reported that placemats have been designed by a student at ECSU, containing information about dental care and will be used by area restaurants. The committee will be looking at ways to continue the program which has been very successful.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Folan asked that data be compiled on the number of office referrals at the Middle School from September 2009 to December 2009, comparing it to last year's figures for the same time period. He would like a report given to the Board of Education in January to see if the school uniform policy has impacted student discipline.

#### CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mary Lou DeVivo, North Windham, said that she is sorry about the problems that the Magnet School Committee is encountering and thinks that the committee has done a great job. She suggested that Board members speak with members of the Board of Selectmen so that they realize that the magnet school money is only to be used to build a magnet school and cannot be used to repair Natchaug School.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

(56) Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board enter into executive session at 8:07 P.M., for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to 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, Mr. Clements, Mr. Diaz, 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 8:23 P.M.

#### ADJOURNMENT

(57) Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:23 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary