

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
September 26, 2007

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

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Mr. Perzanoski, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Summa, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Keila Garrido and Brittany Waitte  
Columbia – Mr. Mulcahy

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, general public, and news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the September 26, 2007, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:35 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Kramer School and welcomed Columbia Board of Education member, Mr. Mulcahy.

September 12, 2007, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the September 12, 2007, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

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

PRESENTATION

Ms. Lynn Frazier spoke about the Freedom Writers Institute Workshop that she attended this summer on a scholarship that she received from its leader, Erin Gruwell. Ms. Frazier said attending the five day seminar was an incredible experience and she will continue with different aspects of the program throughout the coming year. Ms. Frazier thanked the Board for its support and said that fundraisers will be ongoing during the year. Mr. Folan thanked her for her presentation to the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan shared thank you notes from Mrs. Skoog and Ms. Negrón and commented on the impressive letter received from one of Mr. Skoog's students. He also praised Mr. Doyle for his thank you letter regarding the Before and After School grant received. Board members received a copy of the memo from Mr. Carey regarding the budget.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Brittany Waitte and Keila Garrido reported that Student Council members served as guides for open house, members were involved in freshmen orientation, and efforts continue towards raising money for the upcoming Relay for Life event. Plans are also underway for the upcoming freshmen elections. Mr. Folan thanked them for their update on Student Council activities.

## CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Doug Fleming profusely thanked Board of Education members for all that they've accomplished and the wonderful opportunities that are provided to students in Windham due to their phenomenal efforts. He told the Board to keep up the good work.

James Flores spoke of his concerns at the high school regarding the test scores and low moral. He stated that he had a personnel issue at the high school.

## SUMMARY ACTION

### Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2.

## RESIGNATIONS

- Michael Reynolds, Grade 4 Teacher/Natchaug School effective September 21, 2007.
- Morgan Perry, Social Studies Teacher/Windham High School effective September 12, 2007.
- Ann Monahan, Special Education Paraprofessional/Windham High School effective August 29, 2007.

## APPOINTMENTS

- Emily Phillips, Latin Tutor/Windham High School effective September 13, 2007. Hourly rate is \$15.00, new position.
- Kristen Boucher, Paraprofessional/Natchaug School effective September 17, 2007. Hourly rate is \$11.42, replaces JoAnn Nyack who resigned.
- Christina McNamara, LPN/Sweeney School effective October 1, 2007. Hourly rate is \$21.22, replaces Kristen Berger who transferred.
- Ariana deSousa, Secretary II for Guidance Department/Windham High School effective September 19, 2007. Hourly rate is \$14.08, replaces Denise Flores who transferred.
- Adam Koropatkin, Special Education Paraprofessional/ERA effective September 19, 2007. Hourly rate is \$11.42, replaces Heather Marques who resigned.
- Rosa Melecio, Head Start bus Monitor/Prospect Street effective September 6, 2007. Hourly rate is \$8.49, replaces Yaritza Rodriguez who resigned.
- Shonda Trudeau, Special Education Paraprofessional/Windham Middle School effective September 19, 2007. Hourly rate is \$11.09, replaces Ana Figueroa who transferred.

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- Diana Zuckerman, Guidance Counselor/Windham High School, childbearing/rearing leave of absence to begin approximately December 13, 2007 through March 6, 2008.
- Annette Crespo, Bilingual Teacher/Windham Center School, childbearing/rearing leave of absence to begin approximately October 9, 2007 through November 20, 2007.

## SCHEDULE A-4/EXTRA CURRICULAR APPOINTMENT

- Jessica Camp, Boys Soccer Coach/Windham Middle School, stipend is \$1,448 pending certification. Replaces Sara Valentin who resigned.
- Ryan Herrick, Cross Country/Windham Middle School, stipend is \$1,267 pending certification. Open Position.
- Robert Gamache, .5 Assistant Freshman Football/Windham High School, stipend is \$1357.50 pending certification. Replaces Matt Lessard who resigned.
- James Thompson, Head Field Hockey/Windham High School, stipend is \$3,258. Replaces Gina Derosier who resigned.

There was no discussion.

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

## Field Trip Applications (Ref. 3, 3A, 3B)

Ref. 3: Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the participation of Windham High School Student Council members in the annual American Cancer Society's

Relay for Life at the Eastern Connecticut State University field in Mansfield, Connecticut, from Saturday, October 31, 2007, to Sunday, October 14, 2007. There was no discussion.

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

Ref. 3A: Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the attendance of Windham High School DECA students at the DECA North Atlantic Region Leadership Development Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, from Friday, November 16, 2007, to Sunday, November 18, 2007. There was no discussion.

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

Ref. 3B: Motion of Mr. Clements, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve the attendance of Windham High School DECA students at the DECA National Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, from Friday, April 25, 2008, to Wednesday, April 30, 2008. There was no discussion.

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

## ACTION ITEMS

### 2006/2007 Budget Transfers (Ref. 4)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the eight requests for the transfer of funds as prepared by Mr. Nelson (summary of budget transfers attached). There was no discussion.

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

### Grades 5-8 Language Arts Curriculum (Ref. 5)

Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the grades 5-8 Language Arts curriculum. Dr. Summa replied that the curriculum was built on the state frameworks and wouldn't be affected by any action taken by the state in answer to a question from Mr. Doyle.

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

## REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

### SAT Results (Ref. 6)

Mr. Blain reported that the objectives at Windham High School continue to be the improvement of overall student performance and literacy skills. The student participation rate increased slightly; however, SAT scores continue to fluctuate. He reviewed data comparing Windham's SAT scores over time with the state and the nation in all areas. Scores between male and female test takers were also compared over time. Mr. Blain said that there are sound initiatives in place and work will continue towards improving student achievement. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Blain for his report.

### Summer School (Ref. 7)

Mr. Stover reported that he was very pleased with the success of this summer's program which provided intervention and a bridge to fall classes for students in need. Two hundred and fourteen students were required to attend summer school this past summer; seven were retained; eleven did packets out of which nine were promoted. Mr. Stover answered questions. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Stover.

Mr. Forman said fifty special education students participated in the summer program. Students were selected who required continued support through the summer to sustain their abilities. Special education support was also provided to the regular summer school program. Mr. Forman answered questions. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Forman.

### Budget Freeze (Ref. 8)

Mr. Folan said that the Board received correspondence from the Board of Finance requesting that budget cuts be made and submitted to the Town prior to October 17, 2007. There was some discussion and it was the consensus of Board members that cuts could not be made at this time; however, a districtwide budget

freeze would be instituted to help deal with the anticipated shortfall. Mr. Folan will communicate this to the Board of Finance Chairman.

#### Announcements/Information (Ref. 9)

There were no comments.

#### Board of Education

##### Subcommittee Reports:

*Board Workshop on 9/19/07:* Mrs. Rayhall reported that the energy project and summer projects were reviewed. There was discussion on school space, as well as the dental grant. There also was a review of transportation and a report on the middle college magnet school. The language arts curriculum approved earlier in the meeting was also reviewed.

*Magnet School:* Mrs. Collins said that there is a meeting tomorrow night. She is checking on the school bonding with Representative Pawelkiewicz. Site testing is being done on two parcels of land.

*Superintendent's Advisory:* Mr. Perzanoski reported that the committee reviewed the new state legislation.

*Districtwide PTO:* Mrs. Haney reported that even though every school, except the preschool, was represented by someone, work will continue to have both a staff and a parent representative from each school. Members would like to do more districtwide programs this year focusing on parent education. There was discussion about continuing movie nights and also sponsoring a districtwide reading program.

*EASTCONN:* Mr. Adamo was unable to attend the meeting.

*Dental Grant:* Mrs. Collins reported that the plans are moving along.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Doyle asked for an update on Windham Middle School. This will take place at a committee meeting.

#### CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were none.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board enter into executive session at 9:10 P.M. for the purpose of discussing exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations.

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

(Mr. Folan and Dr. Switchenko left the meeting at 9:10 PM.)

BOARD PRESENT: Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Diaz

#### ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Mr. Perzanoski, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Summa, Directors Mrs. Banks and Mr. Nelson

#### REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Mrs. Rayhall reconvened regular session at 9:35 P.M.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 9:35 P.M.

On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary