

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
October 10, 2007

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney (arrived at 7:35 PM), Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Diaz (arrived at 7:40 PM)

BOARD ABSENT: No one

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Mr. Perzanoski, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Summa, Director Mr. Nelson

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Brenna Dunnack  
Columbia – No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, general public, and news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the October 10, 2007, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:30 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Kramer School.

MINUTES

September 26, 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 26, 2007, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

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

September 25, 2007, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education approve the September 25, 2007, Special Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Clements

The motion passes: 2-0-5

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan said that CABC convention packets were on the table for anyone who might be interested in attending. Board members received invitations to a translation forum at Eastern Connecticut State University on October 16. Mr. Folan received a letter from Quinebaug Valley Community College president, Dianne Williams, thanking him for the invitation to attend the public meeting with Commissioner McQuillan and offering to continue to partner with Windham in the interest of students. Board members received a copy of a thank you letter from Windham High School Library Media Specialist, Ann Kouatly, to Mrs. Sandy Murphy and her son, Mr. Brian Murphy, for their generous donation of art books to the library. The Board of Education also extends its sincere appreciation to Sandy and Brian Murphy for their generous gift.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

There will be a report later in the meeting.

## CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Mark DeAngelis, Willimantic, spoke regarding concerns he has about the high school band. He gave some history of the concert band and the marching band. (Mrs. Haney arrived.) He felt that students' participation in out-of-school activities should not be part of the grade received and that the commitment required was a reason why many students did not participate. Mr. DeAngelis said that he came before the Board because it was his understanding that it was a Board of Education mandate to build a competition level marching band with more requirements expected from students. (Mr. Diaz arrived.) Mr. Folan indicated that there is no policy and Mr. Perzanoski will follow up with this issue. There was some discussion among Board members about the Board's intent regarding the band program.

James Flores, Willimantic, voiced his disagreement with what was stated in the Citizens/Delegations portion of the September 26, 2007, Board minutes. He said that his comments about the high school did not have anything to do with a personnel issue. He has talked with many people who are concerned about Windham High School and accountability. He said that he stated at the meeting many times, that Gene Blain should be fired and it was not noted in the minutes. He also stated that Windham needs to be more aggressive to recruit minority teachers. Also, Windham needs to focus on how to get more money to retain teachers. He also said that administration needs to be reviewed.

## SUMMARY ACTION

### Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

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

## RESIGNATIONS

- Margaret Lettieri, Reading Teacher/North Windham School effective October 23, 2007.

## APPOINTMENTS

- Richard Moreau, Special Education Teacher/Windham High School effective October 15, 2007. Salary is MA/13, \$66,687 prorated, replaces Karen Piotrowski-Davis who resigned.
- Jaclynn Alpert, Social Science Teacher/Windham High School effective October 3, 2007. Salary is MA/1, \$35,676 prorated, replaces Morgan Perry who resigned.
- Janet Socquet, Secretary III/Windham High School effective September 21, 2007. Hourly rate is \$15.53, replaces Mary Maxfield who retired.
- Elizabeth Velez, Secretary I/Windham High school effective September 21, 2007. Hourly rate is \$11.63, replaces Janet Socquet who transferred.
- Ann LaChappelle, Crossing Guard/Natchaug School effective September 6, 2007. Hourly rate is \$11.53, replaces John Magrassi who transferred.

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- Mildred Serrano, Paraprofessional/Windham Middle School, childbearing/rearing leave of absence to begin September 25, 2007 to approximately November 20, 2007.
- Barbara Avery, Grade 6 Teacher/Windham Middle School, medical leave of absence to begin October 24, 2007 to approximately November 9, 2007.

## SCHEDULE A-4/EXTRA CURRICULAR APPOINTMENT

- Carrie Manville, Head Girls Soccer Coach/Windham Middle School. Stipend is \$2,172.
- Heriberto Crespo, Intramural Soccer Coach/Windham Middle School. Stipend is \$1,200.
- Erin Gaucher, Girls Freshman Basketball/Windham High School. Stipend is \$2,353.

There was no discussion.

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

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Brenna Dunnack reported that twenty-five students have signed up to participate in this weekend's Relay for Life so far, raising over \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society.

At this time, Mr. Folan publicly thanked Mr. Clements for running a very smooth meeting in his role of moderator during the Commissioner of Education's visit to Windham last Thursday. Mr. Clements said that it was a pleasure and as was stated to him, "it was a tribute to our community."

## ACTION ITEMS

### District Federal Consolidated Grant (Ref. 3)

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Diaz, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the District Federal Consolidated grant application for FY 2008. Dr. Anderberg answered questions relative to the decrease in federal funding over the last few years.

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

### Primary Mental Health Grant (Ref. 4)

Motion of Mr. Clements, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Primary Mental Health grant application entitled S.M.I.L.E.S. Dr. Anderberg answered questions from the Board stating that this is the second year of the grant and it is a pull out program.

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

### State Bilingual Grant (Ref. 5)

Motion of Mr. Diaz, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the State Bilingual grant application for the year 2007-2008. There was no discussion.

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

### Title III – Immigrant Children and Youth Program Grant (Ref. 6)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Title III – Immigrant Children and Youth Program grant application. Dr. Anderberg answered questions from the Board stating that the number of students involved depends on the number that qualify as immigrant children and that tutoring is available at the high school.

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

### Windham Middle School Extended Day Program Grant (Ref. 7)

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Windham Middle School Extended Day Program grant application. There was no discussion.

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

### Pay Rate for Long-term Substitute Teachers (Ref. 8)

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the proposed pay rate for long-term substitutes as follows: \$100 per day for days one through thirty; \$184.05 (BA/1) per day after thirty days if the substitute is not specifically certified for the position or increase to \$188.27 (BA/2) per day after thirty days if the substitute is certified for the position. Dr. Switchenko said that this is one way to attempt to alleviate part of the substitute problem and he answered a question clarifying the change in rate after thirty days.

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

## REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Financial Statement (September 2007) (Ref. 9)

Mr. Doyle reported that it will take about a month before it is known if any drastic budget cuts need to be made. Mr. Nelson reported that since special education tuition is a large piece of the budget, he will have a better handle on the budget once the amount of the excess cost funding is known.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 10)

There were no comments.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports:

*Personnel:* Dr. Switchenko reported that Mr. Musial gave an update on the Middle School; pay for certified substitutes was discussed; teacher termination rates were reviewed; a hold was put on the request for Before and After School coordinators; and a request for reclassification was received. Mr. Clements commented that at the committee meeting, Dr. Switchenko said that we were grateful to have Mr. Musial filling in at the Middle School. Mr. Clements suggested that a letter be written to let him know how much his efforts are appreciated.

*Budget/Finance:* Mr. Doyle said that the budget was reviewed. Windham will receive funding from the state as a result of approval of its improvement plan; however, the budget will still be short funded.

*Magnet School:* Mrs. Haney and Mrs. Collins reported that there is a meeting next week. Mrs. Haney said that she would like to clarify that funding received by the district to be used for a magnet school is different from funding that could be used to build a regular school.

*Dental Grant:* Mrs. Collins reported that the equipment has been ordered and the program should begin in the schools in January. There is a stipend to hire someone to schedule appointments.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

James Flores, Willimantic, asked why one person was allowed to speak for twenty minutes and he was stopped after two and a half minutes. He said that the pay rate increase for certified substitutes was a good beginning but the issue of regular substitutes should be addressed since most people who substitute are not certified. He also said that magnet schools have been closed because they are having difficulty complying with the number of out-of-district students required to attend and Windham should be very careful about this requirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:12 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary