

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2015

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Vice-chair Mr. Desaulniers, Juan Montalvo, Mr. Kalajian, Mrs. Osuba, Mr. French, Dr. Sewall (arrived at 7:33 PM), Dr. Gomez (arrived at 7:08 PM)

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Quamme

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Garcia; Deputy Superintendent Dr. Gasper; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Williams; Directors Ms. Beghetto, Ms. Markey and Mr. Johnson

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: No one

OTHERS PRESENT: general public; staff; administrators; news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mrs. Lambert called the October 14, 2015, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

September 9, 2015, Minutes (Ref. 1)

September 23, 2015 Minutes (Ref. 1A)

Motion of Mr. Kalajian, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board of Education approve the September 9, 2015, business meeting minutes (Ref. 1) and the September 23, 2015 (Ref. 1A) workshop meeting minutes.

Motion is unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Flores, Willimantic, said that each time that he signs up to speak, the form asks for his email address and telephone number but he is never contacted. He said that he has an issue with the consolidation of the Town and Board of Education finance departments; the money to pay for the salaries all comes from the taxpayers. He said, "Let's do what is best for our children and educate our children." He said that it doesn't matter what percentage is paid from the Town or from the Board of Education; it is all paid by the taxpayers.

(Dr. Gomez arrived.)

Mary Gallucci, Willimantic, said that she is concerned with the High School renovation project and isn't sure why the hard and fast number of 600 students is being used. She said that the number seems low and doesn't sound like a future size to incorporate all possibilities. She said that she is concerned that class sizes at the High School and at other schools in the district are too large and she would like to know the number of students in classes. Ms. Gallucci said that she would like to get this information from the High School's

School Governance Council but the Council hasn't gotten up and running yet. She said that State policies exist for a reason and asked why so much time is being spent rewriting policy. She said that there are many good academic students participating in sports and everyone will not have As and Bs. She said to keep the time at the High School for study hall before practice. Ms. Gallucci said that, as a parent, she is concerned with the officiating at games and asked if the officials take safety into consideration.

REPORTS

Superintendent's Reports

Professional Development for Staff on October 9, 2015

Dr. Garcia provided a brief update on the Professional Development offerings for the October 9th professional development day. The theme for the day was "Defining our Instructional Practice for Every Student, Every Day, in Every Classroom" and the activities were designed to build the capacity of the teachers to strengthen classroom instruction.

Transportation

Dr. Garcia explained that a transportation study will be conducted to look at ways to cut costs and better serve students and families.

District-wide Race and Culture Training

Dr. Garcia explained that a grant was received by the Early Childhood Center and the funding was earmarked for race and culture training for school staff. A committee is meeting to explore expanding the race and culture training to district-wide staff.

Alliance Districts' School Buildings Grant

Dr. Garcia explained that Dr. Gasper and Mr. Donaldson are working on an application for the CT-DAS grant entitled "General Improvement to Alliance Districts' School Buildings." She reviewed the items that the proposal will include.

North Windham and Windham Center Wells and Barrows' Field Updates

Mr. Donaldson reported that the North Windham School wells are pumping at capacity and the preliminary water test came back clear. He reported that pump tests are taking place at Windham Center School and water test results have not yet been received. Mr. Donaldson said that the well committee will meet next week. He also reported that work has begun on the Barrows' field which will be closed until school opens next fall.

2016-2017 Budget Calendar

Information for the 2016-2017 budget calendar was provided showing dates for budget workshops and several community forums.

2015-2016 Community Forum Calendar

Dr. Garcia provided a calendar of dates for meetings with parents, staff, students and community members where feedback will be gathered and district goals and initiatives will be shared.

School Governance Council (SGC) Training

Dr. Garcia said that building School Governance Council capacity is a district priority; and a district-wide training, provided by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), will take place on November 9, 2015, at Barrows.

Administrators on Leave

Dr. Garcia congratulated administrators Mrs. Firth and Mrs. Cyr who are both on maternity leave.

First Reading of One-to-One Laptop/Tablet Program New Policy and Regulations

Mrs. Osuba explained that this is a new policy that was developed after review of the guidelines used by the Barrows STEM Magnet School. This policy will be brought back to the Board for approval at the November 18, 2015, Board meeting.

Regulations for Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics Policy (5114.2)

The Regulations for Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics Policy (5114.2) were reviewed by the Policy Committee and are being brought forward to the full Board. These Regulations will now be used with Policy 5114.2.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance and Audit Committee

Mr. French reported that the Town has decided to work towards unifying the Town and Board of Education Finance departments. Mr. Johnson explained that the proposed structure of a unified finance department will be more effective and efficient. He reviewed the proposed organizational chart and the (Dr. Sewall arrived.)

financial aspect of combining the two departments. Mr. French said that there is still a lot of work to be done. He asked the Board of Education to approve the concept of unifying the two departments and forming an ad hoc committee that would be comprised of Mr. Beets, Ms. Rosado, Dr. Garcia, Mr. Johnson, one Board of Education member and one Town Council member. Mr. French said that the committee would come back to the full Board with its recommendation.

Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education add to the agenda as an action item the approval of the concept of a Town and Board of Education unified finance department and to form an ad hoc committee to include Mr. Beets, Ms. Rosado, Dr. Garcia, Mr. Johnson, one Board of Education member and one Town Council member.

Motion is unanimously approved.

School Planning and Design Committee

Mr. Kalajian reported that the committee has been working on a recommendation to the Board of Education regarding the Windham High School renovation project. The Committee's recommendation will be voted on under action items later in the meeting. Mr. Kalajian also reported that the ED 049 amount for the Middle School roof and Micro-Grid project needs to be increased in order for the Middle School roof to accommodate the panels that will be installed. This has been authorized by the Town Council and is on tonight's agenda for the Board of Education to approve the revised amount.

Policy Committee

Mrs. Osuba said the Committee reviewed the policy and the regulations that were presented earlier in the meeting.

Executive Committee

Mrs. Lambert said that the committee has not met.

ACTION ITEMS

Windham High School Renovation Project (Ref. 2)

Motion of Mr. Kalajian, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board of Education approve the renovation of Windham High School as new to accommodate the program and curriculum for 600 High School students, up to 434 Early Childhood students and the Board of Education offices. There was no discussion.

Motion is unanimously approved.

ED 049 for Middle School Roof Replacement and Micro-Grid Project (Ref. 3)

Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to revise the ED 049 amount to \$3,113,847 for the Windham Middle School roof replacement and Micro-Grid project. There was no discussion.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Submission of Grant Applications (Refs. 4,5,6,7,8,9,10)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Dr. Gomez, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the following grant applications:

Ref. 4: Extended School Hours grant and Accountability (summer school); Ref. 5: Bilingual Education Program; Ref. 6: Support for Parent and Pregnant Teen Continuation; Ref. 7: Young Parent Program; Ref. 8: State after School grant application for Natchaug School, Sweeney School and Ch. H. Barrows STEM Academy; Ref. 9: North Windham Family Resource Center and Ref. 10: Natchaug Family Resource Center. There was no discussion.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Windham High School Field Trips (Refs. 11 and 11A)

Motion of Mr. Kalajian, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education approve the following Windham High School overnight trip requests:

Ref. 11: attendance at the KSA Events Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida, from April 17, 2016, to April 22, 2016; and Ref. 11A: attendance at the Worldstrides Music Festival Competition, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from March 31, 2016, to April 3, 2016, both in accordance with policy 6153. There was no discussion.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Revised Policies (Refs. 12 and 12A)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board of Education approve the following revised policies:

Ref. 12: Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics Policy 5114.2; and

Ref. 12A: Transportation Policy 3541.

There was some discussion regarding the implementation of Policy 5114.2. Mrs. Lambert said that she would vote against the policy because she feels that it does not prepare students for college.

Ref 12: Revised Suspension from Interscholastic Athletics Policy 5114.2

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Gomez, Dr. Sewall, Mr. French, Mr. Kalajian

Nay: Mrs. Lambert

Abstained: No one

The motion passes: 7-1-0

Ref 12A: Revised Transportation Policy 3541

Motion is unanimously approved.

Personnel (Ref. 13)

Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education approve the following appointments and termination and accept the following resignations as recommended:

Appointments

- Lydia Perez, to the position of Special Education Paraprofessional at Natchaug School effective September 22, 2015, salary \$12.29 per hour. New Position.
- Shelley St. Jean to the position of Special Education Paraprofessional at C.H.Barrows STEM Academy effective September 8, 2015, salary \$12.29 per hour. New Position.
- Elizabeth Wright to the position of Paraprofessional at Natchaug School effective September 21, 2015, salary \$15.68 per hour. New Position.
- Yesenia Rodriguez to the position of Administrative Assistant at Human Resources effective October 12, 2015, salary \$20.37 per hour. Replacement.
- Nicole Barnett to the position of Special Education Teacher at C.H.Barrows STEM Academy effective September 28, 2015, salary \$44,443. Replacement.
- Silvia Emond to the position of YPP Social Worker at Windham High School effective October 13, 2015, salary \$77,066. Replacement.
- Jenna Levitt to the position of Pre K Teacher at WECC Prospect Street effective September 21, 2015, salary \$77,066. Replacement.
- Kimberly Noel to the position of Grade 6 Math Teacher at C.H.Barrows STEM Academy effective September 11, 2015, salary \$44,412. Replacement.
- Donna Plen to the position of School Psychologist at Windham Middle School effective September 9, 2015, salary \$81,853. Replacement
- Linda Spillane to the position of Special Education Teacher at Windham Center School effective September 18, 2015, salary \$56,127. Replacement.
- Jamie Fitzgerald to the position of Special Education Tutor at Windham High School effective September 8, 2015, salary \$15.76 per hour. Replacement.
- Luis Rodriguez Perez to the position of Behavior Tutor at Windham Center School effective September 23, 2015, salary \$15.38 per hour. Replacement.
- Amanda Argazzi to the position of Reading Interventionist at C.H.Barrows STEM Academy effective date TBD, salary \$48,804. Replacement.
- Christina Rivera to the position of Kindergarten Paraprofessional at North Windham School effective September 22, 2015, salary \$12.65 per hour. Replacement.
- Sara Kelley to the position of Instructional Consultant at Natchaug School effective date TBD, salary \$76,669. Replacement.

Resignations

- Angel Fernandez, Security Assistant at Windham Middle School effective September 9, 2015.
- Nicole Jaser, Instructional Consultant at Natchaug School effective September 18, 2015.
- Micaela Mellow, Paraprofessional at C.H.Barrows STEM Academy effective October 2, 2015.
- Darlene Creed, Secretary II at C.H.Barrows STEM Academy effective October 9, 2015.
- Dr. Tony Gasper, Deputy Superintendent at Central Office effective November 20, 2015.

- Clare Rowland, Pre K Teacher at WECC Prospect Street effective October 2, 2015.
- Adely Ortiz Rios, Cafeteria worker at Windham High School effective October 2, 2015.
- Javier Jimenez, Custodian at North Windham School effective September 18, 2015.
- Karen Lewis, Executive Secretary at Central Office effective February 1, 2016 for the purpose of retirement.
- Linda Thomas, Nurse at Natchaug School effective September 26, 2015 for the purpose of retirement.

Termination

- Jason Loree, Custodian at Natchaug School effective September 15, 2015.

Mrs. Lambert said that she was sad to see Dr. Gasper leave the district but wished him well in his new position as new Superintendent for Wolcott Public Schools.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Unified Finance Department (added to the agenda)

Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board of Education approve the concept of a Town and Board of Education unified finance department and the formation of an ad hoc committee to include Mr. Beets, Ms. Rosado, Dr. Garcia, Mr. Johnson, one Board of Education member and one Town Council member.

On the motion: Aye: Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Mrs. Osuba, Dr. Sewall, Mr. French, Mr. Kalajian

Nay: No one

Abstained: Dr. Gomez

The motion passes: 7-0-1

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Lambert provided an informational copy of the nurses' Health Office Report summary for 2014-15. She reminded Board members that CABE is sponsoring a workshop on December 9 for newly elected Board members. Mrs. Lambert distributed a Fockey for Families' flyer to Board members. As her senior capstone project, Devin Godbout is hosting a benefit field hockey game on Monday night in honor of the Holy Family Shelter in Willimantic. Admittance to the game is free with a donation of an unwrapped toy or gently used sweatshirt. Financial donations may be mailed to Windham High School, as well.

Dr. Garcia encouraged Board members to attend the CABE Conference in November. She also said that her meetings with individual Board members last year to talk about district goals were very productive and invited Board members to schedule a time to meet with her again this year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Mr. French, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:15 PM for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to personnel matters.

The motion is unanimously approved.

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Kalajian, Mrs. Osuba, Mr. French, Dr. Sewall, Dr. Gomez

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Garcia

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mrs. Lambert reconvened regular session at 8:44 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Kalajian, seconded by Mrs. Osuba, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Juan Montalvo, Secretary