

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
April 27, 2016

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Osuba, Vice-chair Dr. Sewall, Secretary Dr. Gomez, Mr. Kalajian, Mrs. Lambert (arrived at 7:30pm), Mr. Montalvo, Mr. French, Mr. Quamme, Mr. Flores-Alvarez

BOARD ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Garcia, Directors: Ms. Beghetto, Ms. Markey, Mr. Johnson

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: None

OTHERS PRESENT: General public, staff, administrators, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mrs. Osuba called the April 27, 2016 Board of Education Workshop meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGIANCE

Mr. French led the Board and the Public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORKSHOP TOPIC

NEASC Report

Dr. Garcia introduced Dr. Santiesteban, Mr. MacClure and Ms. Sosa, Administrators at Windham High School, who presented the results of the New England Association of Schools & Colleges, Inc. Commission on Public Schools' report regarding the high school. On April 5, 2015, the District received the final Windham High School NEASC report. The school will continue to be accredited by NEASC. Dr. Santiesteban explained the process that was utilized for the evaluation, including standards for accreditation. She advised that there will be a follow-up committee to review the recommendations and to create an action plan. She also reviewed the commendations and recommendations of the committee. Ms. Sosa and Mr. MacClure addressed the standards that were utilized in detail and how the school was rated in each area. Dr. Garcia mentioned that there was a commendation regarding class size being appropriate to the learning objectives of the students.

After the presentation, there was discussion and questions were answered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Gallucci, Willimantic, said she was disappointed in the NEASC report. She feels it is a reflection of lack of support at the administrative level. The District needs to mentor in-house individuals to fill leadership roles. She expressed her opinion that the District should not invest in the International Baccalaureate Program. She is concerned about teacher retention and indicated that the District cannot rely on the Teach for America program.

Kevin Hoxie, Willimantic, stated that the Board needs to be united to deal with retention of staff. He feels that the taxpayers are not supportive of the budget that is proposed to go to referendum.

### **ACTION ITEM**

#### **Amendment to March 9, 2016 Board of Education minutes**

**Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board of Education Amend the minutes of the March 9, 2016 Board of Education Meeting.** Mr. Donaldson provided background information regarding the need to add the approval of the Windham Middle School Roof Project Educational Specifications. **Dr. Sewall withdrew his motion.**

#### **Windham Middle School Roof Educational Specifications (added to the agenda)**

**Motion of Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. French, that the Board of Education approve the Educational Specifications for the Windham Middle School Roof Replacement Project.**

**The motion is unanimously approved.**

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Dr. Garcia acknowledged that Administrative Assistants Day, Annual Principals' Day, School Nurse Day and Teacher Appreciation Week would be celebrated in the upcoming weeks. She indicated that Central Office staff will be teaching in the schools during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Mr. Montalvo requested a summary of data compiled during staff exit interviews.

Mrs. Lambert requested a copy of the PowerPoint presentation regarding the NEASC report. She also complimented the staff on the successful lottery for Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy which took place this week. Lastly, Mrs. Lambert requested that an effort be made to have the hiring process for positions for next year begin in a timely manner.

Mr. Quamme asked what was being done to educate and encourage high school students to become responsible voters. Dr. Garcia indicated that there were programs done at the high school that resulted in students taking an active interest in the recent primary election.

Dr. Sewall requested that, in addition to the NEASC report, the slideshow from the NEASC presentation be uploaded to the website.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion of Mr. Kalajian, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:21PM for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to personnel matters and contract negotiations.**

**Motion is unanimously approved.**

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Osuba, Vice-chair Dr. Sewall, Secretary Dr. Gomez, Mr. Kalajian, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. French, Mr. Quamme, Mr. Flores-Alvarez

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Garcia, Director Ms. Beghetto, Director Johnson, Director Volle.

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Gary Brochu, Shipman and Goodwin, LLP

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mrs. Osuba reconvened regular session at 10:21PM

Non-Renewal (added to the agenda)

**Motion of Mrs. Osuba, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education hereby ratifies the Superintendent's decision to not renew the contract of employment of Stephanie Sans upon its expiration at the end of the 2015-2016 school year.**

**The motion is unanimously approved.**

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Kalajian, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 10:23PM.**

**Motion is unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jaime Gomez, Secretary