

**WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
MINUTES
October 26, 2005**

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

BOARD ABSENT: No One

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Josh Dorsey
Columbia – Board Chair Mr. Pernaselli, Board member Ms. Sadlon, Superintendent Dr. Saddlemire

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, general public and news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the October 26, 2005, Board of Education meeting to order at 8:13 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School. He said that the Board had an earlier meeting and apologized for the delay in the start of this meeting.

October 12, 2005, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the October 12, 2005, regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

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

Mr. Folan asked that the Windham High School Emergency Fuel Bank fundraising project and budget transfers be added to tonight's agenda.

Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board add the Windham High School Emergency Fuel Bank fundraising project as Reference 2A and the budget transfer of funds as Reference 4A to the agenda.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Board members received a thank-you note from Mrs. Banks. Mr. Folan received an e-mail inviting Board members to attend Thursday night's Windham/Willimantic Taxpayers' Association forum on special education which will be held at the Windham Center School. Mr. Adamo said that EASTCONN is holding a benefit concert sponsored by the Hampton Board of Education on November 20, at 4:00 PM, to raise scholarship money for the ACT magnet school.

Mr. Folan welcomed Mr. Pernaselli and Dr. Saddlemire.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Josh Dorsey reported that members participated in the recent American Cancer Society's Relay for Life and raised over \$2500. He said that class elections were held and all positions are filled.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

No one spoke.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2.

Resignations:

- Martin Ariola, special education tutor at Windham High School and PDP program at ERA, effective October 28, 2005.
- Kristin Fortier, before/after school program coordinator at Windham Center Elementary School, effective October 28, 2005.
- Kristina Dabrowski, educational assistant at Natchaug Elementary School, effective September 1, 2005.
- Lisa McCormack, special education teacher at Windham Center Elementary School, effective November 11, 2005.
- Berry Honore, grade 6 teacher at Windham Middle School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective December 31, 2005.
- Jesse Glaude, long-term substitute special education teacher at ERA, effective October 25, 2005.
- Kristen Cain-Ladison, PDP teacher at ERA, effective November 4, 2005.
- Nicole Tanguay, athletic trainer at Windham High School, effective October 28, 2005.

Appointments:

- Patricia J. Cirillo, special education teacher at Windham Center School, effective October 24, 2005. Salary is MA step 13, \$63,909 prorated. Replaces Lisa McCormack who resigned.
- Jesse Glaude, work study tutor at ERA, effective October 26, 2005. Hourly rate is \$16.50. Replaces Judd Ayer who resigned.
- Jesse Glaude, special education tutor at PDP program at ERA, effective October 31, 2005. Hourly rate is \$20.00. Replaces Martin Ariola who resigned.
- Hasani Miller, special education educational assistant at Windham High School, effective September 29, 2005. Hourly rate is \$10.94. New position.
- Carmelo Ortiz, Jr., special education educational assistant at Windham High School, effective September 29, 2005. Hourly rate is \$10.02. New position.
- Mandy Vanase, special education educational assistant at Windham Middle School, effective October 13, 2005. Hourly rate is \$10.30. New position.
- Nicole Tanguay, athletic trainer at Windham High School, effective September 29, 2005. Hourly rate is \$20.00. New position.
- Brenda Lee Adams, special education teacher at ERA, effective October 24, 2005. Salary is MA+30/11 \$54,758 prorated. Replaces Jesse Glaude who transferred.

Schedule A-2 appointments:

- Kristen Tracy, team leader, grade 5 at Windham Middle School, stipend is \$2,664.

Leave of absence:

- Carol Wright-Sweeney, special education teacher at Windham Center Elementary School, medical leave of absence from October 14, 2005, to November 7, 2005.

Mrs. Collins asked about the status of the athletic trainer position. Mrs. Banks said that it will be readvertised.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Clements

Nay: Mrs. Rayhall

Abstained: No one

The motion passes: 8-1-0

Windham High School Emergency Fuel Bank Fundraising Project (Ref. 2A)

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the Windham High School emergency fuel bank fundraising project and the setting of a bonfire at Windham High School as the culminating event. Mr. Perzanoski explained that the Windham High School Class of 2007 is conducting a fundraising project, "Put a Log on the Fire," to raise money for Windham's local emergency fuel bank. Class advisor, Mrs. Pekarovic, has requested permission to have a bonfire as a culminating event after the Powder Puff Game on November 18. Fire Chief/Marshall Ron Palmer has allowed this to occur with the Board's approval. Mr. Blain answered Board members' questions and said that he supports this request.

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

ACTION ITEMS

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Grouping Philosophy at Windham High School (Ref. 3)

Quality Quinn, a nationally recognized educator who has worked with Windham Public Schools for the last two years, was invited to speak at tonight's Board meeting about student grouping. She said that a key component is to have high expectations for everyone. She stressed the importance of students' development of abilities in all areas of vocabulary and said that students need to be adept at analyzing, assessing, managing, integrating, evaluating and creating information in a variety of formats. She suggested looking at model programs in districts which have had successful results. Following her presentation, Ms. Quinn answered questions from Board members and Columbia Superintendent, Dr. Saddlemire. The Board and Mr. Perzanoski thanked her for attending tonight's meeting.

Class Size Report (Ref. 4)

Mr. Perzanoski reviewed class size information and indicated that across all levels, class size numbers have improved significantly over last year's figures. He noted that Board support has been a critical factor in this improvement.

ACTION ITEM-Budget Transfers (Ref. 4A)

Mr. Nelson explained that the transfers that were discussed at the last Budget and Finance Committee meeting are being brought to the full Board for approval. He said that throughout the year, he will be identifying areas of savings, bringing transfers forward to cover deficits.

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the budget transfers as brought forth tonight by Mr. Nelson.

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

Announcements/Information (Ref. 5)

There was no discussion.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle said that the committee reviewed the transfer of funds discussed earlier at tonight's meeting.

Superintendent's Advisory: Mr. Perzanoski said that reading in the district was discussed, as well next year's school calendar.

Districtwide PTO: Mrs. Haney reported that members received an update on the budget and information on school improvement plans. Packets were provided by two members who attended the Welcoming

School Conference which was about first day celebrations in the state and welcoming parents into schools. Members reported on school activities during the roundtable and Mrs. Pekarovic spoke about the emergency fuel fundraiser at the high school.

Student Services: Mrs. Collins reported that the survey from the Superintendent's Advisory Council for Latino Affairs was reviewed. Mr. Perzanoski said that the survey will be distributed to parents and students from January to June to assess how we are doing as a school district. Mrs. Collins said that the survey on the magnet school was reviewed and a few minor changes made. Discussion took place on how to distribute the survey. Status of the magnet school project will be a regular Student Services Committee agenda item. At tonight's meeting, Mr. Clements asked that the person from the state be invited back to speak to the Board again about magnet schools.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo reported that Executive Director, Paula Colen, spoke about changes to the Board as a result of upcoming elections; Assistant Director, Bruce Storm, gave an update on teaching and learning activities; Cindy Torrence reported on the Head Start issue; approval was given for the submission of the Head Start federal grant; and a financial report was given indicating that the programs are doing very well.

Mrs. Rayhall said that the Facilities and Maintenance Committee will not meet until December. Mrs. Banks said that the Personnel Committee will not meet on November 2.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Haney asked for an update on the parent portion of the abstinence program that was presented last week. Mrs. Rayhall asked about follow up regarding the Before and After School programs. Mr. Perzanoski said that Mr. Doyle has offered to chair a task force and letters will go out this week to Michael Paulhus and Walter Pawelkiewicz. Mrs. Haney asked if the district still had the translator headphones that were used in the past during presentations.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

No one spoke.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 9:42 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary