

**WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
May 11, 2005**

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle (arrived at 7:39 PM), Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins

BOARD ABSENT: Mrs. Haney, Mr. Diaz

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – No one
Columbia – Diana Sadlon

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, general public

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the May 11, 2005, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:35 P.M., in conference room one, 2nd floor, Kramer School.

Mr. Folan asked for a motion to add an item to the agenda.

Motion of Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education add as Reference 1D the approval of revisions made to the April 5, 2005, Board of Education meeting minutes which were previously approved at the April 13, 2005, Board meeting.

On the motion: Aye, 6-0; unanimous.

MINUTES

April 27, 2005, Regular Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1)

Motion of Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 27, 2005, regular Board of Education meeting, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye, 6-0; unanimous.

April 28, 2005, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1A)

Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 28, 2005, special Board of Education meeting, Reference 1A.

On the motion: Aye: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo

Nay: No one

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

The motion passes: 3-0-3

May 2, 2005, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1B)

Motion of Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board of Education approve the revised draft minutes distributed at tonight's meeting of the May 2, 2005, special Board of Education meeting, Reference 1B.

On the motion: Aye: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Clements

Nay: No one

Abstained: Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Collins

-100-

The motion passes: 4-0-2

May 3, 2005, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1C)

Motion of Mr. Clements, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the May 3, 2005, special Board of Education meeting, Reference 1C.

On the motion: Aye: Chair Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins

Nay: No one

Abstained: Dr. Switchenko, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall

The motion passes: 4-0-2

April 5, 2005, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1D)

Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve revisions made to the minutes of the April 5, 2005, special Board of Education meeting, Reference 1D, which were previously approved at the April 13, 2005, Board of Education meeting. The revisions clarify the time that Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall entered the meeting.

On the motion: Aye: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins

Nay: No one

Abstained: Dr. Switchenko

The motion passes: 5-0-1

PRESENTATION

Windham High School students, Caroline Crosbie, Alex Krasser, Abigail Zorn, and Kate Callahan, presented Board of Education members with the 2005 edition of *The Student Philosopher*.

(Mr. Doyle arrived.)

Caroline Crosbie read *Long, Bright Evenings* by Cyndie Mercer; Abigail Zorn read *At Peace* by Jordan Ritchie; Alex Krasser read *Cute* by Graham DeAngelis; and Kate Callahan read *Perfection* by Jessica Long. Caroline Crosbie thanked Board members for their support and Mr. Folan thanked the students for attending the meeting and presenting members with copies of *The Student Philosopher*. He also thanked the rest of the student editors and their advisor, Mr. Skoog, who were not in attendance at tonight's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan read a note from Mrs. Haney who was out of state and could not be at tonight's meeting. She wrote that Kathy Pekarovic had contacted her to convey to the Board of Education that the recent senior trip to Florida was a huge success and the students received compliments on their behavior throughout the trip. Mr. Folan said that he attended the Junior Prom which went well.

STUDENT COUNCIL

There was no report.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were no comments.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

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

Resignations:

- Noemi Alers, first grade bilingual teacher at Sweeney School, resignation for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2005.

- Elisa Valle, one-to-one special education educational assistant at Windham Middle School, effective April 22, 2005.
- Gina Gorton, one-to-one special education educational assistant at Windham Middle School, effective June 23, 2005.
- Maria Gonzalez-Mendez, special education educational assistant at Sweeney Elementary School, effective May 2, 2005.
- Andrew Diaz, special education educational assistant at Windham High School, effective May 2, 2005.
- Wilmarie Romero, bus monitor for Prospect Street Head Start, effective May 13, 2005.

Appointment:

- David Combs, custodian at Natchaug Elementary School, effective April 28, 2005. Hourly rate is \$10.00. Replaces Richard Cahoon who retired.

Leave of Absence:

- Ronald Daigle, school psychologist at North Windham Elementary School, medical leave of absence from April 15, 2005, to June 23, 2005.
There was no discussion.
On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous.

Meenakshi Aiyaswami Pillai Award (Ref. 3)

Motion of Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education accept with deep gratitude the Meenakshi Aiyaswami Pillai Award. Mr. Folan thanked Dr. Mohan Pillai for his generosity.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Early Reading First Program: LEAP Grant (Ref. 4)

Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Early Reading First Program: LEAP, Literacy Engagement for All Preschoolers Project grant application. Mr. Clements noted that the grant begins on July 1st and asked if the grant information was received late. Mr. Perzanoski said that Dr. Anderberg and Ms. Crotty had to work very hard to get the grant application completed before the deadline.

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

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Partial Day Program (PDP) Report (Ref. 5)

Mr. Forman and Dr. Levine provided information on the Windham Partial Day Program (PDP) housed in the EASTCONN facility on Route 66 in Columbia. Mr. Forman explained that the purpose of this program, which was established in January 2004, is to provide a cost effective alternative to homebound instruction while giving students a quality education. This program services many of Windham's expelled students and some students who have chronic non-attendance issues. At the present time, there are thirteen students enrolled in the program which runs from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM from Monday through Thursday. Core academics and technology education are offered and transportation is provided at no cost to the family. Students accumulate high school credits and may graduate from Windham High School. Clinical services are also available. Mr. Forman and Dr. Levine answered Board members' questions. They were thanked for the information presented at tonight's meeting.

Staff and Student Recognition (Ref. 6)

Mr. Perzanoski announced with pleasure that Natchaug Principal, Rose Bisson, has been invited to serve

on the newly established advisory board of the School of Family Studies at the University of Connecticut. He also was pleased to announce that Windham High School and Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) creative writing student, Chelsea Love, has won the IMPAC-Connecticut State University Literary Award for Young Writers for her poetry and will represent Windham County in the state contest in June. Mr. Perzanoski and the Board congratulated both Mrs. Bisson and Ms. Love.

Financial Statement (4/30/05) (Ref. 7)

Mr. Nelson reported that the line item on the April financial statement for special education tuition indicates that the amount is down about \$30,000. The excess cost special education reimbursement is being cut about \$45,000. However, he said that the budget for this year is still on track. There were no questions.

Announcement/Information (Ref. 8)

There were no comments.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports

Head Start Policy Council: Mrs. Collins said that she attended the Head Start Policy Council meeting which meets on a regular basis.

Mr. Perzanoski suggested changing the Budget and Finance Committee meeting to May 18th at 7:30 PM due to a conflict with secretary negotiations on May 17th. The Program Development and Evaluation Committee could move its May 18th meeting to 6:30 PM.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Doyle asked for a report again this year on the eighth grade exit survey done at Windham Middle School. Mr. Clements said that from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, on May 21st, a Community Conversation is scheduled, sponsored by the League of Windham Voters, to talk about improving education in Windham. He invited Board members to attend and will let them know the location of the meeting. He asked them to provide him with names of people they think should also be invited.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

There were no comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Vice chair Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo, that the Board enter into executive session at 8:08 PM, for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations and personnel matters.

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

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 8:15 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:16 P.M.
On the motion: Aye, 7-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary