

**WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
April 27, 2005**

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle (arrived at 7:40 PM), Mrs. Haney (arrived at 7:42 PM), Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Diaz

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Matt Liskom
Columbia – Diana Sadlon

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, general public and news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the April 27, 2005, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:35 P.M., in conference room one, 2nd floor, Kramer School.

MINUTES

April 13, 2005, Regular Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1)

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 13, 2005, regular Board of Education meeting, Reference 1.

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

April 6, 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 6, 2005, special Board of Education meeting, Reference 1A.

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

April 7, 2005, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1B)

Motion of Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Collins, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 7, 2005, special Board of Education meeting, Reference 1B.

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

Nay: No one

Abstained: Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Clements

The motion passes: 4-0-2

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Blain introduced Windham High School student, Danielle Sharpe, and announced that she is a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship program. Danielle was congratulated and commended for her outstanding abilities.

(Mr. Doyle arrived.)

Chair Mr. Folan presented this year's Windham High School CABE Student Leadership Award recipients, Shannon Cawley and Sait Bocanegra-Perez, with certificates. They were congratulated for their exceptional leadership skills.

(Mrs. Haney arrived.)

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan said Board members received a letter from Mrs. Packer, Director of Windham Academy.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Matt Liskom reported on the following activities: work continues on developing a constitution and mission statement; the Leadership Conference will take place on May 24th; books collected during the recent book drive were given to the Holy Family Shelter; and a Student Council member will serve on the Student of the Year committee.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Diana Sadlon, Columbia Board of Education, said that there are some very serious concerns regarding the leveling of classes at the high school.

Deborah Lepore, Columbia, also spoke about concerns regarding the merging of levels at Windham High School.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2 including the addendum from Mrs. Banks distributed at the meeting.

Resignation:

- Claudette Darius, bilingual science teacher at Windham High School, for the purpose of retirement, effective May 1, 2005.

Appointments:

- Neicia Doucette, Early Head Start teacher at Windham Heights, effective April 11, 2005. Hourly rate is \$17.42. Replaces Rebecca Mulrooney who resigned.
- Justin Plourde, custodian at North Windham Elementary School, effective March 31, 2005. Hourly rate is \$10.00. Replaces Jason Plourde who transferred to Prospect Street.

Addendum - Appointment:

- Christian Kollegger, special education teacher at Windham High School, effective August 29, 2005. Salary is MA+15, step 9, \$45,389. Replaces Mark Schultz, who transferred to another special education position at Windham High School.

Schedule A-2 appointment:

- James Clark, social science program leader from April 1, 2005, to June 30, 2005. Stipend is \$1,130.96.

Leaves of Absence:

- Janet Smith, mathematics teacher at Windham Center Elementary School, childbearing leave of absence from March 31, 2005, to June 30, 2005.
- Deshandra Mitchell, Head Start assistant teacher, childbearing leave of absence from April 11, 2005, to July 22, 2005.

There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS

Multicultural Connections - Interdistrict Cooperative Grant (Ref. 3)

Motion of Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the application for an Interdistrict Cooperative grant for the Multicultural Connections. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

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Summer Learning Links – Interdistrict Cooperative Grant (Ref. 4)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the submission of

the application for an Interdistrict Cooperative grant for the Summer Learning Links project. Dr. Anderberg answered Board members' questions regarding changes made to the program this year in order to meet the requirements and qualifications of the grant. Mrs. Collins said that she was not in favor of targeting only students in grades four through eight because she felt that students in the lower grades would benefit more from participating in the program.

On the motion: Aye: Chair Mr. Folan, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Clements, Mr.

Doyle

Nay: Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mrs. Collins

Abstained: No one

The motion passes: 6-2-0

Summer Food Service Program 2005 (Ref. 5)

Motion of Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Windham Board of Education authorizes Superintendent Paul K. Perzanoski to sign the Summer Food Service Program Agreement and related claims for reimbursement, and in his absence, Jeffrey I. Nelson, Director of Finance and Management, is authorized to sign claims for reimbursement. There was no discussion.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

Windham High School Reading Plan (Ref. 6)

Mr. Blain explained that as a result of discussion at the last meeting, it was suggested to separate the reading plan from the portion that deals with collapsing levels. He asked that the high school be allowed to continue researching the plan during the next year in order to make the best and most informed decision for all students and to meet the NCLB and CAPT assessment expectations. Mr. Blain said that this would also give the high school the opportunity to provide NEASC with a response that there is a plan in place. There was much discussion by Board members about all aspects of the reading plan, including doing additional research as well as the financial impact of implementation of this new program. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Blain and the Windham High School staff for meeting the Board's request for additional information in a short period of time. Mr. Folan said that tonight's vote is strictly for the reading program, not the reorganization of levels.

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the Windham High School Reading Plan.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Staff Recognition (Ref. 7)

Mr. Perzanoski announced with pleasure that Windham Center teacher, Sandy Rijs, will be honored for her work in the Enrichment Program at Windham Center Elementary School at the Elementary Program Recognition Banquet sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools. She developed, with Dr. Joseph Renzulli from the University of Connecticut's School of Gifted Education and Talent Development, a Schoolwide Enrichment Model that has been implemented at Windham Center Elementary School. Mr. Perzanoski and the Board congratulated her for her outstanding work in this field.

Announcement/Information (Ref. 8)

There were no comments.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports

Program Development/Evaluation: Mr. Adamo said that reports on the Curriculum Revision Process for music, physical education and art were presented. Preliminary information on Windham Middle School's Improvement Plan was also provided. A draft letter was reviewed regarding the Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement which is outdated. A report was also given on the implementation of geometry in grade ten.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo reported that the Executive Director gave a report which included an update from the financial director on the 2004-05 budget and a report on the 2005-06 budget. There was discussion about EASTCONN's role in providing initiatives and changes in high school curriculum. There was a preview of the annual Board of Directors meeting in May. Cindy Torrence gave an update on Head Start. It was reported that the same auditor has been retained by EASTCONN and there was an executive session for discussion of personnel matters.

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle said that reductions were reviewed and the final decision will be made once the budget is in place. He is urging people to pass the budget on May 10th.

Districtwide PTO: Mr. Perzanoski said that schools reported on end-of-the year activities, information on the 2005-06 budget was provided and the Town and District Tea at Leventi's in May was discussed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Folan asked for a review of roles and responsibilities, as well as obtaining an outside presenter to speak on heterogeneous and homogeneous grouping. Mr. Adamo asked about the cancellation of the music program on April 13th. Mr. Perzanoski said he will get the information.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Diana Sadlon, Columbia Board of Education, asked that the Columbia Board of Education be kept apprised of the high school issue. She asked if there are other options if it is decided not to collapse the levels.

Lisa Carr, Columbia, said that the majority of Columbia students are in levels three and four and are college bound. She asked if levels one and two could be looked at.

Deborah Lepore, Columbia, said that there are a lot of Columbia parents concerned about merging levels one, two and three.

Mr. Folan replied that a committee will be formed to research this issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Vice chair Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board enter into executive session at 8:41 PM, for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to bargaining unit negotiations and personnel matters.

On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

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

ADMINISTRATION

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

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Chair Mr. Folan reconvened regular session at 9:25 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 9:25 P.M.

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On the motion: Aye, 8-0; unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary