

**WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
September 28, 2005**

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Diaz, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Haney, Mr. Doyle (arrived at 7:35 PM)

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Clements

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – No One
Columbia – Nelson Petrone

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, general public and news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the September 28, 2005, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:30 P.M., in conference room one (room 223), 2nd floor, Kramer School.

Mr. Folan asked that discussion concerning the Magnet School Survey be added to the agenda as reference 10A.

Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that discussion of the Magnet School Survey be added to the agenda.

On the motion; 7-0; unanimous.

MINUTES

September 14, 2005, Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1)

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the September 14, 2005, regular Board of Education meeting minutes, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye: Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. Collins
Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Diaz

The motion passes: 6-0-1

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Blain announced that Abigail Zorn, Michael Mellow and Erika Sharpe have achieved semi-finalist status in the National Merit Scholarship Program. He introduced Abigail Zorn, who attended tonight's meeting with her father, and Michael Mellow, who attended with his mother. Mr. Blain congratulated them on their success and thanked them for coming to the Board meeting. Erika Sharpe could not attend due to a prior commitment. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Folan congratulated the students and their parents. He also thanked the administrators who attended tonight's meeting in support of these students.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

STUDENT COUNCIL

There was no report.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Pazit Edelman, Windham, asked for an update on the status of the Windham Center roof. Mr. Perzanoski said that he met at town hall today with the building committee. Once the bonding process takes place, work to replace the entire roof would occur during the summer of 2006.

(Mr. Doyle entered.)

Ms. Edelman said that she supports a survey for community input regarding the magnet school and would like more options considered for its theme.

Ron Murphy, Mansfield, spoke on behalf of the request submitted by him and Munere Haddad to name the Windham High School track for Bob Haddad. Mr. Blain thanked them for their letter and said that he supports their request.

Munere Haddad, Willimantic, spoke about the many awards that Bob Haddad has received over the years.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2.

Resignations:

- Catherine Rodriguez, educational assistant at North Windham Elementary School, effective September 16, 2005.
- Shawn Bates, maintenance districtwide, effective September 15, 2005.
- Lisa Weber, cafeteria worker at Windham High School, effective September 30, 2005.

Appointments:

- Kristen Berger, .5 FTE LPN at preschool Prospect Street, effective September 19, 2005. Hourly rate is \$19.00. New position.
- Vivian Santiago, secretary II to the Assistant Principal at Windham Middle School, effective September 12, 2005. Hourly rate is \$12.55. Replaces Arlene Burgos who terminated.

Co-extra curricular appointments:

- Timothy Maclure, head freshmen football coach at Windham High School, stipend is \$4,008.
- Matt Lessard, .5 FTE assistant freshmen football coach at Windham High School, stipend is \$1,336. Contingent upon receipt of coaching permit.
- Andrew Gonzalez, .5 FTE assistant freshmen football coach at Windham High School, stipend is \$1,336. Contingent upon receipt of coaching permit.
- Kelly Folan, sophomore class advisor at Windham High School, stipend is \$1,530.

Schedule A-2 appointment:

- Emily Hebert, A.V. Coordinator at Windham Middle School, stipend is \$1,956. Replaces Kimberly Kelley.

Mrs. Collins asked about the freshmen football coaching appointments that were withdrawn from the appointments at the last meeting. Mr. Perzanoski and Mr. Blain said that freshmen football has always been part of the sports program.

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

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Folan

The motion passes: 7-0-1

Windham High School DECA field trips (Ref. 3 and Ref. 3A)

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the field trip requests for Windham High School students to attend the DECA North Atlantic Region Leadership

Development Conference in Burlington, Vermont, from November 11, 2005, to November 13, 2005 (Ref. 3) and the DECA International Career Development Conference in Dallas, Texas, from April 29, 2006, to May 3, 2006, (Ref. 3A) in accordance with Board Policy 6110P. There was no discussion.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Series 1000 (Community Relations) (Ref. 4)

Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the proposed revised Board of Education Series 1000 (Community Relations) policies and regulations. These were presented as a first reading at the May 25, 2005, Board of Education meeting at which time changes were made. Mr. Folan thanked Mrs. Collins for her diligent work with Dr. Anderberg on the policy review project.

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

Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) (Ref. 5)

Mr. Blain introduced Mr. Iovine who was also present at tonight's meeting to answer any questions that Board members may have. At the request of the Board, Mr. Blain presented a brief PowerPoint presentation explaining the history of the first QZAB awarded to Windham High School in 2002 and the development of the Career Center. Mr. Blain spoke about the Distance Learning Labs and the opportunities that these would make available to students. Board members spoke highly of the accomplishments as a result of the first bond. Mrs. Collins suggested the possibility of having a capital campaign in the community to raise funds. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Blain for his update.

Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve submission of the Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) application.

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

Naming of the Windham High School Track (Ref. 6)

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Adamo that the Board of Education approve the request to name the Windham High School track in honor of Bob Haddad making an exception to the Naming of School Buildings and Facilities Policy 1116P. The Facilities and Maintenance Committee reviewed this request at its last meeting. Mr. Folan said that Mr. Haddad is deserving of this honor.

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

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

SAT Report (Ref. 7)

Mr. Blain reviewed the SAT verbal and math results for the last five years noting that overall scores have somewhat stabilized. He also reviewed the number and percent of Windham students in various score categories over the last three years, as well as participation rates since 1999, and comparative scores of males and females since 2000. He summarized observations as a result of the data presented and reviewed steps to continue to work towards increasing student achievement. Mr. Blain and Dr. Summa answered questions from the Board. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Blain for his report.

Summer School Reports (Ref. 8)

Mr. Almeida reported on summer school at the high school reviewing courses offered and the breakdown of students attending from Windham and surrounding schools. He also provided a financial report. Mr. Almeida and Mr. Blain answered questions from the Board. Mr. Stover summarized the migratory program, the welcome center advisory group, before and after school programs, and the expanding horizons program from the University of Connecticut, as well as summer school for 2005. Summer school was held for students in grades four and six who were mandated to attend by the state because of their

performance on the CMT and their DRP scores. One hundred and forty-nine students from the four elementary schools and the middle school attended the nineteen-day program. There were sixteen teachers, six paraprofessionals, one nurse and two secretaries. Mr. Forman spoke about the special education component of summer school which included fifty-two special education students. He said that it was very rewarding and worthwhile for these students as they were able to continue to receive the services provided to them during the school year. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Almeida, Mr. Stover and Mr. Forman.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 9)

Mr. Folan reminded Board members that they have been invited to attend the Willimantic/Windham Taxpayers Association meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 PM in the Windham Center School library.

Mr. Folan said that Mr. Clements is absent from tonight's meeting because he is in California.

Magnet School Survey (Ref. 10A)

Mr. Folan reviewed the process thus far. A draft survey was sent to Dr. Krassas, a professor at Eastern Connecticut State University, for her review. There was discussion among Board members regarding the importance of obtaining feedback from parents and the community, as well as from parents in area towns that may be interested in participating. Dr. Krassas was present and spoke of ways to increase the survey response rate, stating that mail-in surveys have a poor rate of return. It was the consensus of Board members to take the extra time to have the survey designed by professionals. Dr. Krassas said that her colleagues at Eastern Connecticut State University could develop a survey for the district. Mr. Folan thanked her for her assistance.

Board of Education

Series 3000 (Business and Non-Instructional Operation) (Ref. 10)

In his absence, Mr. Clements submitted comments in writing regarding Series 3000 which Mrs. Collins said would be incorporated into the series for the second reading.

Subcommittee Reports

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle said that there was discussion regarding the QZAB application and the impact of the energy crisis.

Program Development/Evaluation: Mr. Adamo reported that Dr. Summa gave an update on curriculum and program development activities. Senior year schedules at the high school were also discussed.

Student Services: Mrs. Collins reported that attendance procedures at the high school were discussed, as well as the possibility of having a Saturday morning high school graduation. Student transportation thus far this year was also reviewed.

Student Health Advisory: Mrs. Collins said that following the September meeting, a farewell reception was held for Mary Withey. Mrs. Collins reported that funds from the abstinence grant will be used for a guest speaker who will present first to parents and then to fifth and sixth grade students. She said that Dr. Smith, the head of the dental program at Generations, spoke and said that there are 600 people on the waiting list to be seen, indicating the lack of available dental care in this area.

Superintendent's Advisory: Mr. Perzanoski reported that an agenda for 2005-06 was set.

Districtwide PTO: Mrs. Haney reported that all of the schools were represented at the meeting and feedback from everyone regarding the First Day Celebrations was positive.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo reported that one of the two technical directors at EASTCONN gave a report and the committee received an update on the Head Start/TVCCA case.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was no discussion.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Nicole Krassas, Willimantic said that she and her husband are supportive of an interdistrict magnet school; however, their concern is that a theme be chosen that can be implemented.

Deb Toomey, Willimantic, said that she supports the magnet school concept and is pleased that people will have the opportunity for input regarding the theme. She asked several questions. Is the operational plan available to parents? What is the timeline for the state to respond if it accepts the operational plan? Has there been some assessment of the Compañeros Program beyond the kindergarten level; for example, the number of students who stay with the program from kindergarten through grade six and the recruitment and retention of staff? She said that the Windham Parent Network members would be happy to help in any way they could and they have brochures from the state that have an entire section on magnet schools which could be distributed.

Suzanne Brogie, Willimantic, asked if parents could be kept informed about upcoming meetings regarding the magnet school. Mrs. Collins said that possibly the topic could be a standing agenda item for Student Services Committee meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 9:40 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary