

**WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
March 23, 2005**

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

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Diaz, Mrs. Collins

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – Avi Lessner
Columbia – Nelson Petrone

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, general public and news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the March 23, 2005, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:35 P.M., in conference room one, 2nd floor, Kramer School. Mr. Folan said that Mrs. Collins is in Ireland and will be absent from tonight's meeting.

MINUTES

March 9, 2005, Regular Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 9, 2005, regular Board of Education meeting, Reference 1.

On the motion: Aye: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-Chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Haney

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Clements

The motion passes: 6-0-1

March 14, 2005, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1A)

Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 14, 2005, special Board of Education meeting, Reference 1A. Mrs. Rayhall noted that she made the motion to enter into Executive session, not Mr. Clements. The minutes were presented as amended.

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

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Clements, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle

The motion passes: 4-0-3

March 15, 2005, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1B)

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 15, 2005, special Board of Education meeting, Reference 1B. Mrs. Rayhall noted that Mr. Doyle, not her, seconded the motion to approve the 2005-06 budget. The minutes were presented as amended.

On the motion: Aye: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-Chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko, Mrs. Haney

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Nay: No one

Abstained: Mr. Clements
The motion passes: 6-0-1

Student Presentations

National Merit Scholar – Mr. Folan said that Windham High School's National Merit Scholar could not attend tonight's meeting and will be recognized at an upcoming Board meeting.

DECA Program – DECA students attended tonight's meeting displaying an impressive array of trophies won at this year's 53rd Annual Connecticut DECA State Conference and Competition on March 8th. DECA Advisor, Ms. Patty King, informed the Board that the Windham High School DECA Chapter was named Chapter of the Year for Connecticut. Kathleen Galipeau, Windham DECA Chapter president, thanked the Board for its continued support. Mr. Folan said that the Board is extremely proud of the many accomplishments of the DECA students and the outstanding leadership provided by Ms. King. He thanked them for attending tonight's meeting.

WHS Girls' Basketball Team – Mr. Blain introduced Ken Valliere, coach of the Windham High School Girls' basketball team, and congratulated him, the team and coaches Green and MacClure for winning this year's Class M State Championship title. Mr. Folan, Mrs. Rayhall and Mr. Perzanoski presented the players with certificates and congratulated them on their outstanding year and state victory. Mr. Folan also congratulated the coaches for their work.

Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) – John Mayer, principal of ACT, thanked the Board of its continued support and spoke about the many events that have taken place at ACT during this past year. Parents and students individually thanked the Board for its support and spoke about their many positive experiences as participants in the ACT program. Mr. Folan thanked all of them for attending tonight's meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan received a letter from the students at Windham Academy to which he will respond. He reported that Mrs. Weeks's mother is doing well and is recuperating at home. Mr. Folan also reported that members of the Young Educators Society (YES) received a trophy for their participation at this year's conference at Eastern Connecticut State University.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Avi Lessner reported that the recent Data Match fundraiser was a success and members will also be organizing a fundraiser to benefit Windham Mills. He said that more than four hundred books have been collected during the book drive and members will decide where to donate these books. This year's theme for the student leadership conference, which will take place on May 24th, is sports leadership and Coach Lawrence from Porter School in Columbia will be the keynote speaker. He reported that work on the constitution is nearing completion and a vote will be taken in a couple of weeks. Student Council members will help at the upcoming parent/teacher conferences and also at the Dollars for Scholars Phone-a-thon.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

No one wished to speak.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

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

Resignations:

- Jeffrey Mulqueen, assistant superintendent, effective June 30, 2005.
- Michael Cararini, special education teacher at Windham Academy, effective June 30, 2005.
- Burt Seiferheld, math teacher at Windham Middle School, effective June 30, 2005.

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- Manuela Santiago, bilingual guidance counselor at Windham High School, effective June 24, 2005.
- Susan Rubb, grade 3 teacher at Sweeney Elementary School, effective June 30, 2005.

- Richard Cahoon, custodian at Natchaug Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective April 25, 2005.
- Wanda Barreto, Head Start bus monitor, effective March 18, 2005.
- Stafford Bridges, cafeteria worker at Windham High School, effective March 3, 2005.

Appointment:

- Emily Kathryn Burdick, special education educational assistant at Natchaug Elementary School, effective February 18, 2005. Hourly rate is \$10.02. New grant-funded position.

Co/extracurricular:

- Timothy Maclure, assistant boys' varsity baseball coach at Windham High School, stipend is \$2,737.

Leave of Absence:

- Stacey Baribeault, administrative assistant in personnel/administrative services, childbearing/rearing leave of absence from August 1, 2005, to approximately October 14, 2005.

Mr. Folan said that Dr. Mulqueen's resignation is accepted with deep regret and thanked him for his work in Windham. Mrs. Haney noted that several staff members have resigned.

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

Windham High School Field Trip

Free the Children Fundraiser (Ref. 3)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the trip request for Windham High School students to attend a Rock-a-Thon fundraiser for Free the Children at the Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Willimantic, Connecticut, from April 2, 2005, to April 3, 2005, in accordance with Board Policy 6110 P. This request was tabled at the March 9, 2005, Board meeting due to lack of signatures on the form. There was no discussion.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Grant (Ref. 4)

Motion of Mrs. Haney seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education approve the submission of the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries (LSL) grant application. There was no discussion

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

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Reading Program Proposal for Windham High School (Ref. 5)

Mr. Blain gave a PowerPoint presentation on the high school's reading plan proposal which would be implemented over a three-year period beginning in the fall of 2005. He explained that the program, which is linked to the NEASC process and recommendations, will be a work in progress. Throughout the presentation, which highlighted phases in each of the three years, and following the presentation, there was much discussion with responses by both Mr. Blain and Dr. Mulqueen. Mr. Perzanoski suggested that a Board workshop be scheduled to provide the time necessary to discuss this draft proposal in-depth. Mr. Folan thanked Mr. Blain for his presentation.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 6)

There were no comments

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports

Program Development/Evaluation: Mr. Adamo said that the curriculum review process continued with reports given on health and social studies. Dr. Mulqueen provided an update on the recent parent meeting regarding the reading program.

EASTCONN: Mr. Adamo reported that the committee met Dr. Bruce Storm, the new executive director, and Elizabeth Aschenbrenner, the new director of early childhood. Cindy Torrence provided an update on Head Start, and TVCC funds were approved for the next two months. Action was taken on the nonrenewal of non-tenured teachers.

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle reported that the Board of Education recently met with the town's Board of Finance regarding its 2005-06 budget proposal. Some Board of Finance members had questions that will require data gathering before replies can be provided.

Superintendent's Advisory: Mr. Perzanoski said that the committee is putting finishing touches on the professional code of responsibilities for staff. Information on next year's budget was presented.

Policy/Planning: In Mrs. Collins' absence, there was no report.

Facilities/Maintenance: The committee will meet on April 13th, at 6:30 PM, instead of April 12th, because the town's public hearing on the budget is scheduled for that date.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Nelson Petrone, Columbia Board of Education member, said that there are budget difficulties everywhere.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board enter into executive session at 9:31 PM, for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to nonrenewal of non-tenured teachers' contracts, bargaining unit negotiations and discussion of attorney-client privileged information.

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

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

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Diaz, 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 10:00 PM.

Motion of Dr. Switchenko, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board move that the recommended approval of the nonrenewal of employment contracts be added to the agenda at this time.

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

Motion of Mrs. Haney, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the nonrenewal of the employment contract for the following non-tenured teacher upon contract expiration at the end of the current school year: Megan Lake, Natchaug Elementary School.

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

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board move that the recommended ratification of the tentative contract between the Windham Board of Education and the Windham

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Federation of School Nurses be added to the agenda at this time.

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

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education move to ratify the tentative agreement between the Windham Board of Education and the Windham Federation of School Nurses.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 10:04 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary