

**WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
April 13, 2005**

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mr. Folan, Vice-chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Adamo, Dr. Switchenko, Mr. Doyle, Mrs. Haney (arrived at 7:47 PM), Mr. Clements, Mrs. Collins

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Diaz

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – No one
Columbia – Mr. Pernaselli

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, general public and news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the April 13, 2005, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:40 P.M., in conference room one, 2nd floor, Kramer School.

MINUTES

March 23, 2005, Regular Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 23, 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, Mr. Clements

Nay: No one

Abstained: Mrs. Collins

The motion passes: 6-0-1

March 30, 2005, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ref. 1A)

Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 30, 2005, special Board of Education meeting, Reference 1A.

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

Nay: No one

Abstained: Vice-Chair Mrs. Rayhall, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Switchenko

The motion passes: 4-0-3

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

Motion of Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 5, 2005, special Board of Education meeting, Reference 1B.

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

Nay: No one

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

The motion passes: 4-0-3

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan, on behalf of the Board of Education, presented a gift of appreciation to Mrs. Lewis in honor of Administrative Assistants' Day. He thanked her for all her hard work.

STUDENT COUNCIL

There was no report.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

Joe Pernaselli, Chair of the Columbia Board of Education, thanked the Board of Education for its fairness in setting the tuition rate for the students from Columbia attending Windham High School. He stated a letter from Dr. Saddlemire was sent expressing his gratitude as well. Mr. Pernaselli also thanked Mr. Blain, Dr. Mulqueen and Mrs. Haney for their presentation at the Columbia Board of Education meeting regarding the reading program being implemented at Windham High School.

Pat Crosbie, Willimantic, a parent of children attending Windham High School, requested that the Board of Education not cut any of the Social Studies AP Programs at WHS as well as any music programs when reviewing budget cuts for the 2005-2006 school year. (Mrs. Haney arrived). She also expressed concern as to why the jazz concert for April 14, 2005 had been cancelled. Mr. Folan promised the Board would have an answer for her the next day.

Mr. Folan asked Mr. Doyle to report on the response he received from Anne Bushey, Town Clerk, regarding adding a question to the ballot. Mr. Doyle stated that Anne Bushey informed him it was too late to add a question to the ballot but suggested exit polls be used instead. Exit polls would need the registrars' approval and staffing at the various district polls. It did not appear feasible for this year's budget vote.

STUDENT COUNCIL

There was no report.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Mr. Clements, that the Board of Education approve Reference 2.

Resignations:

- Marjorie Andrychowski, grade 4 teacher at Sweeney Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2005.
- Pamela Rivard, guidance counselor at Windham High School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2005.
- Robert Cahoon, security assistant at Windham High School/Academy, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2005.
- Jessica Garcia, educational assistant at preschool Columbia, effective March 18, 2005.
- Rosa Figueroa, special education assistant at Windham Academy, effective April 1, 2005.
- William Powers, program leader for social studies at Windham High School, effective March 30, 2005.

Appointments:

- Marta Gonzalez De Garcia, bus monitor for Head Start at Prospect St., effective March 24, 2005. Hourly rate is \$8.00. Replaces Wanda Barreto who resigned.
- Yaosca Gonzalez De Bemis, special educational assistant at Windham High School, effective March 17, 2005. Hourly rate is \$10.30. Replaces Margaro Pena who resigned.
- Jessica Garcia, Even Start Families Together Teacher, effective March 21, 2005. Hourly rate is \$14.00. New grant funded position.

Co/extracurricular appointments:

- Carrie Manville, head girls' softball coach at Windham Middle School, stipend is \$1,610.

- Benjamin Bartolomei, assistant spring track coach at Windham Middle School, stipend is \$1,610. Contingent upon receipt of certification.
- Sarah Jones, head spring track coach at Windham Middle School, stipend is \$1,932. Contingent upon receipt of certification.
- Christopher Johnson, boys' freshman baseball coach at Windham High School, stipend is \$1,771. Contingent upon receipt of certification.

Leave of Absence:

- Kim Begin, art teacher at Windham Middle School, medical leave of absence from February 17, 2005 to approximately April 29, 2005.

Mr. Adamo stated that Marjorie Andrychowski's retirement would be a great loss to Windham. Mrs. Collins commented that Pamela Rivard would be missed as well.

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

ACTION ITEMS

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Migratory and Supplemental Programs (Ref. 3)

Mr. Stover presented an overview of the Migratory and Supplemental Programs including the New Arrival Center, Before and After School Programs (BASP), Supplemental Tutoring Pilot Project (4/5-6/7), and the UCONN Neag School of Education: After School Reading Grant (Joe Renzulli). He explained that there is difficulty in recruiting migrant students so the current community worker goes to work sites where migrant families are to make the families aware of the programs available. There are currently 229 migratory students in the regional Windham Project. The New Arrival Center is a proposed multi-agency initiative that would provide existing community members and newcomers with streamlined access to social, legal and educational services. The Before and After School Program currently serves 193 students with waiting lists at all of the elementary schools. The program provides academic support and enrichment as well as a nutritional snack. The Supplemental Tutoring Pilot Project will provide reading instruction to basic and below basic level readers for 40 Windham students attending Windham Middle School, Natchaug, and Sweeney. The UCONN Neag School of Education: After School Reading Grant is designed to initiate an after-school program to foster reading interests while building critical reading skills for excellence in rigorous academic environments. Mr. Stover is meeting with Mr. Renzulli on April 25th at UCONN to discuss this grant and its implementation. The Board asked questions regarding funding and implementation of these programs. The Board thanked Mr. Stover for his report.

Student Recognition (Ref. 4)

Mr. Perzanoski was pleased to inform the Board of Education that Windham High School students, Alex Krasser and Rachel Koelsch, have been recognized by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) for their outstanding artistic abilities. Alex is the recipient of the Performing Arts Award and Rachel is the recipient of the Visual Arts Award. Mr. Perzanoski also informed the Board that the following Windham High School students who attend the Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) program have received recognition as participants in that program for their excellent writing talents. Chelsea Love, Jesse Clark and Jared White have been selected as semi-finalists in the IMPAC – Connecticut State University System Literacy Awards for Young Writers; and Devin McDonald has been chosen to attend the prestigious New England Young Writers' Conference held at Middlebury College in Vermont. The Board of Education and Mr. Perzanoski expressed their pride in these students' accomplishments and extended best wishes for continued success in future endeavors.

Financial Statement (March 2005) (Ref.5)

Mr. Nelson stated that a budget freeze has been implemented allowing only essential items for educational purposes to be purchased at this time (including field trips). The freeze in spending will make sure the district budget balances by the end of the fiscal year. Transfers in accounts will be presented at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting on April 19, 2005. Mr. Folan requested that savings be reinvested into capital improvements to offset next year's budget.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 6)

There were no comments.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports

Student Services: Mrs. Collins reported that 2 parents and 1 student attended the meeting and were concerned about bullying at Windham Middle School. Mr. Forman spoke with administration at WMS about their concerns. She also noted the Student-Based Health Center received a nutrition grant and to receive money in the future, a nutrition policy must be in place. A grant for \$53,000 was received for Abstinence Only and will focus on 4th and 5th grade students in the district (grant ends June 2005).

Head Start: Mrs. Collins said that she attended the regular Board meeting and appreciation night to honor parents in the program.

Mr. Clements reported that he attended a meeting with Mrs. Collins and Mr. Giordano run by the Parent Network which recently received a grant from the League of Women Voters for a Community Conversation. One-hundred people will meet for a 4-hour period on May 21, 2005. He invited Board members to attend and said they will be getting an e-mail about it.

Mrs. Collins asked if the Board should contact Attorney Blumenthal regarding a class-action suit by various Boards of Education in Connecticut regarding the NCLB suit currently in place by Connecticut. Mr. Perzanoski stated he would be meeting with Attorney Blumenthal on April 14, 2005.

Superintendent's Advisory: Mr. Perzanoski said that the committee is putting finishing touches on the professional code of responsibilities for staff. The 05-06 budget was reviewed and the forms for the state that teachers had to fill out regarding the highly qualified teachers' requirements were discussed.

Superintendent's Latino Advisory: Mr. Perzanoski reported that the committee is putting the finishing touches on the survey for students and staff before it goes to the Student Services Committee.

Personnel: Dr. Switchenko reported that two issues were addressed: (1) complying with state mandated qualified teachers' requirements and; (2) the specific responsibilities of staff in the Central Office. He stated the Assistant Superintendent position would be retained.

Facilities/Maintenance: Mrs. Rayhall reported that Christopher Halpin of Glastonbury made a presentation on an energy audit and possible school upgrades for cost-effectiveness. Windham High School's kitchen equipment was also discussed. The high school boiler and bathrooms have been fixed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Collins asked that the Partial Day Program be a future agenda item. Mr. Folan requested that Mr. Nelson contact Mr. Rob Buden to investigate Cigna's Insurance Program versus Anthem's Insurance Program.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

No citizens/delegations spoke.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:35 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary