

**WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
March 9, 2005**

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

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Diaz, Mr. Clements

ADMINISTRATION

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

REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENT: Student Council – No one
Columbia – No one

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrators, general public and news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mr. Folan called the March 9, 2005, Board of Education meeting to order at 7:38 P.M., in conference room one, 2nd floor, Kramer School.

MINUTES (Ref. 1)

Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the February 23, 2005, regular Board of Education meeting, Reference 1.

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

ADDITION TO AGENDA

Mr. Folan asked for a motion to add two Windham High School overnight field trip applications to the agenda.

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board of Education add the Windham High School trip to Cogenchaug High School in Durham, Connecticut, to participate in the New England Music Festival rehearsals and concert as Reference 3A and the Windham High School trip to Stamford, Connecticut, to participate in the All State Music Festival rehearsals and concert as Reference 3B.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Folan shared a thank-you note from Mrs. Weeks with Board members.

STUDENT COUNCIL

There was no report.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

No one wished to speak.

SUMMARY ACTION

Personnel Action (Ref. 2)

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

Resignations:

- Anthony Rash, guidance counselor at Windham High School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2005.
- Pamela Munro, mathematics teacher at Sweeney Elementary School, for the purpose of retirement, effective June 30, 2005.
- Jaime Webber, grade one teacher at Natchaug Elementary School, effective June 30, 2005.

Appointments:

- Jason Shea, math teacher at Windham Academy, effective February 28, 2005. Salary is BA/1 \$31,940 prorated. Replaces Christa Marcoux who retired.
- Carmen Maldonado-Pepin, toddler teacher at Even Start Prospect Street, effective February 23, 2005. Hourly rate is \$16.00. Replaces Angela Mitchell who resigned.
- John Magrassi, crossing guard, effective February 17, 2005. Hourly rate is \$9.54. Replaces Raymond Chaput who resigned.

Leave of Absence:

- Kathleen Anderson, Head Start cooperating teacher, medical leave of absence from January 28, 2005, to March 1, 2005.

Mr. Rash's many years of service at Windham High School were acknowledged.

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

Windham High School Field Trips

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. There was some discussion regarding concerns with students driving home after being awake all night. A suggestion was made to have parents sign a release form. The field trip application form was not signed by staff member(s) and it will be returned to the high school for signature(s). The motion and second were withdrawn and it was decided to table this trip request until these items could be addressed.

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education **table** 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.

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

New England Music Festival (Ref. 3A)

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the trip request for Windham High School students to travel to Coginchaug High School in Durham, Connecticut, from March 10, 2005, to March 12, 2005, to participate in the New England Music Festival rehearsals and concert, in accordance with Board Policy 6110P. There was no discussion.

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

All State Music Festival (Ref. 3B)

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the trip request for Windham High School students to travel to Stamford, Connecticut, from March 17, 2005, to March 19, 2005, to participate in the All State Music Festival rehearsals and concert, in accordance with Board Policy 6110P. There was no discussion.

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

ACTION ITEMS

2005-2006 Proposed Budget (Ref. 4)

Mr. Folan asked that this item be tabled because the March 8, 2005, public forum on the proposed 2005-2006 budget had to be postponed due to inclement weather until March 15, 2005.

Motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mrs. Rayhall, that the Board of Education **table** the approval of the proposed 2005-2006 budget in the amount of \$37,617,890, until the public forum is held.

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

2005-2006 School Calendar (Ref. 5)

Motion of Mrs. Collins, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the 2005-2006 school calendar. As per discussion at the first reading of the proposed calendar at the February 9, 2005, Board of Education meeting, December 23, 2005, has been changed to a full day of school. Board members discussed some comments as noted on the staff surveys. Also discussed was the placement of professional development days. Dr. Switchenko suggested that, at some future time, surrounding districts schedule the same professional development days and share expenses in order to get top notch presenters.

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

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Superintendent's Reports

Teen Center Report (Ref. 6)

Ms. Ledey provided the Board of Education with an update on the status of the Teen Center. The original grant funding for the Teen Center will end this June. However, in order to continue to operate the Teen Center, other avenues for funding are being pursued since this original grant, which is provided through the OPM for Juvenile Delinquency Prevention, cannot be re-applied for until 2006-2007. The Prevention Policy Board that oversees the present grant is working with members of the Weed & Seed Coalition of Willimantic on funding strategies. Through this collaboration, the Teen Center and WPS/WAC will implement a nationally recognized model program called the Fairfax Leadership and Resiliency Program. This model program will provide an opportunity for application to be made for a five-year grant in the amount of \$100,000 with a possible extension of monies being reduced by 25% each year after that for another four years. Funding from a \$10,000 one-year grant is also being sought. Ms. Ledey answered questions from Board members. Mr. Folan thanked her for the update.

Dual Language School Proposal (Ref. 7)

Dr. Anderberg presented a proposal regarding the Compañeros Program and Dual Language School. She said that she would like to get some direction from the Board on how to proceed with this proposal, which would expand the present program to four classrooms per grade level and coordinate bilingual transitional classes with the program. The expansion would begin with Kindergarten and move up one grade level per year, taking five years to fully implement the proposal. North Windham School would have the sufficient capacity to house the program. There would be significant impact on school enrollment patterns, related service and support staff during the implementation period, and interviewing and hiring procedures to employ staff with the necessary bilingual skills. There was discussion by Board members regarding several aspects of the proposal, such as obtaining community input and budget impact. It was decided that the Student Services Committee would include this on its agenda for discussion.

Trash Collection Bid (Ref. 8)

Mr. Perzanoski said that bid information on the collection and disposal of solid waste, recyclables and bulky waste for both the town and the school system is included on the agenda as an informational item for Board members. There were some concerns with billing from Waste Management, the company that we now use, and Mr. Nelson said that he is looking into these issues. The bid from Willimantic Waste Paper is significantly lower and Board members said that it is important to use local business when possible.

Student Recognition (Ref. 9)

Mr. Perzanoski was pleased to inform the Board of Education that Jillian Smith, a fourth grade student at Windham Center School, has qualified to advance to the State Finals of the Reader's Digest National Word Power Challenge. Mr. Perzanoski and the Board congratulated Jillian for her achievement and wished her well at the State Finals where she will compete with as many as one hundred of the highest scoring students in Connecticut for the title of State Champion.

Financial Statement (February 2005) (Ref. 10)

There were no comments or questions.

Announcements/Information (Ref. 11)

Mr. Doyle asked if a target date had been set for graduation. Mr. Perzanoski said that a decision will be made on Monday.

Board of Education

Subcommittee Reports

Personnel: Dr. Switchenko reported that proposals for the upcoming secretarial negotiations were discussed.

Budget/Finance: Mr. Doyle reported that this committee met recently and the public forum on the 2005-06 budget will be held next Tuesday.

Superintendent's Latino Advisory: Mr. Perzanoski reported that the meeting was canceled because he and Mrs. Collins had a meeting at the state legislature.

Legislature Meeting: Mrs. Collins reported that a meeting was held with Denise Merrill on Universal Preschool and funding. Hopefully, a meeting with Don Williams will also be scheduled.

Head Start: Mrs. Collins said that the Federal Review Committee was in Windham last week reviewing all of the Head Start programs. Members interviewed Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Haney, as well as Mr. Perzanoski. Mrs. Collins said that it appeared that they were very impressed with the involvement of the public school system with Head Start.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Collins reminded everyone about the Pasta Supper on Friday at Windham High School from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM to benefit the Diaz family.

CITIZENS/DELEGATIONS

No citizens/delegations spoke.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion of Mrs. Rayhall, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board enter into executive session at 8:23 PM, for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to nonrenewal of non-tenured teachers' contracts.

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

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

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Diaz, Mr. Clements

ADMINISTRATION

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

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENES

Motion of Mr. Adamo, 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 Mr. Doyle, seconded by Dr. Switchenko, that the Board of Education approve the nonrenewal of employment contracts for the following non-tenured teachers upon contract expiration at the end of the current school year: Marian Giovannini, Natchaug Elementary School; Tia Dudda, Sweeney Elementary School; Kathryn Lally, Sweeney Elementary School; Dawn Werneck, Sweeney Elementary School; Sylvia Verastegui, North Windham Elementary School; Alicia Perez Rodriguez, North Windham Elementary School; Sandra Canterbury, Windham Middle School; Melanie Godbout, Windham High School; Daniel Levine, Windham High School; and James Thompson (Academy and ERA), Windham High School.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Adamo, seconded by Mrs. Haney, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:28 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamo, Secretary