

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
July 20, 2017

BOARD PRESENT: Interim Chair Dr. Sewall, Ms. Lambert, Mr. French, Ms. Lessard, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Kalajian, Mr. Flores-Alvarez

BOARD ABSENT: Secretary Dr. Gomez

ADMINISTRATION  
PRESENT: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Youngberg, Assistant Superintendent Mr. W. Johnson, Directors: Ms. Chatey, Ms. Beghetto

STUDENT  
REPRESENTATIVES: None

OTHERS PRESENT: General public, staff, administrators, news media, Rep. Susan Johnson

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Dr. Sewall called the July 20, 2017 Board of Education special meeting to order at 7:05pm in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

**Ms. Lynne Ide was sworn in as a member of the Board of Education (filling the seat vacated by Ms. Osuba) by Representative Susan Johnson.**

Dr. Sewall welcomed Ms. Ide to the Board and thanked her for offering her services. Ms. Ide assumed her seat at the table.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE

Mr. Kalajian led the Board and the Public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Dr. Sewall requested a moment of silence to commemorate the life and contributions to the community of Mr. Rayhall who recently passed away.

Executive Session

Following a question by Ms. Lambert regarding the certification of a potential Board of Education employee, it was determined that an executive session was not required.

ACTION ITEMS

Recommended approval of appointments and acceptance of the resignations as recommended.

**Motion by Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mr. Kalajian to approve the appointments and accept the resignations as recommended.**

APPOINTMENTS

- Kathleen Monroe, Speech and Language Pathologist, System-wide effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA, step 14, \$72,411. Replacement
- Gary Jameson, Social Studies Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA, step 11, \$60,267, Replacement.
- Dori Ramsdell, Elementary Teacher at North Windham School effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA, step 5, Salary MA, step 5, \$47,577. Replacement.
- Taylor Strauss, Special Education Teacher at Natchaug School effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA, step 3 \$44,634. Replacement.
- Jena Gorra, Grade 6 Math Teacher at Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA, step 3 \$44,634. Replacement.
- Randall Conway, Assistant Principal at Windham High School effective July 10, 2017, Salary Level 5, Step 6, \$120,093. Replacement.
- Laura Perez-Handler, Secretary III for Communications/Bilingual Office effective June 26, 2017, Salary step 1, \$17.50. Replacement.
- Neyshla Pastor, Secretary III at Windham High School effective August 21, 2017, Salary step 1 \$17.50. Replacement.
- Valerie Grabek, Library Media Specialist at Windham Middle School effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA step 3, \$44,634. New Position.
- Jeanet Ramos Card, Grade 7 Math Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA step 14, \$72,411.
- Michelle Rosado, Science Teacher at Windham High School effective August 25, 2017, Salary PhD step 3, \$51,118.
- Melissa Ewing, ESOL Teacher at Windham High School effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA step 11, \$60,267.
- Mary Jane Bezares, Guidance Counselor at Windham High School effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA step 3, \$44,634. Replacement.
- Kristine Melo, Math Teacher at Windham High School effective August 25, 2017, Salary BA+30, step 7, \$50,519. Replacement.
- Paul Melchior, .5 FTE Art Teacher at Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA step 15, \$39,893. Replacement.
- Erin Powers-Bigler, ELA Coach at Windham High School effective August 25, 2017, Salary MA step 14, \$72,411. Replacement.
- Sedef Keskin, Grade 8 ELA Teacher at Windham Middle School effective August 25, 2017, Salary BA Step 3, \$42,160. Replacement.
- Rose Ayala, Secretary II at Windham Center School effective July 24, 2017, Salary step 3, \$16.71. Replacement.
- Eben Jones, Principal at Natchaug School effective July 18, 2017, Salary Level 4, step 3, \$122,628. Replacement.

## RESIGNATIONS

- Lismary Alvarado, Paraprofessional at North Windham School effective June 15, 2017.
- Jesse Clarke, Paraprofessional at Windham Center School effective June 15, 2017.
- Christopher Caulfield, Elementary Teacher at North Windham School effective June 30, 2017.
- Marisa DelCampo, School Psychologist at Natchaug School effective June 30, 2017.
- Alick Furtick Jr, Behavior Specialist at Windham High School effective June 30, 2017.
- Sylvia Grzybowski, Social Studies Teacher at Windham Middle School effective June 30, 2017.
- Carmelita Quinones, Social Worker at Natchaug School effective June 30, 2017.
- Brian Stern, Music Teacher at North Windham School effective June 30, 2017.
- Lindsay Therian, Elementary Teacher at Natchaug School effective June 30, 2017.
- Betsy Warner, LA Teacher at Windham Middle School effective June 30, 2017.
- Nivia Roman Garcia, Head Start Aide at Windham High School WECC effective July 6, 2017.
- Sarah Berhardaon, Art Teacher at North Windham School effective June 30, 2017.

### **Motion is approved unanimously.**

Dr. Sewall welcomed Mr. Jones, the newly appointed principal at Natchaug School. Mr. Jones thanked the board and expressed his enthusiasm as he assumes his new responsibilities. He invited all board members to visit Natchaug School.

Dr. Garcia introduced the new administrative team at the high school. Ms. Vanessa Sosa will be interim principal. Mr. Randall Conway and Ms. Pamela Cavanaugh (recommended for hire) will be assistant principals. Mr. Conway said he is pleased to be back in Windham and looking forward to being part of the high school team. Ms. Cavanaugh said that she is grateful that she was afforded the opportunity to complete her residency program in Windham. Dr. Garcia explained that Ms. Cavanaugh and Ms. Myra Fox were part of a residency program to complete their 092 training. She indicated that the program is a collaboration between the State of Connecticut, school districts and the University of Connecticut.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Bernie D'Auteil of Wallace Street spoke regarding the future of the high school. He indicated that he was a member of the first four-year graduating class from the present building. He expressed his support of the idea of regionalism and requests that the Board of Education be more transparent with regard to their intentions.

## **ACTION ITEMS (Continued)**

Recommended that the Board of Education request that the Windham Town Council initiate the funding process for renovations to the existing Windham High School building to house Windham

High School along with Windham Early Childhood Center and Central offices in the amount of \$112,062,777 (Ref. 2)

**Motion by Mr. Kalajian, seconded by Ms. Lambert that the board request that the Windham Town Council initiate the funding process for renovations to the existing Windham High School building to house Windham High School along with Windham Early Childhood Center and Central Offices in the amount of \$112,062,777.**

Dr. Sewall indicated that the School Planning and Design Committee has requested that this matter be taken up at this time.

There was discussion regarding the cost of the project and how it would affect the mill rate. There was also discussion regarding the impact of bond funding. There was additional clarification of the process utilized by the committee to assess all options prior to making the recommendation to renovate the high school building.

Mr. French initiated discussion regarding a comparison to the cost of the recommended project as opposed to the cost of building Windham Middle School and Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy. He strongly recommended looking at smaller projects and that regionalism must be considered as an option. Ms. Lambert and Mr. Kalajian said that the Committee had done much research and that the high school building needs to be renovated to bring it up to the required standards since it has been placed on the watch list.

Ms. Ide stated that this project will need to be explained carefully to the town. Any presentation needs to be thorough and multi-lingual. Mr. Kalajian noted that there has been quite an increase in attendance at the School Planning and Design Committee meetings since this topic has been on the agenda.

Dr. Garcia clarified that she has had meetings with the State regarding Windham Tech and there was no interest in a partnership. There also have been meetings with E.O. Smith but there was also no interest in partnering with the District.

Dr. Sewall reminded the Board that the Town has noticed the board to vacate the Kramer building. This proposal represents fulfilling needs for three projects: the high school, WECC and central office. The use of the high school building to house all of these programs is thinking outside of the box. He also stated that the timing is a matter of optimizing the reimbursement from the state for the project. The longer the project is postponed, the more expensive it will be and there will be less reimbursement from the state.

Mr. Kalajian noted that there recently has been positive feedback from the members of the public who have been attending the committee meetings and learning about the project. They agree That there should be a path for all children to stay in Windham for their education.

**For: Mr. Kalajian, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Ide, Ms. Lessard, Mr. Flores-Alvarez**

**Opposed: Mr. French and Mr. Montalvo**

**Motion is approved**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Ms. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Montalvo that the board adjourn its meeting at 8:15pm.**

**Motion is unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Murphy Sewall, Vice-Chairman