

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
April 5, 2017

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Osuba, Vice-chair Dr. Sewall, Secretary Dr. Gomez, Mr. Kalajian, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. French, Mrs. Lessard, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Flores-Alvarez

BOARD ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Patricia Garcia, Assistant Superintendents Tracy Youngberg and William Chaffin; Directors: Ms. Beghetto, Mr. Pabón, Mr. Johnson, and Ms. Chatey

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: None

OTHERS PRESENT: General public, staff, administrators, news media

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mrs. Osuba called the April 5, 2017 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:10pm in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGIANCE

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

March 9, 2017 Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref.1)

March 13, 2017 Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

March 22, 2017 Board of Education Workshop Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1B)

The March 9, March 13 and March 22, 2017 Board of Education meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shannon Bryne, parent of a student at North Windham School, stated that she moved into the District this year and has had an issue with the school regarding her son. Mrs. Osuba referred the matter to the Superintendent. Mr. French and Mr. Montalvo asked to hear about the situation but Mrs. Osuba stated that she needed to resolve the matter at the school level since it was not a policy matter. The Superintendent said the parent would be contacted on Thursday. Mrs. Lambert expressed her opinion that the public should be allowed to speak. Dr. Sewall said that the matter was out of order due to the Boards regulation regarding public comment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Recognitions

North Windham Café

Dr. Garcia recognized North Windham Café staff and supervisor, Holly Boutot, for making the café a welcoming place to nourish children. Mr. Eric Volle, Director of Food Services, accepted the certificate of commendation on behalf of the staff.

MABE Conference

Over 230 participants assembled at Windham Middle School to learn about research-based programs and practices that support bilingualism and multiculturalism for educational success. Dr. Garcia recognized Ms. Lapuk, Ms. Finsmith, Ms. Bumgartner and Ms. Almonte for their extraordinary work. She also commended Ms. Fiore and the staff at Windham Middle School for their support of the program.

High School Sports

The Windham High School sports teams performed exceptionally in post-season competition. The wrestling team finished second in the Class S State Championships with nine wrestlers qualifying for the State Open Championships. The girls basketball team won the Division III ECC League Championship title. Congratulations were expended to the boys basketball team for finishing second in the ECC Div. II Basketball Tournament. Two individual athletes from the indoor track program won state championships in their individual events. Alex Korczynski won the Mile Run and Travis Shashok won shotput.

Covenant Soup Kitchen Donation

The before and afterschool program at Natchaug School donated more than \$250 worth of canned goods to Covenant Soup Kitchen.

CHARLES H. BARROWS STEM ACADEMY LOTTERY UPDATE

The lottery for the Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy occurred on March 29, 2017 at Windham High School. There were 657 applicants for the lottery. 519 applicant are Windham students and 138 are out-of-district applicants. The results will be posted on March 31 at the Windham Public School website.

COMPAÑEROS LOTTERY UPDATE

On March 29, four lotteries were held for the 2017-2018 school year. There were four open seats in kindergarten; 12 open seats in PK4; 8 open seats in PK3. Eight students will be offered seats. Six are siblings.

SUMMER SCHOOL

There are several instructional programs operating this summer. All program's begin on June 26 and end on July 27. The programs are: K-3 Literacy, Extended School Year, Credit Restoration, ECO Enrichment (in conjunction with QVCC), Algebra Readiness Camp and New Arrivals program.

UPDATE ON EW ASSESSMENT PLATFORM, K-12

The District is in the process of choosing a new assessment platform to be utilized during the 2017-2018 school year. This will replace Data Director and Riverside Interim Assessment products which will cease to be support on June 30, 2017. Vetting Committees have been formed and they will make a recommendation to the Superintendent.

GRADUATION AND PROMOTION DATES

The dates have been set for the end of the year graduation and promotion programs. The dates were altered due to school closing for inclement weather. As a result, the June Board of Education meeting will be changed from June 14 to June 7.

WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Windham High School has presented its proposed program of studies for the 2017-2017 school year. The Board was presented with changes from the present program of studies.

STAFFING UPDATE

Dr. Garcia noted that staffing vacancies are very low at this time but she anticipates an increase in July and August.

PARENT AND COMMUNITY UNIVERSITY

Parent can Community University was held on April 1 at Windham Middle School. This was the largest amount of attendees in the three times this program was offered. One particular change for this session was that the curriculum was designed by an advisory group as opposed to being staff driven as in the past.

FIRST READING OF REVISED BOARD POLICY NO. 6142.101 STUDENT WELLNESS POLICY AND POLICY NO. 3280 GIFTS, GRANTS AND BEQUESTS

This is the first reading of the revised policy 6142.101 regarding student wellness. These changes will bring the District in compliance with Federal and State guidelines.

Policy 3280 regarding gifts, grants ad bequests will require additional changes and will be brought back to the Board at a later meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sewall advised that the Town's Finance Committee will be meeting on April 19 to consider the budget. The Finance and Audit Committee will meet on April 19 at 6Pm in Conference Room A and will discuss the third quarter results.

SCHOOL PLANNING AND DESIGN COMMITTEE

Mr. Kalajian reported that the committee will be meeting tomorrow. Work on the study regarding moving the Companeros program to Windham Middle School is progressing. Also on the agenda is a brief discussion regarding the future of regionalization.

Mr. Kalajian noted that the Wells Subcommittee still has some open items and that glitches in the microgrid and roofing projects are being addressed. He clarified that the agenda item regarding Companeros is only in the exploratory stage. Dr. Gomez asked what the implications for staffing would be. Dr. Garcia said this is still too premature to discuss staffing. Other locations and models are still being considered. The master plan may have to be revisited.

POLICY COMMITTEE

In Mr. Flores-Alvarez noted that the wellness policy changes were required to meet USDA guidelines and that gift, grant and bequest policy changes were also needed to meet requirements that have been legislated. He said the committee has other policies in discussion.

Dr. Sewall asked if the gifts policy would have a provision for programs such as *Donor's Choice*. Dr. Garcia said that the new revisions would address the issue of crowd funding.

Mr. French asked for clarification in the wellness policy regarding soda being sent to school by parents. It was noted that the policy would apply to those consumables provided by the school, through the school or in school vending machines.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Osuba said the committee has not met.

ACTION ITEMS

Policy Revisions (Ref. 2)

Motion by Mr. Kalajian, seconded by Mr. Montalvo that the board approve the revisions to Board Employment Checks Policy #4212.51 presented for first reading on March 8, 2017.

For: Dr. Gomez, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Lessard, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Flores-Alvarez, Mr. French, Mr. Kalajian

Abstain: Dr. Sewall

Motion is approved

Personnel Recommendations (Ref. 3)

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Mr. Kalajian that the Board of Education approve the appointments and accept the resignations and terminations as recommended:

APPOINTMENTS

* Alexandra Facchini, to the position of Physical Education Teacher at Sweeney School effective February 22, 2017, salary BA/Step 3 \$41,950. Replacement.

- * Brenda Nieves, to the position of General Worker at North Windham School effective March 2, 2017, salary \$11.00 per hour. Replacement.
- * Ivelisse Carrero, to the position of General Worker at Sweeney School effective March 20, 2017, salary \$11.00 per hour. New Position.
- * Tamarie Reynoso Santiago, to the position of Paraprofessional at Windham Middle school effective April 17, 2017, salary \$12.40 per hour. Replacement

RESIGNATIONS

- * Eva Blanchard, Crossing Guard at Natchaug School effective March 28, 2017.
- * Susan Gamache, Paraprofessional at Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy effective June 30, 2017 for the purpose of retirement.
- * Catalina Graciani, Paraprofessional at ECC Prospect Street effective June 30, 2017 for the purpose of retirement.
- * Brennan Mcintosh, Guidance Counselor at Windham High School effective April 14, 2017.
- * Estelle Booty, Teacher at Sweeney School effective June 30, 2017 for the purpose of retirement.

Motion is approved unanimously.

Ms. Lambert noted that the loss of several long-standing employees would have a profound impact, especially Ms. Mcintosh from the high school.

Ms. Lessard asked to speak regarding allowing parents to address the Board. She felt it is important to hear their points of view. Mr. Montalvo agreed. Mrs. Osuba stated that she has an obligation to protect the parents' rights should the matter need to be arbitrated by the Board in the future. A discussion followed. It was agreed that there should be a gentler way to address parent issues and that perhaps there could be a training regarding handling difficult situations. Dr. Garcia reminded the Board that parents are partners with the District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment.

Executive Session

Motion of Dr. Sewall second by Mr. Kalajian that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:10pm for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to personnel matters.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Board members: Chair Mrs. Osuba, Vice-chair Dr. Sewall, Secretary Dr. Gomez, Mr. Kalajian, Mrs. Lambert, Mr. French, Mrs. Lessard, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Flores-Alvarez.

Staff members: Superintendent Garcia and Ms. Beghetto

Regular session reconvened at 9:16pm.

There was no further business.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Ms. Lambert, seconded by Mr. French that the board adjourn its meeting at 9:17pm.
Motion is unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jaime Gomez, Secretary