

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP MINUTES
April 19, 2017

BOARD PRESENT: Vice-chair Dr. Sewall, Secretary Dr. Gomez, Mr. Kalajian, Ms. Lambert (arrived 7:12pm), Mr. Flores-Alvarez, Mr. French, Ms. Lessard, Mr. Montalvo

BOARD ABSENT: Chair Ms. Osuba,

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Youngberg, Interim Assistant Superintendent Mr. Chaffin, Directors: Ms. Beghetto, Ms. Chatey, Mr. Pabon

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: None

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

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Dr. Sewall called the April 12, 2017 Board of Education workshop to order at 7:04pm in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGIANCE

Dr. Sewall led the Board and the Public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thoughtexchange PRESENTATON

Ms. Chatey introduced the program which is an innovative approach to engaging interested parties in the process of gathering information regarding the School District. The presentation was made by video conference with representatives of *Thoughtexchange* and, on site, by Ms. Chatey and Mr. Weathers.

After the video presentation, Mr. Weathers responded to questions regarding how the program would be used in the Windham School District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Mary Gallucci, resident and parent, commented that she is concerned about spending money on outside organizations to provide communications. She felt that the District should come together as a community and work harder to support the schools. She also stated that

the administration needs to be open to all opinions and that the main goal is to provide a safe place for students to learn.

Dr. Gomez asked if there was additional information that could be provided to the Board to explain the program in more detail since he had concerns about the cost and the usefulness.

Mr. Kalajian stated that engagement within the town can be difficult but questioned whether there was a possibility to have a pilot program.

Mr. Montalvo said that communication is important and that the Superintendent needs to report all feedback (both negative and positive) to the Board. Ms. Lambert asked that the Board be able to vote on implementation of the program.

Dr. Sewall stated that with the issues surrounding the future of the high school on the horizon, the tool might be helpful.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Montalvo, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 8:00PM.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jaime Gomez, Secretary