

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2017

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

BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Kalajian

ADMINISTRATION

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

STUDENT

REPRESENTATIVES: None

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ms. Osuba called the March 8, 2017 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:05pm in the Windham High School Library Media Center.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Lambert led the Board and the Public in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

February 8, 2017 Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref.1)

February 27, 2017 Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref. 1A)

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

The February 8, February 27 and March 1, 2017 Board of Education meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Korczynski, Windham resident and parent, stated the he hopes that the budget process goes smoothly. He believes that when the core group of parents believe in the budget they can provide the critical mass to have the budget passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Recognitions

Sweeney School Named School of Distinction

Dr. Garcia commended Sweeney School upon its recognition by the State of Connecticut Department Education as a School of Distinction. Sweeney was among the top 10% of schools on the SBAC assessment for both the high needs students and in the all students categories. Principal Angela Kiss, students and staff representatives were on hand to receive a certificate of recognition from the Board of Education.

Math Counts

Windham Middle School students (Alex Cronin, Resia Baran, Isabelle Perez, Victor Cazabal, Olivia Olbrias, and Ibrahim Hauser) participated in the Math Counts competition on February 4 in New London. Isabelle Perez is moving on to the state competition. Dr. Garcia extended her congratulations to the entire team.

Silver Key Award

Bryan Rentas-O'Conner, a Windham High School student, won a silver key in the 2017 Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards Program. This is the largest juried student art exhibition in the state.

Common Sense Parenting Class

Four parents graduated from the Common Sense Parenting class on March 2. This is a six-week program offered through the Office of Family and Community Partnerships.

C.H. Barrows STEM Academy Band

The Eastern Connecticut State University band joined with the C.H. Barrows STEM Academy student band on February 28. This was an extraordinary experience for young musicians to work alongside college players.

Fire Safety Poster Contest

Noah Perez, a 5th grader at Natchaug, was a fire safety poster contest winner. He is invited to an awards banquet on March 30. His work has been nominated for a state award.

Donation to Windham Center Music Program

Steven Aiudi, of Builders Concrete East, made a generous donation to the Windham Center music program. Additionally, Sebby and Joe Randazzo of Windham Wine and Spirits donated to the School's PTO. These donations are greatly appreciated.

Stover Testifies

Bill Stover, Director of Family and Community Partnerships, testified at the Legislative Office Building before the Appropriations Committee on behalf of Windham's Before and After School programs on February 21.

Moving from Compliance to Coherence Conference

Dr. Tracy Youngberg, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning and Leadership, will be co-presenting a workshop at the *Moving from Compliance to Coherence Conference* on March 9

hosted by the Connecticut State Department of Education, in partnership with the RESC Alliance and the Connecticut Association of Schools.

Black and Puerto Rican Caucus Presentation

Dr. Garcia will be presenting to the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus of the General Assembly on March 13. Her presentation will focus on Windham's success in implementing the Connecticut CK3LI initiative.

Massachusetts Association for Bilingual Education 6th Annual Southern New England Conference

MABE's conference for dual language programs will be held at Windham Schools on March 25. The theme is *Making Connections from Early Childhood to High School Graduation in Dual Language Programs*. There are approximately 150 participants registered. Windham will be sending 25 teachers and administrators. Windham Schools were selected due to the dual immersion program which has been in the district for 25 years.

Professional Development

Professional development will be held on March 10. There will be offerings for both certified and non-certified staff members. All board members are invited to attend.

Coherence Audit

As part of the Alliance program, school districts in the Alliance Network are participating in a coherence audit facilitated by LEAD Connecticut. During the week of March 13, members of the audit team will be in the District conducting the audit. Mr. Andrew Lachman is with us this evening to observe the Board of Education meeting as a first step in the process. The purpose of the audit is to provide guidance to the district regarding continuous improvement in order to sustain and improve student learning.

Accountability Index

On February 28, the State of Connecticut Department of Education released the 2015-2016 Accountability Index reports. This index is prepared in accordance with federal and state laws requiring measurement of achievement in schools. Mr. Neil Weathers gave the Board a detailed presentation regarding Windham's index results.

ECO Program

Recruitment has begun for the ECO program. A community recruitment event was held on March 1 at Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy. There were additional outreach initiatives such as school presentations, individual outreach to 8th grade student and school social. Another recruitment event will be held at the beginning of April. All Board members are invited to come. Ms. Lambert expressed her concern that this year's recruitment is beginning so late in the year.

Budget Outreach

Dr. Garcia reviewed the opportunities for budget outreach this year compared to last year. She indicated that plans are being made to hold a District-wide SGC meeting at Windham Center School. The family liaisons are also doing active outreach.

Dr. Garcia took the opportunity to thank the members of the Board of Education for their service to Windham Public Schools as March is National Board of Education Member recognition month.

First Reading of Revised Board Policy 4212.51 – Employment Checks

This is the first reading of the Revised Board Policy 4212.51 regarding employment checks. These changes will bring the District into compliance with state regulations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sewall advised that the committee has not met but that a budget forum was held.

SCHOOL PLANNING AND DESIGN COMMITTEE

As Mr. Kalajian was not present, Ms. Lambert advised that the committee met and discussed moving the Companeros Program to the Middle School. Ms. Lambert and Dr. Garcia will meet to discuss logistical issues. A walk-through of the space is being planning. A meeting will be held for the Companeros Program parents later in March to provide information and get feedback. Dr. Garcia reinforced that the plan is to have this be a “school” and not a “program” as is currently the case.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Flores-Alvarez advised that the committee met and brought forward the policy change regarding employment checks. The committee is working on the alternative education policy and the graduation policy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Garcia said the committee has not met but there is a tentative meeting scheduled for next week.

ACTION ITEMS

School Calendar (Ref. 2)

Motion by Dr. Sewall, seconded by Dr. Gomez that the board approve the District Calendar for the School Year 2017-2018 presented for first reading on February 8, 2017.

Motion is unanimously approved

Healthy Food Certification (Ref. 3)

Motion by Ms. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Flores-Alvarez that the board approve the addendum to the agreement for the child nutrition programs.

Motion is unanimously approved

Proposed 2016-17 Windham Public School Budget (Ref. 4)

Ms. Lessard made a motion that the Board approve the 2017-18 general fund budget in the amount of \$47,235,275, seconded by Mr. Flores-Alvarez.

Ms. Lessard asked for clarification regarding the difference between the budget presented on March 1 and the budget presented this evening. Mr. Johnson said that the fund changes were in deferred maintenance, technology and one administrative position to be eliminated.

Dr. Sewall asked for information regarding the building substitutes and Dr. Garcia indicated that no further substitutes had been taken out of the budget. Dr. Sewall then asked about the Young Parents Program and the After School Program. Both of these programs rely on state funding that is not certain for the coming year. He proposed adding an additional \$18,995 for YPP; \$81,693 for the After School Program and \$145,700 for additional substitutes. He also indicated that the alternative education program will cost more than is allocated in the budget.

Ms. Lambert inquired as to whether ECS was the same as last year. Mr. Johnson confirmed that this was level funded. Ms. Lambert also stated her support for the additional funds for YPP. She then inquired about whether the 21st Century grant was in year 5 and whether it impacted extended day. She also asked about cutting a security guard. Her concerns were addressed.

Mr. French stated his belief that ECS would be cut. He thanked the Superintendent for bringing in a budget at 2.99%.

Ms. Lambert made a motion that the Board approve the 2017-18 general fund budget in the amount of \$47,476,163 representing an increase of 3.32%, seconded by Dr. Sewall.

For: Vice-chair Dr. Sewall, Dr. Gomez, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Lessard, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Flores-Alvarez

Against: Mr. French

Motion by Dr. Sewall to add approval of submitting a request to the Board of Finance for an additional \$669,750 to support technology to the agenda, seconded by Ms. Lambert.

Motion is unanimously approved

Mr. French noted that the increase in the capital budget will be 1.46%. Ms. Lambert requested that the capital budget be brought back to the Board for their consideration prior to it being presented to the Board of Finance.

Motion by Mrs. Lambert to ask the Board of Finance to fund technology needs in the amount of \$669,750, seconded by Ms. Lambert.

Motion is unanimously approved

Personnel Recommendations (Ref. 5)

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

APPOINTMENTS

- Carmelita Quiones , to the position of Social Worker at Natchaug School effective February 22, 2017, salary MA/Step 5 \$47,340. Replacement.

RESIGNATIONS

- Kathryn Kononchik, Teacher at Windham Center School effective June 30, 2017.
- Shayna LaFlam, .6 FTE Nurse at Windham High School effective March 22, 2017
- Becka Lazur, Tutor at Windham High School effective March 3, 2017.
- Aimeliz Leon Crespo, Family Liaison at North Windham School effective February 24, 2017.
- Eduardo O Neill Caban, Paraprofessional at Windham Middle School effective April 3, 2017.

Motion is unanimously approved

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Korczynski commended the Board on the budget process. He is pleased that everyone worked together to bring forward a budget that the voters can support. He is confident that the community will support the budget.

Agnes Billard, parent, is concerned about the budget. She hopes that the high school will be able to continue the quality of education her student is now receiving at Barrows Academy. She feels it is time to allow the public to decide.

Executive Session

Motion of Ms. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Sewall, that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 8:55pm for the discussion of exempt documents pertaining to personnel matter and bargaining unit negotiations.

Motion is unanimously approved

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

Staff members present: Superintendent Garcia and Directors Beghetto and Johnson.

Regular session reconvened at 9:20pm.

Motion of Dr. Sewall to add the CSEA, SEUI Local 2001 Windham Cafeteria Employees Association Contract to the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Flores-Alvarez.

Motion is unanimously approved

Cindy Verraneault, Union President, thanked Mrs. Beghetto and Mr. Volle for their hard work. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to come before the Board and is pleased with the contract. Dr. Sewall and Ms. Beghetto thanked the union.

Motion of Dr. Sewall to approve CSEA, SEUI Local 2001 Windham Cafeteria Employees Association contract. Seconded by Mr. Flores-Alvarez.

Motion is unanimously approved

Motion of Dr. Sewall to add the capitol budget to the agenda. Seconded by Ms. Lessard.

For: Vice-chair Dr. Sewall, Dr. Gomez, Ms. Lessard

Against: Mr. French, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Flores-Alvarez

The Board expressed the desire to have the meeting in public. Meeting times were discussed. It was decided that the meeting would be held on Monday at 6pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Flores-Alvarez, that the Board adjourn its meeting at 9:31 PM.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jaime Gomez, Secretary