

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
June 1, 2017

BOARD PRESENT: Vice-chair Dr. Sewall, Ms. Lambert (arrived at 5:23), Mr. French (arrived at 5:25), Ms. Lessard, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Kalajian,

BOARD ABSENT: Chair Ms. Osuba, Mr. Flores- Alvarez, Secretary Dr. Gomez

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: 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 June 1, 2017 Board of Education special meeting to order at 5:22pm in the Windham High School Library Media Center without quorum. Ms. Lambert arrived at 5:23, creating quorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE

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

PRESENTATION – Report on High School Building Options

Mr. Kalajian introduced Mr. Joe Townsley and Mr. Douglas Rogers from CREC Expert Solutions. They distributed a report to the Board entitled “Windham Public Schools – WHS Feasibility Study”. The study, commissioned by the Town, researched the town’s options regarding the future of Windham High School. The research surrounded the following three options:

- Renovate the Windham High School like new
- Demolish parts of Windham High School
- Full outsource of all high school students and close Windham High School

The recommendation is that the Windham Board of Education consider the data and findings from the feasibility study, along with other factors, in determining the best option for the community. They stated that Option 1 is preferred, not only because of estimated project costs, but also because it would make the best use of the existing infrastructure while minimizing to

the extent possible necessary renovations; it maximizes the available state grant monies and best meets the objectives of the Board of Education. Option 2 is less feasible because it would require extensive alteration to the structural systems of the building. Option 3 is not currently a viable option because there are not enough high schools within a 20-mile radius that can enroll all students.

Dr. Sewall advised that there would be no questions or comments and recommended that anyone with questions, email them to Mr. Kalajian. Mr. Kalajian advised that there would be more discussion sessions and conversations with the community. Mr. Townsley commended the Board for initiating the process. Mrs. Lambert brought up several issues regarding complications with sending students out of district for high school.

Dr. Sewall thanked Mr. Townsley and Mr. Rogers for their work and reminded the Board of the concert at the high school following the board meeting.

Motion by Ms. Lambert seconded by Mr. Kalajian that the Board adjourn its meeting at 6:09pm.

Motion is unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Murphy Sewall, Vice-chair