

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
June 7, 2017

BOARD PRESENT: Vice-chair Dr. Sewall, Ms. Lambert, Mr. French, Ms. Lessard, Mr. Montalvo, Mr. Kalajian

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

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Youngberg, Interim Assistant Superintendent Mr. Chaffin, Directors: 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 7, 2017 Board of Education meeting 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.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 10, 2017 Board of Education Meeting Minutes (Ref.1)

May 24, 2017 Board of Education Workshop Minutes (Ref. 1A)

**The May 10, 2017 and May 24, 2017 Board of Education meeting minutes were approved as submitted.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Israel Torres and Joselyn Torres, parents, spoke regarding an issue with the STEM Academy lottery. Dr. Sewall advised them that this issue is a labor/management dispute that must be dealt with through the union's contractual grievance process. Anything shared with the board tonight might prejudice Ms. Acota-Torre's opportunity to alter the administration's current decision."

**7:10pm Mr. Kallajian left the room and returned at 7:15pm.**

There was a short discussion regarding the procedure for parents to address concerns with the Board of Education.

Ms. Torres asked about the move of the Compañeros Program and was advised that the matter would be discussed at the School Planning and Design Committee meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Ms. Luna, Teacher, expressed a concern about the lack of detail in the agenda for the School Planning and Design Committee meetings. She stated that there needs to be more transparency.

Mr. Gallucci, Parent and Resident, discussed the issue of public comment. She would like there to be better listening channels. She also spoke regarding the use of space in the District and moving of programs.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

### Recognitions

#### Invention Convention

Dr. Garcia recognized that two students from C.H. Barrows STEM Academy went to the national Invention Convention in Washington, D.C. June 1-3, 2017. Oliver Gatti and Addie Wallace are representing the District.

#### Congressman Courtney Visit

Congressman Joseph Courtney, Second District, visited North Windham School on May 30 to present an award to Yeraldine Rodriguez, winner of the Congressman's 2017 Black History Month Creative Writing Contest.

#### Junior National Honor Society

On June 1, sixteen Windham Middle School students were inducted into the Junior National Honor Society.

#### District Teacher of the Year

Dr. Garcia was pleased to announce that this year's District Teacher of the Year is Ms. Joanne Haddad from Windham Middle School. Ms. Haddad has worked at Windham Middle School for 23 years.

#### Family & Community Expo

The Family & Community Expo was held on May 20. There was a great turnout and Dr. Garcia would like to thank all those who attended and give particular thanks to Ms. Margaret Chatey and Mr. Bill Stover and his team of Family Liaisons who planned the event.

### Master Schedules/Extended Learning Opportunities, 2017-2018

Based on the District's analysis of our academic data and supported by the findings of the Time Study conducted by the District Management Group, all buildings have created a master schedule that will allow all students at each grade level to receive "extended learning" opportunities. This is

the first step in implementing the recommendations of the study. The block of time will allow struggling students to receive additional supports and those students functioning at or above grade level standards will have the opportunity to take part in accelerated learning.

#### Windham ECO Update

Students enrolled in Windham ECO will be offered stipends/scholarships for summer school enrichment and work place learning experiences. Two programs will take place. First, is an internal program for participation in summer enrichment offered by Windham Public Schools. The second is an external program giving up to 50 rising 10 and 11 grade students enrolled in Windham ECO the opportunity to participate in a workplace learning experience at local businesses. These experiences will be made available through Eastconn. The District thanks Eastern Workforce Investment Board for their investment which will support the program.

#### German Exchange Program

Approximately 10 students have expressed an interest regarding the German Exchange. Windham High School is planning to host up to 10 German Students in the Fall of 2017.

#### Summer School

Summer programs begin on June 26 and ends on July 27 this year. The staff has been hired and initial identification of students for each program is almost complete. The preliminary enrollment numbers are: K-3 Literacy 240, Credit Restoration 150, Extended School Year 75, New Arrivals 42, Algebra Readiness 50.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Dr. Sewall advised that the Finance and Audit Committee has not met since the last meeting.

#### SCHOOL PLANNING AND DESIGN COMMITTEE

Mr. Kalajian reported that the committee is working on plans for the Compañeros K-8 School. He advised that the roof project at Windham Middle School and the Microgrid projects are still moving toward completion.

Mr. Kalajian also reported that there is ongoing conversation at the committee level regarding the Windham High School report.

The Town has requested that the District vacate the Kramer Building by August 2018 which will require the relocation of the Central Office staff and the Pre-K. Initial conversations have been held at the committee level.

Dr. Garcia said that it would be important for the committee to present all of the issues regarding relocations as a whole. Ms. Lambert noted that there needs to be a great sense of urgency in dealing with these matters.

## POLICY COMMITTEE

Ms. Lessard reported that the Policy Committee met and reviewed policies that will be presented at a later date.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has not met since the last meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Recommended approval of second reading of policy # 6172 WINDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS' ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION POLICY (Ref. 2)

**Motion by Mr. Kalajian, seconded by Mr. French that the board approve the revisions to Windham Public Schools' Alternative Education Policy #6172 presented for first reading on May 10, 2017.**

**Motion is approved unanimously.**

Recommended approval of Windham High School's trip to Spain from July 15, 2017 to July 23, 2017 request in accordance with policy #6153. (Ref. 3)

**Motion by Ms. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Montalvo that the board approve the Windham High School trip to Spain from July 15, 2017 to July 23, 2017.**

**Motion is approved unanimously.**

Recommended approval of School Safety and Security Plans for 2017 (Ref. 4)

**Motion by Mr. Montalvo, seconded by Mr. Kalajian that the board approve the School Safety and Security Plans for 2017.**

**Motion is approved unanimously.**

Recommended approval of Windham High School Ed Specs. (Ref. 5)

**Motion by Ms. Lambert, seconded by Mr. French that the board approve the Windham High School Ed Specs.**

Ms. Lambert noted that this approval is needed to ensure access to maximum funding. Mr. French said that the matter will go to the Town Council next week. Dr. Garcia noted that the application will be ready in time to meet the July 1 deadline. Mr. Kalajian said that this is just a placeholder.

**Motion is approved unanimously**

Recommended approval of appointments and accept the resignations as recommended.

**Motion by Ms. Lambert, seconded by Ms. Lessard to approve the appointments and accept the resignations as recommended.**

## APPOINTMENTS

- William Johnson, to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Strategic Initiatives in Central Office effective July 1, 2017. Replacement.

## RESIGNATIONS

- Lauren Anderson, .8FTE Art Teacher at Sweeney School effective June 30, 2017.
- Shorouk Elserafy, Speech and Language Assistant at North Windham School effective June 30, 2017.
- Maxim Fantl, Physical Education Teacher at North Windham School effective June 30, 2017.
- Raymond Foster, Special Education Teacher at Windham High School effective June 30, 2017 for the purpose of retirement.
- Alexandra Garcia, Kindergarten Teacher at Windham Center School effective June 30, 2017.
- Heather Harkins, STEM Coordinator at Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy effective June 30, 2017.
- Rosarius Leonardi, Special Education Teacher at Natchaug School effective June 30, 2017.
- Ann Reman, Math Teacher at Windham Middle School effective June 30, 2017.
- Pasha Sanchez, Secretary II at Windham High School effective June 9, 2017.

Mr. Montalvo noted that the retirement of Mr. Foster from the High School will be a great loss to the District.

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

Dr. Sewall introduced Mr. William Johnson who will join the District as Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Strategic Initiatives. Mr. Johnson thanked the Board and said he was looking forward to his work in the District.

Dr. Garcia distributed a list of High School students who have been accepted into institutions of higher learning. Ms. Lambert noted that Scholarship Night was on Monday and that all of the students were very grateful.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment.

## Executive Session

**Motion of Ms. Lambert seconded by Ms. Lessard that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 7:58pm for the discussion of matters pertaining to labor negotiations.**

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

Board Members: Vice-chair Dr. Sewall, Mr. Kallajian, Ms. Lambert, Mr. French, Ms. Lessard, Mr. Montalvo

Staff members present: Superintendent Garcia

Others present: Jessica Ritter, Esquire, Shipman and Goodwin

Regular session reconvened at 9:03pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Mr. French, seconded by Ms. Lambert that the board adjourn its meeting at 9:05pm.**

**Motion is unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Murphy Sewall, Vice-Chairman