

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by chairman Mark Makuch at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Mark Makuch, Herb Arico, Laurie Semprebon, Leo Mercado, Erika Wiecenski, Superintendent David Harding, Barry Wallett and Mark Jones (Seated at 7:10 pm)

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mark Makuch informed about receipt of letter of resignation from Board Member Teri Gareau and a letter of endorsement for Barry Wallett from the Sentinel party and one for Mark Jones from the Democrats.

MOTION: by Leo Mercado, seconded by Laurie Semprebon to move Agenda item New Business A. Replacement of Board of Education members after Communications.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

NEW BUSINESS:

Leo Mercado nominated Barry Wallett to fill Christina Mailhos' position on the Board of Education.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Herb Arico nominated Mark Jones to fill Teri Gareau's position on the Board of Education.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

New members were sworn in to the Board of Education by Justice of the Peace Linda Calabrese and seated on the board at 7:10pm.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Christina Mailhos, former Board member congratulated the newest members of the board stating she knew they would do a great job with the best interest of the town and tax dollars at heart. She also commented on the regional municipal budget meeting she attended informing that Betsy Paterson, Mayor of Mansfield, would be in communication with the governor about the budgets and asked for a list of items to know about such as mandates.

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Herb Arico to add Agenda item H. Board Packet Discussion under New Business.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

PRESENTATION:

Superintendent Harding reported on the District Improvement Plan for 2010-2012 handing out a packet of information. Holly DiBella-McCarthy, Deb Sullivan, Colin McNamara all answered questions from board members who then commented on and discussed plan.

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Mark Makuch to add Agenda item of Election

of Board Officers before 5. Superintendent Reports.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Meeting turned over to Superintendent Harding for election of board officers.

Nomination by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Leo Mercado for Mark Makuch for Board Chair.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Barry Walleth, Mark Jones, Laurie Semprebon,
Leo Mercado, Erika Wiecenski
Abstain: Mark Makuch

Nomination by Mark Makuch, seconded by Leo Mercado for Laurie Semprebon for Vice Chair.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Barry Walleth, Mark Jones, Mark Makuch,
Leo Mercado, Erika Wiecenski
Abstain: Laurie Semprebon

Nomination by Mark Makuch, seconded by Laurie Semprebon for Leo Mercado for Secretary.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Barry Walleth, Mark Jones, Mark Makuch,
Laurie Semprebon, Erika Wiecenski
Abstain: Leo Mercado

Meeting turned over back to Mark Makuch, Chairman of the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported on the bus contract going out to bid and the mandatory bidder's conference that was attended by five companies with bids due on December 22.

He reported that the water committee met and discussed the design report and Anchor is conducting survey and at conclusion will meet and discuss the next phase of permits and going out to bid for construction.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee met and reviewed the bills.

Herb Arico, Liaison for EastConn Executive Committee, met on November 24, 2009 reporting the ACT program is going well and the Quinebaug Valley Middle College -High School program is flourishing.

Facilities Committee has not met but Mark Makuch continues working on Center School parking issue with the town engineer and Zoning department with new lines painted by R. Strong at Center to add spaces since already have handicap spaces in front of building available.

Herb Arico reported on attending the CAFE/CAPS Convention accepting the Leadership Award for Willington BOE from CAFE for 2008-2009 with a plate to add to the existing plaque.

Members attended the Regional Municipal Finance Committee meeting reporting that the finances at the State and local levels will be very difficult this and next year. Governor convened panel including Mayor of Mansfield to look at ways to rollback mandates. Board then discussed this topic.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Leo Mercado, to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2009 Board Meeting with two minor edits as discussed.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Barry Wallett, Leo Mercado, Mark Makuch,
Laurie Semprebon
Abstain: Mark Jones, Erika Wiecenski

Motion Passed

Board discussed transfer requests of funds for Magnet School tuition from Health Insurance to cover cost of two students attending a magnet school in Hartford and a request to clean up line item of EastConn Para-professional at CES from Health Insurance.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Laurie Semprebon to approve both transfers together as discussed.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Leo Mercado to add Agenda item I. Discussion of Regionalization Meeting under New Business.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed and reviewed subcommittee assignments.

Board discussed retreat choosing January 7, 2010 from 4:30-7pm with transportation subcommittee meeting to take place prior from 3:30-4:30pm.

Superintendent Harding reviewed enrollment projections showing continued decrease.

Board discussed the Capital Improvement Plan and the four projects were discussed.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Laurie Semprebon to approve projects on CIP of Carpet and Paint, Technology, and Water with exception of Roof Unit and pending review of the CES Water project to check for previous funding.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board tabled District Improvement Plan action till next meeting to allow new members time to review.

Board discussed the process of receiving board packets for meetings and decided that electronic version beforehand with printed copies available at the meeting with exception of one board member to receive by mail.

Board discussed the Regionalization meetings being attended by the Superintendent.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Herb Arico, to be it Resolved; That upon the recommendation of the Policy Review Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, the Willington Board of Education adopts **Board of Education Policy Manual, Bylaws of the Board, #9121 Board Officers, 9311.1 Development, Adoption, Amendment of Policies, 9313 Formulation, Adoption Amendment of Administrative Regulations, 9321 Notification of Regular and Special Meetings, and 9326 Minutes and Votes Recording** as presented.

VOTE: Yes: Mark Makuch, Herb Arico, Laurie Semprebon, Leo Mercado
Abstain: Erika Wiecenski, Barry Wallett, Mark Jones
Motion Passed

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Eric Britschock, Center School parent, recommended that the Board of Education thoroughly review the proposed District Improvement Plan keeping in mind that you cannot solve problem with the same tools that got you into the situation and also recommends that the Board have a committee to follow up on and monitor the program.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board welcomed all the new members, attended the grade 3 concert at Center and the play performance of *Twelfth Night* at HMS. Upcoming concerts at HMS on December 9, 2009 for Grade 4-6 ensembles and on December 10, 2009 for Grades 7 & 8.

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary