

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by chairman Mark Makuch at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Mark Makuch, Herb Arico, Teri Gareau, Christine Psathas, Laurie Semprebon, David Tharp, Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: Christina Mailhos

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Harding shared a copy of a letter to all boards from the chairman of the Board of Finance for the town of Willington.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

None

PRESENTATION:

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported on the reading program update, both schools held training on the Blue Ribbon assessment program and are now beginning to use it but it is too early to assess impact on student achievement. He reported the CES water project has been approved and clarified some of the information presented and discussed at the town meeting regarding the pressure problem at peak times. He stated the valve and leaking toilet had been repaired making the situation better but that the problem still exists and has been a long standing problem and is the reason for the state issuing the citation.

Superintendent Harding reported on the budget update and held a budget discussion regarding the letter from the Board of Finance and two possible ways to achieve the 0% increase for the 2009-2010 budget without cutting programs.

Superintendent Harding gave a brief overview of the process used in deciding to delay or close schools due to weather issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Laurie Semprebon, to authorize David Harding and Donna Latincsics as signers for the Connecticut State Department of Education Bureau of Health and Nutrition.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Christine Psathas, seconded by Teri Gareau, to approve the minutes of January 13, 2009 regular meeting and special meeting minutes of January 20, 2009 and January 27, 2009.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the end of the current school year make up days.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Dave Tharp, to have 180 days of school this year and finish the school year on two full days.

VOTE: Yes: Laurie Semprebbon, David Tharp, Mark Makuch,
Teri Gareau, Christine Psathas
Abstain: Herb Arico

Motion Passes

Board discussed the school calendar for 2009-2010 with some possible changes to consider with the other Superintendents.

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebbon, seconded by Herb Arico, to accept and ratify a new three year contract with the Willington Education Support Staff as presented to the Board, and that the Board Chair is authorized and directed to sign the new contract for and on behalf of the Board of Education.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board discussed the first reading of the 1000 policies on Community Relations and will hold second reading at the March 10, 2009 meeting. Board was informed to submit any questions or comments to the sub-committee before then.

The Board discussed the communication from the Board of Finance regarding the freezing of unnecessary spending. Discussion included current year education funding projections and the Boards brief plan of action to present to the Board of Finance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board held second reading of Policy 3160, Transfer of Funds.

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebbon, seconded by Herb Arico, to change the amount from \$1000 to \$500 everywhere it appears in Policy 3160.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Laurie Semprebbon, Mark Makuch,
Teri Gareau, Christine Psathas
No: David Tharp

Motion Passes

MOTION: by Teri Gareau, seconded by Christine Psathas, to accept Policy 3160 with the dollar amount changes in effect.

VOTE: Yes: Herb Arico, Laurie Semprebbon, Mark Makuch,
Teri Gareau, Christine Psathas
No: David Tharp

Motion Passes

Board discussed the second reading of 0000 Policies-Missions, Goals, and Objectives.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Teri Gareau, to be it resolved: That upon the recommendation of the Policy Review Committee and the Superintendent of Schools, The Willington Board of Education rescinds all policies contained in its current Board of Education Policy Manual, Section 0000 Mission, Goals and Objectives, and adopts in its place the attached revised Series 0000 Mission, Goals and Objectives, as presented.

VOTE: Yes: Dave Tharp, Laurie Semprebon, Mark Makuch,
Teri Gareau, Christine Psathas
No: Herb Arico

Motion Passes

Board discussed the revised budget for 2009-2010.

MOTION: by Laurie Semprebon, seconded by Herb Arico, to modify the Board's budget for 2009-2010 from our last meeting to a 0% increase over 2008-2009 at \$7,594,202.00 with details to be worked out later.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy Committee still working on packets and have another packet ready for the board.
Health and Safety Committee has met and put together a survey for the Tools for Schools walk through for air quality which is being distributed at HMS today and CES later. The nurses have been very proactive about bringing in health programs to the schools such as the cholesterol screening and the dental program. They are also exploring another program for children with asthma for home triggers. Committee is a very active group, pleased with the work so far.
Finance Committee has not officially met.
Facilities Committee has not met.
EastConn Executive Committee met on January 27, 2009 and discussed the Headstart and data programs they sponsor.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Mark Palmer gave clarification on the Board of Finance letter saying its concern is on revenue collection for the end of the year. He stated it is a red flag to make aware that they may not have money in June to pay the bills so be aware now and rein in spending if can, the \$150,000 can go quickly.
Laura Gilbert commented that her children are thankful for the interns and how instrumental they are in the classroom. She witnessed how marvelous they are herself and hopes that the partnership with UConn will continue to utilize the interns to fill the gaps where needed in the classrooms.
Superintendent Harding responded the he spoke with the university and also hopes to continue to be able to fill in the gaps as needed with the interns.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board thanked Superintendent Harding and the administration for their work on the budget and the work to come and encourages everyone to support the budget as it continues through the next stages to get it passed. The Board thanks the Board of Finance for being very respectful throughout the process. The board thanked the Policy Committee for the all the work completed

thus far. Superintendent Harding commented this process is a team effort and thanked the staff, administration, Board, Board of Finance and the community which all have been important factors that have supported this budget and stresses the importance of the need to continue to support it to get it passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Nichole Page
Recording Secretary