

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by chairman Mark Makuch at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Mark Makuch, Christina Mailhos, Christine Psathas, Laurie Semprebon (departed at 7:30pm), Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: Teri Gareau, David Tharp

COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Harding shared a copy of a letter of resignation from David Tharp as Willington Board Member. He acknowledged David Tharp for his years of service on the board and wished him well for future endeavors.

He shared letters from J. Palmeter the director of the Connecticut Music Education Association praising and thanking HMS teacher Lauren Quinn and the band during the Eastern Region Middle School Band assembly, one from parents to HMS thanking them for the wonderful special education services received for their child throughout the years, and a letter of retirement from Center School teacher Dianne Gallant.

Superintendent Harding gave out the set of Ice Cream Night invitations for the board members from the CES kindergarten class and copies of the results of the State History Day Competition listing the HMS 5 first place awards out of 7 categories entered and 3 special outstanding awards received. Board requested copies of the History Day results be forwarded to the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance.

Board mentioned a letter from Mr. Patton to be addressed during new business. Board member informed of an outgoing communication of a sympathy card being sent to J. Cordier of CES on behalf of the board.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

HMS teacher Pat Pinney spoke about the 5 first place awards and the special outstanding awards received during the State History Day Competition and the students that will be going onto the Nationals and answered questions from the Board. The Board commented on the unprecedented amount of awards received and wonderful job done by Mrs. Pinney and the students Leo Mercado, parent of CES students wanted to introduce himself to the board and expressed his interest in filling the board of education vacancy.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported on the budget stating it had passed referendum, the close out figures should be close to what has been discussed previously and now are looking at next years budget.

The reading update -they are in the process of filling the literacy coach position within a matter of days. Interviewing for the elementary positions and receiving on average from 25-30 applications daily with a lot of good applicants.

Project updates-the chip sealing at HMS date has changed to the first week in August due to conflicts with the summer school schedule.

The stimulus package application is now on line and will be started tomorrow. A presentation will be made once approved and then will be put on the website so everyone can see how the funds will be spent and track the impact on the performance.

H1N1 updates and guidelines continue to be monitored weekly with information and updates sent home to parents accordingly and placed on the website.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Christina Mailhos, that the Board add agenda item I to the New Business titled Motion Regarding Elimination of Position.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

NEW BUSINESS:

Board discussed transfers for repair of leaking steam pipe at CES with quote totaling \$5900.00 to be transferred from health insurance to building maintenance at CES and an internal transfer of Special Education funds of \$14,062.00 to purchase equipment for special needs.

MOTION: by Christine Mailhos, seconded by Herb Arico, to approve both transfers as stated for a total of \$19,962.00.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Christina Mailhos, to table Agenda Item 5B to approve hire to the next meeting in June.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Herb Arico, seconded by Christina Mailhos, to make editorial change to the minutes of April 14, 2009 to add in "to discuss personnel issue" into the motion to move into executive session.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Christina Mailhos, seconded by Mark Makuch, to approve the modified minutes of April 14, 2009.

VOTE: Yes: Mark Makuch, Christina Mailhos, Christine Psathas  
Abstain: Herb Arico

Motion Passes

Board stated item of sick day bank request was resolved.

MOTION: by Christina Mailhos, seconded by Herb Arico, to accept the resignation of David Tharp.

Board discussed letter from sentinel party recommending Mr. Mercado as David Tharp's replacement.

Board discussed the first reading of the last section of series 3000 Policies Business/Non-Instructional Operations requesting members to send thoughts to the policy committee before the next meeting.

Board discussed the first reading of revised policy 2400, Evaluation of Superintendent requesting comments to be sent to the policy committee.

Board discussed the first reading of policy 2135 Pupil Services Director, Administration requesting comments to be sent to the policy committee.

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Christina Mailhos, that the Board eliminate the .6 position for Spanish teacher at Center School due to budgeting restraints.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION: by Mark Makuch, seconded by Herb Arico, to approve for adoption by the Board Policies 3112 through 3541.5 with the exception of policy 3260.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION: by Christina Mailhos, seconded by Mark Makuch, to accept policy 3326.3 B.O.E. Credit Card.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

Board determined the recipient for the Board of Education Citizenship Award.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee has not met officially, reviewed bills for payment and setting dates to meet. Herb Arico, Liaison for Region #19 informed that the budget passed.

Herb Arico, Liaison for EastConn Executive Committee met on 4/28/09, discussed ARRA stimulus monies and reviewed budget for next year. ACT building closing out and almost paid up, is fairly successful with 100 students full time and planning to phase out the part time for next year. Magnet school is functioning well, approved plans for expansion of Hampton renovation, discussed tuition fees to remain the same for next year, and a symposium on regionalization took place with various groups and councils providing a regional education process free to towns that are interested.

Transportation Committee needs to meet in the next couple weeks.

Herb Arico, Liaison for Charter Advisory Committee reported on continuation of trying to influence Charter in good educational programming and keeping costs down.

Mark Makuch, Ad-Hoc Regional Transportation Group reported on results given for data of three town's routes for high school bussing. Impressed with four superintendents and chair people all working together.

Food Service Committee met with Superintendent Harding and talked about goals for the food service department for the next year. Pleased with program, will hopefully have presentations a couple times per year.

Curriculum Committee met and are zeroing in on purchase and how to use professional development days at the end of the year.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

Parent, Kathy Mikel, asked if committee meetings are open to the public. Board responded that they are and minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside the superintendent's office. She also asked if Region #19 transportation issues are handled by Willington BOE or the Region #19 BOE. Board responded that any issues regarding routes go through the Willington BOE and discipline issues go through the Region #19 BOE but that anyone can always start with the Willington BOE first.

Parent Laura Gilbert commented on growing to appreciate the Hall School technology and ease of use compared to other districts she has been in.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

Board attended the History Day Exhibit Night at HMS and the presentations were very good, absolutely impressed and give congratulations to Pat Pinney, also thanks to Kate Levesque for helping with the research. The success is wonderful and keeps getting better each year.

Attended the variety show which was great, a lot of fun, thinks the administration rocks and would like to see it become an annual event. Participated in Earth Day at CES was great and the kids love it. Board attended the HMS Success assembly and love to see the "can do" spirit where students want to achieve and informed that Principal Deb Sullivan has recognition breakfasts for the students as well.

Board noticed that the student teachers are now gone for the school year and the kids miss them, feel schools are lucky to have that resource each year. Superintendent Harding commented that we have an amazing partnership that enables us to have the student teachers free. Board is pleased the budget passed and thanks Superintendent Harding, the administration and everyone for their hard work.

Board expressed sadness about the resignation of David Tharp who was a good board member that did a lot of nice things, thankful for his term and wish him the best of luck.

Board appreciated the Superintendent keeping it informed about the H1N1 virus and being very on top of the situation, not over reacting but getting the information out and available to everyone.

HMS concert to be held at Jorgensen on May 20, 2009 at 7pm, Superintendent Harding recommends anyone that has not seen the students perform at this venue to do so, it is very impressive. HMS 8th grade graduation ceremony to be held on Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Nichole Page  
Recording Secretary