

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Board of Education Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Mark Makuch at the Town Office Building.

PRESENT: Herb Arico, Mark Jones Mark Makuch, Leo Mercado, Erika Wiecenski, Superintendent David Harding

ABSENT: Laurie Semprebon, Barry Wallett

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Board received correspondence from Senator Tony Guglielmo regarding Connecticut mandated special education funding.

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

No one

PRESENTATION:

Superintendent Harding discussed cost differences and wants and needs of regionalization with Ashford and Mansfield. Based on the cost to regionalize, the Board recommends discontinuing participation in this study.

Mrs. Pat Pinney, enrichment teacher at Hall Memorial School, explained History Day and what students learn from it.

HMS student Vanessa Lusa answered questions about her History Day project; a paper titled *Checks and Balances in the Separation of Powers: The Greatest Political Innovation in History*. Her father, Mr. Lusa, spoke in support of the History Day program.

HMS student Graham Frassinelli presented his History Day project, a video titled *Stop-Motion: Pure Movie Magic* and answered questions from the Board.

MOTION: by M. Makuch, seconded by E. Wiecenski to move Agenda Item F to next item on tonight's Agenda and to create new Agenda item under New Business, Water Specifications.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION PASSED

First Selectman, Christina Mailhos, presented the Board with copies of a Hartford Courant article from 1983 about the "Hall Bowl", the HMS predecessor of the current History Day program.

First Selectman Mailhos reported the CES water project. Discussion by the Board.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Harding reported that a regional audit will be conducted on our special education program.

The Board of Finance passed the Board of Education budget at \$7,706,296, a 1.48% increase over the current year. Referendum on May 4, 2010.

The water project is in the permitting process of Phase 1. The School Facilities grant has been submitted to the State.

Graduation for HMS' 8<sup>th</sup> grade is June 16, last day of school is June 17, Windham Tech graduation is June 15 and E.O. Smith graduation is June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Willington Public Schools' Food Service staff participated in a "cook-off" sponsored by the Yankee Chapter of the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut. Congratulations to Wendy Knight and her staff for receiving two of the eight awards presented.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy Committee met. M. Makuch asked the Board to consider what information they would like to receive from the Superintendent on an annual basis.

## NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION: by E. Wiecenski, seconded by H. Arico, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2010 Board Meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: by L. Mercado, seconded by E. Wiecenski to approve the March 15, 2010 Special Board Meeting Minutes.

VOTE: Yes: M. Jones, Mark Jones Mark Makuch, Leo Mercado, Erika Wiecenski

Abstain: H. Arico

MOTION PASSED

Board discussed first reading of first section of Series 5000 Students policies.

MOTION: by M. Makuch, seconded by L. Mercado to approve the transfer of \$1,570 from CES Media Purchased Services account to CES Math Supplies account for the purchase of math books.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION PASSED

M. Makuch reported legislative updates including Connecticut school bus seat belts and Burden of Proof in Special Education

MOTION: by M. Jones, seconded by E. Wiczenski to: Approve the Education Specifications for the Center School Water Project.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION PASSED

PRESENT TO SPEAK:

No one

BOARD COMMENTS:

E. Wiczenski offered praise to the HMS gifted program. Reminded the Board of HMS' Friday and Saturday *Beauty and the Beast* production

M. Makuch offered praise to the History Day program and participants. Thanked the Board of Education, Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen and the entire school staff for their hard work in preparing the budget.

MOTION: by H. Arico, seconded by E. Wiczenski to enter into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent end of year evaluation and pending litigation and invite Superintendent Harding to join them.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION PASSES

Board exited Executive Session at 9:46 p.m.

MOTION: by H. Arico, seconded by L. Mercado to adjourn.

VOTE: Unanimous in Favor

MOTION PASSES

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Leo Mercado  
Board Secretary