

WINDHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2021

BOARD PRESENT: Chair Ms. Ide, Vice Chair Dr. Gallucci, Secretary Dr. Gomez, Mr. O'Neill, Ms. Ray, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Doyle, Dr. Caban-Owen, Ms. Haney

BOARD ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENT: Superintendent Dr. Youngberg, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Weathers
Directors: Ms. Krach, Ms. Parciak, Ms. Thomacos, Ms. Garrett, Mr. Camacho, Ms. Burnet

REPRESENTATIVES: None

OTHERS PRESENT: General Public

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Ide called the November 10, 2021 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:00pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

RECOGNITIONS

The Board recognized outgoing members, Ms. Lambert and Dr. Gomez, for their service on the Board and presented each with a plaque.

Ms. Ide introduced the new principal at North Windham School, Carlos DeLaBarrera. Mr. DeLaBarrera spoke to the Board regarding his previous experience and his plans for leading North Windham School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 13, 2021 minutes of the Board meeting were approved as submitted with an abstention by Ms. Ide. The October 27 minutes of the Board workshop were approved as submitted with abstentions by Ms. Haney, Dr. Gomez and Ms. Ide.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

COVID Update

The Superintendent shared the most recent data regarding isolations and quarantines. Since the beginning of the school year, the District has processed 759 COVID reports regarding students and 66 for staff. Of those processed 61 students and 18 staff members have tested positive. At this time, COVID updates will be done on a weekly basis with the dashboard being updated daily.

The new Screen and Stay Program is still being discussed. This option is being offered to schools but there are many stipulations. The COVID team is working through the process to make a determination if the District should participate.

The District will hold a vaccine clinic for students 5 to 11 years old. It was noted that this year's Sweeney Feast will not be open to members of the public due to the restrictions regarding large gatherings.

Celebrations

Top 30% of Elementary and Middle Schools in Connecticut

Dr. Youngberg celebrated Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy for being recognized as one of the top 30% of the Elementary and Middle Schools in Connecticut. Members of the school community were in attendance and the Board presented them with a certificate.

VOYA Unsung Heroes Winner

The Superintendent announced that Nicole Bay and Christain Kollegger, teachers at Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy, were awarded as winners in the VOYA Unsung Heroes program. Ms. Bay has asked that the Board support a proposal to replicate the living wall project at other schools around the district.

2021-22 Connecticut FAFSA Challenge

Dr. Youngberg informed the Board that the District is engaged in a program to increase the FAFSA completion rates. This is an important step for the high school.

Solar Project at North Windham School

The Superintendent gave an update on the solar project at North Windham School. Since the Planning and Zoning Commission did not approve the application for installation of the units at the back of the property, the vendor is looking into the possibility of having the units installed on the roof.

First Reading of 2022 Board of Education Meeting Dates, including committee meetings

Ms. Ide noted that there may be some alterations to the committee list and dates after the new committees have been appointed. The second reading will be held at the next board meeting.

First Reading of proposed calendar for the 2022-23 budget process

The board reviewed the amended document and final action will be taken at the next meeting. There was a mention that the Board was pleased that the School Governance Councils will offer input earlier in the process.

First Reading of proposed school calendar for the school year 2022-23

The Board reviewed the proposed school calendar for the School Year 2022-23. Ms. Lambert asked that later start times for the high school be considered next year.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion to approve budget transfers

Motion by Mr. Doyle; seconded by Dr. Caban-Owen that the Board approve budget transfers in the amount of \$1,246,347 in salaries from Grants to the general budget Unanimously approved.

Motion to approve the appointment of Principal of North Windham School.

Motion by Ms. Lambert, seconded by Dr. Caban-Owen that Mr. Carlos De LA Barrera be appointed principal of North Windham School.

Unanimously approved

COMMENTS

Ms. Lambert spoke about the importance of the School Health Centers. She has served on their advisory committee and noted that the services are available to any Windham student. Ms. Lambert suggested that Lynne Weeks, who directs the program, be invited to address the Board in the future.

Ms. Lambert also noted that an agreement had been reached with the Teachers' union and a tentative agreement with the custodial union.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

The Board adjourned into a non-meeting at 8:09pm

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jaime Gomez, Secretary