

WINDHAM SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF MARCH 30, 2005

SPECIAL MEETING

Members of the Windham School Board met at 7:00 p.m. on March 30, 2005 in the Windham Town Council Chambers for a Special Meeting. Present were Chairman Mike Duffy, Kate Brix, Donna Cobb, Jeff Vermette, Toby Pennels (8:07 p.m.), Mary Wassick and Superintendent Sandy Prince. Absent: Ann Rich

Sabbatical Leave Request

On a motion by Mary Wassick, Seconded by Kate Brix, the School Committee voted 5-0 to approve the Sabbatical Leave request of Middle School English teacher Kristal Vargo for the 2005 – 2006 school year. Ms. Vargo was present and explained to the Board that she would be attending the University of Southern Maine full time to pursue a Masters degree in Educational Leadership.

Climbing Wall

On a motion by Kate Brix, Seconded by Mary Wassick, the School Committee voted 4-1 to accept the donations given for the building of the Climbing Wall at Windham High School. Mr. Vermette was opposed.

Mr. Vermette stated that he was opposed to the motion because he has concerns about supporting new and growing programs without knowing what the budget implications would be. Mr. Vermette asked if the motion assumed that if the required amount for the climbing wall was not raised, the School Department would pick up the remaining cost. Mr. Duffy replied that this was not the intent of the motion and if the necessary money was not raised, the wall would not be built.

Workshop

Admission & Education of Homeless Students (File: JFABD)

The School Department's Homeless Students Liaison, Steve Floyd, was present to answer questions on this new policy which is required by the No Child Left Behind Act. Mr. Floyd gave the Board an overview of the policy and its implications. The Board had several questions and felt the policy was confusing. The policy will go back to the Policy Committee for further work.

Educational Philosophy / Mission (File: AD)

The Board discussed this new policy which is required by the No Child Left Behind Act. Mr. Duffy asked if the policy should include a statement that subjects other than core subjects will be provided. The Board discussed the implications of that and it was decided not to include such a statement as there may come a time when programs which are currently provided can no longer be made available due to budget constraints. This policy will go on the Board's April 6 agenda for a First Reading.

Proposed Change to Windham High School Teacher / Student Schedule

Deb McAfee, Windham High School Principal, presented the Board with a proposal to increase teacher responsibility to six out of eight periods and to decrease the number of students in study halls by

changing the junior and senior privileges. Ms. McAfee explained the history of the High School schedule and the reasons for the proposed changes. She cited the transition difficulties that many freshmen experience as they enter the High School from the Middle School and the desire to help the freshmen with study skills and to help all students with assessments.

If the new schedule proposal is accepted, there will need to be a change in the teacher contract.

The Board will have a Public Hearing on the proposed changes at the April 13 meeting.

Physical Examinations of Students

A motion was made by Kate Brix and Seconded by Donna Cobb to suspend the policy for Physical Examinations of Students (File: JLCA) for student athletes for the 2005 spring / summer season.

Mr. Vermette asked for a friendly amendment to revert back to the prior policy requiring a physical exam every three years. There was no second.

Mr. Vermette withdrew his motion for a friendly amendment and moved to suspend the policy for Physical Examinations of Students (File: JLCA), Section B, for student athletes only for the 2005 spring / summer season only. Donna Cobb seconded the amendment and the motion passed 6-0.

Executive Session – Administrator Negotiations

On a motion by Jeff Vermette, Seconded by Toby Pennels, the School Committee voted 6-0 to approve going into Executive Session to discuss labor contract proposals for negotiations with the Windham Administrators' Association, pursuant to [1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6)(D)], and not to return to Special Session.
9:32 p.m.