

**Windsor Locks Board of Education  
58 South Elm Street  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
January 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Members Present:	K. Christianson, D. Gragnolati, L. Cutler, A. Osorio, and G. Guyette
Members Absent:	None
Administrators:	S. Parkhurst, R. Stacy, R. Bissonnette, K. Krupa, J. Robinson, G. Testani, M. Briggs, M. Warner, C. Domler, M. Parrette, G. Weigert, and A. Goodwin
Student Representatives:	A. Guyette
Students:	None
Staff:	P. Sibila, J. Long, and M. Sigall
Others:	A few members of the public and some participating on Zoom
Press:	None

**I. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Ms. Kylee Christianson called the Regular Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m. held at the Windsor Locks High School Media Center and via Zoom.

**A. Roll Call for Quorum**

All Board Members were present.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood up and pledged allegiance to the flag.

**II. Board of Education and Superintendent Communications**

Board Member Mr. Greg Guyette thanked Mr. Josh Robinson, Director of Pupil Services for taking time out of his busy day to discuss the district's special education programming.

Mr. Shawn Parkhurst, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board. He congratulated Mr. Sincere Monroe for scoring 1,000 points in high school basketball is a rare accomplishment that requires a combination of talent, hard work, and opportunity. The Board will honor his achievements at a future Board Meeting. On January 31, 2025, the Windsor Locks Middle School will be hosting Plant Parade between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Seven of the eight plants will be seen. Telescopes will be available for students, parents, and community members to use to see the plants as long as the sky is clear. On January 24 and 25, 2025, the Windsor Locks Middle School Theater Club will be performing *Wizard of Oz*. Mr. Parkhurst thanked Miss Abigail Guyette as she will be attending her first Bradley Chamber meeting on Friday, January 17, 2025 representing students of Windsor Locks Public Schools.

**III. Student Board Representative(s) Report**

Miss Abigail Guyette, Student Representative, addressed the Board. She noted the second quarter grades will close at the end of the week. Play practice and the Robotics Teams have started. The high school will be hosting an Elective Fair for students in Grades 9-11 to learn about elective classes that are offered for the upcoming school year. Sports are in full swing including basketball and indoor track.

**IV. Public Audience (only Agenda Items)**

Ms. Jennifer Long, Art teacher at North Street School and South Elementary School addressed the Board. She told the Board she cannot give up the fight and requested the Board to reconsider the cuts of an Art teacher and Library teacher at the elementary schools. She explained the loss of those two positions has made it extremely difficult to supply and support an art and library

curriculum in the elementary schools. She has done the best she can, splitting her time at both schools but it is extremely difficult. Young students need to express themselves through art and learn the enjoyment of reading which will establish learning habits that will help them succeed in other subjects. She will not give up the fight. She reminded the Board that it is not 1925 but 2025 and children deserve a solid and meaningful education.

Mr. Matt Sigall, President of the Windsor Locks Teachers' Association, addressed the Board. He thanked Mr. Parkhurst and the Board for the working dialog during the budget process. The WLTA has inquired for a month about the possibility of budget cuts. Last year, two positions were eliminated which effects the vision and mission of the district. Stretching staff in a classroom gives less time to students. At the last meeting, a decrease in special education staff as the district is shifting the work model. The elimination of six positions is concerning and only saves about 1% of the budget but costs six positions. He noted he will continue to collaborate with the Board of Education during the budget process, but waiting one month until the next meeting to be told that a possible nine positions will be eliminated which will effect adult support in the classroom and he worries about the end process.

#### **V. Approval of Minutes**

- **December 10, 2024 Special Meeting**
- **December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting**

It was **MOVED** (Osorio) and **SECONDED** (Cutler) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Education approves the minutes of December 10, 2024 Special Meeting and the minutes of December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting, as presented.

#### **VI. Superintendent's Revised Proposed FY25-26 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Parkhurst addressed the Board. He noted the meeting is set-up as a workshop model with the Administration/Leadership Team sitting in the meeting to answer questions the Board may have during the presentation.. He stated he has listened to the comments after the last meeting, and staff and community forums feedback of the proposed budget. Those comments in particular were minimizing staff reductions, analyze ways to provide alternative programing to alleviate potential staff bumping; alternative solutions to keep Pre-K open to 3 and 4 year olds; Windsor Locks Middle School interventionist addition and why Dance Team instead of Power Company/Show Choir; and Special Education Coordinator questions from the last meeting. Staff and Community Forums concerns were ensuring cuts are not made at the classroom level; analyze the special education delivery model; prioritize staff to work directly with students; maintain adult support for students and staff throughout the district; and students and parents desire for STEM and Health/Science pathway development. Mr. Parkhurst explained the revision has increased the budget slightly. The original request shown in December was 14.58%, with the revisions the increase is .03% to 14.88%. Mr. Parkhurst reiterated the increase includes the medical and dental insurance.

Mr. Parkhurst discussed the specifics of the revisions to the proposed FY26 budget. He explained the Early Start CT Grant has a mandate attached to it. Grantees must have a Pre-K Liaison in place to support Pre-K .6 Pre-K Liaison and .4 Pre-K Special Education ABA support to students in classrooms. The cost of this mandate is \$62,812. He is proposing a Windsor Locks Middle School Special Education Teacher to restructure the behavior program to effectively meet the needs of students. The cost of this position is \$67,366. The elimination of 1.0 Paraprofessional at North Street School ABA program gaining \$29,379 along with the elimination of 3.0 middle school para-educators gaining \$88,135. Therefore, the total increase of the FY26 would be \$12,664.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the staffing reductions/reallocations.

Chairwoman Ms. Christianson and Board Member Greg Guyette began discussing line items, such as, medical/dental insurance, middle/high school coaches, middle school science teacher, general education tutor at North Street School, RISE relocation, pupil services, and high school athletic trainer. Other Board Members joined in the conversation discussing the costs of a library aids, discussing the non-lapsing account, and Dance Team versus Show Choir. At the end of the discussion, Chairwoman Ms. Christianson warned everyone that this is a lofty ask and

the team might want to start looking in places where cuts will be able to be made without terrible sacrifices. She also discussed Excess Cost Sharing Grant and State funding.

A lengthy discussion was held.

**VII. Board and Superintendent Comment**

None.

**VIII. Public Audience (General)**

None.

**IX. Adjournment**

It was **MOVED** (Osorio) and **SECONDED** (Gagnolati) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Education adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 16, 2025 at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz  
Recording Secretary