Windham/Eastern Community Action Network (W/E CAN)

MINUTES
Thursday, March 21, 2013
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Eastern Attendees: Ken Bedini, Walter Diaz, Jeffrey Garewski, Jim Howarth, Jeff Konin, Lyndsey Lanagan-Leitzel, Elsa Núñez, Abby Weston
Community Attendees: Don and Winnie Chase, Bernard D’Auteuil, Kevin Holtz, Joel Meyers, Shirley Mustard, Kiara Perry, Jerome Perry, Marc Scrivener, Cliff Spinner

Agenda Items in Review

1. Dr. Jeff Konin, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Eastern
   - Presented an overview of how athletes are excelling at Eastern and helping the Eastern community, surrounding towns and national organizations.
   - The majority of the athletes have 3.0 GPAs or higher; 9 student athletes had perfect 4.0 GPAs last semester.
   - Some community service projects in the past included shoveling snow, raking yards, holding can drives, etc.
   - Last semester’s bone marrow drive at Eastern was the largest drive seen by the “Be the Match” organization, resulting in 3 donor matches.
   - There will be an event sometime next month called Beautification, where athletes will clean up litter on many streets throughout Willimantic.
   - Jerome Perry recommended that the athletes meet with high school and middle school students to tutor or introduce them to the different sports at Eastern as this is often a “low priority” for many schools.

2. Community Concerns
   - Joel Meyers stated that in recent years, he has seen more positive things happening here at Eastern and likes to see everyone working together.
   - Shirley Mustard stated that a neighbor recently passed away and two young girls moved into the house, initially causing apprehension. But the girls have been very helpful to another elderly neighbor (ex. taking out the trash, bringing in groceries, etc.). She also stated that the new CCE house on Prospect Street has been beautifully renovated and that a Victorian tour of the house is being set up as it is a historical house.
   - Don and Winnie Chase stated that there was a large party last Thursday night, March 15th, that caused them to call the Police around 1:00 a.m. The Willimantic Police responded and left having stated there was only “some street activity.” The Police were called again and finally broke up the party. Another night, young people were being very loud outside, so Don went outside and asked them to be quiet. The young people immediately apologized and dispersed.
President Núñez reported on the March 21st Board of Regents meeting that occurred on Eastern’s campus. Students held a peaceful demonstration against the tuition raise. There was plenty of security on campus to keep the event peaceful. President Núñez wanted the students to have free speech and stated why the tuition hike was necessary. A tuition increase is necessary to maintain the current number of faculty at Eastern. As taxes are not increased and budgets are cut, something needs to be done to keep Eastern one of the top schools in the North. President Núñez felt that if faculty positions are cut thereby reducing the student/faculty ratio, then Eastern would become a “mediocre school.”

3. Other

- President Núñez reported an event coming up at the Windham Textile and History Museum. The Latino Migration Exhibit will open on March 22nd through December 8th, 2013. On Saturday, April 13th, there will be a public reception from 2-5:00 p.m. Lastly, on Saturday, April 20th, there will be a keynote address by Norma Boujouen at 4:00 p.m.
- The next Town Gown meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Court Room, 1st floor, of the Willimantic Town Hall.