

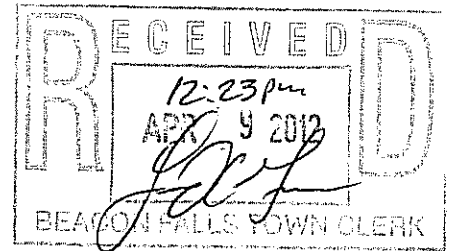
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Board of Education Meeting
March 28, 2012

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:*Beacon Falls...*

Priscilla Cretella
 Sheryl Feducia
 William Fredericks
 Wendy Oliveira

Prospect...

Donna Cullen
 Robert Hiscox
 Nazih Noujaim
 Robin Wright

EXHIBIT**III****STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tim James, Interim Superintendent of Schools
 Hugh Potter, Business Manager
 Leigh Barbour, Assistant Business Manager
 Bruce Bartmess, Director of Technology
 Arnold Frank, Principal-WRHS
 Jayne Lanphear, Principal-LRMS
 Regina Murzak, Principal-Laurel Ledge School
 Joseph Nuzzo, Principal-Community School
 Andrea Einhorn, Asst. Dir. SPED/Curr. Director
 Kristin Bernier, Asst. Principal, LRMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Priscilla Cretella at 6:33 p.m. at Long River Middle School, Prospect, CT. The first one-and-one-half hours of tonight's Board of Education meeting is devoted to discussion on the proposed budget for the 2012-2013 school year.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**III. MISSION STATEMENT****IV. RECORD OF MEMBERS PRESENT**

A roll was taken. A quorum was present.

Chair Cretella opened the budget portion of the meeting and welcomed public participants who signed up to speak.

Catherine Mirabilio of Prospect and teacher at WRHS, brought up errors on the district website with regard to tonight's meeting posting and time. She also inquired about the change to PowerSchool grading system which she is not in favor of because of the cost as well as the additional training necessary to staff. She then moved to enrollment

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numbers and last year's proposed cuts to the culinary program. She commented that students were advised not to sign up for culinary classes either because they wouldn't get in the class or there wouldn't be enough classes scheduled. She also asked the Board to review the letters and petitions submitted at last year's budget hearing and that many students attested to how much they loved her classes. She believes the Board saved nothing by cutting her classes.

Lisa Zaccagnini of Beacon Falls spoke as to budget cuts for children's education. She works as a teacher in the Seymour school system. She believes electives hold the students' interest, power and possession over their education. She said that the education her son has learned from culinary classes is invaluable and that many students will not go beyond high school because of the cost of higher education. The electives are valuable learning skills for students who do not go to college. She also said our country is falling behind and education needs to be looked at a different way and to reconsider cutting electives.

Interim Superintendent James began with the Local Control budget. Regina Murzak went over the budget item increases for Laurel Ledge. The increase in Program Supplies for Language Arts is for miscellaneous Reader's and Writer's workshop supplies. The increase in Math workbooks is due to reallocating items from different budget lines into one line item.

Ms. Cretella asked if cuts had been made since last week's meeting regarding decreases in paper because it will be bought in bulk. Mr. Potter stated that the decreases had not been made, but the Board would be able to cut those figures themselves.

Andrea Einhorn stated her increases were for reading supplies.

Ms. Cullen asked that all the schools list the same items under the same line items, especially between 'reading' and 'language arts' categories.

Joe Nuzzo, Principal of Community School, stated his increases were for reading workshops, general supply account, and computer supplies.

Jayne Lanphear, Principal of Long River Middle School, stated her increases were in program supplies, new math textbooks, reading, and maintenance. Mr. Hiscox asked if planners (estimated at \$4,000+) could be purchased through the PTO or other programs.

Arnold Frank, Principal of WRHS, stated he had a decrease in his budget of \$48,589. Mr. James stated that when the decrease in paper is realized, the budget will also go down. Ms. Cullen asked what the language increase was, and Dr. Frank responded it was for the new AP Italian course.

Ms. Cretella said there is usually a figure per student for the local control budget. Mr. Potter responded it is \$130 for elementary, \$175 for middle school, and \$420 for high school.

Mr. Potter stated that the budget documents the Board has tonight were revised into a different format.

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Mr. James reported on the non-certified personnel budget. They looked at making reductions in custodial and maintenance, as there are too many part-time custodians at WRHS—six full time and six part-time. There will be a reduction for a total of six positions but only four persons with layoffs. Ms. Cretella asked if it was taken into account the part-time positions when late athletic buses come in, etc. Mr. Potter responded that custodians overstuffed at WRHS may be better utilized at other schools within the district, and he presented a color-coded diagram of the areas per custodian. Mr. Hiscox stated that the layoff savings would be approximately \$25,000 including unemployment. Ms. Cretella asked to investigate this matter by looking into overtime versus layoffs, whereby hours and schedules can be readjusted to avoid layoffs.

Mr. James stated consideration should be given to eliminate a 6th grade teacher at LRMS based on enrollment numbers. Considering a three-year average, class size would be 21 to 22 students. There are no proposed changes at Algonquin or Community; and at LLS adjustments are to be made, but no decreases. At Woodland, considerations of potential changes were core subjects versus electives. He gave a list of possible reductions in all subjects. This would give a net of 3.3 full-time equivalents or six positions. Mr. Hiscox asked if these positions would be reduced through attrition or through layoffs.

Mr. James responded that a voluntary early retirement plan would be offered to teachers eligible for normal retirement as defined by CT statutes. Mr. James expects about six or seven teachers may take advantage of the plan. Information about the voluntary early retirement plan will be sent out to teachers tomorrow with a quick response time of about ten days.

Ms. Cretella reminded the Board to be ready for a public hearing on April 11th. The budget portion of the meeting concluded at 7:57 p.m., and the Board continued with the regular agenda business at 8:02 p.m.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to add Item 3 to Action Items to discuss the principal at Algonquin School.
ALL IN FAVOR **12-058**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robin Wright to add Item 4 to Action Items to approve the Turner Construction contract.
ALL IN FAVOR **12-059**

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 14, 2012, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I).

A MOTION was made by Wendy Oliveira and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve the minutes of March 14, 2012, Board of Education Meeting, with the correction of the spelling of Mr. Hiscox's name.
ALL IN FAVOR, except Robin Wright who abstained. **12-060**

Ms. Cretella welcomed Robin Wright as a new member to the Board.

VI. TOWN OFFICIAL COMMENT

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VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Cretella responded that all questions will be answered during "New Business".

David Rybinski from Beacon Falls reported on the recent radio installation at the high school and is pleased to personally test it with the Fire Chief to conclude that it is working perfectly. He also commended the Board for getting this installation accomplished.

Derek Muherem of Prospect asked to clarify what happened at Algonquin School and that he is speaking for many of the parents. He questioned why the parents were misinformed why the third grade teachers were removed from their classes during the CMT testing. He also asked what the plans were to move forward and what plan is in place for a permanent superintendent.

Tracey Scott of Prospect is Vice President of the Algonquin/Community PTO and asked why Mrs. Patterson was physically removed from the building. She also commented that Andrea Einhorn is too busy to devote her time as Interim Principal. She also said there have been four principals in the past two years. She wants the parents to be informed.

Jenn Andrews of Prospect has two students in Algonquin and Long River. She has heard rumors and is worried about the staff.

Andrea Drewry of Prospect, who has three children in the district-- one in second grade at Algonquin, said that a permanent leader is needed for teacher and student success.

Mr. Hiscox suggested the Board go out of order in the agenda and move directly to New Business to answer the public's questions.

Item XII E. New Business

Mr. James responded to the public that Interim Principal initial interviews were conducted on Monday from a pool of 17 applicants. Three finalists were brought to the Board of Education for an interview last night at a special meeting. Kristin Bernier applied and was selected as the Interim Principal to serve from April 2 to June 30, 2012. A permanent principal search will begin immediately--the successful candidate to be in place on or about August 15, 2012. The search will include parents, staff, and student input.

Tracey Scott asked why the third grade teachers were pulled from their classrooms. Mr. James responded that the parents will receive correspondence from him with further clarification.

John Pannone, Prospect resident, said his wife, a teacher at Algonquin, was treated poorly.

Ms. Cretella responded that there were specific reasons why the teachers were pulled from their classrooms, and a letter will be sent to Algonquin parents by Mr. James addressing these issues.

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Derek Muherem asked when a permanent superintendent will begin. Ms. Cretella responded that the Board would like to retain Mr. James for at least 14 months. Others said that they have no trust in the Board after what occurred at Algonquin. Ms. Cretella responded that the Board just lost trust in someone who was with the district for 15 years and that their comments were duly noted.

Ms. Cullen wanted to publicly thank Andrea Einhorn for stepping in. Mr. Hiscox thanked Kristin Bernier for her willingness to get the school back on track and to move forward.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

IX. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Feducia reported as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Balance in General Fund as of 3/28/12: | \$896,773.45 |
| Tonight's bills total: | 665,200.53 |
| General Fund: | 658,209.41 |
| Special Education Grants: | 5,323.55 |
| Adult Education: | 0 |
| Federal and State Grants: | 1,357.57 |
| Athletic Fund: | 310.00 |
| Construction Bills: | 0 |

X. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT (Caitlyn Sousa, Ayah Galal)

Caitlyn Sousa and Ayah Galal attended the meeting with Ms. Galal reporting as follows: In Social Studies, the teachers have been scoring the freshmen CAPT Writing Across Disciplines essay simulations. Freshmen in World History are having their essays reviewed by teachers to reinforce their persuasive writing skills. The Quiz Bowl Team competed at Yale University this past Saturday with Mr. Decker. The Preserving Our History Club has completed the filming of veteran Chris Shea and now editing it.

In Math, many students participated in the pi day celebration sponsored by the WRHS Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. The winners of the pie eating contest were: Bailee Graveline, Ian Chamenko, Andrew Duncan, Ryan Bellevance, Salma Shitia, Richard Peterson and Steven LaChance. There was also a pi day scavenger hunt as well as a pi trivia contest. On March 26, the WRHS Math Team competed at Northwestern Regional High School with eight other schools coached by Nancy Kiesel and James Belinsky. Mary Hrenko will participate in the TEAM sessions on April 7 as part of her state certification process.

Last week was Foreign Language Week at Woodland, and the morning announcements were spoken in a different language each day--French, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, and Albanian. An advisory trivia contest was held with questions about the countries the languages were from. Cultural gaffe videos were shown in the freshmen advisories with a link for ten free Chinese lessons. The Graphic Design 3 class created posters highlighting benefits of language learning and cultural awareness. The induction ceremony for the Foreign Language Honor Society is April 22. Ten students will compete in the COLT Poetry Contest on April 26.

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XI. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS

Mr. Hiscox asked to send a note to the members of the Prospect Public Works Department and thank them for the extra work they did on the fields and tidying up the grounds at the schools.

XII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update.

1. Readiness Program presentation. (A. Einhorn)
Ms. Einhorn gave a PowerPoint presentation on retention and cost to the district to retain students. She will email a copy of the presentation to any Board members who request it. The term 'red shirting' is used for retention. Mr. Fredericks asked about summer programs. Ms. Einhorn responded that research on summer programs is not positive. There were no other questions.

B. Action Items

1. Second reading of policy 5145.122 *Use of Canine Sniffing for Searches on School Property.*

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to approve the second reading of policy 5145.122 *Use of Canine Sniffing for Searches on School Property.* **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-061**

2. Act on teacher's letter of resignation at end of school year. (M. Fiore)

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to accept the resignation of Maria Fiore, Foreign Language teacher at WRHS, effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.

ALL IN FAVOR **12-062**

3. Discuss the principal at Algonquin School. (*earlier in agenda*)

4. Approve the Turner Construction contract.

Mr. James stated that two contracts were reviewed by the Building Committee and brought to the Board to act on. The first, for Fletcher Thompson, was previously approved. Tonight the contract for Turner Construction is being brought forward for BOE approval.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to approve the contract for Turner Construction reviewed with extra due diligence by CIRMA. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-063**

C. Business Manager's Report

1. Facilities update: Condition of ball fields at WRHS.

Mr. Potter reported that the ball fields are complete and a new vendor was located through the construction who will be bidding on future work. He will forward photos to the Board of the completed work. He also said the Booster Club completed dugouts and new backstops have been installed. The first note for the new school construction has been accepted at .75%, which is excellent.

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2. Update on 403(b) for UPSEU.

Mr. Potter stated all fund managers have submitted responses to questions for non-certified union which he will develop into a spreadsheet. This will go through the Negotiations Committee then be scheduled with the union and Mr. James to allow the union to select a plan.

D. Old Business1. PowerSchool. (B. Bartmess)

Ms. Cretella stated that based on the previous presentation, it is suggested to postpone this program to next year. This way preparation work could be done in advance of beginning the program. Mr. Bartmess said data could be made ready to make the transition earlier.

Ms. Feducia asked if there were any complaints on the new lighting installed at Laurel Ledge as she received one from a neighbor that the lights shine in their bedroom. Mr. Potter responded there have been no complaints concerning the lighting, and there has also been no vandalism.

E. New Business

Discussed previously in meeting.

F. Information Items (discussion with possible action)G. Enrollment (Ex. II)

Enrollment report included in tonight's Board packets.

XII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

1. Personnel and Negotiations Committee
2. Facilities and Transportation Committee
3. Curriculum Committee
4. Policy Committee
5. Public Communications
6. Technology Committee
7. Recognition Committee

Ms. Feducia stated the committee has met and have future dates lined up.

Mr. Hiscox suggested acknowledging Secretary's Day which is in April for all secretarial staff in the district.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to instruct Mr. James to make proclamations for honoring the district-wide secretaries for Secretary's Day. **ALL IN FAVOR**

12-064

8. Liaisons
 - a. Schools.
 - b. Wellness Committee
 - c. Professional Development Committee

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- d. Prevention Task Force.
- e. Curriculum Council

Mr. Noujaim said *Minds in Motion* will be on Saturday.

Ms. Cretella asked to further discuss budget items. She asked the administrators in attendance if they had questions for the Board. They did not.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to restore the line item for contingencies back to \$50,000, which is what it has been in the past.

ALL IN FAVOR

12-065

Mr. Potter stated the budget now stands at \$37,649,753 or 2.397% increase over this year.

Mr. Bartmess handed out figures on technology. He said Priority C could be eliminated for a total of \$12,300, Priority B for a total of \$36,500, Fine Arts Adobe Training for \$6,000, Flip Video Cameras for \$3,700 (retaining \$1,200 for a few cameras), Smart Response/Doc Cameras for \$1,000, 7 ADT Security Cameras for \$15,675, and 6 Security Cameras Upgrade for \$12,400.

Ms. Cretella asked if Alio could be replaced at a savings. Leigh Barbour responded that Alio is used everywhere on all figures including payroll. Ms. Cretella didn't want the district to be paying for support on Alio if they could change to a different system. Mr. Potter stated Alio is not user-friendly. Ms. Cretella said that there is nothing to replace it, so it will stay. Ms. Feducia said there used to be a Budget Committee some years ago and maybe that could be revisited. Ms. Cretella agreed for next year.

A MOTION was made by Robin Wright and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to cut technology items Priority B and C totaling \$48,800.00.

ALL IN FAVOR

12-066

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to cut the following items from technology items Priority A:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Fine Arts Adobe Training | \$ 6,000 |
| Flip Video Cameras | 3,700 |
| Smart Response/Doc Cameras | 1,000 |
| ADT (7) Security Cameras | 15,675 |
| Security Camera Upgrade (6) | 12,400 |

ALL IN FAVOR

12-067

Ms. Cretella stated that under Local Control budget, the principals were asked to reduce their budgets by 10%, which they did. There will also be paper savings. She asked the principals if there is any chance for eliminations based on enrollment. Andrea Einhorn responded that she could possibly see an elimination of a .5 teacher at Algonquin in Readiness Kindergarten.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to allow the Board meeting to go past 10 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR

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A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Wendy Oliveira to reduce each school's budget by \$1,000 for a total of \$5,000.

ALL IN FAVOR

12-069

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to reduce the Equipment-Instructional Account, #1.106.1100.734.000 by \$61,590.91, leaving a balance of \$5,000.00.

ALL IN FAVOR

12-070

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robin Wright to reduce the following items from the Facilities Budget totaling \$36,704.00:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Hot Water Heater at WRHS | \$25,000 |
| Hot Water Heater at LRMS | 4,000 |
| New Snow blower at LRMS | 1,200 |
| New Leaf blower at LRMS | 1,500 |
| Steam Pressure Washer at Laurel Ledge | 2,400 |
| EMS Contract | 2,604 |

ALL IN FAVOR

12-071

Mr. Hiscox asked if there was any money left in the current year's budget that could be adjusted. Mr. Potter responded that he will know next week.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to reduce the salary and benefits associated with a 6th grade teaching position at LRMS for a reduction of \$68,867.

ALL IN FAVOR

12-072

Ms. Cretella stated the Board is awaiting the per pupil cost, enrollment per town and cost sharing, revenue, bonding, interest, and legal fees. It was discussed that \$50,000 needs to be added back into the budget for special education placement.

Mr. Fredericks thanked Mr. James for doing a great job and that he didn't deserve the public treatment tonight.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robin Wright to adjourn the March 28, 201, Board of Education meeting at 11:00 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR

12-073

Wendy Oliveira,

Board Secretary

*These minutes are subject to Board Approval,
Susan Vaill, Board Clerk*

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