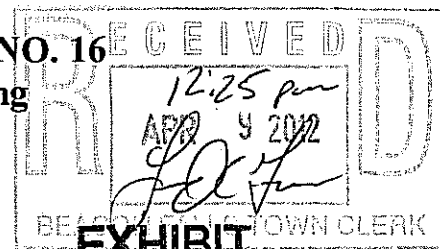


**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16**  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**April 2, 2012**



**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

*Beacon Falls* Priscilla Cretella  
 Sheryl Feducia (6:45 p.m.)  
 Wendy Oliveira  
 William Fredericks

*Prospect...* Robin Wright  
 Robert Hiscox  
 Nazih Noujaim  
 Donna Cullen

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tim James, Interim Superintendent  
 Dr. Arnold Frank, Principal, WRHS  
 Dana Mulligan, Assistant Principal, WRHS  
 William Stowell, Budget Consultant  
 Hugh Potter, Business Manager  
 Leigh Barbour, Assistant Business Manager

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Priscilla Cretella at 6:16 p.m. at Woodland Regional High School, Beacon Falls, CT for a Special Board of Education budget meeting to discuss/possibly act on the 2012/2013 proposed budget.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**III. RECORD OF MEMBERS PRESENT**

A roll was taken. A quorum was present.

**IV. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION – 2012/2013 BUDGET**

Catherine Mirabilio spoke with regard to her technology concerns and professional development costs to the taxpayers. She noted program cuts hurt children and feels cutting culinary arts is wrong. She feels there is a lack of tracking students' interest in the classes. Student letters were brought to the Board and lost, along with a petition that had over 500 signatures. If found, she notes we will see an accurate account of how the community feels about the potential cuts. She handed more letters to Tim James. She wishes to stop hearing people say that culinary arts is about saving money. She noted an administrator requested that all culinary arts be cut from the budget and thanks Board members for realizing how hurtful that was. Instead of taking away these classes, please consider the people of Region 16 and the Mayor and First Selectman (who supported the culinary arts program in the past) –please look elsewhere for cuts. Please bring culinary

arts back full time. Waiting until the budget process is over is not the only way to address it. Ms. Mirabilio asked for a committee and offered serve as chair. She inquired about ECS funds. Priscilla Cretella will confirm when she knows.

Johan Haile, a student of Ms. Mirabilio's, spoke to the Board about his positive experiences with culinary arts and how helpful it has been to him and the importance of keeping these classes. He noted the classes were not available to him freshman year.

Steve Mulhall, Prospect resident, came in support of Chef Mirabilio. He discussed the importance of the food service industry and gave an account of his experience at Johnson and Wales College. He believes that the education in culinary arts at WRHS is equivalent to what he learned when he first started college.

In beginning the budget conversation, Tim James noted a bond payment of \$247,500 needs to be in the 2012/2013 proposed budget. This brings us up to 2.6% from where we left off and reflects the cuts made at the last meeting.

There was some discussion about arbitration settlement costs, fixing WRHS fields and the heat at Algonquin School. We were hit with these three things and had to use money to address them.

Priscilla Cretella noted that the \$168,000 worth of cuts is not even a drop in the bucket of what has to take place. Bill Stowell noted that the figures that brought us to the 2.6% are from the bond and personnel changes. It is strictly on the expenditure side.

Bill Stowell added that the problem with ECS is that the anticipated increase is hung up and we don't know where it will be until the bill (now in front of the legislators) is finalized. Until the bill addressing ECS gets approved by legislation, the Board has to take what's in the current budget. When the number is given out, the cost to the towns would be decreased.

Dana Mulligan discussed enrollment data with the Board and discussed how it works. She stated that if there are multiple students looking for a class, then more blocks would run. It also depends on the level of the class.

Robert Hiscox stated he would like to get the figures earlier and look at offering courses every other year. Dana Mulligan noted we do offer some that way already, i.e., International Business, and that some classes get combined. Arnold Frank noted we will be developing a rotating schedule.

*Sheryl Feducia arrived at 6:45 p.m.*

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to reduce the budget by \$27,850 via elimination of \$14,000 for lockers at LRMS, \$1,850 for a digital piano, and \$12,000 for the WRHS building control upgrade.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

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There was discussion about postponing the WRHS building control upgrade and addressing the lockers at some point.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robin Wright to reduce the technology budget by \$9,618 (\$5,000, \$2,493, and \$2,125 respectively).

**ALL IN FAVOR** **12-075**

Robert Hiscox asked what the impact would be by reducing the technology budget by 5 to 10 percent.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Wendy Oliveira to eliminate the purchase of student planners for LRMS at a cost of \$4,250.

**ALL IN FAVOR** **12-076**

It was noted that the PTO will cover the cost of the planners.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robin Wright to reduce the local control by \$25,835. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-077**

This reduction in local control was due to using projected enrollment figures for 2012-2013, less Pre-K enrollment figures, vs. our current enrollment numbers for 2011-2012.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Wendy Oliveira to hire five permanent substitute teachers at 180 days x \$65/per day for a savings of \$2,715 per substitute for a total savings of \$13,575 for the school year.

**ALL IN FAVOR** **12-078**

It was noted that a savings is gained versus paying \$80.00 per day for non-permanent substitutes.

*Hugh Potter arrived at 7:05 p.m.*

Tim James discussed voluntary early retirement. He noted a couple of teachers may be interested, and he suggests we count on four at an average savings of \$15,000 (premium) x 4 for a total of \$60,000.

A motion was started but then rescinded to adjust the budget by approximately \$60,000 for 4 early retirements pending receipt of letters on April 9, 2012. Sheryl Feducia put the motion on the table, but it was not seconded.

ALIO training was discussed and Tim James thinks more traditional staff development would save money in the ballpark of \$17,000. Technical support for ALIO, offered by Computer Management Technology (CMT), can be cut \$3,500, and a \$1,800 item, associated with the cost for an ALIO conference, can be eliminated for a total reduction of \$5,300.

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APR 9 2012

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A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to reduce the training budget by \$5,300.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**12-079**

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to eliminate two part-time custodian positions at a savings of \$24,600.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**12-080**

The above motion involves no layoffs. It will be a re-deployment of staff.

There was some discussion regarding periodical subscription costs.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to reduce the periodicals line item by \$2,500.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**12-081**

Arnold Frank discussed student parking money raised by junior and senior students who drive to school. This money is used to defray prom costs. Hugh Potter added that, in years of a surplus, it was the Board's pleasure to give some or all parking fees to the class. However, with no surplus, we don't know where we stand. Priscilla noted that parking money is generated by the kids in this school and should be given back. This will be discussed at a regular board meeting.

There was a discussion on graduation expenses. It was decided that Board members did not require caps and gowns. No decision was made on this, but the line item for graduation expenses, in general, was reviewed.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to reduce the graduation expense line item by \$4,000.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**12-082**

There was discussion regarding liability and auto insurance. It was noted we can look at alternative insurance suppliers and/or change our deductible. Hugh Potter noted we are in the shared risk pool and will be getting \$13,000 on July 1, which was unanticipated.

*The Board adjourned for a 15-minute break at 8:05 p.m. and resumed at 8:20 p.m.*

There was discussion regarding our telephone service. Hugh Potter noted costs are going up and would like to give Bruce Bartmess an opportunity to discuss this. We are billed monthly. The KACE line item (a software item) was discussed and will be moved from the telephone to the technology line item. It was decided there would be no cut at this time. Alternative phone costs can be looked at in the future.

There was much discussion about special education transportation. Education Connection charges \$100 less per bus and can save the district about \$75,000. Priscilla Cretella noted we had bad experiences with other bus companies and is very leery about changing the vendor, especially with special education transportation. Hugh Potter will put information

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APR / 9 2012

together. Priscilla noted it's important to know about the bus routes, stops and changes. We would need to see a sample contract.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to reduce the curriculum improvement line item by \$10,000 budgeted for presenters for teacher professional days. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-083**

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to remove \$10,000 in Revision Learning. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-084**

Donna Cullen noted that the dollar amount of \$38,000 for the Readers' and Writers' Workshop Program, based on 2011/2012, needs to be looked at to see if we can make any cuts for the next year's budget.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to reduce the KACE (software) renewal line item by \$10,000. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-085**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to reduce the WRHS athletic department local control by \$5,000. **ALL IN FAVOR, EXCEPT** Wendy Oliveira and William Fredericks, who **OPPOSED**. **12-086**

Robert Hiscox asked if an effort is made to buy from local vendors vs. catalogs. We work with Blanchette's and Triple Stitch to maintain quality.

Hugh Potter reported that the Chevy truck has been repaired, has a plow, and a sander can be added to it. The dump truck is in disrepair and can be sold at auction. We can remove \$15,000 budgeted for a new vehicle because the repaired Chevy can be used rather than purchase a new vehicle.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to reduce the Vehicle Operation and Maintenance budget by \$15,000. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-087**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to reduce the A-V supplies budget by \$5,000 by reducing LCD projector replacements. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-088**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to reduce the Purchase of Professional & Technical Services budget (elevator maintenance agreement) by \$5,000. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-089**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to go into Executive Session at 9:12 p.m. to include, Tim James, Arnold Frank, Dana Mulligan, and Business Staff to discuss personnel and collective bargaining issues. **ALL IN FAVOR**

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APR 9 2012

*The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:43 p.m.*

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Bill Fredericks to eliminate a .6 FTE English teaching position (\$26,883) at Woodland Regional High School. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-091**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robin Wright to eliminate a .5 FTE Music teaching position (\$34,324) at Woodland Regional High School. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-092**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Wendy Oliveira to eliminate a .4 FTE Social Studies teaching position (\$19,682) at Woodland Regional High School. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-093**

It is expected that the Superintendent will recommend further budget reductions at the April 11, 2012, Public Hearing at Long River Middle School.

A MOTION was made by Robin Wright and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to set the 2012-2013 proposed budget at \$37,497,005, an increase of 1.98% compared to the 2011-2012 budget. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-094**

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Wendy Oliveira to adjourn the April 2, 2012, Special Board of Education Meeting at 10:58 p.m. **ALL IN FAVOR** **12-095**

Wendy Oliveira,

Board Secretary

*These minutes are subject to Board approval,  
Tamara Krasnicki, Acting Board Clerk*

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