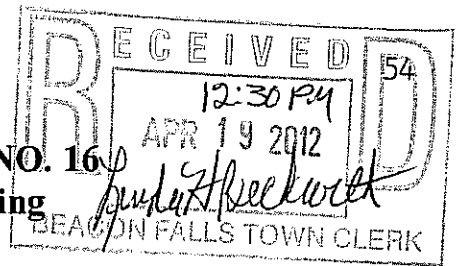


REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Special Board of Education Meeting
April 10, 2012



BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

EXHIBIT

I

Beacon Falls... Priscilla Cretella
Sheryl Feducia
William Fredericks (6:00 p.m.)
Wendy Oliveira

Prospect... Robert Hiscox
Nazih Noujaim
Robin Wright

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
Brian Fell – Asst. Prin./Athletic Director
Jayne Lanphear, Principal-LRMS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Priscilla Cretella at 5:33 p.m. at Woodland Regional High School, Beacon Falls, CT.

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 meeting to discuss the budget. Mr. James thanked Bill Stowell for coming in to assist with the figures. He said two letters for early retirement have been received as of today. The deadline is tomorrow. Mr. Stowell said that \$500,000 is being carried over from two large accounts -- \$214,000 for medical insurance and a total of \$286,000 from various accounts. Also are the following decreases netting \$141,062:

- Electricity savings from Constellation Electric of \$100,000,
- Health insurance decrease of 1% in rate from 3.64 to 2.64 of \$20,000, and
- Transportation decrease of \$55,386.

Special education transportation was discussed with a bid from Education Connection for a possible savings of \$62,000 savings. All-Star was called to discuss the existing

contract for possible savings. Mr. Potter reported that All-Star has offered to freeze the existing contract at current rates through next year. The current contract with All-Star expires 2014. Mr. Dufour of All-Star suggested extending the contract through 2017. Through the price freeze for next year and with a contract extension, the increase of about \$55,000 can be absorbed next year and then spread out over four years. With the lease-to-own option for the buses ending in 2015, the buses would be sold to All-Star for an estimate of \$80,000.

Ms. Cretella stated that the reduction of the .5 FTE music teaching position was focused on electives and declining enrollment netting a savings of \$34,324. This has caused tremendous concern. This has been discussed with the administrative team and felt the Board needs to investigate fully the district-wide music programs. Ms. Cretella stated she is in favor of restoring the .5 music teaching position until Mr. James can complete an investigation. She also said that this reduction was never intended to eliminate the band—it was to be a change in staffing. All of these decisions are not being made lightly.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to restore the budget amount of \$34,324 for the .5 FTE music position at WRHS and to give the superintendent time to assess the entire music program.

ALL IN FAVOR

12-096

Mr. James said this now nets out a \$141,062 reduction including transportation and with the \$34,324 being added back in.

In further discussing the transportation budget, All-Star offered to freeze their rates for next year at this year's rate (\$261.80 for Type I and \$251.80 for Type II); the deferred \$55,386 increase can then be spread across the 4 year extension at a rate of about \$13,800 per year. Also, using funds from the bus buyout under our lease to own program can offset the increase ($\$80,000 \div 4 = \$20,000$ per year less the approximate \$13,800 per year for four years).

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to defer the bus transportation increase of \$55,386 for the 2012-13 budget and spread it out over four years in the new contract. **ALL IN FAVOR**

12-097

Mr. Potter stated that with the \$500,000 carryover and town formula, Beacon Falls's net cost is \$9,550,566 and Prospect's net cost is \$15,549,457 using the ECS numbers from last year. This equates to a \$650,231 increase for Prospect or 4.36% change from 2011-12; and a \$282,718 increase for Beacon Falls or 3.05% change. This brings the total budget to an increase of 1.598%.

Mr. Hiscox asked about the cut of \$5500 from Brian Fell, Athletic Director, for supplies. Mr. Fell offered a way to reduce the savings by uniform rotation and possibly cutting an assistant swim coaching position. The Board was concerned with pool safety with the possibility of reducing a position. There are currently 14 boys and 27 girls in the swim

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program at WRHS. Mr. Fell can rotate uniforms for football - \$7,000, and soccer - \$2400; swapping these can save \$5,000 this year, which he will do. Mr. Hiscox asked how many coaches there are for each sport. Mr. Fell didn't have the exact number but said the coaching positions are all listed in the back of the teachers' contract.

Mr. Fredericks asked about the need for airhorns and asked that athletics budget wisely.

Ms. Cretella polled Board members as to voting at the District meeting or voting by referendum to approve the budget. The cost of a referendum will be confirmed by Mr. Potter.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to confirm the proposed 2012-2013 budget at a 1.598% increase and adjourn the April 10, 2012, Special Board of Education meeting at 6:42 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR

12-098

Wendy Oliveira,

Board Secretary

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

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