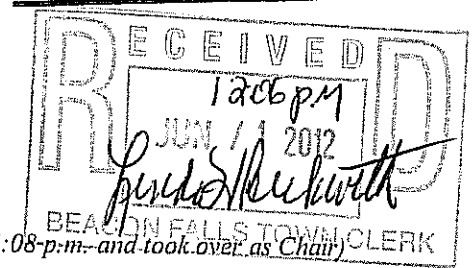


**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**May 23, 2012**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

*Beacon Falls...* Sheryl Feducia  
 William Fredericks  
 Wendy Oliveira

*Prospect...* Robert Hiscox  
 Nazih Noujaim  
 Donna Cullen (*arrived at 7:08-p.m. and took over as Chair*)

**EXHIBIT****I****STAFF MEMBER PRESENT:**

Tim James, Interim Superintendent  
 Hugh Potter, Business Manager (*arrived 7:10 p.m.*)  
 Sean Lewis, WRHS Music Teacher  
 Jayne Lanphear, Principal LRMS

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Stan Pilat, Chair Region 16 Building Committee

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Board Secretary Wendy Oliveira at 7:02 p.m. at Long River Middle School, Prospect, CT.

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

A roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of May 7, 2012, District Meeting (Ex. I)

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve the May 7, 2012, Board of Education Meeting minutes.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**12-130**

Minutes of May 9, 2012, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II)

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve the May 9, 2012, Board of Education Meeting minutes with the correction of deleting Robin Wright under Beacon Falls attendance and replace with Wendy Oliveira.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**12-131**

**VI. TOWN OFFICIAL COMMENT**

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dave Rybinski, Beacon Falls resident and a member of the Building Committee, asked for a clarification of the Building Committee members and alternates as far as voting, how meetings are run, what rules are used, majority of the voting members, etc. He wants to know how the Board would like the meetings conducted with regard to voting. There are nine voting members and seven alternates. Robert Hiscox stated that alternates could make motions. The Board attempted to balance the Committee membership with residents from both Beacon Falls and Prospect but couldn't get enough volunteers from Beacon Falls.

**VIII. CORRESPONDENCE****IX. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ms. Feducia reported as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 5/23/12:	\$785,628.61
Tonight's bills total:	367,609.13
General Fund:	274,205.81
Special Education Grants:	85,894.18
Adult Education:	0
Federal and State Grants:	7,509.14
Athletic Fund:	0
Construction Bills:	0

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

Ayah Galal reported *Woodland for Women Worldwide* had its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Run for a Revolution on May 19. Over 350 students, faculty, parents and community attended.

Mr. Tim Phipps will be hosting his Fourth Annual Veteran's Forum on May 25. WRHS students will interview six local veterans. Chris Shea, a WRHS graduate and veteran, will attend; and "A Life of Service", the Preserving Our History's documentary, will be shown.

In Student Government, the Student Council of WRHS held its annual food drive and donated to the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries.

The Humanities Department will be holding awards night on June 7. The CCSS alignment for freshman and sophomores for summer is choosing the curriculum writing. Sales for Contact magazine were excellent, and funds will be used for two scholarships.

The Math Department selected awards for Academic Awards Night for excellence in math, outstanding performance, exemplary work ethics, and math distinction. Exams were completed in AP Statistics and AP Calculus last week.

**XI. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS**

Mr. James stated that Ralph Riello of the Applied Technologies Department had two Digital Media 3 classes participate in the 2012 CT Student Innovation EXPO in Hartford.

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Over 2000 students competed in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics ) competition. Over 20 schools entered documentaries and B-Block took 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in its documentary, "Accessibility" about Nick Oliveira's experiences adapting to cerebral palsy.

Mr. James stated Zachary Bedryczyk, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Laurel Ledge, won for his grade and county in the 2012 CHET Dream Big Competition with his essay. Each winner receives a \$300 contribution to a CHET savings plan account.

## XII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

### A. Superintendent's Update

#### 1. WRHS Chorus trip to Wales.

Mr. James stated that the Chamber Choir has taken this trip every other year and that BOE approval is necessary for international travel of district students. Mr. Sean Lewis presented the program and stated that he taught in Wales. He said he expects up to 20 students and four adults plus the director to take the trip in April of 2013. The projected total is \$1,560 per person. They will be travelling between North Wales and South Wales. He is asking for approval to move forward and continue the planning.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to approve the April 2013 WRHS Chorus trip to Wales.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**12-132**

#### 2. Building Committee Update.

Mr. Stan Pilat stated that the elementary school projects are moving along within budget and timelines. The Laurel Ledge project is more difficult with changes that may require guidance from the Board. Costs are escalating for the District Office renovation at Algonquin. The Committee is now getting costs on demolishing Algonquin School and constructing a new building. Mr. Pilat wants the Board to review the facts and ask questions of the architect and engineering firm to give the Committee further direction. The overall cost now for a new District Office at Algonquin is \$3.2M. Mr. Hiscox explained that the costs have escalated on this project. Even after completion, there will be additional costs for maintenance and abatement. The Building Committee feels an obligation to the taxpayers to relook at this project and bring it back to the Board for other options such as constructing a new building on district-owned property. Algonquin could then be used for a future school, storage, etc. Mr. Noujaim has concerns about the costs of closing it up, demolishing it or renting it. The major concerns are the rising costs without replacing the roof and flooring. Mr. James noted the Committee's focus has been to preserve student programs. Mr. Potter commented that, if the District Office was built on the New Haven Road site, we could get some state reimbursement.

Mr. Noujaim gave credit to Dave Rybinski for staying right on top of this.

Mr. Fredericks commented that at the time of the referendum the public didn't want to see a new fancy office for the district. He also said that there are deed restrictions on the New Haven Road property that he would like to see released.

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A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to allow the Building Committee, in light of the changing costs to the Algonquin site and the current plans for the District Office, to explore additional alternatives that may include a stand-alone building and to report back to the Board of Education.  
**ALL IN FAVOR**

12-133

3. Readiness Program enrollment at LLS for 2012-2013 (possible action).  
 Mr. James handed out enrollment numbers which he detailed. Staff comments from parents were positive on the Readiness Program. Mr. James' recommendation is not to have the Readiness classes at all for 2012-13 at Algonquin and Laurel Ledge and add a Kindergarten section to accommodate those students. Sheryl Feducia explained that it is a tough balance between children born at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year. Donna Cullen stated the Readiness Program has already been offered to the parents and it would have to be explained to cancel. She is also concerned with the children that start behind and what the district is going to offer them. Mr. James said that parents need to decide whether their children start school enrolled in Kindergarten or take an additional year of pre-school. Wendy Oliveira's concern is that taking Readiness and then Kindergarten is like two years of Kindergarten. She said that parents do not understand what Readiness is. Sheryl Feducia said every parent has to weigh their own child's ability. Mr. James said this will be coming up under the governor's proposal of universal preschool. Nazih Noujaim said that children in Lebanon are in school at 3 ½ years old for a full day and reading. Discussion ensued about moving away from a Readiness Program, but leaving it in for this coming year since it was already offered to parents.

A MOTION was made by William Fredericks and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to accept the recommendation of removing the readiness program and communicate with parents and teachers about additional resources they need.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

12-134

4. World Language at LRMS for 2012-2013 (possible action).  
 Mr. James stated there is a group meeting shortly on K-12 World Language with a report back to the Board. Jayne Lanphear, Principal of Long River Middle School, explained World Language curriculum at the middle school. She stated that retiring teacher Mrs. Hiscox is dual certified to teach French and Spanish. Enrollments are declining each year. A letter will go out to parents to ask which language students would like to consider. CMT scores are looked at to choose students and develop class sizes. Mandarin Chinese has also been considered. Mrs. Lanphear is asking the Board whether to offer languages for 7<sup>th</sup> graders and whether to seek another dual-certified teacher. Mr. James cautions the Board about employing a new teacher at the middle school until we know what direction the department will be going. Mrs. Cullen stated that looking at a different language for next year could not happen as it is not in the budget. Mr. Noujaim said students may not be enrolling due to the exploratory language classes being eliminated. He also feels speaking a second language is very important. He would like to see the exploratory language program brought back. Mr. James asked how the Board felt to offer French in 2012-13 for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Donna Cullen felt there needs to be research completed and tonight is not the time to make a decision on this. She asked to table this item. Ayah Galal stated keeping the languages for 7<sup>th</sup> grade was beneficial to students wanting to advance on

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a post-high school level and, if eligible, become a member of the Foreign Language Honor Society. At this writing, French will still be offered at LRMS for the 2012-2013 school year.

1. Senior Project proposal - soundproof room. Tabled.

B. Action Items

1. Act on final approval of District Office specifications.  
Mr. James recommended approving the specifications which can still be amended in the future for inclusion in the EDO49 application.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to accept the ed specs with the caveat that there may be changes in size or scope made in the future. **ALL IN FAVOR** 12-135

2. Second reading of revised policy 5125 *Student Records: Confidentially (FERPA)*.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Wendy Oliveira to accept the second reading of revised policy 5125 *Student Records: Confidentially (FERPA)*. **ALL IN FAVOR** 12-136

3. First reading of policy 3524.2 *Green Cleaning Program*.

Mr. James stated that the list of products used by the district are in compliance with state regulations.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to accept the first reading of policy 3524.2 *Green Cleaning Program* but not to include Attachment A. Mr. William Fredericks stated the list of products is not accurate and that there are other products on the market that have the proper ingredients to be included.

**ALL IN FAVOR, except William Fredericks who OPPOSED.** 12-137

4. First reading of revised policy/new regulation 6161.1 *Selection of Learning Resource Materials*. Superintendent James felt this needed upgrading.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Wendy Oliveira to approve the first reading of revised policy/new regulation 6161.1 *Selection of Learning Resource Materials*. **ALL IN FAVOR** 12-138

5. First reading of policy 9160 *Student Representatives on the Board of Education*.

Mr. James looked into the current procedure but saw that there was no written policy. He incorporated the selection procedure into his policy. There should be a change to two-year terms instead of one-year terms. He also changed the presentation format to be given by the student representatives' choice.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve the first reading of policy 9160 *Student Representatives on the Board of Education*. **ALL IN FAVOR**

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6. Act on teacher's request for extended unpaid leave beyond FMLA (J. Murdy).  
Mr. James stated there is a request for an extended leave in the packets from Janine Murdy.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to approve the extended unpaid leave beyond the FMLA for Janine Murdy.

**ALL IN FAVOR**

**12-140**

7. Accept teacher's letter of retirement at end of 2011-2012 school year (J. Lawlor).  
Mr. James stated Janet Lawlor has worked for the district 27 years.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to accept the retirement of Janet Lawlor by taking the Voluntary Retirement Plan at the end of 2011-2012. **ALL IN FAVOR**

**12-141**

8. Accept teacher's letter of retirement at end of 2011-2012 school year. (N. Vander Eyk).  
Mr. James said Nancy Vander Eyk has worked for the district 43 years.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to accept the retirement of Nancy-Lou Vander Eyk at the end of 2011-2012 by taking the Voluntary Retirement Plan. **ALL IN FAVOR**

**12-142**

9. Accept teacher's letter of retirement at end of 2011-2012 school year (M. Hiscox).  
Mr. James stated that Madeleine Hiscox has worked for the district for 25 years.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to accept the retirement of Madeleine Hiscox at the end of 2011-2012 by taking the Voluntary Retirement Plan.

**ALL IN FAVOR, except Robert Hiscox who abstained.**

**12-143**

C. Business Manager's Report

Mr. Potter asked to change the Board of Education meeting from June 13 to June 6 because of a conflict with another event that many of the Board members would be attending. The Board was in agreement to change the regular board meeting from June 13 to June 6 as a special meeting at WRHS.

There was discussion that the Building Committee be put on the next agenda.

Mr. Potter stated that this year four Region 16 students were enrolled in the ACES ECA (Education Center for the Arts) Program, but two dropped out after the first semester. Tuition is based on enrollment as of October 1<sup>st</sup> and paid for the full year with no refunds for early drop outs. Donna Cullen stated that parents should be aware of the deadline for the tuition to be paid.

Mr. Potter requested an AP Biology summer materials request of \$199.50. All purchases this year were cut off in mid-April. This money would come from the carryover of 2011-12. The Board was in agreement.

He stated that an appraisal is coming on the home on Highland Avenue in Beacon Falls.

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Mr. Potter stated the judgment against Mr. Piccarello for \$3,400 cannot be secured as he has dissolved his business and assets. The attorney recommends not pursuing this further.

Mr. Hiscox wants to find out what it costs to run the outside athletic field lights. Mr. Potter will report back on costs.

D. Old Business

E. New Business

Donna Cullen found out that teachers and students volunteer to assist AP events only if the buildings are already open on weekends. She would like the schools to be available.

Mr. Potter stated that use of school buildings, police, custodians, electricity is being paid by the district when there are fundraising events held at the schools with no revenue coming back to the district.

Ms. Oliveira said that supplies such as in bathrooms are being used at these events. The Board felt this needs to be looked into further after much discussion.

F. Information Items (discussion with possible action)

G. Enrollment

Ms. Cullen asked to add an Executive session for a personnel matter to include Superintendent James.

### XIII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Personnel and Negotiations Committee
2. Facilities and Transportation Committee
3. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Hiscox said a parent told him her student could only accomplish calculus by using a calculator after graduating from WRHS. Ms. Cullen responded that students are taught to use calculators and perform problem solving with and without the use of calculators.

4. Policy Committee
5. Public Communications
6. Technology Committee

Mr. Noujaim said a meeting took place tonight and discussed PowerSchool software being added in the future.

7. Recognition Committee

Mr. James said letters have been written for the Board for the balance of this year. Mr. Noujaim recognized the Community School Choir who sang the National Anthem at the Rock Cats game on May 6, 2012.

8. Liaisons
  - a. Schools

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LRMS graduation is set for June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. with rain date of June 19.  
Woodland High School graduation will be held on June 20, 2012.

- b. Wellness Committee
- c. Professional Development Committee  
Planning for August 28.
- d. Prevention Task Force
- e. Curriculum Council

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Wendy Oliveira to go into Executive Session at 9:26 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter to include Superintendent James. **ALL IN FAVOR** 12-144

*The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:59 p.m.*

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Bill Fredericks to continue the Board of Education meeting beyond 10:00 p.m.  
**ALL IN FAVOR** 12-145

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Bill Fredericks to go back into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter to include Superintendent Tim James. **ALL IN FAVOR** 12-146

*The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:29 p.m.*

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Bill Fredericks to adjourn the May 23, 2012, Board of Education meeting at 10:30 p.m.  
**ALL IN FAVOR** 12-147

Wendy Oliveira,

Board Secretary

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

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