

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**October 28, 2015**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

		<u>Weighted Vote Per Member</u>
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Priscilla Cretella	.7
	Christine Arnold	.7
	Sheryl Feducia	.7
	David Rybinski	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Daisy Laone	1.3
	Roxann Vaillancourt	1.3
	Robert Hiscox	1.3

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Yamin, Superintendent of Schools  
Pamela Mangini, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations  
Jayne Lanphear, Principal Long River Middle School  
Shelly McNulty, Assistant Dir. of SPED/Pupil Personnel Svcs.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Education meeting was called to order by Robert Hiscox at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at Long River Middle School, Prospect, CT.

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

**III. RECORD OF MEMBERS PRESENT**

A roll was taken. A quorum was present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of October 14, 2015, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to approve the minutes of October 14, 2015 Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I) with the following correction: add to Director of Finance and Business Operations Report, Mr. Hiscox's question about over expenditures at Laurel Ledge with regards to construction and how we would get the additional funds if it goes over.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7) **15-258**

Minutes of October 20, 2015, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II)

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to approve the minutes of October 20, 2015 Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II).

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7) **15-259**

## **V. TOWN OFFICIAL COMMENT**

Mayor Robert Chatfield, Town of Prospect, spoke of the town's intention and reasons for wanting to take Community School back. Mr. Chatfield also stated that the longer it stays empty the worse off both towns are. Mr. Chatfield expressed the town's interest to purchase and move forward.

First Selectman Christopher Bielik, Town of Beacon Falls, acknowledged that he was at the last Board of Education meeting requesting for the Board not to move forward with the purchase until both towns met collaboratively. Mr. Bielik reported feeling that his request was ignored. He also stated that he felt that the Board made a decision with incomplete information regarding whether the offer was fair and equitable. Mr. Bielik read a letter to the Board from Mr. Donald Sheehy. This letter provided additional information regarding his appraisal of the school in "As Is" Market Value Condition. Again, Mr. Bielik pleaded with the Board to take no action on the sale of Community School if the Board is interested in doing what is fair and equitable.

Thomas Galvin, Chair of the Prospect Town Council, welcomed Ms. Laone to the Board. Mr. Galvin also stated that he felt that the town's offer of \$783,350 was fair. He stated that the town increased their original offer by \$90,000 in order to meet the asking price of \$873,000. Mr. Galvin feels it is critical that the sale moves forward so that the repairs can begin.

Joe Rodrigo, Beacon Falls Board of Finance, Town of Beacon Falls, asked for the Board to take no action because of the lack of experience in real estate among the Board.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ed Groth, Beacon Falls resident, feels that subtracting monies for additional repairs is unfair. He feels that Board members came up with asking prices based on what they felt was fair and then averaged the totals. Mr. Groth feels that because the Board members are unlicensed that this method and asking price was inadequate. Mr. Groth also questioned why the property was not offered in open market.

Brian Ploss, resident of Beacon Falls and also a member of the Beacon Falls Board of Finance, reported feeling totally disgusted with both town Boards. Mr. Ploss feels the Board has mismanaged things and questioned the checks and balances. Mr. Ploss feels that the Board does not address questions that are asked and that there is no honor on the Board. Mr. Ploss provided the clerk with a document with questions which was later provided to Mr. Yamin.

Dino Verelli, resident of Beacon Falls, presented four facts and a request to the Board. His facts regarded: the surplus, the sale of Community School, cost spent per pupil and the closure of United Day School, which he called improper. Mr. Verelli reported that he has started a petition to ask that Beacon Falls members of the Board resign. He stated that he has 150 signatures and would have 1,000 by the next meeting. Mr. Verelli feels that the Board has failed the Region.

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Yamin included the following items in as correspondence.

1. Thank you email from parent regarding UDS and emergency dismissal.
2. Email from parent re: LRMS cross country team/coaches.
3. Letter from CASBO re: Pam Mangini
4. Invitation for retirement get-together for Marie Kluge
5. Letter from First Selectman Christopher Bielik re: Community School property.

**VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Ms. Feducia read through the Treasurer’s Report:

Balance in General Fund as of 10/28/15:	\$6,027,175.03
Tonight’s invoices total:	\$1,923,143.48
General Fund:	\$1,067,616.99
Federal and State Grants:	\$19,029.51
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$0.00
School Construction Payments:	\$836,496.98
Balance of School Construction Project:	\$1,114,831.91

**IX. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**

Ms. Witkoski shared the report with the Board highlighting some important information regarding the Departments at WRHS, Clubs, and Student Council.

**X. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS**

**XI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

A. Superintendent’s Update

1. Bussing

The contract is good until June 2017. It was reported that busses are arriving late at the elementary and middle school level but that is not due to the number of busses rather it is the amount of time it takes to get from town to town. Times have been improved but not rectified. This will continue to be monitored and revisited every two weeks.

2. Use of Facilities report update

Mr. Yamin provided the board with a document labeled Region 16 Facility Use. The document details the Organization using the Facility and Payments/Outstanding Amounts etc. Another report will be provided in April 2016.

3. Audit Update

Mrs. Mangini updated the Board regarding the Audit for the 2015 Fiscal Year. Unspent bond proceeds have been identified. After speaking with bond counsel, it was noted that it is a prudent practice to retain a small amount of funding from a capital project until the final closeout. As a result of the changes in the state office overseeing construction projections, the final closeout took considerable time to complete. At this point, since these funds represent a “De Minimis” amount, the District may utilize these funds to pay

down existing debt. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Board approve the use of these funds totaling, \$213,454 to pay the cost of existing debt for Community School in the amount of \$78,110, which is required per IRS regulations prior to the sale of the school, and to use the balance of \$135,344 against the remaining bond principal and interest payments due in the 2015-2016 school year.

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to add Action Item 3, Use of Fund Balance reserve for capital projects and retirement of long term-debt, to the agenda.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7) **15-260**

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to add Action Item 4, Water Service Installation quote, to the agenda.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7) **15-261**

**B. Action Items**

**1. Act on purchase of Community School**

Mr. Hiscox reported that the attorneys have been consulted with ensuring that the Board is executing properly. A discussion ensued in which Ms. Cretella asked that this motion be tabled since there is information that some pieces of information were missing. Mrs. Feducia asked if there was a legal issue that this price can be challenged, and would an extended time frame benefit both parties. Mr. Hiscox reported that the vote would go back to the towns.

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Daisy Laone to approve the purchase of Community School by the Town of Prospect for \$873,000.

*Priscilla Cretella and David Rybinski both left the meeting at 7:48 p.m., and did not participate in this vote or any business that followed.*

**VOTE ON THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR:**

**IN FAVOR:** Robert Hiscox, Roxann Vaillancourt, Daisy Laone.

**ABSTAINED:** Christine Arnold, Sheryl Feducia

**MOTION PASSES** (weighted vote totals 3.9, with a quorum of 5 members) **15-262**

**2. Act to appoint Shelly McNulty to position of Director of Special Education.**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to appoint Shelly McNulty as Director of Special Education.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.3) **15-263**

**3. Act to approve the Use of Fund Balance reserve for capital projects and retirement of long term-debt.**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to Approve the Use of Fund Balance reserve for capital projects and retirement of long

term-debt in the amount of \$213,454 to pay the cost of existing debt for Community School in the amount of \$78,110 as required by IRS regulations prior to the sale of the school, and to use the balance of \$135,344 against the remaining bond principal and interest payments due in the 2015-2016 Budget.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.3)

**15-264**

4. Act to approve Water Service Installation quote

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve the quote for Water Service Installation in the amount of \$16,156 noting that if the quote comes in at a lower price it will be accepted.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.3)

**15-265**

C. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mrs. Mangini shared the Budget Procedural Manual with the Board.

D. Old Business

1. United Day change at PES and LLES concerning early dismissal. An amendment was included for the Board to allow United Day to remain open on emergency early dismissal days or delayed opening at the discretion of the Superintendent.

E. New Business

Ms. Feducia commented that as a Board member and resident of Beacon Falls for the past 16 years she stands behind her decisions and that she votes based on what is best for the Region.

F. Items to be discussed at future BOE meetings

This section was added as bookmark for items to be discussed in the future.

G. Information Items

CABE Convention November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Mr. Yamin invited the Student Representatives to this convention.

A MOTION was made by Christine Arnold and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to cancel the November 4, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.3)

**15-266**

## **XII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

1. Personnel and Negotiations Committee

Next negotiation meetings for teachers' contract: 10/29, 11/9, 11/16, & 12/2/2015 at LRMS.

2. Facilities and Transportation Committee

3. Curriculum Committee

Meeting was held at last meeting.

4. Policy Committee

Meeting at 5:45 p.m. on 11/18/15 at LRMS.

5. Public Communications  
Update Budget Calendar with current info, and upload to the Region 16 website.
6. Technology Committee  
Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on 11/18/15 at LRMS.
7. Recognition Committee
8. Liaisons
9. a. Schools  
b. Wellness Committee.  
c. Professional Development Committee  
d. 2COM  
Region 16 schools to host a yearly event/ongoing event to build/foster a collaborative community.

A MOTION was made at 8:12 p.m. by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to move to Executive Session, to include Superintendent Yamin, Mrs. Jayne Lanphear and Mrs. Shelly McNulty, to discuss personnel.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.3)

**15-267**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Daisy Laone to accept the letter of retirement from Jayne Lanphear, Principal LRMS, effective December 1, 2015, with the stipulation that Mrs. Lanphear be allowed to work (after 12/1/15) on a per diem basis, at the discretion of the Superintendent, at least twice per week until September 1, 2016. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.3)

**15-268**

The Board directed Superintendent Yamin to assign appropriate certified personnel to Interim positions, as needed.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Sheryl Feducia and SECONDED by Roxy Vaillancourt to adjourn the October 28, 2015 Board of Education meeting at 8:34 p.m.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.3)

**15-269**

Nazih Noujaim,

Board Secretary

*These minutes are subject to Board approval,  
Kelly Blum, Board Clerk*