

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

		<u>Weighted Vote Per Member</u>
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Christine Arnold	.7
	Sheryl Feducia	.7
	Priscilla Cretella	.7
	David Rybinski	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Daisy Laone	1.3
	Nazih Noujaim	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  
Mike Ceresa, Director of Facilities

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Education meeting was called to order by Sheryl Feducia at 7:02 p.m.in the Media Center at Woodland Regional High School, Beacon Falls, CT.

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

**III. RECORD OF MEMBERS PRESENT**

A roll was taken and a quorum was present.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of November 18, 2015, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the minutes of November 18, 2015 Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

**ALL IN FAVOR**, except Daisy Laone who abstained.

(weighted vote totals 7.3)

**15-282**

**V. TOWN OFFICIAL COMMENT**

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Hany Abraham, resident of Prospect, CT, addressed the Board regarding recent and historic bullying that his sons have experienced. Mr. Abraham gave details regarding an incident on 12/4/15. Mr. Abraham is seeking a corrective action plan.

Paul Cummings, resident of Beacon Falls, spoke about three items. Mr. Cummings suggested more information be put in the minutes for the public who cannot attend. Mr. Cummings, a

veteran, shared his opinion that Veteran’s Day should remain a day that schools are not in session. Lastly, he spoke positively of the high school Drama Club’s performance.

Before moving to the rest of the agenda, Chair Sheryl Feducia read a statement from the Region’s attorney, Jessica Ritter of Shipman and Goodwin. This statement was regarding Region 16’s policies and procedures regarding how they handle students being treated inappropriately.

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Rep. Zupkus’ letters to and from CT State DOT re speed limits in front of PES.  
Included in Board Packet.
2. Letter from Superintendent Yamin to parents re building projects update.  
Mr. Yamin sent a letter to Region 16 parents and community members regarding the progress of the building projects. This letter also addressed milestones achieved and future milestones.

Mr. Yamin also shared a note from a parent thanking the Region for keeping kids safe.

**VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Mr. Noujaim read the treasurer’s report as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 12/16/15:	\$6,431,638.04
Tonight’s invoices total:	\$2,895,119.89
General Fund:	\$2,148,288.05
Federal and State Grants:	\$10,238.22
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$2,290.30
School Construction Payments:	\$734,303.32
Balance of School Construction Project:	\$3,231,567.10

**IX. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT (Anna Witkowski, Donovan White)**

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**

The students in WRHS’s Drama Club were recognized for their performance of *Sound of Music* under the direction of Drama Production Coordinator, Ms. Susan Cinoman.

**XI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**A. Superintendent’s Update**

1. Outside lighting at schools update. (Mike Ceresa)  
Mr. Yamin included his suggestions in the Board’s packet, and Mr. Ceresa presented data to the Board regarding overall reduction in cost due to using LED lights. Mr. Rybinski felt it was unnecessary to have all lights on at the schools all night. Mr. Rybinski was told that might be the way they were designed, however, it will be investigated further.

2. Community School Update

Mr. Yamin stated that the sale is still in negotiations with the Town of Prospect. Ms. Cretella asked how long the legal end would take. Mr. Yamin will ask what the options are in obtaining a timetable for moving forward. Mr. Hiscox asked whether voting will still be held at Community School to which the reply was affirmative. If need be, the voting location can be moved. It was also noted that maintenance will walk the building once per week to ensure there are no problems.

3. Budget calendar

Mr. Yamin included a copy of the budget calendar in the Board's packet and went over the upcoming dates.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by David Rybinski to add the adoption of Applied Instrumental Study course at WRHS to the agenda as action item #5. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **15-283**

**B. Action Items**

1. Second reading on new policy/regulation #5122.3 *Assignment of Home-Schooled Students to Classes.*

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by David Rybinski to approve the second reading on new policy/regulation #5122.3 *Assignment of Home-Schooled Students to Classes* reflecting the one change on regulation page (c): eligibility to be valedictorian/ salutatorian requires enrollment in Region 16 for at least three years. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **15-284**

2. Second reading of revised policy #5141.5 *Suicide Prevention.*

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve the second reading of revised policy #5141.5 *Suicide Prevention.* **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **15-285**

3. Act to accept teacher's letter of resignation. (Cecelia Dias)

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to accept the resignation letter of Cecelia Dias, first grade teacher at LLES, effective January 5, 2016. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **15-286**

4. Act on adoption of new course at WRHS for 2016-2017: SAT Prep

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by David Rybinski to adopt new course at WRHS for 2016-2017: SAT Prep. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **15-287**

Mr. Yamin relayed that there were two changes from the original proposal based on the decisions at the Curriculum Committee Meeting. If students score above 530 on the Math and 530 on the Verbal on the PSATs, they can test out of the SAT Prep Course.

If students score below a 530 in Math or Verbal on the PSATs in their sophomore year, then the SAT Prep course would be a mandatory requirement in their junior year.

5. Act to adopt proposed music course description in 2016-2017 for WRHS:  
Applied Instrumental Study.

This course description would replace former course descriptions: Music Exploration Through Classical Guitar 1 and Music Exploration Through Piano Keyboarding 1.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by David Rybinski to adopt the new music course description at WRHS: Applied Instrumental Study for 2016-2017.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0)

**15-288**

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to add to the agenda to hire a new certified employee as Action Item #6.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0)

**15-289**

6. Act to hire new certified employee (Chelsea Schmidt)

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to hire Chelsea Schmidt as a 1.0 FTE First Grade Teacher at Laurel Ledge Elementary School at a MA, Step 3, \$49,303 pro-rated (for 2015-2016, effective 12/22/15).

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0)

**15-290**

**C. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report**

Mrs. Mangini gave the Director's Update to the Board. She stated the District's annual audit is wrapping up, and it is expected to be ready to present to the BOE in January. A credit rating review will take place on Friday for the upcoming bond issuance.

Mrs. Mangini informed the Board that the State Department of Labor explained that, in light of the construction project at Laurel Ledge Elementary School which included a roof replacement, the state views replacing the gutters and soffits as incidental to the project per CT state statute. Accordingly, the employees that worked on this job need to be made whole based upon the required and legally-binding Prevailing Wage Rate, its law and its requirements. Region 16 is responsible for the additional cost in the amount of \$37,028 for this work. We will use funding from the current projected year-end balance in the Facilities Budget to cover this cost.

Lastly, a one-time charge to Fibertech in the amount of \$21,500 for the fiber connection in the new District Office that will provide connectivity to the rest of the district is needed. Mrs. Mangini explained that when the change to the District Office was made and the Algonquin School building was demolished, it created a change in the path that the fiber could take into the new building. As a result, relocation to a different pole became necessary. Although we have an option of paying the cost monthly over the next 12 years (which will ultimately total \$43,200), it was determined it would be more prudent to pay the \$21,500 cost now which will come from a savings identified in the Technology Budget. Mr. Rybinski wanted to know why it wasn't included in the original price; he was told it was not part of the original specs.

**D. Old Business** (with possible action)

1. Discussion on 2016-2017 school calendar presently being addressed with regards to Veteran's Day input and union contracts.

Mr. Yamin said he reached out to the VFW and American Legion to gather opinions about school being in session on Veteran's Day. Mr. Yamin stated he had positive conversations and will have an update at the next meeting.

**E. New Business**

***Executive Session:***

- a. Discussion concerning an attorney-client privileged communication regarding a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) matter.
- b. Non-meeting to discuss collective bargaining strategy with Region 16's Education Association.

**F. Items to be discussed at future BOE meetings.**

The outdoor lights and Veteran's Day are topics to be revisited.

**G. Information Items (with possible action)**

Summer School guidelines were discussed.

**H. Enrollment** (Ex. II)

Included in the packet.

**XII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

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

A meeting was held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the District office. Costs of bathroom renovations are being researched. A minimum of three bids will be collected on each project.

3. Curriculum Committee

A meeting was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting is 1/27/16, 6:00 p.m., LRMS.

4. Policy Committee
5. Public Communications
6. Technology Committee
7. Recognition Committee
8. Liaisons

- a. Schools :

The STEM classes held at Long River on the past couple of Saturdays were reported as going very well.

- b. Wellness Committee
- c. Professional Development Committee

This Committee will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.

- d. 2COM

There will be a meeting on 12/17/15 at 1:00 p.m. at WRHS.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to move to Executive Session to include Jessica Ritter, Mr. Yamin and Mrs. Mangini at 8:06 p.m. to discuss an attorney-client privileged communique regarding a FOIA matter and a collective bargaining strategy.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0)

**15-291**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to adjourn the December 16, 2015, Board of Education meeting at 8:37 p.m.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0)

**15-292**

Christine Arnold,

Board Secretary

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