

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Board of Education Meeting
January 13, 2016

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | | <u>Weighted Vote Per Member</u> |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Beacon Falls...</i> | Christine Arnold | .7 |
| | Sheryl Feducia | .7 |
| | Priscilla Cretella <i>arrived at 7:10 p.m.</i> | .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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education meeting was called to order by Sheryl Feducia at 7:04 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 December 16, 2015, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by David Rybinski to approve the minutes of December 16, 2015, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **16-001**

Minutes of December 16, 2015, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II)

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by David Rybinski to approve the minutes of December 16, 2015, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II) with one correction to change the abstention vote of Daisy Laone on motion #15-282 to an "In Favor" vote making the vote total 8.0.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **16-002**

V. TOWN OFFICIAL COMMENT

Tom Galvin, of the Town Council of Prospect, stated that he was not thrilled with the terms of the deal, but Prospect will move forward with its intent to purchase Community School for \$873,000 and they are in the process of financing.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Hany Abraham, resident of Prospect, stated that he attended the last meeting and posed concerns and questions to the Board. Although he has received some feedback, he is still waiting for some of his questions to be answered.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT

Mr. Noujaim read the Treasurer’s Report as follows:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Balance in General Fund as of 1/13/16: | \$6,022,922.12 |
| Tonight’s invoices total: | \$2,564,335.58 |
| General Fund: | \$1,554,592.64 |
| Federal and State Grants: | \$150.00 |
| Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund: | \$580.17 |
| School Construction Payments: | \$1,009,012.77 |
| Balance of School Construction Project: | \$2,760,895.17 |

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

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

X. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS

Lieutenant Nelson Abarzua was recognized for his support in a WRHS assembly and his 2COM leadership role.

XI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Update

Before jumping into this regular report Mr. Yamin spoke of the survey that he distributed to Board members regarding leadership qualities they would want in a new administrator. This survey will be put up on Survey Monkey.

1. Audit 2014-2015. (Zackin, Zimyeski, Sullivan)

Mrs. Mangini introduced the auditors who went through specifics regarding the results of the audit and a review of financial statements. Mr. Keith Sullivan and Ms. Mandy Allen discussed the specifics and both clarified questions from the Board. No major issues were seen, and there were improvements regarding the cash reconciliations and timeliness of reports. Mrs. Tanguay was recognized for the help she provided.

Priscilla Cretella arrived at 7:10 p.m.

2. Outside lighting at Region 16 schools.

There was a follow up to the discussion from the previous meeting. The Facilities Committee of the Board will do a walkthrough of all the schools on January 22, 2016, and the conversation can continue there.

3. School calendar

A revised copy of the 2016-2017 calendar to consider was provided to the Board which included a change to the fall parent/teacher conferences to be held on October 20, 2016. This will be a non-school day for students and a full conference day for teachers, per the teachers' bargaining agreement for 2016-2019.

Regarding Veterans Day, it was reported that there were contractual issues which govern why this is a non-school day. Mr. Yamin recommended that the calendar for 2016-2017 will reflect "no school on Veterans Day". In the 2017-2018 year, if it is decided to have school in session on Veterans day, it will start then.

Mr. Hiscox commented that a note should be inserted at the bottom of the 2016-17 calendar addressing that any cancellations after the 23rd of June will result in days taken from the April vacation. Mr. Noujaim asked that the BOE approval date be added to each revised copy of the school calendar.

B. Action Items

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by David Rybinski to remove action item #5: "Act to hire new certified staff for 2015-2016 school year".

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

16-003

1. Act on approval of audit for 2014-2015 school year.

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the audit for 2014-2015 school year.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

16-004

Mr. Hiscox recommended that the student activity account balances be reviewed.

2. Act to approve the bargaining agreement between the Board of Education and the Region 16 Education Association, effective 8/15/2016-8/14/2019.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by David Rybinski to approve the bargaining agreement between the Board of Education and the Region 16 Education Association, effective 8/15/2016-8/14/2019.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

16-005

A handout was provided that reflected minor changes of stipends. Ms. Laone asked clarifying questions about the TAG program.

3. Act to adopt the 2016-2017 school calendar

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by David Rybinski to adopt the 2016-2017 revised school calendar with the added note that school cancellations after June 23rd will be subtracted from April vacation.

ALL IN FAVOR, except Priscilla Cretella, who abstained

(weighted vote totals 7.3)

16-006

4. Act to approve purchase of two Chevy Cargo vans.

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to trade in two existing vehicles toward the purchase of two new Chevy Cargo vans, the price not to exceed \$18,000, any lettering included.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

16-007

Ms. Cretella asked questions with regard to the use of the vehicles which Mr. Yamin clarified.

C. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mrs. Mangini highlighted the revenue memo sent to the Board. She also spoke about expenditure accounts. Mrs. Mangini assured the Board the Region always looks for ways to save money. She gave a summary of the 14-15 audit. Mrs. Mangini reported that the Region was recognized by Standard and Poor and assigned a AA rating for a stable outlook. She additionally reported that the bond sale was completed and resulted in a very competitive rate of 2.48%. This leaves the District with \$3.5 million outstanding in notes, most of which are expected to be paid with reimbursement from the security grant and the balance owed the District in anticipated progress payments.

Mr. Hiscox requested to put “moving 1% of the current budget into a capital non-recurring fund” on the next agenda.

D. Old Business

1. Building project

Mr. Yamin provided the Board with the most recent Budget Analysis as compared to the Referendum and reviewed it with the Board. Mr. Yamin also reported that the certificate of occupancy for the District Office is expected by March.

Ms. Cretella asked about the issue with the pipes which resulted in the loss of two school days at WRHS. This was discussed at the Facilities meeting prior to this meeting, and Mr. Ceresa provided some explanation. The exact cause was unclear, as even experts were unable to determine the cause. Ways for avoiding this in the future are being explored. It was made clear that the issue with the pump house needs to be resolved, and the pump house will need to be fully inspected. Mr. Hiscox stated that he would like to take money from the capital non-recurring fund to fix the issues here. Mr. Yamin reported he will move forward with investigating and a report to the Board will be provided.

E. New Business

F. Items to be discussed at future BOE meetings

The transfer of 1% of the current budget to a capital non-recurring fund.

G. Information Items (with possible action)

1. New revised Summer School 2016 Guidelines
A handout was provided to the Board.

XII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Personnel and Negotiations Committee
February 3, 2016 screening of applications for Principal at LRMS and February 16th for the first round of interviews.
2. Facilities and Transportation Committee
Meeting held previous to tonight's BOE meeting.
3. Curriculum Committee
Next meeting is January 27th, 6:00 p.m. at LRMS with a Full-Day Kindergarten presentation planned.
4. Policy Committee
5. Public Communications
6. Technology Committee
End of February will be Mr. Brennan's next presentation
7. Recognition Committee
The WRHS head coach for girls' basketball and the team captains will be invited to a Board meeting. The girls' basketball team presented flowers and donation for the coach of the Derby High School basketball team, whose spouse is seriously ill.
8. Liaisons
 - a. Schools
PES routine visit and tending to minor issues.
 - b. Wellness Committee
 - c. Professional Development Committee
Meetings continue to happen on every 4th Wednesday. Regina Murzak and Jeffery Haddad are the Chairs.
 - d. 2COM

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to adjourn the January 13, 2016, Board of Education meeting at 8:26 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

16-008

Christine Arnold,

Board Secretary

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