

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Board of Education Meeting
February 24, 2016

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

		Weighted Vote <u>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
	Robert Hiscox	1.3
	Roxann Vaillancourt	1.3

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Yamin, Superintendent of Schools
Pamela Mangini, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations
Barbara Peck, Curriculum Director
Michael Ceresa, Director of Facilities and Maintenance
Shelly McNulty, Director of Special Education & Pupil
Personnel Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education meeting was called to order by Sheryl Feducia at 7:04 p.m. in the Library 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 and a quorum was present.

The first hour of this meeting was devoted to discussion on the proposed 2016-2017 budget. Mr. Ceresa began with discussion of the Budget and Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Ceresa provided Board members with a Draft (working document) that outlined the standing of all facilities. All facilities were reported to be in good condition. The five-year Capital Improvement Plan was updated, and Mr. Ceresa stated that he felt a quality budget was submitted. Some specifics were discussed such as the crack seal at WRHS and lockers at LRMS. These items will be revisited and the cost can possibly be moved to the current budget.

Ms. McNulty shared a document and presented a PowerPoint to the Board regarding the Special Education budget. Ms. McNulty reported on the following; enrollment, tuition and transportation, budget history, department goals, compliance with IDEA, meaningful professional development, least restrictive environment opportunities, and the parent

support group. The hiring of a BCBA from within the Region will be looked into in the future.

A MOTION was made by David Rybinksi and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to move to the rest of the agenda with the notion of allowing additional members of the public to speak if they show up.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

16-023

Discussion of regular agenda began at 7:45 p.m.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of February 10, 2016, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to approve the minutes of February 10, 2016, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I) with the following addition under Town Official Comment: Priscilla Cretella reported a phone call from Beacon Falls Board of Finance member Joe Rodorigo. Mr. Rodorigo gave his thanks for the attendance of the meeting the night before and stated that he could not make it to that evening's meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

16-024

V. TOWN OFFICIAL COMMENT

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rayna Naclerio, resident of Beacon Falls, voiced her concern about the stipulation that the Superintendent can make the final decision with the opening or closing of United Day (during inclement weather). Ms. Naclerio asked that the previous decision to keep it open during inclement weather stand and that, if that stipulation remains, then some guidelines should be put into place. Mr. Yamin stated that would be addressed under Old Business.

Jennifer Wissink, resident of Prospect, also spoke towards United Day stating that she trusts their decision making when it comes to safety with inclement weather. Ms. Wissink stated her concern, especially for those parents in Prospect, who do not have a backup plan like Beacon Falls does with United Day's daycare at Beacon Falls Congregational Church.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

An email was read to the Board from Building Committee member Christopher Borajkiewicz advocating for support from the Board for the District Office parking lot from the \$150,000 capital non-recurring fund.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Mangini read the treasurer's report as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 2/24/16: \$7,218,462.87

Tonight's invoices total:	\$1,320,291.43
General Fund:	\$916,349.04
Federal and State Grants:	\$0.00
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$895.00
School Construction Payments:	\$403,047.39
Balance of School Construction Project:	\$2,023,549.01

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

1. WRHS Class of 2016 Valedictorian: Zachary Crowell and Salutatorian: Isaac Weinstein. Mr. Ogren sent letters home to the parents to recognize this great achievement.

2. WRHS Eagle Scouts receiving honor at March 6 Ceremony: James Jensen and Michael Framski (Grade 12), Kyle Bolduc (Grade 10), and Matthew Iannone (Grade 9). Eagle Scout honor already awarded to Grade 12 student Matthew Hopkinson.

XI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update

1. Food Services Update. (V. Biello)

Ms. Biello updated the Board regarding Food Services including a projection of the anticipated budget. Ms. Biello also commented on the recent successful review by the state. Mr. Yamin asked Ms. Biello if she believed the lunch prices were fair, and she assured him and the Board that they are. Ms. Biello follows a paid equity calculator when determining pricing.

2. Facilities repair/maintenance schedule. (M. Ceresa)

Mr. Ceresa provided a document which he reviewed with the Board. Mr. Ceresa pointed out the following: the boilers at Laurel Ledge are 26 years old and need to be repaired. Ms. Mangini also reviewed some of the specifics in which she identified accounts that could absorb additional costs for facility repair/maintenance work, as discussed. Mr. Rybinski recommended that the bid for the bathrooms at LRMS go out soon. Ms. Cretella voiced some concern for needs vs. wants.

3. Legal opinion on addressing public comments at Board meetings.

Mr. Yamin read a communication from the attorney regarding this matter. Mr. Yamin will also forward this email to Board members. The consensus was that items can be discussed in New Business, Items to be Discussed at Future Board Meetings, or can go to facilities.

B. Action Items

1. Act to transfer funds to capital non-recurring fund from 2014-2015 fiscal year.

Mr. Rybinski brought up the concern that the utility vehicle at WRHS is in bad shape and he recommended we add the cost of the vehicle to the transfer.

A MOTION was made by Christine Arnold and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to take a brief recess at 8:43p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

16-025

The meeting reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

Mr. Yamin stated that the utility vehicle does need to be replaced. Mrs. Mangini recommended using funds within the current operating budget. This cost can come from the contingency line item appropriation.

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to transfer \$179,982 to capital non-recurring fund from 2014-2015 fiscal year. This amount would include the \$150,000 for the District Office parking lot and the following items from WRHS and LLES Capital Improvement Plan: Storage coaches room-moving partition (\$1,918.00), entrance of school-liners in concrete gutters (\$5,643.00), replace ceiling tiles in Grade 2 & gym hallway (\$6,877.29), quote for new tile in four corridors/music/library/KDG/Grade 2 (\$12,904.00) and relocate rear gate parking lot (\$2,640.00).

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

16-026

2. Act to transfer line items for repair/maintenance work in the 2015-2016 budget. Mrs. Mangini provided the Board with a financial status update before this action item was discussed.

The Board agreed that costs to repair the crack seal at WRHS and gym floor at LLES would be taken from the current budget, along with other items identified as to be addressed this fiscal year.

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Daisy Laone to transfer the funds as presented for items outlined by the superintendent, including the award of the replacement work for the two boilers at Laurel Ledge Elementary School to Controlled Air of Branford, CT for a total of \$399,054.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

16-027

3. Act on non-renewal of teacher contracts for 2016-2017. Letters will be sent to the two teachers hired last informing them of non-renewal of their teacher contracts for next year, due to budget, not because of job performance.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to act on non-renewal of teacher contracts for 2016-2017.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

16-028

C. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

1. Analysis of current budget

Mrs. Mangini provided a financial report earlier and commented that a monthly update will be shared again at the end of March.

D. Old Business

1. WRHS pump house sprinkler work update.
The Region is still waiting on the inspection but has contracted with a company. A firm date is being sought. Two other companies are looking at the water supply. The four sprinkler heads were removed with approval of the fire marshal. Ms. Cretella requested the contract be reviewed, and Mr. Yamin will call or email with that response.
2. United Day request to remain open on early release days, due to inclement weather.
The Board received calendars in their packets and the language was reviewed. Mr. Hiscox recommended that the phrase “emergency situations” be added. Mr. Yamin also reviewed how decisions were made. Regarding the recent early dismissal, Mr. Yamin explained that a terrible ice storm was predicted and that he informed Wendy Oliveira as early as possible of the decision to close. In hindsight, schools could have remained open and he understands the drastic difference of weather between one town and the other but the prediction of ice is very concerning with regards to safety.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve United Day’s request to remain open during early release days for the 2016-2017 school year with the understanding that in extreme weather Region 16 may completely close, per the Superintendent/his designee, which would mean that United Day’s After School Program will need to close as well.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

16-029

E. New Business

F. Items to be discussed at future BOE meetings.

Mr. Yamin stated that he would have class size reports for Woodland High School at the next Board meeting. Also, Ms. Cretella made a point of interest that people who use the schools are responsible for all those involved and this needs to be tightened up for safety.

G. Information Items (with possible action)

1. Camp Invention
This was reported as a summer enrichment program. Mr. Hiscox requested some feedback be provided, if it runs. Discussion on a facility use fee for this enrichment program ensued, and this will be addressed.
2. Revise Budget Workshop Calendar
March 2nd and March 16th workshops were cancelled.
3. WRHS random Title IX compliance review
This will happen in April.
4. Prospect town vote at Community School on February 29th.

H. Enrollment (Ex. II)

Included in packet.

XII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Personnel and Negotiations Committee

- Interviews for LRMS are this coming Tuesday.
2. Facilities and Transportation Committee
 3. Curriculum Committee
 4. Policy Committee
May 11th at 6:00 (WRHS)
 5. Public Communications
 6. Technology Committee
Update March 23rd at 6:15 (LRMS)
 7. Recognition Committee
 8. Liaisons
 - a. Schools
 - b. Wellness Committee
 - c. Professional Development Committee.
 - d. 2COM
Kindness Campaign: March 2nd Elementary Schools

Included in the Board packet was a letter from Mr. Yamin to parents re the change to a 2-hour delay as opposed to a 90-minute delay on delayed opening days.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Daisy Laone to adjourn the February 24, 2016, Board of Education meeting at 9:43 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

16-030

Christine Arnold,

Board Secretary

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