

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
March 22, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

		Weighted Vote
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Christine Arnold	.7
	David Rybinski	.7
	Sheryl Feducia	.7
	Priscilla Cretella	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Nazih Noujaim	1.3
	Roxann Vaillancourt	1.3

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Yamin, Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Peck, Curriculum Director
Pamela Mangini, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations
Michelle Meyers, Assistant Principal, LRMS
Derek Muharem, Principal LRMS
Rachel Ryan, TAG Instructor

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education meeting was called to order by Sheryl Feducia at 7:00 p.m. at District Office, Prospect, CT.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

III. RECORD OF MEMBERS PRESENT

A roll was taken. A quorum was present.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

The first part of the meeting was dedicated to budget discussions. Mr. Yamin briefly discussed the Budget Scorecard with the Board which currently reflects a proposed budget increase for the 2017-2018 fiscal year at 1.72%, which is what is hoped to be presented at the 3/29/17 meeting. Mr. Yamin reviewed the reductions and projected savings. A report on electricity broken down into dollar amounts was provided to Board members. Understanding the increase in the electrical bills is being looked into and professional opinions are being sought out. Mr. Yamin fielded some questions before moving on to the regular agenda.

Chair Sheryl Feducia moved the next item out of order for the TAG Program presentation.

X. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS

TAG Program Instructor Rachel Ryan presented regarding her program and had three of her students join and speak about the program. Our district program serves 112 students identified as academically gifted in grades 6-8 as well as students who are eligible for the STEM enrichment program in grades 5-8. The highly-engaging program units focus on inquiry, problem solving, critical thinking and presentation skills. The students focused on the Election 2016, Crime Scene Investigations and Independent Inquiry projects.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 1, 2017, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve the minutes of March 1, 2017, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I).

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 5.4) **17-034**

Minutes of March 8, 2017, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II)

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve the minutes of March 8, 2017, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II).

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 5.4) **17-035**

V. TOWN OFFICIAL COMMENT

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Merriman, resident of Prospect and former BOE member, addressed the Board on his disappointment with the decline in the music programs within the Region. He gave some suggestions and posed some questions to Board members regarding this topic.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Included in the Board packet was the letter from Liz Untiet re: inclement weather bussing of students. Mr. Yamin will reply.

VIII. TREASURER’S REPORT

Nazih Noujaim read the Treasurer’s Report:

Balance in General Fund as of 3/22/17:	\$8,772,478.47
Tonight’s invoices total:	\$708,016.31
General Fund:	\$696,071.95
Federal and State Grants:	\$11,389.49
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$554.87
 Balance of School Construction Project:	 \$244,514.80

IX. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT (Anna Witkowski, Abigail Meliso)

Ms. Witkowski shared a report with the Board highlighting notable students, clubs, and Student Government.

X. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS

This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

XI. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent’s Update

1. Grade 8 Capstone Project

The Capstone Project is a three-month process in which students pursue independent research on a question or problem of their choice, engage with the scholarly debates in the relevant disciplines, and - with the guidance of a faculty mentor - produce a substantial paper that reflects a deep understanding of the topic.

Mr. Muharem and Mrs. Meyers presented regarding the logistics of the Capstone Project and fielded questions from the Board for clarification purposes. It was noted that the intention of the Capstone Project is to replace the Orations Project.

2. LRMS curriculum and embedded Geography concepts
This document was provided to Board members and outlines how and where Geography concepts are embedded within the curriculum.
3. \$\$ Analysis of electrical usage at WRHS
Provided to Board members during Budget discussion. Professional opinions are being sought for understanding surges.
4. Update on RSD 16 Stipends
This document was provided to the Board members and indicated stipend positions, who fills them and how much they get paid. There was some concern noted regarding the yearbook stipend at the elementary level vs. the high school level in regards to the ultimate product.
5. Wellness Committee- new contest
6. Capital Improvement plan update and discussion
No change was made, it is moving along well and there may be line item adjustments in the future.

B. Action Items

1. Act to accept letter of retirement from Food Service Director.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by David Rybinski to accept the letter of retirement from Food Service Director, with regret.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 5.4)

17-036

2. Act on Healthy Food Certification adoption for 2017-2018. (ED-099)
Starting with school year 2017-2018, the annual State of CT Healthy Food Compliance Statement (HFC) must be submitted on their online website. The program has been in effect since 2012, and Region 16 has voted each year to be a participant in the program. In addition to participating in the Healthy Food Option (pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f), the Region 16 Board of Education has always voted to participate with the food item exemption, allowing groups and/organizations to host fundraisers that are not restricted to adhering to the state's approved food and beverage list. With that consideration:

A MOTION was made by David Rybinski and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to accept the Healthy Food Certification participation for 2017-2018 (ED-099) to include Consideration 1 – Healthy Food Option and Consideration 2 – Exemption for food items.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 5.4)

17-037

C. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mrs. Mangini briefly reviewed the Financial Status report.

- D. **Old Business** (with possible action)
 - 1. Update science labs at elementary level and music program at WRHS - April meeting
 - 2. Review honor roll WRHS- May BOE meeting.

- E. **New Business**
 - 1. Increase fee to \$200 per class for WRHS summer school 2017
The Board was in support of this.

- F. **Items to be discussed at future BOE meetings**
 - 1. Stipends for Yearbook

- G. **Information Items**
 - 1. Retirement letter from Food Service bookkeeper
Included in packet.

- H. **Enrollment** (Ex. III)
Included in the packet.

XII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

- 1. Personnel and Negotiations Committee: **Meeting March 22, 2017, District Office, 6:30 p.m. Executive Session for Superintendent's evaluation- end of meeting.**
- 2. Facilities and Transportation Committee **April 5, 2017 meeting, WRHS, 6:00 p.m.**
- 3. Curriculum Committee
- 4. Policy Committee: **May 10, 2017 meeting, WRHS**
- 5. Public Communications LRMS brochure **New Schedule Courses Program, May 31st**
- 6. Technology Committee
- 7. Recognition Committee
Sent out letters for counselors.
- 8. Liaisons
 - a. Schools
 - b. Wellness Committee
 - c. Professional Development Committee: **Meets 4th Monday each month, District Office, 3:30 p.m.**
 - d. 2COM

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and **SECONDED** by Christine Arnold to move to Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. to include the Superintendent to discuss his annual evaluation. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **17-038**

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and **SECONDED** by David Rybinski to adjourn the March 22, 2017, Board of Education Meeting at 9:27 p.m.
ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote total 5.4) **17-039**

Christine Arnold,

Board Secretary

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