

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Annual District Meeting
May 3, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Beacon Falls... Christine Arnold
Ben Catanzaro
Priscilla Cretella

Prospect... Robert Dyer
Robert Hiscox
Nazih Noujaim
Roxann Vaillancourt

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael P. Yamin, Superintendent of Schools
Tony DiLeone, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations
Michele Raynor, Curriculum Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Priscilla Cretella at 7:02 p.m. in the gymnasium at Long River Middle School, Prospect, CT.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. RECORD OF MEMBERS PRESENT

The Board Clerk read the roll, and a quorum was present.

IV. CALL OF THE MEETING

Mr. Yamin read the call of the meeting as follows:

DISTRICT MEETING
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #16
Towns of Beacon Falls & Prospect

All electors and citizens, who are qualified to vote at town meetings of the Town of Beacon Falls and the Town of Prospect, are hereby notified and warned that a District Meeting of Regional School District No. 16 will be held on Monday, May 3, 2021 at Long River Middle School in the Town of Prospect at 7:00 p.m. The vote on the motion to adopt the 2021-2022 proposed budget of \$40,985,059.00 shall be a "Yes" or "No" vote by a show of hands at the meeting. Copies of the Budget will be filed with the Town Clerks of both towns within five days of said meeting.

Dated at Prospect, Connecticut this 19th day of April, 2021.
Priscilla Cretella, Chair Board of Education
Regional School District No. 16

V. ACTION ITEMS

- a.** Appoint a moderator to preside at the District Meeting.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to nominate Robert Hiscox as moderator. No other nominations.

ALL IN FAVOR

21-054

- b.** Appoint a recording clerk for the District Meeting.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Roxy Vaillancourt to nominate Lorrie Moraniec as recording clerk. No other nominations.

ALL IN FAVOR

21-055

Moderator Robert Hiscox turned the meeting over to Superintendent Yamin for his comments.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENT

Mr. Yamin opened by saying this is the sixth workshop/meeting related to budget that we have had this year. The Board has done their best to be fiscally responsible to the Region 16 community, while still providing a quality education. The proposed budget increase for 2021-22 is .62%, and for the last two years the budget increase has been at .0%.

Mr. Yamin related we are educating our students socially, emotionally, and academically. The SEL (Social Emotional Learning) K-12 Program is fully implemented, the Math program *Bridges* for K-5 is in place, and we will be implementing new Math curriculum/programs for middle school and high school. We continue to support small class sizes, and we are investing \$1M in technology over the next three years upgrading devices and making infrastructure improvements. We are progressive in our efforts which has resulted in our DRG standing moving up to the top third percent of our group.

Mr. Yamin reported that there is a slight decrease in enrollment and currently Prospect's enrollment is at 65% and Beacon Falls' is 35%. He relayed that Region 16 is appreciative of our community's involvement with responses to surveys and their input.

Moderator Robert Hiscox reported that this is a public meeting and voting and motions can be made/seconded by the public. He said that issues came up during the budget process and felt the Board listened to the community and addressed them. Mr. Hiscox said the Region 16 Board of Education is doing their due diligence to provide the best education we can for our students.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Fred Smith, resident of Beacon Falls, said that it was nice to be here in person. He said Region 16 provides a quality education for students to succeed while being responsible to the taxpayers. Mr. Smith gave a "shout out" to the custodians and nurses in Region 16 during the pandemic. He feels they have done an amazing job to keep our students and schools safe while still offering in-person learning.

April Mishler, resident of Prospect, has two children in the Region 16 school system. She said first, "Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!". She said it was rumored that a school counselor at PES had been cut from the budget for next year. Mr. Yamin replied the position had been reinstated.

Mrs. Mishler then asked about cutting the Assistant Principal position at LRMS and what was being done to support Principal Muharem without an AP. Mr. Yamin replied we have a teaching vice principal in place at LRMS, administrator support from the District Office, and have support in place for evaluating teachers.

Mayor Robert Chatfield of Prospect said there is no question that Region 16 is providing an excellent education to our students. As a testament to this, he said we have three cadets from our Region enrolled in U.S. military academies. He feels this proposed budget is well deserved and is confident it will pass.

VIII. VOTE ON THE QUESTION BY METHOD OF SHOW OF HANDS

A MOTION was made by Fred Smith and SECONDED by Larry Fitzgerald to move the question, "Shall the proposed 2021-2022 budget of Regional School District #16 in the amount of \$40,985,059.00 be adopted?"

A counting of a show of hands was conducted by Board members Nazih Noujaim and Ben Cantanzaro. The results were: **"Yes" votes 67; "No" votes 1.** The results were announced by the Moderator.

MOTION PASSES

21-056

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Sheryl Feducia to adjourn the May 3, 2021, Annual District Meeting at 7:24 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR

21-057

*These minutes are subject to Board Approval,
Lorrie Moraniec, Acting Board Clerk*