

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Board of Education Meeting
September 8, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

		Weighted Vote <u>Per Member</u>
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Christine Arnold	.7
	Ben Catanzaro	.7
	Priscilla Cretella	.7
	Erik Dey	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Robert Hiscox	1.3
	Nazih Noujaim	1.3
	Roxann Vaillancourt	1.3

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Yamin, Superintendent of Schools
Tony DiLeone, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations
Matthew Brennen, Director of Technology
Mark Parrino, Director of Facilities
Michele Raynor, Director of Curriculum
Michelle Fortuna, Director of SPED/Pupil Personnel Svcs.
Kristen Mosher, Asst. Dir. of SPED/Pupil Personnel Svcs.
Kurt Ogren, Principal Woodland Regional High School
Ryan Mackenzie, Asst. Principal Woodland Regional HS
Dana Mulligan, Asst. Principal Woodland Regional HS
Chris Decker, Athletic Dir./Dean of Discipline WRHS
Derek Muharem, Principal Long River Middle School
Regina Murzak, Principal Laurel Ledge School
Rima McGeehan, Principal Prospect Elementary School
Jeff Haddad, Asst. Principal Prospect Elementary School

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Priscilla Cretella, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at Woodland Regional High School, Beacon Falls, CT.

A. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Revision/Additions to Agenda Order

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of August 11, 2021, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2021, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I).
ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-119**

III. COMMENT

A. Town Officials

B. Public Comments *Note: The BOE will not reply to comments made at a meeting. However, either the Superintendent or Board Chair will respond to a concern within five business days*

Kelly Messina, Beacon Falls resident, shared her support on the mask mandate and also shared her concern about the misconceptions on social media regarding Critical Race Theory.

Abby Messina, Beacon Falls resident and happy to be back as an in-person student at WRHS, feels masks are a small price to pay for that.

Andrea Sutton, Beacon Falls resident, provided a document that contained signatures of alumni who support the mask mandate and the necessity for the Region to teach critical thinking skills.

Sheryl Feducia, Beacon Falls resident, also supports critical thinking being taught in the District and is also in support of the mask mandate.

Vivian Mortara, resident on Prospect, had a volunteer speak on her behalf. Mrs. Mortara's daughter attends PES and refused to wear a mask due to spiritual and religious beliefs. Mrs. Mortara presented some questions that she is looking for answers to regarding this refusal and the consequences that come with it. Mrs. Mortara also declared that she has submitted an EUA (Emergency Use Authorization) Declaration letter and is waiting for that to be addressed. Mrs. Mortara requested the Board look into this matter and respond to her.

Jason Mortara, resident of Prospect, believes masks should be the choice of the parents. Mr. Mortara feels a level of hypocrisy exists and the inconsistencies don't make sense.

Daniel Wheeler, resident of Prospect, commented on several presentations, credible sources etc. that say that masks are not effective.

Emily Laput, resident of Beacon Falls, is a senior at WRHS and is happy to be back in person. She spoke about how kids at the daycare, where she works, have been compliant with mask wearing with little to no problem. She feels that masks are keeping kids, including her, in school.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Supt.'s 9-3-21 letter to the community.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Noujaim read the report as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 9/8/21:	\$3,750,049.13
Tonight's invoices total:	\$1,557,996.53
General Fund:	\$1,504,208.39
Federal and State Grants:	\$6,802.50
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$46,985.64
Capital Non-Recurring Project	\$0.00

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT (Kayleigh Budnick, Charli Hughes)

Kayleigh Budnick delivered this evenings report regarding Departments, Clubs, and Student Government.

VII. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE, PROGRAMS and AWARDS

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update

1. Update on student enrollment.
Mr. Yamin reviewed the results of Mr. Hiscox's previous request.
2. Final staff update for 2021-2022.
There are two positions still open: a Preschool Teacher at PES, and a part-time English/Drama Teacher at the high school.
3. R16 teachers' contract negotiations.
Will start 9/16/21, there are proposals and meetings have been scheduled.
4. Capital Improvement Project/Bonding – WRHS
 - track
 - gym floor
 - weight roomMr. Parrino reviewed the specifics regarding the above projects including financials with input from Mr. DiLeone.
5. New Reading Task Force K-8. (Michele Raynor)
Mrs. Raynor talked about looking to expand options for the best student outcomes, and she reported that she is looking to get a task force together to look at the direction to move in. Mr. Dey and she will have a phone conference to discuss more specifics and report back.

B. Action Items

1. Act to accept teachers' letters of resignation. (C. Anderson, B. Gartman, A. Shelbrack)

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to accept the letter of resignation from Chris Anderson, PE/Health Teacher at WRHS, with gratitude, effective August 16, 2021.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-120

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to accept the letter of resignation from Bailey Gartman, part-time Theater/Drama English Teacher at WRHS, with gratitude, effective September 30, 2021.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-121**

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to accept the letter of resignation from Annette Shelbrack, Preschool Teacher at PES, with gratitude, effective September 30, 2021.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-122**

2. Act to hire new certified staff for 2021-22 school year. (A. Decarolis, J. Roman, H. DeVries)

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to hire Amber Decarolis as a 1.0 FTE Grade 2 Teacher at Laurel Ledge Elementary School at MA, Step 5, \$53,272.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-123**

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to hire Jeremiah Roman as a 1.0 FTE Physical Education Teacher at Laurel Ledge Elementary School at BA+15, Step 6, \$53,407 (pro-rated).

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-124**

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to hire Hilary DeVries as a 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at Prospect Elementary School at BA, Step 5, \$51,310.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-125**

3. Act to confirm hire of new Asst. Director of SPED/Pupil Personnel Svcs., Kristen Mosher.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro to hire Kristen Mosher as the Asst. Director of Special Education/Pupil Personnel Services at Step 5, \$117,224, as of 8/30/2021.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-126**

Mr. Yamin read a letter introducing Mrs. Mosher.

4. Act to approve calendar of dates for 2022 Board of Education meetings.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve calendar of dates for 2022 Board of Education meetings.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-127**

5. Act to approve a 12:00 p.m. dismissal for WRHS on 3/29/22, allowing for in-school SATs for juniors.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve a 12:00 p.m. dismissal for WRHS on 3/29/22, allowing for in-school SATs for juniors.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-128

6. Act on BOE recommendations for Hiring Process Guide.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to act on BOE recommendations for updating the Hiring Process Guide for hiring certified staff.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-129

C. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mr. DiLeone reported on the following: Region 16's initial EFS filing was completed and certified. The CSDE is providing funds to Food Services to offset losses incurred during the first few months of the pandemic in 2020. Mr. DiLeone will be attending the National ASBO Conference in Milwaukee, October 13-16, 2021. The CSDE is inundated with ARP ESSER applications and is several weeks behind.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hiscox asked if there was an exit survey to which Mr. Yamin answered, "yes, there is one available".

X. NEW BUSINESS

Job description for Personal Learning Advisor.

XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA

Mr. Dey asked if there was a way to schedule less half days (single session days) for students on the days that accommodate Professional Development for teachers. Mr. Hiscox agreed it would be a good item to look into for the future, and Mr. Yamin gave multiple options that will be further discussed. This will be put on the November agenda and, in the meantime, Mr. Yamin will compile information.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee:

Executive Session: Personnel Issue 9/8/21

Negotiation meetings - new teachers' contract: 9/16/21; 9/30/21; 10/28/21

and mediation 11/18/21. All start times between 5:00-6:00p.m. in the District Office

B. Facilities and Transportation Committee: **October 6, 2021 at 6:00 District Office**

C. Curriculum Committee: **Mr. Dey and Mrs. Raynor will phone conference**

D. Policy Committee: **Next Meeting 9/22/21**

E. Public Communications

- F. Technology Committee
- G. Recognition Committee
- H. Liaisons:
 - 1. Schools
 - 2. Wellness Committee
 - 3. Professional Development Committee
 - 4. 2COM
- I. Parent Advisory Council

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to move to Executive Session for a Personnel Issue to include Mr. DiLeone, Mrs. Raynor and Mr. Yamin at 8:03 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-130

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Erik Dey to adjourn the Board of Education meeting of September 8, 2021 at 8:51 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-131

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: September 22, 2021, District Office, 7:00 p.m.