

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Board of Education Meeting
February 23, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

		Weighted Vote <u>Per Member</u>
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Christine Arnold	.7
	Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga	.7
	Ben Catanzaro	.7
	Priscilla Cretella <i>arrived at 6:35</i>	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Robert Hiscox	1.3
	Karima Jackson	1.3
	Roxann Vaillancourt	1.3

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Yamin, Superintendent of Schools
Michele Raynor, Director of Curriculum
Derek Muharem, Principal LRMS
Michelle Fortuna, Director of Special Education
Tony DiLeone, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations
Kurt Ogren, Principal WRHS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Robert Hiscox, at 6:30 p.m. in the Media Center at LRMS in Prospect, CT.

A. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Revision/Additions to Agenda Order

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to add Action Item #7 to accept the letter of retirement from Ruth Parise.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

22-018

Prior to the continuation of the regular business of tonight's Board meeting, a Budget Session was held in which snapshots of the following were shared: 2022-2023 Board of Education Proposed Budget, Curriculum Budget and Special Education Budget.

Mr. Yamin began with a PowerPoint that highlighted the following: Proposed Budget, Budget Process, District Goals, Strategic Plan, Core Values and Beliefs, Theory of Action, Recent Budget History, Budget Highlights, Proposed Staffing Additions and Reductions, Enrollment Trends, Growth in Student Achievement, 5 Year Budget Analysis, Expenditure by Category, Sources of Operating Revenue, Net Expenses by

Member Towns and Net Cost by Member Towns. Overall the proposed Budget will show a 1.80% increase.

Mrs. Raynor presented the Snapshot of the Curriculum Budget that included information regarding the following: Fast Facts, Year at a Glance; which included new math programming, partnerships, World Language information, Professional Learning Plan and i-Ready progression. Highlights for 2022-2023 included the following: After school programming, supporting students in need, making Math and Reading a priority, expanding Career Pathways and partnerships with Milestone C to expand STEM programming. The Curriculum Budget at this time shows a decrease of \$10,489.

Ms. Fortuna presented a snapshot of the Special Education Budget and touched on the following: Fast Facts, Current News, Highlights for What's New in 2022-2023 and the Special Education Vision. The Special Education budget at this time shows a .34% increase.

Some brief questions were fielded from the Board and the regular meeting commenced.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of January 26, 2022, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve the minutes of January 26, 2022, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1).

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

22-019

III. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE, PROGRAMS and AWARDS

- CAFE Student Leadership Award recipients from WRHS: Eric Meade and Emily Laput.

Both students were recognized by Mr. Ogren and the Board and both students received a certificate of recognition.

- Senator Murphy's Martin Luther King Jr. Essay contest winner: LRMS 7th grader, Collette Fleur Hammond.

Colette's essay was read to the Board by Mr. Yamin, and she was recognized for her accomplishment. Colette will receive a certificate of recognition from the Board.

IV. 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*

Fred Smith, resident of Beacon Falls, thanked the Board for keeping schools safe and encouraged mask wearing to become optional.

Gina Silva, resident of Prospect, thanked the Region and also encouraged the Board to allow mask wearing to become a choice.

Kristi Moore, resident of Prospect, encouraged mask wearing to be a choice and brought up the speech delays that can be a result of mask wearing which inhibits mouth movement.

Lauren Hill, resident of Beacon Falls, reviewed information regarding other school districts making masks parental choice. Ms. Hill also asked for mask wearing to become a choice as it was to be honored from a previous meeting.

Nicole Gaspar, resident of Prospect, reviewed some facts regarding COVID data and mask wearing. Ms. Gaspar encouraged the Board to honor their word that if mask wearing were to become optional that the District would move forward with that path.

Sean Cameron, resident of Prospect, recognized the decision would make some parents happy and some parents upset but he also asked for mask wearing to be parental choice.

At this time, Mr. Hiscox moved to Action Item #2.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent's correspondence to community (1/28/22; 2/10/22)

Letter from Dr. Rima McGeehan to PES parents re COVID in once class.

Response letter to Mr. Sabo re FOI request.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga read the report into the record.

Balance in General Fund as of 2/23/22:	\$6,081,545.12
Tonight's Invoices Total	\$1,416,320.35
General Fund:	\$1,392,419.35
Federal and State Grants:	\$2,800.00
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$21,101.00
Capital Non-Recurring Project	\$0.00

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

Miss Hughes delivered this evening's report highlighting news from Departments, Clubs and Student Government.

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update

1. ESSER Fund Usage update.

A spreadsheet was provided to the Board. This continues to be a moving target.

2. COVID update and background history.

No staff positive; only 3 students who just returned from a vacation tested positive.

3. School/Business Partnership.

The Timber Team is manufacturing axes and Marketing will sell them to a company making this an Interdepartmental venture.

4. Mr. Yamin provided Board members with a parent letter requesting that her daughter, who lives out of district, to remain at WRHS. Mr. Yamin opened this for discussion amongst Board members. Mr. Yamin cautioned that what is decided can start a precedent for future cases. The Board suggested that she be offered to stay as a tuition student. Mr. Yamin will bring this information to the parent and report back. Ms. Cretella asked that the policy be reviewed and legal opinion be sought. Mr. Yamin agreed to consult with our Board attorney.

B. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mr. DiLeone reported the following: Facilities and Transportation Committee have agreed to pursue a feasibility study with regards to a solar array at PES. The Region's audited financial statements were filed with the town clerks in both towns. As both contracts were extended last year, RFP's will be used for both snow removal and refuse removal in the coming weeks. The BOWA consortium has finalized their fuel bid for the 2022-23 school year. Heating Oil was awarded to Dime Oil and East River Energy was awarded the bid for gasoline and diesel.

C. Action Items

1. Act to waive Nepotism policy #4112.8 and allow Superintendent to approve nursing position at Long River Middle School as written in revised policy dated May 12, 2021.

Mr. Yamin stated that action does not need to be taken on the aforementioned item.

(The following action (item #2) was acted on earlier after Public Comment.)

2. Act to approve revised Reopening Plan, dated 2/23/22, which includes masks as optional (except for on buses) in R16 until the end of the 2021-22 school year.

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve revised Reopening Plan, dated 2/23/22, which includes masks as optional (except for on buses) in R16 until the end of the 2021-22 school year.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

22-020

3. Act to appropriate up to \$115K from the capital non-recurring fund for architectural services to Kaestle Boos Associates for the Capital Improvement Project at Woodland Regional High School.

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to appropriate up to \$115K from the capital non-recurring fund for architectural services to Kaestle Boos Associates for the Capital Improvement Project at Woodland Regional High School.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

22-021

4. Act to accept teacher's letter of retirement. (Deb Melycher)

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to accept the letter of retirement from PES teacher Deborah Melycher, effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

22-022

5. Act to approve the purchase and installation of new glass windows in the media center corridor at WRHS in the amount of \$39,700.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the purchase and installation of new glass windows in the media center corridor at WRHS in the amount of \$39,700.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

22-023

6. Act to approve the budget transfers as presented in the amount of \$98,572.02.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the budget transfers as presented in the amount of \$98,572.02.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

22-024

7. Act to approve the retirement letter of teacher Ruth Parise.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the retirement letter of Ruth Parise, LLES teacher, with appreciation and a heavy heart, effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

22-025

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

Job description for Personal Learning Advisor

Mr. Yamin also brought up some questions about refinancing to reduce bond debt.

Capital improvements fund for soft costs was discussed in relation to the Capital Improvement Project.

XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

Coming Attractions - March 2022

XIII. ENROLLMENT (Ex. II) February 2022

XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee
- B. Facilities and Transportation Committee: **Minutes from 1/26/22 & 2/1/22 virtual meetings. Next meeting is virtual on Wednesday, 3/2/22, 5:45 p.m.**
Mr. Catanzaro updated the Board and discussed the track, pool, solar and windows.
- C. Curriculum Committee: **Minutes from virtual meeting of 2/9/22.**
Ms. Vaillancourt reported on some of the new course offerings.
- D. Policy Committee – **Next meeting 5/11/22, WRHS.**
- 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: **Virtual meeting held on February 22, 2022.**
- J. Interdepartmental Safety Committee: **Next meeting April 6, 2022, 9:00 a.m., D.O.**

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to adjourn the Board of Education Meeting of February 23, 2022 at 8:58 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

22-026

DATE OF NEXT BOE MEETING: March 9, 2022, Woodland High School, 7:00 p.m.

A Special BOE Meeting/Budget Workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2022 in the District Office at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will be for budget discussion only.