

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**June 17, 2020**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Nazih Noujaim, at 6:59 p.m. by remote locations.

**A. Roll Call**

A roll was taken; a quorum was present.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Revision/Additions to Agenda Order**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of May 13, 2020, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to approve the minutes of May 13, 2020 Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.0)

**20-068**

**III. COMMENT**

**Town Officials**

**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*

Mr. Yamin referred to five different comments/questions from community members: Kelly Messina of Beacon Falls, Becky Cheezic of Prospect, Kristen Cicchetti of Prospect, Andrea Sutton of Prospect and K. Jackson of Prospect, regarding the recent issues the nation is experiencing with racism. Overall, the residents want the Region to take a stronger position. Mr. Yamin was appreciative of the input and the remarks from these

community members and he noted that he would be in support of any students attending protests should there be any in the community and he himself would attend in support.

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter from LT. Nelson Abarzua resigning as 2COM Chair.
2. Letter from Commissioner of Education, Miguel A. Cardona, re: recent events Nationwide.

#### **V. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Noujaim read the report as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 6/17/20:	\$5,693,777.19
Tonight's invoices total:	\$1,316,870.12
General Fund:	\$1,311,801.62
Federal and State Grants:	\$0.00
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$5,068.50
Capital Non Recurring Project	\$0.00

#### **VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT (Emma Flaherty, Gavin Moffat)**

Mr. Yamin commented that Senior Student Council Representatives would be recognized.

#### **VII. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE, PROGRAMS and AWARDS**

1. CABE Student Leadership Award - Emma Flaherty, Nicholas Santovasi.  
These high school students were named by Principal Ogren for exhibiting leadership and other criteria as outlined by the CT Association of Boards of Education for this award. Mr. Yamin congratulated them both and forwarded a letter to them along with the recognition certificates provided by CABE.
2. 2021 Region 16 Teacher of the Year – Daniela Giampetruzzi!  
Mr. Yamin read some comments expressing Ms. Giampetruzzi's contributions to the Region 16. She will be interviewed by Elio Gugliotti of the Waterbury Republican tomorrow and will take pictures for the newspaper.

#### **VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

##### **A. Superintendent's Update**

1. School closure update  
Food Service Department has been doing wonderful, serving close to 40,000 meals from mid-March to the end of May and claimed over \$100K in state reimbursements for emergency meals. Despite district enrollment being down an average of 59 students, lunch participation was up 4.3% and breakfast participation up 50.6% this year.  
Virtual graduation and promotion ceremonies were a success and were well received. Kristen Lengyel and staff hosted a virtual "Fine Arts Night" in May, which was amazing. The Special Education Department, led by Sara Steinberg, led paraprofessional training, assistive technology training and "promoting student independence workshops", and Mr. Yamin thanked instructional aides and paraprofessionals for all their hard work in supporting students during the school closure.

a. Reopening Committee

The Reopening Committee has 33 members and they will be holding their first meeting on June 24th at 9:00 a.m. District Management Council will be contracted to support our plans and opening needs.

As of July 6th, the exterior facilities will be opening for use (fields only). On August 1st fundraising starts again and coaches will be conditioning shortly thereafter. The administration was thanked for their extra work. The “Back To School Breakfast” in August at Prospect Elementary School is to be determined.

2. Reading/Math Assessments 2020 - Michele Raynor

Mrs. Raynor explained that the Region was working to be responsive as opposed to reactionary. Assessments were given to students online with extremely high participation rates due to the support of our Region 16 families - 100% participation in Reading and 93% in Math. While some results were above average some fell below. With these results the team is identifying strategies and structures that will help identify students' needs.

3. Restructuring of R16 Business Office - Anthony DiLeone

New needs are being looked at and further discussion on this item has been tabled.

4. Facilities update - Steve Martoni

Mr. Martoni briefly referred to the Excel sheet that Board members had in their packets. He spoke about some work that had been completed, such as the tennis courts at WRHS, and some in progress, like the track repair. Mr. Yamin gave Mr. Martoni kudos for his diligence and attention to these work details.

5. LRMS HVAC update

The project is running smoothly and coming along. There was a change to the forecasted timeline due to the pandemic for the delivery of the units. Duct cleaning is running ahead of schedule.

6. Alternative Education update

This program is being looked at to revise to fit new needs and will change in the future. Mr. Yamin is working with Shelly McNulty and Tom Feige on this.

7. Revised Assistant Middle School Principal job description

The Assistant Middle School Principal position is changing to a 10-month position, and a new job description is under Action Items this evening for approval. This has been discussed with and agreed upon with the union.

8. Elementary Transitional Program

The Board was thanked for being in support of hiring for this position. Mr. Yamin is comfortable with the program. Students will be regularly evaluated and moved forward during the school year, if appropriate, based on their needs/assessments. The position has been posted.

## **B. Action Items**

1. Act to approve new job description for 10-month Assistant Principal.

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve new job description for 10-month Assistant Principal.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.0) **20-069**

2. Act to authorize the Superintendent to hire certified staff during the summer for school year 2020-2021, as necessary.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to hire certified staff during the summer for the school year 2020-2021, as necessary.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.0) **20-070**

3. Act to approve the SAT Prep 2020-21 exemption.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve the SAT Prep 2020-21 exemption.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.0) **20-071**

Mr. Yamin commented that this was a one-year exemption to our current policy, due to the special circumstances surrounding this school year.

4. Act to approve Zackin Zimyeski Sullivan CPA, LLC as auditor for Region 16's F/Y 20 audit.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve Zackin Zimyeski Sullivan CPA, LLC as auditor for Region 16's F/Y 20 audit.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.0) **20-072**

5. Act to extend additional year (2020-2021) for milk contract with vendor Wade Dairy Inc.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Rob Dyer to extend additional year (2020-2021) for milk contract with vendor Wade Dairy Inc.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.0) **20-073**

6. Act to accept Michele Papa's letter of retirement.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to accept Michele Papa's letter of retirement (English teacher and Department Head at WRHS), with sincere thanks for her years of service, as of June 30, 2020.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.0) **20-074**

### **C. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report**

Mr. DiLeone reported that the renewal rate had been locked in with Anthem with a 3.5% overall increase and that a 10% credit on medical and 50% on dental would be issued based on April's billing, due to a decrease in plan usage as a result of COVID-19. We should see this credit in August and are awaiting direction on how to credit back to staff. A contract has been signed with MedBill, a third party health insurance auditing company, at a cost of \$10K and their work has begun. Food Services will continue to serve meals until June 24th. The fire alarm contract has been awarded to MJ Daly for the next three fiscal years. Snow plow contracts with Hillview and Highland construction have been offered and accepted one-year extensions to the contracts. Landscaping services provided by Prestige Landscaping and health & safety services provided by Platform Environmental have also been extended for an additional one-year term.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

### **X. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Yamin suggested combining New Business and Old Business for future Meetings. As far as placeholders Mr. Yamin mentioned the following:

1. Restructuring of District Office
2. Reopening Update
3. Facilities Update

Mr. Dyer suggested surveying administrators on ways to see how the Board of Education can be of more support to them.

## **XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA**

### **XII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. CABA Liaison Newsletter.
2. Final School Closing Requirements - 2019-2020 School Year

### **XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee - **UPSEU negotiations July 15 at 5:00 p.m. and July 28 at 6:00 p.m. at District Office**  
**June 17, 2020 – EXECUTIVE SESSION: Superintendent's Evaluation**
- B. Facilities and Transportation Committee – **A meeting was held this evening prior to tonight's BOE, and Mr. Martoni briefly gave the whole Board updates earlier.**
- C. Curriculum Committee - **Meeting will be rescheduled.**
- D. Policy Committee
- E. Public Communications
- F. Technology Committee - **A meeting was held this evening at 6:30 p.m. Matt Brennan and staff were thanked for all their student/parent support during this year's school closure and virtual learning issues with technology equipment.**
- G. Recognition Committee
- H. Liaisons:
  1. Schools
  2. Wellness Committee

3. Professional Development Committee: **Meetings 4 Monday of month, D.O. 3:30 p.m.**
  4. 2COM: **Need a replacement to lead this committee.**
- I. Parent Advisory Council

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella at 7:42 p.m. to move to Executive Session for the purpose of conducting the Superintendent's Evaluation. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.0) **20-075**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro to adjourn the June 17, 2020, Board of Education Meeting at 8:45 p.m.  
**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.0) **20-076**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** July 15, 2020, District Office via video conferencing