

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**September 9, 2020**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

		Weighted Vote <u>Per Member</u>
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Priscilla Cretella	.7
	Ben Catanzaro	.7
	Christine Arnold	.7
	Erik Dey	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Robert Dyer	1.3
	Robert Hiscox	1.3
	Roxann Vaillancourt	1.3
	Nazih Noujaim	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 Priscilla Cretella, at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office and by remote locations.

**A. Roll Call**

A roll was taken; a quorum was present.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to discuss contract negotiations before adjournment in Executive Session.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-100**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of August 12, 2020, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

A MOTION was made by Ben Catanzaro and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the August 12, 2020, Board of Education Meeting minutes (Ex.1).

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-101**

**III. COMMENT**

**A. Town Officials**

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

Mr. Yamin read a comment submitted by Tim Bernegger of Prospect in which he referred to a statement Mr. Yamin made when interviewed on NPR, “The state should not have given people an option (to attend school in person or attend remotely) because of anxieties or nervousness”. Mr. Yamin clarified that this was his personal opinion, not the Board’s position, and he stands by his feeling that he believes all students should be returning to school in person. Students, he feels, do better when they are in school with other students.

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Superintendent’s first days of school letters.
2. Letters to town clerks with schedule of dates for 2021 BOE meetings.

#### **V. TREASURER’S REPORT**

Mr. Noujaim read the following:

Balance in General Fund as of 9/9/20:	\$3,437,081.30
Tonight’s invoices total:	\$1,227,493.57
General Fund:	\$1,227,493.57
Federal and State Grants:	\$0.00
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$0.00
Capital Non Recurring Project	\$0.00

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

Mr. Moffat gave a brief update to the Board and answered some questions regarding his experience as a virtual learning student.

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

Chairs of Reopening Committee - James Amato, Deb Flaherty

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

##### **A. Superintendent’s Update**

1. State of the Region
  - Hybrid model
  - Remote learning
  - COVID expenses
  - Two-week lookout

Mr. Yamin commented about the following: virtual meet the teacher meetings, community weekly updates, Parks & Recreation information concerning using our schools effective 9/28/20 for students/coaches only, the medically absent category, protocols for those exhibiting symptoms and picture day will be moving forward. Mr. Yamin also noted that he is hopeful for a return date of October 5th and is pleased with the data regarding COVID.

2. Enrollment  
Is decreasing-continues to be monitored.
3. UPSEU Contract  
To be discussed in the Executive Session.
4. MOA R16 Education Association  
Has been signed.

#### **B. Action Items**

1. Act to accept LLES School Psychologist Calla Summa's letter of resignation.

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to accept LLES School Psychologist Calla Summa's letter of resignation, effective August 20, 2020. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-102**

2. Act to hire new certified staff for 2020-2021.

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to hire new certified staff for 2020-2021: Danielle Miller as 1.0 FTE School Psychologist at LLES, MA+30, Step 7, \$58,229 and Maria Saca as 1.0 FTE Spanish Teacher at LRMS, BA, Step 4, \$50,419.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-103**

3. Act to approve UPSEU agreement.  
Tabled until after Executive Session.

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

Mr. DiLeone commented on the following: Anthem's additional rebate, workers compensation audited with refund, three new hires acclimating well, CSDE relief fund, applying for FEMA funds by October 31st, spreadsheet for end of year, surplus plan for ESSER funds.

Mr. Noujaim, Mr. Dyer and Mr. Hiscox asked some clarifying questions and asked for an update on facilities.

#### **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Cretella asked if busses were providing any masks or cleaning supplies, Mr. Yamin will get back on that information.

#### **X. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Spreadsheet re COVID expenses.

#### **XII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Coming Attractions – September 2020

**XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee  
Executive Session
- B. Facilities and Transportation Committee  
Expansion of Greenleaf with LRMS
- C. Curriculum Committee - **Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2020**
- D. Policy Committee
- E. Public Communications
- F. Technology Committee
- 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
- I. Parent Advisory Council

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to move to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-104**

The Board came out of the Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

**Action Item #3** - Act to approve the UPSEU agreement.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and seconded by Ben Catanzaro to table the vote on approving the UPSEU contract until the September 23, 2020, meeting, as the Board received information just prior to tonight's meeting about some changes in the contract language.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-105**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to adjourn the September 9, 2020 Board of Education Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-106**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** September 23, 2020 – District Office/Virtual