

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Board of Education Meeting
December 15, 2021

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	.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
Tony DiLeone, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations
Mark Parrino, Director of Facilities
Kurt Ogren, Principal, WRHS
Derek Muharem, Principal, LRMS
Rima McGeehan, Principal, PES
Regina Murzak, Principal, LLES
Michelle Fortuna, Dir. of Special Ed/Pupil Personnel Svcs.
Kristen Mosher, Asst. Dir. of SPED/Pupil Personnel Svcs.
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, Prospect, CT.

A. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Revision/Additions to Agenda Order

New Board members, Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and Karima Jackson were welcomed and administrators and other Region 16 staff made introductions.

Mr. Yamin moved Action Item #1 to the top of the agenda and moved Action Item #2 to the end of the meeting after the Executive Session.

Action Item #1

Act to elect new officers for the Board of Education: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

A MOTION was made by Christine Arnold and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to nominate Robert Hiscox to be Chair of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Cretella asked if there were any other nominations, there were none. With no other nominations, the vote was called.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Vote for Robert Hiscox for Chair</u>
Christine Arnold	x
Priscilla Cretella	x
Robert Hiscox	x
Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga	x
Karima Jackson	x
Ben Catanzaro	x
Roxann Vaillancourt	x

MOTION TO ELECT Robert Hiscox to office of Chair passes by a vote of 7.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-170

The meeting was then turned over to Chair Robert Hiscox from this point on.

A MOTION was made by Christine Arnold and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro to nominate Priscilla Cretella to be Vice-Chair of the Board of Education.

Mr. Hiscox asked if there were any other nominations, there were none. With no other nominations, the vote was called.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Vote for Priscilla Cretella for Vice-Chair</u>
Christine Arnold	x
Priscilla Cretella	x
Robert Hiscox	x
Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga	x
Karima Jackson	x
Ben Catanzaro	x
Roxann Vaillancourt	x

MOTION TO ELECT Priscilla Cretella to office of Vice-Chair passes by a vote of 7.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-171

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to nominate Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to be Treasurer of the Board of Education.

Mr. Hiscox asked if there were any other nominations, there were none. With no other nominations, the vote was called.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Vote for Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga for Treasurer</u>
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Christine Arnold	x
Priscilla Cretella	x
Robert Hiscox	x
Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga	x
Karima Jackson	x
Ben Catanzaro	x
Roxann Vaillancourt	x

MOTION TO ELECT Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to office of Treasurer passes by a vote of 7.
ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-172**

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to nominate Christine Arnold to be Secretary of the Board of Education.

Mr. Hiscox asked if there were any other nominations, there were none. With no other nominations, the vote was called.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Vote for Christine Arnold for Secretary</u>
Christine Arnold	x
Priscilla Cretella	x
Robert Hiscox	x
Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga	x
Karima Jackson	x
Ben Catanzaro	x
Roxann Vaillancourt	x

MOTION TO ELECT Christine Arnold to office of Secretary passes by a vote of 7.
ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-173**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of November 17, 2021, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve the minutes of November 17, 2021, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **21-174**

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*

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

There was a brief discussion about BOE members not responding to emails as a group because that would be considered a meeting, and that is illegal. Mr. Catanzaro asked if the same rule applies when the public asks Board members questions via an email chain. Mr. Yamin will look into that for a definitive answer. Mr. Yamin also suggested a

meeting with CABA or our school board attorney Jessica Ritter in order to discuss the roles of Board members.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga read the report into the record

Balance in General Fund as of 12/15/21:	\$6,409,458.91
Tonight's Invoices Total	\$1,765,340.16
General Fund:	\$1,658,152.94
Federal and State Grants:	\$89,346.29
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$17,840.93
Capital Non-Recurring Project	\$0.00

Mr.

DiLeone commented on the Food Services Budget and his report on how to spend the account down. This is also addressed in Action Item #5 which was discussed with the Food Services Director Patricia Iraci.

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

Miss Hughes delivered this evening's reports and gave updates regarding, Departments, Clubs, and Student Government.

VII. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE, PROGRAMS and AWARDS

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update

1. Update on children in quarantine and tutorial support.

Mr. Yamin gave a report including some details with regards to positive cases within the Region and how many were in quarantine. Mr. Yamin spoke to the Commissioner of Education and, at this point, there is no remote learning. If it becomes necessary after Christmas break, that will be addressed and worked through. Currently there is adequate tutorial services for students in quarantine who choose to take advantage of it.

2. Assignment on Standing Committees.

This report, which will be available to the public on our website, was shared and detailed.

3. Change in instructional start time at Woodland Regional High School.

This is an Action Item on this evening's agenda. Brief details were shared such as starting morning instructional time by 15 minutes and ending the day 15 minutes earlier. This would not take effect until the next school year, 2022-2023. Ms. Cretella asked if other options such as starting the middle school and elementary schools later were discussed. Mr. Yamin replied that they were, but it was not feasible.

4. Virtual learning platform for remote learning, credit retention and enrichment.

A policy will be created for remote learning for certain kids who need it, and it will be very specific.

5. Budget survey results.

Budget season has started. Mr. Yamin reviewed the survey results that were included in the Board packet.

B. Action Items

1. Act to elect new officers for Board of Education: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

See above.

2. Act to adopt the terms of the stipulated agreement concerning a student expulsion matter entered into between Region 16 administration and the parents of the student who is the subject of the Executive Session.

This will be addressed after the Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

3. Act to change the instructional start time at WRHS from 7:35 a.m. to 7:20 a.m. to aid with bussing for other schools in the morning.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to change the instructional start time at WRHS from 7:35 a.m. to 7:20 a.m. to aid with bussing for other schools, ending the day at 1:50 p.m. This will take effect starting with the 2022-2023 school year.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-175

4. Act to accept teacher's letter of resignation as of 1/28/22. (B. Nappi)

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to accept Bjanka Nappi's (Literacy Specialist at Prospect Elementary School) letter of resignation effective as of 1/28/22.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-176

5. Act to approve the purchase of a new dishwasher for WRHS from Warehouse Store Fixture Co. for a total of \$41,690.60.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro to approve the purchase of a new dishwasher for WRHS from Warehouse Store Fixture Co. totaling \$41,690.60.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-177

C. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mr. DiLeone reported on the following; First level approval for ARP ESSER has been granted, Auditors have completed their review of financials and their required testing and will be presenting to the Board at the first meeting in January. EFS filing will be completed by the State's deadline of Dec. 31. John Dufour of All-Star presented the contract terms for the next five years, which will now go to the Board Chair for final signature. The Special Education Dept. has been awarded a recovery grant, deriving from ESSER II funding in the amount of \$68,900. These funds will provide flexibilities and address the critical needs of identified special education populations

in returning from the pandemic.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

Budget Surplus

CABE or Jessica Ritter meeting with BOE for a legal session.

CIP at WRHS:

- Add on turf field as part of the project
 - Turf vs. natural grass
- Mr. Parrino and Mr. Catanzaro briefly discussed advantages and disadvantages, Mr. DiLeone provided some figures, and the Board had an open discussion.

XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

January 2022 Coming Attractions - Christine Sardinskas will update date changes.

XIII. ENROLLMENT (Ex. II) December 2021

Included in the packet.

XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee

B. Facilities and Transportation Committee: **12/15/21 virtual meeting 5:45 p.m. to discuss CIP timelines.**

FYI - Draft timeline for bonding project

- Athletic Facility Questionnaire

C. Curriculum Committee

Will meet before the budget meeting in February.

D. Policy Committee

Meets two times per year - next meeting will be in May.

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: **11/17/21 meeting minutes in packet**

J. Interdepartmental Safety Committee

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to move to Executive Session at 8:00 p.m., to include the Superintendent, to discuss a student matter.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-178

A MOTION was made by Roxy Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to come out of the Executive Session at 8:33 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-179

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to adopt the terms of the stipulated agreement concerning a student expulsion matter entered into between the Region 16 Administration and the parents of the student who was the subject of the Executive Session.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-180

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Ben Catanzaro and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to adjourn the December 15, 2021, Board of Education meeting at 8:35 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-181

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: January 12, 2022, Woodland Regional High School, 7:00 p.m.