

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Board of Education Meeting
March 24, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

		Weighted Vote <u>Per Member</u>
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Christine Arnold	.7
	Ben Catanzaro	.7
	Priscilla Cretella	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Robert Dyer	1.3
	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
Michele Raynor, Curriculum Director
Regina Murzak, Principal LLES
Derek Muharem, Principal LRMS
Michelle Meyers, Asst. Principal LRMS
Jeffrey Haddad, Asst. Principal PES
Matthew Brennan, Director of Technology
Dana Mulligan, Asst. Principal WRHS
Ryan Mackenzie, Asst. Principal WRHS
Rima McGeehan, Principal PES
Sara Steinberg Forman, Asst. Dir. of SPED
Kurt Ogren, Principal WRHS

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

Roll was called and a quorum was present

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Revision/Additions to Agenda Order

It was noted that the April 7, 2021 Board of Education Meeting/Public Hearing has been cancelled and a Special Board of Ed Meeting/Public Hearing has been scheduled for March 31, 2021 and will occur in person at WRHS at 7:00 p.m.

Prior to the regular meeting agenda, a budget discussion took place and the following items were noted from this evening's Powerpoint:

Recent budget recommendations were reviewed, and the final budget proposal of a total increase of .5% was recommended. Mr. Yamin discussed budget specifics and changes from the last meeting. Mr. Yamin no longer recommends cutting the Guidance position at PES and he also reviewed the revenues by town. Administrators have been a part of the process and they are comfortable and do not feel that they are in need of anything additional. The only additional request made was a book that will be bought for all Region 16 staff members. Mr. Yamin still recommends cutting the AP position at LRMS. Mr. Dyer recommended having Mr. Muharem report back during the beginning of the next school year to see if that position might need to be reinstated. It was again made clear that the internship position is not being eliminated.

The regular portion of the meeting began at 7:16 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 10, 2021, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2021, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I).

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

21-030

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*

Tara Little, Co-President of Teachers' Union, read a letter that was sent regarding the request to table the decision to bring students back 5 days per week starting on April 19th. This request asked for the motion to be tabled until the impact on the increase of teacher workload has been discussed further.

Mr. Yamin reminded the Board and the public that this only affects six Wednesdays through the end of the school year. Mr. Yamin also summarized some ways that the Region has demonstrated respect and value towards teachers. He noted R16 staff received their first vaccine shot this month, and we currently have no staff members COVID positive at this time. Also, we paid staff with \$50 Amazon gift cards to participate in summer virtual training to support teaching remotely. Mr. Yamin said having students return to school full time is beneficial to them.

Mr. Hiscox and Ms. Cretella voiced their opinion supporting students return to full time 5-day per week instruction, and Mr. Yamin has a meeting scheduled with the teachers' union.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Updates to the community from the Superintendent. (3/5/21, 3/15/21)
Included in Board packet

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Noujaim read the report as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 3/24/21:	\$5,584,321.69
Tonight's invoices total:	\$547,237.14
General Fund:	\$528,394.85
Federal and State Grants:	\$0.00
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$292.57
Capital Non Recurring Project	\$18,549.72

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT (Kayleigh Budnick, Gavin Moffat)

Miss Budnick delivered this evening's report

VII. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE, PROGRAMS and AWARDS

1. WRHS Math Team updates.
2. 2021 CAS High School Arts Award Winners from WRHS: Anna Canas & Wesley Belanger.

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update

1. Re-opening Committee update.
Had a meeting on March 23, 2021 which was positive, any lingering concerns are hoped to be alleviated at tomorrow's meeting. It was noted that June 7-11 will be half days. Graduation dates will be set at the next meeting.
2. ESSR funds.
Mr. DiLeone spoke to this and referred to three rounds of funding. The first has been received. The second amount is \$332,654 which will cover the end of this fiscal year and next. The plan is to use \$15,000 for Special Education costs, \$80,000 for salaries and \$138,000 to fund technology purchases. This will leave about \$100,000 for next fiscal year.
3. Facilities report on present state of schools and future structural and infrastructure changes. (Mark Parrino)
Mr. Parrino submitted the facilities report to the Board and would like to do a monthly report including pictures and graphs going forward.

B. Action Items

1. Act to approve opening all R16 schools five days per week – week of April 19th.
A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to act to approve opening all R16 schools five days per week, under Superintendent discretion, starting the week of April 19th.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

21-031

Mr. Ogren briefly outlined how four cohorts would be utilized at the high school starting in April and assured the Board there would be equality between the groups by the end of the school year, noting only a one-day difference among them.

2. Act to have in-person meetings for BOE April format.
A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to act to approve in-person Board of Education meetings going forward starting with next week's meeting of March 31, 2021.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

21-032

C. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mr. DiLeone addressed the following: The Business Office resumed working on the Frontline Time & Attendance implementation. Anthem has lowered the 2021-2022 renewal, reflected in the updated 2021-22 proposed budget documents. Region 16 has been allocated \$826,223 in American Rescue Plan dollars; this is preliminary and subject to change. At this time there is no communication on what these funds can be used for. Mr. Parrino and Mr. DiLeone are issuing RFP's for landscaping and pest control as the contracts with existing providers have expired.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Catanzaro, on behalf of the Beacon Falls Lions Club, was interested in finding out if the Snack Shack on the field at the high school can be renamed in honor of Larry Hutvagner of Beacon Falls, who passed away recently and was a staunch advocate for students and sports programs. Mr. Yamin will pull the policy on renaming facilities in R16 and address this request at the next meeting.

XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee
- B. Facilities and Transportation Committee: **Next meeting: 4/21/21 at 6:30 p.m., D.O.**
- C. Curriculum Committee: **Next meeting: 5/12/21, at 6:00 p.m., LLES.**
- D. Policy Committee: **Next meeting: 4/21/21, at 5:30 p.m., D.O.**
- E. Public Communications
- F. Technology Committee
- G. Recognition Committee: **April 29th SCASA Award Winners' Luncheon @ Jesse Camille's at 12:00 p.m. Board members will let Lorrie know if interested in attending.**
- H. Liaisons:
 - 1. Schools
 - 2. Wellness Committee
 - 3. Professional Development Committee
 - 4. 2COM
- I. Parent Advisory Council: **3/24/21, 5:45 p.m., Virtual Meeting**

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Rob Dyer and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to adjourn the Board of Education meeting of March 24, 2021, at 7:59 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

21-033

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 31, 2021, Special BOE Meeting and Public Hearing, Woodland High School, 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.