

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**August 11, 2021**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

		Weighted Vote <u>Per Member</u>
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Christine Arnold	.7
	Ben Catanzaro	.7
	Priscilla Cretella	.7
	Erik Dey	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Roxann Vaillancourt	1.3
	Robert Hiscox	1.3

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Yamin, Superintendent of Schools  
Tony DiLeone, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations  
Mark Parrino, Director of Facilities  
Michele Raynor, Director of Curriculum  
Michelle Fortuna, Director of SPED/Pupil Personnel Svcs.

**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**

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Erik Dey to add Action Item 4 to the agenda, Act to increase Special Education position from part time to full time at PES.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4)

**21-101**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of June 16, 2021, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

A MOTION was made by Christine Arnold and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2021, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I).

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4)

**21-102**

**III. COMMENT**

**A. Town Officials**

Mr. Yamin reported on a positive conversation he had with Beacon Falls First Selectman and Prospect Mayor who were both supportive of the Reopening Plan and ESSER.

**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*

Laurie Lestage, resident of Prospect, was concerned about whether or not the District would be teaching CRT (Critical Race Theory). Mr. Yamin briefly replied that neither the Region nor the Board has discussed this. What the Region does teach is Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Ms. Lestage also has some concerns about the masking of students in which Mr. Yamin replied that at this point it is an Executive Order.

Lia Pankake, resident of Prospect, had some questions about how things would work if quarantine becomes an issue. She also had some questions about how things would work with students with IEPs if there were special conditions. Mr. Yamin was able to respond that he is waiting for more guidance from the state and is currently looking into some ways to support that situation. Mr. Yamin advised her to be in close contact with the child's Administrator and Case Manager as this would be on an individual basis.

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letters to Beacon Falls and Prospect re revision in payment schedule.
2. Emails from parents re: "unmasking our kids".
3. Superintendent's letters to the community (8/3 - ESY COVID case, 8/6 Opening Plan).
4. New Teacher Orientation - August 23, 2021.  
The Region is very close to being fully staffed, there will be 21 people attending New Teacher Orientation.
5. Superintendent's Welcome Back Letter to Staff.

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

Mr. Hiscox read the report as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 8/11/21:	\$1,976,173.77
Tonight's invoices total:	\$2,109,598.66
General Fund:	\$2,105,040.60
Federal and State Grants:	\$2,470.00
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$2,088.06
Capital Non-Recurring Project	\$0.00

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

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

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

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

1. Staffing for 2021-2022 school year. (see spreadsheet)

2. R16 Opening Plan.
3. CDC recommendation and Governor's Executive Orders.
4. Hiring of Assistant Director of SPED update.

Mr. Yamin stated that at the September 8th Board Meeting new teachers will be welcomed, also WRHS will be celebrating 20 years.

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

1. Act to hire new certified staff for 2021-22 school year. (A. DeRosa, C. Cogan, T. Kmetz, C. Geary, J. Fisette, K. Drogu, B. Avxhiu, A. Walling)

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to hire Alyssa DeRosa as 1.0 FTE Library Media Specialist at LLES at MA, Step 14, \$81,213. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-103**

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to hire Christine Cogan as 1.0 FTE Grade 1 Teacher at LLES at BA, Step 6, \$52,511. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-104**

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to hire Tatiana Kmetz as 1.0 FTE English and Language Arts Teacher at LRMS at MA, Step 8, \$57,396. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-105**

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to hire Caitlin Geary as 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist at LRMS and WRHS at MA+30, Step 10, \$67,881. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-106**

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to hire Jeremy Fisette as 1.0 FTE English Teacher at WRHS at BA+15, Step 6, \$53,407. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-107**

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to hire Klajd Drogu as 1.0 FTE Italian Teacher at WRHS at BA, Step 4, \$50,419. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-108**

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to hire Bjanka Avxhiu as 1.0 FTE Literacy Specialist District-Wide at MA+30, Step 6, \$56,399. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-109**

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to hire Ann Walling as 1.0 FTE Math Specialist District-wide at MA, Step 9, \$60,559. **ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-110**

2. Act to accept teachers' letters of resignation. (R. Tate, K. Athan, A. Sharpe, F. Mesaros, and S. Koulouris)

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to accept Rebecca Tate's, Math Specialist at PES, letter of resignation, effective 6/30/21.  
**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-111**

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to accept Kim Athan's, Italian teacher at WRHS, letter of resignation, effective 7/9/21.  
**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-112**

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro to accept Alyssa Sharpe's, ELA teacher at LRMS, letter of resignation, effective 7/9/21.  
**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-113**

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to accept Fallon Mesaros', Grade 1 teacher at LLES, letter of resignation, effective 7/29/21.  
**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-114**

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to accept Sherri Koulouris', SPED teacher at LRMS, letter of resignation, effective 8/3/21.  
**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-115**

3. Act to confirm hire of new Director of SPED/Pupil Personnel Services, Michelle Fortuna.

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro to hire Director of SPED/Pupil Personnel Services, Michelle Fortuna.  
**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-116**

Mr. Hiscox requested a follow up after exit interviews take place.

4. Act to increase Special Education position at PES from part time to full time.

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to increase the SPED teaching position at Prospect Elementary School from part time to full time.  
**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4) **21-117**

It was noted that this position would go from .8 to 1.0 FTE, benefits would remain the same with an increase in salary of about \$8,000-\$10,000 but would be able to service so many more students.

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

1. R16 ARP ESSER Fund Usage.

Mr. DiLeone updated the Board on the following; Frontline Time & Attendance rollout has continued throughout the summer. All custodians and secretaries have been trained on and using the new system. As the year progresses remaining support staff will continue for a full rollout. The CSDE communicated that additional ESSER II funding will be available to support but no exact amount was specified. The ARP ESSER/ESSER III plan has been updated. Additional amounts have been allocated for

substitutes and tent rentals for outdoor learning. The statute that governs the capital non-recurring account was amended in June to reflect a maximum 2% deposit into the account annually. With the Director of Technology, the Region has applied for an FCC registration number and CAGE Code to allow the Region to leverage the Emergency Connectivity Funds being made available to offer broadband service to students and staff who otherwise lack this connectivity.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

Bus routes will be out by Monday by email and online.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Job description for Personal Learning Advisor.

There will be a Policy Committee meeting by October.

**XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA**

**XII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Discuss Home-schooled children.

**XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee - **Negotiation meetings - new teachers' contract:**

**9/16/21; 9/30/21; 10/28/21 and mediation 11/18/21 all at 5:00 p.m. in the District Office.**

B. Facilities and Transportation Committee

C. Curriculum Committee

D. Policy Committee **will happen in October**

E. Public Communications

F. Technology Committee: **Minutes of 6/16/21 meeting**

G. Recognition Committee

H. Liaisons:

1. Schools

2. Wellness Committee

3. Professional Development Committee

4. 2COM

I. Parent Advisory Council

**Interdepartmental Emergency Committee; September 10, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Christine Arnold and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro to adjourn the August 11, 2021 Board of Education Meeting at 7:33 p.m.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 5.4)

**21-118**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** September 8, 2021, WRHS, 7:00 p.m. (Board Meeting starts at 7:00 but welcoming new teachers will begin at 5:30 p.m.).