

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**November 17, 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 <i>arrived at 7:11 p.m.</i>	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Robert Hiscox	1.3
	Nazih Noujaim	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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Priscilla Cretella, at 7:02 p.m. at the District Office, Prospect, CT.

**A. Roll Call**

Roll was called and a quorum was present

Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga, newly elected Beacon Falls Board member, was welcomed by Ms. Cretella.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of October 13, 2021, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

A MOTION was made by Ben Catanzaro and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve the minutes of October 13, 2021, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.0) **21-160**

**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*

Sean Cameron, resident of Prospect, addressed the Board about his concern for the lack of virtual learning options for children forced to quarantine. He also voiced his concern about the lack of direction when this happens and having only one single tutor available for the whole district.

*Erik Dey arrived at 7:11 p.m.*

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

Supt update to the community – 10/22/21

Thank you card from Michaud family

Postcard from Meghan and Paul Geary

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

Balance in General Fund as of 11/17/21:	\$5,930,368.71
Tonight's Invoices Total	\$1,484,161.55
General Fund:	\$1,484,161.55
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** (Kayleigh Budnick, Charli Hughes)

Miss Budnick delivered this evening's report highlighting updates regarding Departments, Clubs, and Student Government.

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

Patricia Iraci and Melinda Ferrare of the Food Service Department were both thanked for their commitment and professionalism; they were presented with a certificate of appreciation.

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

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

##### **1. Capital improvement project.**

Kaestle Boos will be recommended during Action Items to move forward with the capital improvement project at WRHS. Mr. Yamin is comfortable with the numbers and thanked the committee members for their dedication. A discussion began regarding the possibility of considering turf vs. grass. Mr. Yamin suggested bringing that to the Facilities Committee and then to the Board for discussion.

##### **2. Update on R16 procedures for out-of-state field trips for LRMS.**

The Washington D.C., Boston, and Disney trips have been approved. The trips are moving forward as all policies were laid out well. Disney will assume full responsibility and provide insurance. It was stated that the other trips were subject to loss of deposit if the child was unable to attend due to sickness. Also, if a child fell ill with COVID during a trip, that child's parent would need to pick them up.

##### **3. Open forum for UPSEU.**

The UPSEU union is currently without a president, but Mr. Yamin noted they are still a respected committee.

Mr. Yamin gave updates on use of ESSER funds, Instructional Rounds, and staffing. There are few if any substitutes, as is the case in many places. There are currently 11 staff members out on FMLA. A budget survey was sent out to staff, parents and students 6-12.

Mr. Hiscox and Mr. Noujaim both requested that Mr. Cameron's (the parent who spoke under Public Comment) concern regarding the process of educating students while quarantined be followed up on and find where it can be improved.

### **B. Action Items**

1. Act to approve R16 teachers' bargaining agreement for the period August 15, 2022 to August 14, 2025.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to approve R16 teachers' bargaining agreement for the period August 15, 2022 to August 14, 2025.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7)

**21-161**

A brief discussion ensued about the ½ day before Thanksgiving, but Mr. Yamin assured that the committee was in support of this. A correction was noted on page 34 of the new contract. Lastly, it was asked how the salary increases in the new contract compare to other school districts. Mr. Yamin stated that we are slightly higher at about 11% vs. 9.5% average, at the time of negotiations.

2. Act to hire new teaching staff for 2021-2022 school year. (K. Mackenzie, T. Simonetti)

A MOTION was made by Ben Catanzaro and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to hire for 2021-2022 school year Kelly Mackenzie as a 1.0 FTE Pre-School Learning Teacher at Prospect Elementary School at MA+15, Step 7, \$56,981 (pro-rated).

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7)

**21-162**

A MOTION was made by Ben Catanzaro and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to hire for 2021-2022 school year Thomas Simonetti as a .5 FTE Theater/Drama Teacher at WRHS at MA, Step 6, \$27,258 (pro-rated).

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7)

**21-163**

3. Act to approve teacher's request for extended leave until June 2022.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Erik Dey to approve teacher Carissa Kurowski's request for extended leave until June 2022.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7)

**21-164**

4. Act to approve the draft of the 2022-2023 School Budget Calendar.

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve the draft of the 2022-2023 School Budget Calendar.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7)

**21-165**

5. Act to extend the All-Star Transportation bussing contract as per the contract article "Extension Options".

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to extend the All-Star Transportation bussing contract as per the contract article Addressing "Extension Options".

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7)

**21-166**

It was noted that this was for five years.

6. Act to approve transfer of \$100K from private school tuition to public school tuition and purchased services.

A MOTION was made by Ben Catanzaro and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve transfer of \$100K from private school tuition to public school tuition and purchased services.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7)

**21-167**

Movements out of private school placements into public schools is the reason for the money being transferred which will result in savings for the District.

7. Act to approve/select architect for the WRHS capital improvement project.

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve Kaestle Boos as the architect for the WRHS capital improvement project in the amount of \$115,000.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7)

**21-168**

Mr. Catanzaro briefly explained the process by which this decision was made. Mr. Parrino also mentioned that they were most impressed by this company, especially after the site visit. A discussion regarding turf vs. grass came up again. Some pros and cons were discussed. It was noted that this would change the scope of the project. Mr. Yamin recommends this discussion goes to the Facilities Committee. Ms. Cretella would like to discuss it again at the December 15th meeting. In the meantime, Mr. Yamin will get as much information as possible.

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

Mr. DiLeone reported on the following: The SPED department details regarding their request of transfer are available on the budget transfer sheet, The Wellness Fairs were a huge success, The State has begun reviewing our ARP ESSER application and requested additional details-full approval on this grant is anticipated for December. The auditors have been onsite for the last few weeks reviewing 2020-21 data and are working to

complete their annual audit. The 2022-23 budget packets have been distributed to all schools and directors as well as a draft calendar. Several architects have been interviewed for upcoming capital projects at Woodland in which the Board took action this evening.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS**

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Job description for Personal Learning Advisor.  
Report on tutors for virtual learning  
Turf discussion/ Capital Improvement Project

**XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA**

**XII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Accelerated Learning articles  
Flu Vaccine Clinics (flyers enclosed)  
Vaccine Clinic for Ages 5-11 at PES  
LRMS Homes for the Brave Collection  
State to Farm School Grant  
Press release from NVHD regarding LRMS student taking 1st place in art contest  
December 2021 Coming Attractions

**XIII. ENROLLMENT (Ex. II) November 2021**

**XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee  
Signed union contract
- B. Facilities and Transportation Committee: **Will be meeting every two weeks when the architect is approved for the capital improvement project.**  
The capital improvement project is moving forward.
- C. Curriculum Committee  
Will meet in about a month
- D. Policy Committee
- 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 5:45 p.m. virtual meeting**  
Meeting went well; we will continue in this manner.
- J. Interdepartmental Safety Committee: **Minutes of 10/1/21 mtg. included in BOE packet.**

Mr. Dey and Mr. Noujaim were thanked for their service to the Board over the past years.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro to adjourn the November 17, 2021 Board of Education meeting at 8:04 p.m.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 6.7)

**21-169**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING(s):** December 1, 2021, District Office, 7:00 p.m. -  
Special Meeting for election of officers

December 15, 2021, District Office, 7:00 p.m. -  
Regular meeting