

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Special Board of Education Meeting/Public Hearing
March 31, 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>	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
Matthew Brennan, Director of Technology
Dana Mulligan, Asst. Principal WRHS
Ryan Mackenzie, Asst. Principal WRHS
Rima McGeehan, Principal PES
Kurt Ogren, Principal WRHS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Priscilla Cretella, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Woodland Regional High School, Beacon Falls, CT.

A. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present

B. Pledge of Allegiance

ADJOURN TO THE PUBLIC HEARING

a. Call of the Meeting (newspaper legal notice)

Mr. Yamin read the following into the record

Notice of Public Meeting
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16
Towns of Beacon Falls & Prospect

All electors and citizens, who are qualified to vote in a town meeting of the Towns of Beacon Falls and the Town of Prospect, are hereby notified and warned that a public District Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at Woodland Regional High School in the Town of Beacon Falls at 7:00 p.m. at which the Regional Board of Education will present a proposed budget of \$ 40,935,058 for the next fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2021. Any person may recommend the inclusion or deletion of expenditures in said proposed budget at such time. After said public hearing, the Board will prepare an annual budget for the next fiscal year, copies of which will be available at least five days before the annual meeting to be held on Monday, May 3, 2021.

b. Nominate and vote to appoint a Temporary Secretary

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to elect Kelly Rodriguez as Temporary Secretary.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

21-034

c. Nominate and vote to appoint a Moderator for the District Meeting/Public Hearing

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to elect Robert Hiscox as Moderator.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

21-035

d. Moderator-

Present proposed budget for 2021-2022 (Superintendent to make presentation)

Mr. Yamin presented his budget. This was the fifth workshop where modifications were discussed, adjustments were made and this final budget is aligned to the Board's goals: Culture, Achievement, Communication, Fiscal. Mr. Yamin briefly touched on the following: budget highlights, proposed staffing reductions, enrollment trends, per pupil expenditures and the proposed budget details by member towns. Recent budget history was also discussed and the final proposed budget would include an increase of .05% or a total of \$203,656.00 over this year's budget.

Comments from the public

Fred Smith, Beacon Falls, spoke as a taxpayer and thanked the Board for their work in preparing the budget and keeping the schools open and safe.

Dino Verrelli, Beacon Falls, spoke as both a parent and a Non-Profit Founder. Mr. Verrelli shared the belief that not every student is destined for college. Mr. Verrelli shared his concern of cutting the Career Coordinator position from FT to PT. He shared his first hand experience working in partnership with Mr. Staib and the Internship Program. Mr. Verrelli asked why there is a surplus and wanted to know about specific line items in the budget and where that information is accessible. Mr. Verrelli questioned SAT's in regard to the cost the Region is spending per student and if the Region needs to be spending more. Lastly, Mr. Verrelli would like to see where in the budget is it showing what the Region is doing to get students back full time.

Jon Setaro, Beacon Falls, spoke in support of keeping the Career Coordinator position filled by Mr. Staib as a full time position. Mr. Setaro, a freshman in college and recent

graduate of WRHS, spoke of his first- hand experience as part of the Internship Program and the opportunities it led to for him and a friend.

Tracy Hussey, Beacon Falls, thanked the Board for reconsidering the School Counselor position.

e. Adjournment of District Meeting/Public Hearing

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to adjourn the Public Hearing and return to the regular agenda.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

21-036

At this time the Board resumed the regular business/agenda.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

N/A

III. COMMENT

Comments previously noted during the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Noujaim read the report as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 3/31/21:	\$4,911,735.96
Tonight's invoices total:	\$443,917.14
General Fund:	\$443,917.14
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, Gavin Moffat)

N/A

VII. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE, PROGRAMS and AWARDS

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update

1. State of schools with regard to COVID cases and quarantining.
A small spike was recorded; R16 staff will be receiving the second vaccine on April 23rd.
2. Reopening update.
The Committee met recently. There is a plan to have non-certified staff help with before and after school student monitoring for extra pay. The goal is to open full time, five days per week, starting on April 19th.
3. Review policy 7551 on *Naming/Renaming Facilities*.

This was reviewed and a list of current places that are named after individuals will be presented at a future meeting.

B. Action Items

1. Set 2021 graduation date for WRHS (June 11) and promotion ceremony for LRMS (June 9).

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to set the 2021 graduation date for WRHS as June 11th and promotion ceremony for LRMS as June 9th, with rain dates as follows: WRHS Saturday, June 12, at 10:00 a.m. and LRMS Thursday, June 10, at 6:00 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

21-037

2. Act to hold Annual District Meeting at LRMS on Monday, May 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m. to vote on proposed school budget for 2021-2022 of \$40,935,058 by a voting method determined by the Board of Education.

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to hold the Annual District Meeting at LRMS on Monday, May 3, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to vote on proposed school budget for 2021-2022 of \$40,935,058 by a voting method determined by the Board of Education.

After the motion was made a discussion ensued. Some Board members expressed some unease with cutting the Career Coordinator position from FT to PT. After further discussion and consideration, Robert Hiscox made an amendment to the above motion to reflect a new proposed budget number that would include reinstating this position to FT; that amount was read as \$40,985,059. The new motion also reflects the voting method to reflect a show of hands. The amended motion reads as follows:

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to hold an Annual District Meeting at LRMS on Monday, May 3, 2021, 7:00 p.m. to vote on the proposed school budget for 2021-2022 of \$40,985,059 by a show of hands.

MOTION PASSES, with All In Favor, except Robert Dyer, who Abstained.

(weighted vote totals 6.7)

21-038

3. Act to approve to authorize funds for mailing/signage for budget advertising, not to exceed \$2500.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve to authorize funds for mailing/signage for budget advertising, not to exceed \$2500.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

21-039

4. Act to accept teacher's letter of retirement. (A. Fowler)

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Robert Hiscox to accept PES Kindergarten teacher Ann Fowler's letter of retirement, with gratitude and recognition of service, effective June 30, 2021.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

21-040

C. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mr. DiLeone reported that Food Service was able to realize a small profit in February 2021, as a result of the breakfast program that was implemented. Although this department showed a loss of \$68K for the year, we are hopeful that transitioning back to full time in-person learning will help to drive down this loss.

As a token of appreciation to teachers and staff, we are in the process of scheduling a food truck at each school as part of a wellness initiative for those receiving the COVID19 vaccination. Finally, after a discussion with our workers' compensation carrier, H. D. Segur confirmed we should expect a small increase to our workers' compensation insurance next year.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. WRHS National Honor Society members read to elementary classrooms virtually for *Read Across America*.

XIII. ENROLLMENT – April 2021

XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee

UPSEU mediation to be held on a date yet to be determined.

B. Facilities and Transportation Committee: **Next meeting 4/21/21, 6:30-7:00 p.m., D.O.**

C. Curriculum Committee: **Next meeting 5/12/21, 6:00 p.m., LLES**

D. Policy Committee: **Next meeting 4/21/21, 5:30-6:30 p.m., D.O.**

E. Public Communications

F. Technology Committee

Meeting after graduations.

G. Recognition Committee

H. Liaisons:

1. Schools
2. Wellness Committee
3. Professional Development Committee
4. 2COM

I. Parent Advisory Council

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to adjourn the Special Board of Education Meeting/Public Hearing of March 31, 2021 at 8:05 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 8.0)

21-041

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: April 21, 2021, District Office