

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 16
Board of Education Meeting
March 8, 2023

EXHIBIT I

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

		<u>Weighted Vote Per Member</u>
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga	.7
	Christine Arnold	.7
	Priscilla Cretella	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Robert Hiscox	1.3
	Roxann Vaillancourt	1.3
	Robert Dyer	1.3

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael P. Yamin, Superintendent
 Tony DiLeone, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations
 Michele Raynor, Director of Curriculum
 Derek Muharem, Principal LRMS
 Ryan Mackenzie, VP WRHS
 Kurt Ogren, Principal WRHS
 Dana Mulligan, VP WRHS
 Michelle Fortuna, Director of Pupil Services

Prior to the start of the regular business for this evening Mr. Yamin provided a discussion regarding the proposed budget.

The following topics were discussed: CASBO report, major drivers, regional/local control, Curriculum and SPED. A calendar of the budget meetings was also shared.

Mr. Yamin started his portion of the presentation with statewide budget comparisons. The Region 16 total proposed budget for 2023-24 is \$42,869,595.00 which is a 2.75% increase over this year. Mr. Yamin shared prior years' budget information. He also shared detailed information regarding the following points; District Goals, District Strategic Planning, Strategic Goals, Commitments, Core Values & Beliefs, Theory of Action, Academic Improvement Goals, recent budget history, budget drivers and overview, budget highlights, proposed staffing changes, enrollment trends, projected enrollment, per pupil expenditures, SBAC Data, 5-Year Budget Analysis, expenditure by category, sources of operating revenue and net costs to member towns.

Prior to Mr. Yamin's report Mr. Muharem shared his concern with the possibility of cutting a guidance counselor at the middle school and he urged the Board to take a hard look at this decision.

Mrs. Raynor shared her portion of the Curriculum budget. Her proposed budget is \$96,480. She also provided a year at a glance as well as a snapshot of the Overall Curriculum Budget.

Ms. Fortuna provided her snapshot of the SPED budget which totals \$4,408,486.00. Ms. Fortuna also included information regarding current news and highlights for what's new.

Questions were fielded from Board members. Mr. Hiscox asked where students were going that were being outplaced and the associated costs. Mr. Dyer questioned whether it was possible to team with surrounding districts who outplace students to have a central location to meet the various students' needs. Ms. Fortuna explained that the main hurdle there is finding a location to provide the appropriate educational programs and the logistics of how that would work with other towns and their budgets.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Robert Hiscox, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls, CT.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

C. Revision/Additions to Agenda Order

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to add Action Item #10, Act to hire a Behavioral Technician to support an IEP for a kindergarten student at Laurel Ledge.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-022

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to add Action Item #11, Act to approve Constellation Energy as the Region's electricity supplier from November 2023 to November 2026 at a fixed price of 10.58 cents per kilowatt hour.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-023

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of February 8, 2023, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the minutes of February 8, 2023, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-024

Minutes of February 10, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II)

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to approve the minutes of February 10, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-025

Minutes of February 15, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. III)
 A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to
 approve the minutes of February 15, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. III)
ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0) **23-026**

The Exemplary People and Programs section of the agenda was moved to this portion of tonight's meeting.

III. COMMENT

A. Town Officials

B. Public Comments - Note: Public Comment will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker with a maximum of 45 minutes per subject. The BOE will not reply to comments made at a meeting.

Maureen Carroll, resident of Beacon Falls, shared that she was still waiting on answers to some previously asked questions. Ms. Carroll also shared her displeasure with social media comments made by a Board member.

Dino Verrelli, resident of Beacon Falls, spoke in regards to transparency and a letter from Shipman & Goodwin on the procurement of goods and services. Mr. Verrelli questioned when Policy 3321 will take effect in the Region. Mr. Verrelli also posed some questions in regards to the Superintendent and an annuity from the state. Mr. Verrelli shared his concern of not being able to locate minutes from Personnel and Negotiations meetings over the last couple of years. Mr. Verrelli also had questions regarding his access to FOI requests. Lastly, Mr. Verrelli questioned why Ms. Raynor was not named acting Superintendent right away.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

- 2/9/23 Superintendent of Schools Update on CIP and letter to the community/staff.
- 2/13/23 Superintendent's R16 Weekly Update.
- 2/15/23 Letter from Mr. DiLeone to Mr. Verrelli re: legal opinion.
- 2/17/23 Letter to Prospect Planning and Zoning re a gun club proposal.
- Notice of Free School Meals returning on March 1, 2023.
- 2/24/23 Email correspondence from Chairman Hiscox to Mrs. Carroll.
- 2/28/23 Letter (email) to BOE from Superintendent Yamin (My Weekly Update).
- 3/1/23 R16 Superintendent of Schools update.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance in General Fund as of 3/8/23:	\$4,646,294.51
Tonight's Invoices Total	\$837,652.25
General Fund	\$807,058.95
Federal and State Grants	\$6,450.00
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund	\$21,330.80
Capital Non-Recurring Project	\$2,812.50

VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT (Charli Hughes, Kaltrina Ameti)

Miss Ameti delivered this evening's report highlighting information from the following: Departments, Clubs and Students Government.

**VII. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE, PROGRAMS and AWARDS
(Addressed previously in tonight's meeting)**

- WRHS Class of 2023 Valedictorian – Emma Fabrizi; Salutatorian – Brian O'Connell.
- WRHS Academic All State swimming/diving athletes: Maura Beltrami, Ella Bernegger, and Molly Kennedy.
- Michael Magas recognition for years of coaching girls' swim and dive teams. Mr. Magas was provided an award from the Board and shared many strengths of his female athletes and their accomplishments.

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update

1. Capital Improvement Project update.

- KBA's feasibility study

This was completed and details were shared regarding the study as well as the bonding schedule; all of this information will be available online. The existing grass field would be able to be turned into an all purpose field. There will be a public hearing on March 29, 2023. The Board will have to go to referendum to amend the language of the existing resolution and appropriate additional funds.

- Recommended bonding calendar for turf field & draft of financials for the project
There will be a public hearing on March 29, 2023.

Mr. Dyer brought up a point regarding having a placeholder in future budgets that would allow for resurfacing 10-15 years down the road.

2. A.I. – Chat – GPT (Ryan Mackenzie)

Mr. Mackenzie presented this topic and general education around its pros and cons.

3. Interdepartmental Safety – magnets on all doors.

4. LRMS to host visiting team from the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) on Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

5. Beacon Falls Town Hall parking information.

Mr. Yamin reached out to Mr. Smith and is waiting to hear back if necessary.

Mr. Yamin also made note of the continuing bussing issues. Mr. Dyer questioned if any restitution might be owed; Mr. Yamin will look into the contract.

B. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mr. DiLeone reported on the following; State Legislators voted to continue free meals through SMART Funds 2.0 from March 1, 2023, to the end of the school year. Attorney Rybacki, drafted a timeline dictating deadlines for capital improvements referendum to be with all required notices and events leading up to the May 2 referendum. Phoenix Advisors filed a continuing annual disclosures report on February 28, 2023, however Prospect's audit is also required to complete the submission. Electricity supply contract ends in November 2023. We are working with Connect Energy to bid out multi-year agreements from 2023 onward. Rates

are currently trending at approximately 50% higher than current rates. MJ Daly has been contracted to replace the hot water heater tank at LRMS in the amount of \$25,311.

C. Action Items

1. Act to change March 22, 2023 to a single session day at Woodland Regional High School for SAT testing.

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to change March 22, 2023 to a single session day at Woodland Regional High School for SAT testing.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-027

2. Act to accept teacher's letter of retirement. (George Meyers)

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to accept George Meyers' letter of retirement.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-028

Ms. Cretella added with sincere thanks

3. Act to accept teacher's letter of resignation. (Elisabeth Szklany)

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to accept Elisabeth Szklany's letter of resignation.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-029

4. Act to accept teacher's letter of resignation. (Shannon McCabe)

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to accept Shannon McCabe's letter of resignation.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-030

It was noted this position would be replaced.

5. Act to appoint Michele Raynor as Acting Superintendent of Schools during the following times: March 9, 2023 through March 22, 2023, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Section 10-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to appoint Michele Raynor as Acting Superintendent of Schools during the following times: March 9, 2023 through March 22, 2023, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Section 10-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-031

6. Act to consider a resolution authorizing a District Meeting to be held on March 29, 2023, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing with respect to amending the appropriation and borrowing authorization for improvements to various athletic facilities at WRHS.

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to consider a resolution authorizing a District Meeting to be held on March 29, 2023, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing with respect to amending the appropriation and borrowing authorization for improvements to various athletic facilities at WRHS.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-032

Mr. Dyer made a point to look at language and make sure it was broad enough.

7. Act to add an additional instructional aide for Prospect Elementary School for Grade 3 for the remainder of this year and into 2023-2024.

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to add an additional Instructional Aide for Prospect Elementary School for Grade 3 for the remainder of this year and into 2023-2024.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-033

8. Act to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$57,326.69 for the month of February 2023.

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt Lyga and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$57,326.69 for the month of February 2023.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-034

9. Act to appropriate \$25,311 to M J Daly to replace the failed hot water storage tank at Long River Middle School with a second hot water heater.

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt Lyga and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to appropriate \$25,311 to M J Daly to replace the failed hot water storage tank at Long River Middle School with a second hot water heater.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-035

10. Act to hire a Behavioral Technician to support an IEP for a kindergarten student at Laurel Ledge.

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt Lyga and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to hire a Behavioral Technician to support an IEP for a kindergarten student at Laurel Ledge.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-036

11. Act to approve Constellation Energy as the Region's electricity supplier from November 2023 to November 2026 at a fixed price of 10.58 cents per kilowatt hour.

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt Lyga and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to approve Constellation Energy as the Region's electricity supplier from November 2023 to November 2026 at a fixed price of 10.58 cents per kilowatt hour.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-037

IX. OLD BUSINESS

School-based meetings, conferences, PPTs and policy adherence.

Some of these meetings can be virtual. This will come up as a discussion in May.

X. NEW BUSINESS

XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA

Discussion re: parking situation at Beacon Falls Town Hall.

Executive Session: regarding a student matter.

Quiz Bowl present at next meeting.

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

Expenditure Report – Feb 2023

Coming Attractions – March 2023

XIII. ENROLLMENT – March 2023

XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee

B. Facilities and Transportation Committee – Meeting minutes of 2/8/23 and virtual meeting of 2/24/23.

C. Curriculum Committee

D. Policy Committee – Meeting 4/19/23, District Office, 6:15 p.m.

E. Public Communications – Joint meeting with Technology Committee:
3/8/23, 6:15 p.m., WRHS

F. Technology Committee – Joint meeting w/ Public Communications 3/8/23, 6:15 p.m.,
WRHS.

G. Recognition Committee

H. Liaisons:

1. Schools

2. Wellness Committee

3. Professional Development Committee

4. 2COM

I. Parent Advisory Council

J. Interdepartmental Safety Committee

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Robert Dyer and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to adjourn the Board of Education meeting of March 8, 2023 at 9:08 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-038

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 29, 2023, Long River Middle School, 7:00 p.m.

These minutes are subject to Board approval.

Submitted by Kelly Rodriguez, Board Clerk