

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 16
Board of Education Meeting
December 14, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael P. Yamin, Superintendent
Tony DiLeone, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations
Michele Raynor, Director of Curriculum
Mark Parrino, Director of Facilities

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Robert Hiscox, at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office, in Prospect, CT.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

A moment of silence was called for Debbie Duchak, former teacher of 33 years at Community School who passed away this week, and for the lives lost at Sandy Hook, on this the 10-year anniversary of that tragedy.

C. Revision/Additions to Agenda Order

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of November 16, 2022 Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

A MOTION was made by Karima Jackson and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the minutes of November 16, 2022, Board of Education Meeting (Ex. I)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.7) **22-180**

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. The Superintendent or Board Chair will respond to a concern within five business days

Dino Verrelli, resident of Beacon Falls, spoke regarding three items. He questioned whether or not there was a friendship between Mr. Yamin and the owner of Powerstation. Mr. Verrelli questioned why there was no contract with them. Mr. Verrelli also read a statement regarding his newly formed nonprofit that would look to support a Region 16 Special Education Fund. Mr. Verrelli stated that Project Purple would no longer support Region 16 until changes are made. Mr. Verrelli closed by bringing up a hearing that will take place on January 30th.

Ann and Nathan Cook, residents of Beacon Falls, spoke in regards to football and their preference of a turf field. Ms. Cook, mother of Nathan, reported that her son suffered a no contact injury that she attributed to the condition of the football field. Ms. Cook expressed her dissatisfaction and advocated for a turf field. Nathan Cook, student athlete, spoke in regards to his injury and his disappointment with not being able to play in his last game. He called for change and wants the fields to be better for players in the future.

Thomas Brunetti, resident of Prospect, also expressed his dissatisfaction with the condition of the field. Mr. Brunetti asked if more work would be done and Mr. Hiscox stated that there are plans to do more work. Mr. Catanzaro explained what the process would be should the residents want to make a different decision. Mr. Brunetti expressed his opinion that more money needs to be spent on athletics to which Mr. Yamin provided some history of the money that has been put into the sports programs since he joined the Region.

Joe Lato, resident of Beacon Falls and football coach, also addressed the Board. Mr. Lato asked about a survey that he was under the impression was going out to the community regarding whether or not turf was preferred over grass. Mr. Lato spoke of some of the injuries students obtained on everyday drills. Mr. Lato prefers a turf field.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Superintendent's Thanksgiving message to Region 16.
Superintendent's November 22 State of R16 message.
2022-2023 payment schedules for Prospect and Beacon Falls.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga read the following into the record:

Balance in General Fund as of 12/14/22:	\$7,266,401.98
Tonight's Invoices Total	\$1,061,603.68
General Fund	\$1,051,407.34
Federal and State Grants	\$9,025.40
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund	\$1,170.94
Capital Non-Recurring Project	\$0.00

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

Miss Ameti reported out and Miss Hughes added on information from clubs.

VII. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE, PROGRAMS and AWARDS

2022 CAPSS Award recipients: LRMS – Nora Nemec, Lewis Boyce;
WRHS – Liana Demirs, Brian O'Connell

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update

1. State of R16 schools and future planning.

Mr. Yamin reported that there is a very good vision of where the District plans to go within the next five years. He also summarized the progress made over the last 8 years. Mrs. Raynor also added that the Board would see the fruits of their labor.

2. Teacher retention.

Mr. Yamin shared the report with the Board for a second time. He also reported his opinion that the main reasons for people leaving would be for a job closer to home and more money.

3. District Strategic Plan pamphlet; programmatic pamphlets; public communication.

Mr. Yamin shared the pamphlets that would be sent out to families and town halls.

Mr. Yamin also went on record to confirm his friendship with the owner of Powerstation, however, he pointed out that the Region has been doing business with Powerstation ten years before his arrival in Region 16. He also provided clarification that the FOI paperwork that Mr. Verrelli requested did contain individual agreements/invoices that identified work with Powerstation that date back to 2007.

B. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mr. DiLeone reported that EFS reporting for fiscal year 22 is completed and pending final approval. At this time only two proposals were received for the \$2.3 million loan. One more request should have a response within the next week. The BOWA Consortium, which Region 16 participates in for gasoline, diesel, and heating oil purchases, has begun their bidding process for fiscal year 23-24 and an increase is anticipated. Greenleaf Energy Solutions has provided a proposal for a PPA solar agreement at all four schools with a cost of 8.7 cents per kilowatt hour and a 1.5% annual escalator. Details regarding this are being evaluated before it would go out to the Facilities Committee.

Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga left at 8:08 p.m.

C. Action Items

1. Act to approve job description for Administrative Assistant I to the Superintendent

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve job description for Administrative Assistant I to the Superintendent

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

22-181

2. Act to approve revised job description for the Special Services Administrative Assistant.

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve revised job description for the Special Services Administrative Assistant.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

22-182

3. Act to adopt the terms of the stipulated agreement concerning a student expulsion matter entered into between the administration and parent of the student.

A MOTION was made by Karima Jackson and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to adopt the terms of the stipulated agreement concerning a student expulsion matter entered into between the administration and parent of the student.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

22-183

4. Act to approve budget transfers for November 2022 in the amount of \$83,126.52, as presented.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve budget transfers for November 2022 in the amount of \$83,126.52, as presented.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

22-184

IX. OLD BUSINESS

School-based meetings, conferences, PPTs

X. NEW BUSINESS

A survey will be conducted asking the community if they want to go to referendum and vote on a question of a turf field at WRHS.

XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

FYI – Expenditure Report – Nov 2022 and Coming Attractions for January 2023.

XIII. ENROLLMENT – December 2022

XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee – **Meeting minutes of 11/29/22.**

B. Facilities and Transportation Committee

- **Facilities Report – December 2, 2022**

Moving forward with gym floor at HS, lights at LLES are cheaper to replace than repair

C. Curriculum Committee

D. Policy Committee

E. Public Communications – **Joint meeting with Technology Committee on 12/14/22, 6:15 p.m., D.O. to discuss R16 website**

F. Technology Committee - **Joint meeting with Public Communications 12/14/22**

G. Recognition Committee

H. Liaisons:

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

- I. Parent Advisory Council
- J. Interdepartmental Safety Committee

Before closing the meeting, Mr. Yamin acknowledged how great the LRMS concert was.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Karima Jackson to adjourn the December 14, 2022, Board of Education meeting at 8:38 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

22-185

*These minutes are subject to Board approval.
Submitted by Kelly Rodriguez, Board Clerk.*

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: January 11, 2023, Woodland Regional High School, 7:00 p.m.