

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 16
District Meeting
March 29, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

		Weighted Vote <u>Per Member</u>
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga	.7
	Christine Arnold	.7
	Ben Catanzaro	.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
 (remote)

OTHERS PRESENT: Luke McCoy, PLA, LEED AP Kaestle Boos Associates

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Robert Hiscox, at 7:01 p.m. in the Media Center at Long River Middle School in Prospect, CT.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

II. CALL OF THE MEETING (legal notice as published in the newspaper)

WARNING

DISTRICT MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 16
TOWN OF BEACON FALLS AND PROSPECT
MARCH 29, 2023

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Towns of Beacon Falls and Prospect are hereby warned that a public meeting of Regional School District Number 16 will be held at Long River Middle School, 38 Columbia Avenue in Prospect, Connecticut on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the following recommendations of the Board of Education:

1. That an additional \$2,000,000 (thereby increasing the previously approved amount of \$2,300,000 to \$4,300,000) be appropriated for costs related to improvements to various athletic facilities at the Woodland Regional High School, and the replacement of the football field with artificial turf and repair or replacement of adjacent structures as deemed necessary be added to the original authorization consisting of the demolition and reconstruction of the track, including drainage system, replacement of the gymnasium floor, renovations to the weight room, including remodeling and replacement of equipment, and addition of storage closets outside the new cardio room.
2. That an additional \$2,000,000 (thereby increasing the previously approved amount of \$2,300,000 to \$4,300,000) bonds and temporary notes of the District be authorized to finance the appropriation. The amount of the bonds or notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the District for the project and applied to defray project costs.
3. That the other previously approved authorizations concerning the Board of Education, the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary of the Board, and any other proper officers and officials of the District remain unchanged and include the increased appropriation and authorization.

Dated at Prospect, Connecticut this 20th day of March 2023

Robert Hiscox, Chairman Board of Education
Regional School District No. 16

III. NOMINATE AND VOTE TO APPOINT A TEMPORARY SECRETARY

A MOTION was made by Ben Catanzaro and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to nominate Kelly Rodriguez as Temporary Secretary.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-039

IV. NOMINATE AND VOTE TO APPOINT A MODERATOR

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Karima Jackson to nominate Robert Hiscox as Moderator.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-040

- V. **MODERATOR** - (to make the presentation to the public or assign the Supt. to present) Mr. Hiscox apologized for the mix-up with reporting in the newspaper. Mr. Hiscox also gave an overview of this evening's meeting and then turned it over to Mr. Yamin.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT/KBA, LLC

1. Review of previous feasibility study
Mr. Yamin went through an overview and gave historical background regarding this project. Mr. Yamin reviewed the recent feasibility study, addressed the

existing track and football field analysis and approached what this might do to the Region's debt service over the next years (existing & proposed).

2. Questions & Answers

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT - ***Note: Public Comment will be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker related to proposed amendments on Capital Improvement Projects.***

Caitlin Hernon and Kenan Collins, soccer coaches for the Region, spoke in favor of the turf field.

Kent Kirkland, resident of Beacon Falls, spoke in opposition to the turf and reviewed some of his concerns regarding taxes, toxic chemicals and leaching into wells.

Beth Bucciferro, voiced her concerns regarding the proposal and brought up her concerns with mulching at the LLES playground, pictures were provided.

Tim Bernegger, resident of Prospect, spoke in opposition to the project citing his concerns regarding his fear that team sports may be valued over academics.

Ann Cook, resident of Beacon Falls and sports parent, offered her reasons for supporting a turf field.

Nathan Cook, resident of Beacon Falls and student athlete, also offered his support and a brief history regarding his incident that occurred on the grass field.

Al-Mamoun Saleh, student athlete, also spoke in support of the turf bringing back attention to its multipurpose usage.

Dino Verrelli, resident of Beacon Falls, voiced his opposition to the turf field at the high school and expressed several environmental concerns. He felt the Board should pause on making their decision to move forward at this time because there are too many unknowns. Mr. Verrelli also asked for clarification regarding a motion made by the Board last June relating to the appropriation of funds for the WRHS gym floor. Mr. Yamin said he would review this and get an answer.

Joe Lato, football coach, thanked the Board for bringing the conversation this far and shared his excitement regarding the possibilities.

Mr. Yamin offered some clarification regarding the finances and then called on Luke McCoy to address environmental concerns.

Luke McCoy, speaking as a representative of Kaestle Boos, presented a multitude of helpful information that addressed concerns regarding injuries and infections. Mr. McCoy shared research-based information and went over the following; PFAS studies,

EPA testing, stormwater management, chain of custody questions and processes, Gmax testing, and required maintenance.

Mrs. Burkitt-Lyga asked for a matrix of this information to help voters make an educated decision. Mr. McCoy will provide that as well as a fact sheet, Q&A's and these minutes will be available to the public.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Tiffany Burkitt Lyga and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to adjourn the District Meeting at 8:25 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-041

A brief recess took place before moving on to the Special Board of Education meeting and Budget workshop.

Christine Arnold,

Board Secretary

*These minutes are subject to Board Approval,
Kelly Rodriguez, Board Clerk*