

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 16**  
**Special Board of Education Meeting**  
**April 1, 2020**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

		Weighted Vote <u>Per Member</u>
<i>Beacon Falls...</i>	Christine Arnold	.7
	Priscilla Cretella	.7
	Ben Catanzaro	.7
	Erik Dey	.7
<i>Prospect...</i>	Robert Dyer	1.3
	Nazih Noujaim	1.3
	Roxanne Vaillancourt	1.3
	Robert Hiscox	1.3

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Michael Yamin, Superintendent of Schools  
Tony DiLeone, Dir. of Finance and Business Operations  
Michele Raynor, Curriculum Director  
Matthew Brennan, Director of Technology

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Priscilla Cretella, at 6:30 p.m. by remote locations.

**A. Roll Call**

A roll was taken; a quorum was present.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

• **BUDGET DISCUSSION** (before regular business)

Finalize proposed 2020-21 budget for Public Hearing

Mr. Yamin previously emailed the Board his presentation and gave a snapshot presentation. Mr. Yamin is presenting a 0% budget and recommends the Board take action on setting this budget. Mr. Yamin fielded questions from Board members for clarification.

The regular meeting began at 7:07 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of March 11, 2020, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

A MOTION was made by Ben Catanzaro and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the Minutes of March 11, 2020, Board of Education Meeting (Ex.1)

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0)

**20-041**

### III. COMMENT

#### A. Town Officials

Tom Pratt, Town of Beacon Falls Chair of Board of Finance, questioned the following, “Why, with the reduction in debt for finishing paying off WRHS are we not reducing” Mr. Yamin replied that some of the increases, particularly contractual obligations, evened out the budget. He further clarified expenses change year to year. Mr. Pratt also asked about Anthem/Insurance. Mr. Yamin explained the process by which they came to agreement on a 5% lock in with Anthem.

#### B. Public Comments: *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*

The following questions were asked (emailed) throughout the meeting as Mr. Yamin received them and they were put into record.

James Hagan, resident of Beacon Falls, also asked a similar question about the budget in which Mr. Yamin explained that as you identify certain expenses and contractual increases they balance each other out.

Kevin O’Connell, resident of Beacon Falls, questioned if schools remain closed for the rest of the year would graduation be held over summer? Mr. Yamin responded that they would be willing to hold an alternative graduation date up until August 14th as soon as executive orders would allow.

Jennifer Lee, resident of Beacon Falls, brought up the point of her children being very busy with academics and specials and wanted to know if Fridays could be for “make up” work. Mr. Yamin was not comfortable with stopping academics on Fridays.

Steven Bills, resident of Prospect, raised a question regarding E-sports Leagues. Mr. Yamin states all new activities are on hold and E-sports has not been considered to date.

Gianna Polletta, resident of Prospect, asked about Senior Prom. Mr. Yamin stated he is in support as soon as executive orders would allow.

Gary Fox, resident of Prospect, also had questions regarding E-Sports and Mr. Yamin responded that he is not ready to start that as of right now.

Emily Testone, resident of Beacon Falls, asked if Senior capstone projects would be waived in which Mr. Yamin confirmed they would as well as community service hours.

Emily Beyer, resident of Prospect, asked for Mr. Yamin to elaborate on the cancellation of Spring sports. Mr. Yamin clarified that if we do not come back there will be no Spring sports.

Jake Veillette, resident of Prospect, asked if online would possibly replace future snow days in which Mr. Yamin stated yes, it is a strong consideration.

Ella (last name not given), resident of Prospect asked what the earliest date of return would be and if it would be considered safe. Mr. Yamin stated he would know more during the week of April 10th.

Joe Ballsma, resident of Beacon Falls, asked if vegan or vegetarian options would be available. Mr. Yamin stated that he would discuss that possibility with Food Services.

Gavin Moffat, student at WRHS, asked if the zoom app could be unblocked on chromebooks. Mr. Brennan will be looking into if this is a possibility or not.

Schoology was also brought up during public comment. Mr. Brennan is fully aware when issues pop up and is managing them. Mr. Yamin remains firm in that platform and would like students and parents to also check their email and google accounts.

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Interpretation of governor's order re: budget approval.
2. March 12<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 update from Superintendent to staff.
3. March 18th COVID-19 update from Superintendent to staff.
4. March 23rd Distance Learning Plan and Closure Update.
5. March 27th COVID-19 update from Superintendent to staff.  
Sending correspondences once weekly as not to overwhelm.
6. Distance Learning Feedback correspondence to staff and update.  
Much positive feedback has been received. Any and all feedback/suggestions are welcome.
7. 3<sup>rd</sup> Revision 2019-2020 payment schedule for Towns of Beacon Falls and Prospect.  
It was noted that Mayor Bob mailed out the ECS payment.

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

Mr. DiLeone read the report as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 4/1/20:	\$4,204,037.12
Tonight's invoices total:	\$1,142,939.43
General Fund:	\$1,139,031.24
Federal and State Grants:	\$1,350.00
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$2,558.19
Capital Non Recurring Project	\$0.00

#### **VI. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT (Emma Flaherty, Gavin Moffat)**

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

All staff, students, Board members and parents were recognized.

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

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

1. Revised Budget Calendar per Governor's order.

Can hold meetings as long as the public can call in or ask questions in some way. Budgets can be pushed back until the end of May. Mr. Yamin suggested finalizing the budget and Ms. Cretella and Mr. Hiscox want to push it off some in order to gather more questions.

2. Distance Learning Plan (DLP) update – remote Distance Learning.
  - Staff and Parent input

Fully implemented, currently receiving a lot of positive feedback while remaining receptive to feedback.

3. End-of-year conversations re: April break, last day of school, graduation/promotion dates. April break will remain as scheduled, last day of school is currently June 12, 2020. Graduation may be held when executive orders allow. Assuming we do not return there will be no final exams. Work that is submitted will be assessed.

4. School facilities/maintenance repair work during closure.

Working as to modified schedules, District office is working with a minimal crew on modified schedules. Food service will not be operating starting Good Friday-April break.

5. Capital improvements
  - HVAC at LRMS
  - Upgrade electrical at schools

6. Contractual agreements with vendors and contractors for 2019-20 school year.

Mr. DiLeone stated conversations continue so that things will be all set when we return and into next school year. A discussion regarding bussing took place. It was clarified that we are in a contract that runs through 2022 and negotiations are being discussed during the closure for April, May and June; payments were made through the end of March 2020.

## **B. Action Items**

1. Second reading of revised policy *5118 Nonresident Attendance*.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to approve the Second reading of revised policy *5118 Nonresident Attendance*.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 7.3)  
*Priscilla Cretella opposed*

**20-042**

2. Act to approve donation of WRHS Cheer Team banner w/stand valued at \$900.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the donation of WRHS Cheer Team banner w/stand valued at \$900.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0)

**20-043**

*Mr. Mark DeTulio was thanked and will receive a plaque or certificate of appreciation.*

3. Act to accept teacher's letter of retirement at the end of this school year. (S. Pille)

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to accept the letter of retirement from Shelley Pille (Family and Consumer Science teacher at WRHS), effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. (S. Pille)

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-044**

4. Act to award the Long River Middle School HVAC project to Action Air System.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to award the Long River Middle School HVAC project to Action Air System in the amount of \$350,000.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-045**

5. Act to modify grading policy under DLP for R16 schools while closed due to emergency health crisis.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Erik Dey to modify grading policy under DLP for R16 schools while closed due to emergency health crisis.

**MOTION TABLED** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-046**

6. Act to set the last day of school as June 12, 2020, pending no more snow days.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to set the last day of school as June 12, 2020, pending no more snow days.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-047**

7. Act to set the high school graduation date as June 12, 2020, pending ability to hold social gatherings.

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Robert Dyer to set the high school graduation date as June 12, 2020, pending ability to hold social gatherings.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-048**

8. Act to set middle school promotion ceremony date for June 10, 2020, pending ability to hold social gatherings.

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Erik Dey to set middle school promotion ceremony date for June 10, 2020, pending ability to hold social gatherings.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0) **20-049**

9. Act to set budget at 0% increase for next year, 2020-2021, and at the April 8, 2020,

meeting present to Public Hearing for vote via on-line discussion and BOE vote, per Governor's orders due to the Public Health Crisis - Coronavirus.

After a discussion ensued on Action Item #9:

A MOTION was made by Robert Hiscox and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro to postpone setting the 2020-21 budget this evening (4/1/20) and will discuss setting the rate at the April 8, 2020, BOE meeting and present to the public at the April 22, 2020 Board of Education meeting. The Board will vote on the budget rate for 2020-2021 at the April 22, 2020, BOE meeting..

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0)

**20-050**

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

Mr. DiLeone reported the following : Business office continue to run smoothly, following the closure he and Mr. Yamin began to tally contracts through the end of year and negotiate reductions due to lack of services being provided. The largest account is All Star Transportation, which they are in conversations with. Special Education services are also being reviewed. Constant conference calls and monitoring of the status of IDEA, Title I, and Excess Cost grants for the remainder of the year. Updates will be forthcoming.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

## **XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA**

Updates on contracts and closures via executive orders.

## **XII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. COVID-19 Update and Resources for Boards and Superintendents from CABE
2. CABE Policy Highlights 03-20-2020

## **XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee UPSEU contract year, will reach out in May for negotiations.
- B. Facilities and Transportation Committee – **Meeting 4/1/20, 5:45 p.m., D.O.**
- C. Curriculum Committee –**Minutes of 3/11/20 Meeting**
- D. Policy Committee
- E. Public Communications
- F. Technology Committee
- G. Recognition Committee
- H. Liaisons:
  1. Schools
  2. Wellness Committee
  3. Professional Development Committee: **Meetings 4 Monday of month, D.O. 3:30 p.m.**
  4. 2COM

I. Parent Advisory Council

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION was made by Erik Dey and SECONDED by Ben Catanzaro  
to adjourn the Special Board of Education Meeting April, 1. 2020 at 8:17 p.m.

**ALL IN FAVOR** (weighted vote totals 8.0)

**20-051**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** April 8, 2020, District Office, BOE Meeting and finalizing the  
Proposed 2020-2021 Budget to Public via video conferencing