



Special Board of Education Meeting

Prospect and Beacon Falls, CT
30 Coer Road, Prospect, CT 06712
203-758-6671

Date: December 11, 2023

Place: District Office

Time: 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

The order of business shall be at the discretion of the Chairman.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Revision/Addition to Agenda Order**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of November 15, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ex. 1)

III. COMMENT

- A. Town Officials - *Note: There will be no comment due to the agenda of the Special Meeting.***
- B. Public Comments - *Note: There will be no public comment due to the agenda of the Special Meeting.***

IV. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

A. Action Items

1. Act to elect new officers for Board of Education: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.
2. Act to accept teacher's letter of resignation. (Sandra Hines-Cumberledge)
3. Act to accept teacher's letter of resignation. (Jill Drayton)
4. Act to hire Tracy Kerr, School Counselor for Laurel Ledge Elementary School and Long River Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year at MA, Step 7, \$63,970 (prorated).
5. Act to hire Andrea Egan teacher for Prospect Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year at MA, Step 1, \$52,217 (prorated).
6. Act to hire Nicole Lukeski, one-year contract, second grade teacher for Prospect Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year at MA, Step 1, \$52,217 (prorated).

V. ITEMS FOR NEXT BOE AGENDA

1. 2024-2025 School Budget Calendar.
2. Capital Improvement Update.
3. Leadership Team update. (PowerPoint included)
4. Special Education Forum update - Michelle Fortuna.
5. Discussion about building steps w/railing from upper parking lot to fields at WRHS.
6. Culinary program update and renovations to the classroom at Woodland Regional High School.
7. Presentation of Next Generation Accountability Index - Michele Raynor.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOTE: The Committee Selection list for the following committees is included in the Board packets. Please review and select which committees you would like to serve and bring the selection list with you to the December 11, 2023 Board meeting in the District Office.

- A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee - **Waiting for UPSEU to respond**
- B. Facilities and Transportation Committee - **Meeting, January 10, 2024, 6:15 p.m.**
- C. Curriculum Committee
- D. Policy Committee - **Meeting, March 13, 2024**
- E. Public Communications
- F. Technology Committee
- G. Recognition Committee - **Minutes of November 13, 2024 meeting**
- H. Liaisons:
 1. Schools
 2. Wellness Committee
 3. Professional Development Committee
 4. 2COM
- I. Parent Advisory Council - **Meeting, January 10, 2024, 5:45 p.m. virtual**
- J. Interdepartmental Safety Committee - **Meeting, February 8, 2024, 9:00 a.m., District Office**

VII. ADJOURNMENT

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: January 10, 2024, Woodland Regional High School, 7:00 p.m.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 16
Board of Education Meeting
November 15, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michele Raynor, Director of Curriculum
 Tony DiLeone, Director of Business Operations

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at District Office, Prospect, CT.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

C. Revision/Additions to Agenda Order

Mr. Hiscox recognized Mrs. Geary for her 38 years of service on the Town Council.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of October 25, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ex. 1)

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Meeting (Ex. 1) of October 25, 2023.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0) **23-161**

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.*

Joann Delenick, resident of Beacon Falls, shared her concern regarding the possible negative health impacts related to turf fields.

Jack Geary, resident of Prospect, shared that he is not necessarily for or against turf fields but that he was confused about how the Region got to this decision when it previously was voted down.

Casey Taylor, resident of Beacon Falls, shared his experience in working for a data collection company. Due to his work in the field he expressed concern for a heavy selection bias. He also referred to surveys that stated well maintained grass might be better than turf. He had questions about funding, concerns about “forever chemicals” and whether or not this decision would open up the town to legal issues.

Victoria LaRowe, resident of Beacon Falls, also shared her concerns regarding the feeling of being blindsided with this decision from. She also shared her concerns regarding health risks. Lastly, she felt residents were inadequately informed and urged the Board to reconsider.

Veronica Guillet, resident of Beacon Falls, felt encouraged to attend this evening’s meeting to express her concern about what a turf field might do to the land and how it might negatively affect youth in the future. She questioned whether these concerns could be investigated further.

Mark Guillet, resident of Beacon Falls, shared his concerns about how this might impact wells. He asked Board members to rescind their decision and address the matter in a more clear way.

Dave Bunk, resident of Beacon Falls, attended this evening’s meeting in order to thank the Board regarding the turf decision. He felt that a lot of research had been done, specialists were hired and information materials were provided to the public. He shared his opinion that a grass field would be impossible to properly maintain in the Northeast and the poor condition of the grass has led to too many injuries, including his own daughter.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Special Education Forum at District Office flyer for November 14, 2023.
This was very well attended. Additional personnel are needed due to the increase in Special Education students recently enrolled.
2. Woodland Regional High School fall sports 2023 accolades.
3. Superintendent’s update regarding R16 inclement weather procedure.
4. Superintendent’s update to the Community dated November 3, 2023.

V. TREASURER’S REPORT

Mrs. Burkitt-Lyga read the report as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 11/15/23:	\$5,564,680.69
Tonight’s invoices total:	\$1,155,702.60
General Fund:	\$1,097,452.63
Federal and State Grants:	\$0.00
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$8,849.97
Capital Non Recurring Project	\$49,400.00

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

Ms. Hughes delivered this evening’s report

VII. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE, PROGRAMS and AWARDS

- ★ Mr. Tom Simonetti and the Theatre Department for the production of Diary of Anne Frank.

Mrs. Raynor shared some heartfelt words regarding Mr. Simonetti and his contributions to the school community. He was also awarded a certificate.

VIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update

- a. Clermont and Associates, LLC to present the 2022-2023 audit.
David Cappelletti shared highlights from the annual audit with the Board and fielded some questions. Mr. Cappelletti made the following recommendations:
 1. Look at bank relationships to uncover some possible opportunities related to interest income.
 2. Look at updating some outdated policies as some are 20 years or older.
- b. LRMS sports uniform information per BOE request.
There is a new schedule that will help replace sports uniforms. This schedule reflects three sports this year, three the next and three for the 2025-2026 school year.
- c. WRHS auditorium update dated November 1, 2023.

B. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mr. DiLeone updated the Board with the following information; On November 7, 2023 a survey was sent out inquiring about budget goals, perception, and communication regarding the budget process. This will run through November 22, 2023 and will be used to improve stakeholder input. Lieutenant Abarzua was reached out too, in order to inquire about a new DARE/Taskforce Prevention grant. The Towns are in receipt of settlement funds from the various opioid manufacturers and are looking to work in conjunction with the Region on utilizing these funds to enhance drug prevention programs. Barry Barnabe has started preliminary work on the \$2.3 million bond issuance for the gym floor, weight room, and track replacement. At this time a BAN is anticipated to close in January with a bond sale in early 2025.

C. Action Items

1. Act to approve the 2022-2023 audit by Clermont and Associates, LLC.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve the 2022-2023 audit by Clermont and Associates, LLC.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-162

2. Act to transfer \$834,471.00 from fiscal year 2022-2023 surplus into the Region's capital non-recurring fund pursuant to CGS 10-51(d)(2).

A MOTION was made by Karima Jackson and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to transfer \$834,471.00 from fiscal year 2022-2023 surplus into the Region's capital non-recurring fund pursuant to CGS 10-51(d)(2).

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-163

3. Act to appropriate \$1,714,000 from the Region's capital non-recurring fund, pursuant to CGS 10-51(d)(2), to pay for the installation of the artificial turf multipurpose field, pedestrian lighting, and PA system upgrade at Woodland Regional High School by H.I. Stone was approved at the October 15, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

A MOTION was made by Karima Jackson and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to appropriate \$1,714,000 from the Region's capital non-recurring fund, pursuant to CGS 10-51(d)(2), to pay for the installation of the artificial turf multipurpose field, pedestrian lighting, and PA system upgrade at Woodland Regional High School by H.I. Stone was approved at the October 15, 2023 Board of Education meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-164

4. Act to approve 3 new courses for 2024-2025 school year: AP American Government, Connecticut Workplace Experience and Emergency Medical Technician.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve 3 new courses for 2024-2025 school year: AP American Government, Connecticut Workplace Experience and Emergency Medical Technician.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-165

A brief explanation of pre-requisites was discussed.

5. Act to approve a single session day for Woodland Regional High School with dismissal at 11:20 a.m. on April 3rd, 2024 for SAT administration per the State of CT.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Karima Jackson to approve a single session day for Woodland Regional High School with dismissal at 11:20 a.m. on April 3rd, 2024 for SAT administration per the State of CT.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-166

6. Act to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$14,924.48, \$5,100 of which is for educational experiences for our students at PES and LLES.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve budget transfers in the amount of \$14,924.48, \$5,100 of which is for educational experiences for our students at PES and LLES.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-167

IX. OLD BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

Continue Special Education discussions, future decisions regarding this may show an increase in the budget. Within these discussions the following will be considered; programming, summary review, proposed course of action. Mrs. Burkitt-Lyga also

suggested forming a Parent Advisory Council specific to Special Education. The staffing shortage was also acknowledged.

XI. ITEMS FOR NEXT BOE AGENDA

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Expenditure Report.
2. Coming Attractions - December 2023.

XIII. ENROLLMENT

- November 2023

VIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee - Meetings 12/5, 12/12, 12/14 and 12/19/23 at 6:00 p.m. for possible UPSEU negotiations
*It was noted that these might be pushed.
- B. Facilities and Transportation Committee - **Report dated November 3, 2023**
- C. Curriculum Committee - Meeting 11/8/23, 6:00 p.m., District Office - **Minutes of November 8, 2023 meeting**
- D. Policy Committee
- E. Public Communications
- F. Technology Committee - **Minutes of October 25, 2023 meeting**
- G. Recognition Committee - Meeting 11/14/23, 5:30 p.m., District Office
- H. Liaisons:
 1. Schools
 2. Wellness Committee
 3. Professional Development Committee
 4. 2COM
- I. Parent Advisory Council
- J. Interdepartmental Safety Committee

Mr. Catanzaro was thanked for his service as this evening was his last meeting.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to adjourn the November 15, 2023 Board of Education meeting at 8:01 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 6.0)

23-168

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: December 13, 2023, District Office, 7:00 p.m.

Board Secretary,

Christine Arnold

These minutes are subject to Board approval.

Submitted by Kelly Rodriguez, Board Clerk