

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 16
Board of Education Meeting
May 24, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. at WRHS, Beacon Falls, CT.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

C. Revision/Additions to Agenda Order

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 29, 2023, District Meeting (Ex. I)

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve the minutes of March 29, 2023, District Meeting (Ex. I)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-066**

Minutes of March 29, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II)

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve the minutes of March 29, 2023, Special Board of Education Meeting (Ex. II)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-067**

Minutes of March 29, 2023, Budget Workshop (Ex. III)

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve the minutes of March 29, 2023, Budget Workshop (Ex. III)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-068**

Minutes of April 5, 2023 District Meeting (Ex. IV)

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve the minutes of April 5, 2023 District Meeting (Ex. IV)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-069**

Minutes of April 5, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ex. V)

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve the minutes of April 5, 2023 Board of Education Meeting (Ex. V)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-070**

Minutes of May 1, 2023 District Meeting (Ex. VI)

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve the minutes of May 1, 2023 District Meeting (Ex. VI)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-071**

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.***

Al-Mamoun Saleh, student at WRHS, posed the question of “What now?” and his concerns about practicing after the referendum was shut down.

Kristi Moore, resident of Prospect, attended the meeting to hear the reading of a new policy which she hoped would be passed.

John Sizer, resident of Beacon Falls, expressed his regret that the referendum regarding the turf did not pass. He reflected on his concerns and urged the Board to find a way to get a turf field.

Joann Delenick, of Beacon Falls, and former employee for an orthopedic doctor shared her experience over the years having seen damaging sports injuries. Ms. Delenick was present at the meeting to support the safety of the athletes and wants to be sure the field is always in good condition.

Dino Verrelli, resident of Beacon Falls, expressed his dissatisfaction with transparency and leadership.

Brandi Burkowski, resident of Beacon Falls, stated the vote was a cumulative vote.

Joe Rotella, resident of Prospect, expressed concern that there were people trying to sabotage the vote. He also shared his opinion that fixing the grass is not a good option and all other NVL teams have turf fields.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

- Superintendent's community update 5/3/23 (referendum update)
- Superintendent's Capital Improvement update 5/8/23
- Superintendent's community update 5/16/23

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Burkitt-Lyga read the report as follows:

Balance in General Fund as of 5/24/23:	\$5,678,690.92
Tonight's invoices total:	\$3,090,710.96
General Fund:	\$3,025,397.70
Federal and State Grants:	\$26,138.74
Adult Ed, Other Grants, Athletic Fund:	\$32,524.52
Capital Non Recurring Project	\$6,650.00

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

Ms. Ameti shared this evening's report highlighting news from Departments, Clubs and Students Government.

VII. EXEMPLARY PEOPLE, PROGRAMS and AWARDS

- Recognize Lorrie Moraniec for her 26 years of service as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.
Mrs. Moraniec was recognized by the Superintendent for her dedication over the past 26 years.
- Recognize the top 10 students at WRHS.
A ceremony honoring these students was held prior to the meeting.
- CABE Student Leadership Award recipients from LRMS: Eva Teixeira and Jake Kibbe and WRHS: Emma Fabrizi and Evan Lin.
These students were recognized for their outstanding Leadership.
- Recognize the Beacon Falls and Prospect Police Departments.
- Woodland is one of 17 high schools in the US to be recognized for a decade of winning the NatStuCo Gold Council of Excellence! Congratulations to Mr. Tomlin and his student-leaders!
Mr. Tomlin and his students were congratulated for their successes over the years.

A recess was called at 7:27 and the meeting resumed at 7:38 p.m.

VIII. REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

A. Superintendent's Update

1. PTO requested outdoor basketball courts at LRMS.
PTO came up with an option and it was supported by the Board, Superintendent and Principal as a great way to get students exercising and participating in social time.
2. Capital Improvement update.
The following items were briefly discussed; Follow-up points from May 18, 2023 Facilities Meeting. The gym floor project is on track. The Athletic Director and District Office are reaching out to contractors to upgrade the weight room equipment and flooring. Mr. Yamin also reviewed the proposals based on a discussion last week with Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc. (KBA). Lastly, Mr. Yamin reiterated how the capital non-recurring fund works.

B. Director of Finance and Business Operations Report

Mr. DiLeone reported on the following; Northeast Scoreboard was awarded for the replacement of the Basketball Scoreboard and scorer's table. Eversource approved two small solar projects at the District Office and Laurel Ledge. Medium projects at other schools are in a holding pattern with an update to come in June. Greenleaf is finalizing the details of the lease-purchase agreement. For Fiscal year 2023, RelayHub was contracted to handle medicaid services billing and it has been successful so far. Anthem has informed that they intend to merge with "The Standard" to enhance their product offerings and their life insurance premiums will be reduced. Per state mandate, Instructional Aides, Behavior Technicians and Paraprofessionals need to attend mandated Professional Development 3 days per year and the Board will incur the expenses.

C. Action Items

1. Act to accept Gentiana Ukaj letter of resignation.

A MOTION was made by Karima Jackson and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to accept Gentiana Ukaj's letter of resignation, effective 6/30/23.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-072

2. Act to accept Mark Mierzejewski letter of retirement.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to accept Mark Mierzejewski's letter of retirement, effective 6/30/23.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-073

3. Act to accept William Carangelo letter of retirement.

A MOTION was made by Karima Jackson and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to accept William Carangelo's letter of retirement with sincere appreciation, effective 6/30/23.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-074

4. Act to renew contract of employment for Allison Wolfe for the 2023-2024 school year.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to renew contract of employment for Allison Wolfe for the 2023-2024 school year.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-075

5. Act to change WRHS graduation date to June 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and rain date to June 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and Long River Middle School's rain date to June 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m..

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to change WRHS graduation date to June 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and rain date to June 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. and Long River Middle School's rain date to June 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-076

Mr. Yamin provided an explanation for this decision

6. Act to approve new job description for District Office Associate, new job description Business Office Associate and revise job description for Lead Secretary.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve new job description for District Office Associate, new job description Business Office Associate and revise job description for Lead Secretary.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-077**

Mr. Yamin clarified that the following hires will be for next school year

7. Act to hire Addison Best, Speech and Language Pathologist teacher for Long River Middle School and Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2024 school year at MA +30, Step 2, \$55,161.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to hire Addison Best, Speech and Language Pathologist teacher for Long River Middle School and Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2024 school year at MA +30, Step 2, \$55,161.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-078**

8. Act to hire Alyssa Kabusk, Guidance Counselor for Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2024 year at MA, Step 7, \$63,970.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to hire Alyssa Kabusk, Guidance Counselor for Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2024 year at MA, Step 7, \$63,970.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-079**

9. Act to hire Matthew Clark, Special Education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year at MA +15, Step 8, \$69,615.

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to hire Matthew Clark, Special Education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year at MA +15, Step 8, \$69,615.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-080**

10. Act to hire Michele Kulmann, Special Education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year at MA, Step 12, \$92,051.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Karima Jackson to hire Michele Kulmann, Special Education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year at MA, Step 12, \$92,051.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-081**

11. Act to hire Lauren Tordanato, Guidance Counselor for Long River Middle School for the 2023-2024 year at MA +30, Step 3, \$56,399.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to hire Lauren Tordanato, Guidance Counselor for Long River Middle School for the

2023-2024 year at MA +30, Step 3, \$56,399.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-082

12. Act to hire Marcella DiBona, School Psychologist for Prospect Elementary School for the 2023-2024 year at MA +30, Step 2, \$55,161.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to hire Marcella DiBona, School Psychologist for Prospect Elementary School for the 2023-2024 year at MA +30, Step 2, \$55,161.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-083

13. Act to hire Crystal Perachio, Special Education teacher for Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2034 year at 6th yr +15, Step 8, \$75,368.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Karima Jackson to hire Crystal Perachio, Special Education teacher for Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2034 year at 6th yr +15, Step 8, \$75,368.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-084

14. Act to hire Jennifer Reda, Mathematics teacher for Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2024 year at 6th yr +45, Step 7, \$78,713.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to hire Jennifer Reda, Mathematics teacher for Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2024 year at 6th yr +45, Step 7, \$78,713.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-085

15. Act to hire Steven Bainer, Social Studies teacher for Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2024 year at 6th yr. +15, Step 8, \$75,365.

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Karima Jackson to hire Steven Bainer, Social Studies teacher for Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2024 year at 6th yr. +15, Step 8, \$75,365.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-086

16. Act to hire Jillian Jackman, one-year contract, Social Studies teacher for Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2024 year at MA, Step 1, \$52,217.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to hire Jillian Jackman, one-year contract, Social Studies teacher for Woodland Regional High School for the 2023-2024 year at MA, Step 1, \$52,217.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-087

17. Act to authorize Superintendent to hire certified staff during the summer for the school year 2023-2024 as necessary.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to authorize Superintendent to hire certified staff during the summer for the school year 2023-2024 as necessary.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-088

18. Act to approve budget transfers for March 2023 in the amount of \$49,463.14, as presented.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve budget transfers for March 2023 in the amount of \$49,463.14, as presented.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-089**

19. Act to approve budget transfers for April 2023 in the amount of \$332,984.74.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve budget transfers for April 2023 in the amount of \$332,984.74.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-090**

20. Act to allow Superintendent and Director of Finance to make end-of-year budget adjustments, as necessary, within the 2022-2023 budget limits.

A MOTION was made by Roxann Vaillancourt and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to allow Superintendent and Director of Finance to make end-of-year budget adjustments, as necessary, within the 2022-2023 budget limits.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-091**

21. Act on approval of resolution for Schools and Libraries Universal Services (E-Rate) for 2023-2024.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Priscilla Cretella to approve resolution for Schools and Libraries Universal Services (E-Rate) for 2023-2024.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-092**

22. Act to approve the purchase of a van for District Office, not to exceed \$55,000, to replace the existing mail van. (FYI - state contracted pricing)

A MOTION was made by Christine Arnold and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve the purchase of a van for District Office, not to exceed \$55,000, to replace the existing mail van. (FYI - state contracted pricing)

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-093**

23. Act to approve Clermont and Associates, LLC as auditor for Region 16's F/Y 22-23 audit.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Karima Jackson to approve Clermont and Associates, LLC as auditor for Region 16's F/Y 22-23 audit.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-094**

24. First reading of revised policy #1324 *Community Relations (Fundraising)*.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Nazih Noujaim to approve first reading of revised policy #1324 *Community Relations (Fundraising)*.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-095**

25. First reading of revised policy #5131 *Student (Driving and Parking)*.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve first reading of revised policy #5131 *Student (Driving and Parking)*.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-096**

26. First reading of revised policy #5145.511 *Student (Sexual Harassment)*.

A MOTION was made by Karima Jackson and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve first reading of revised policy #5145.511 *Student (Sexual Harassment)*.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-097**

27. First reading of **new regulation** #6141.323 *Instruction (Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering)*.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Christine Arnold to approve first reading of **new regulation** #6141.323 *Instruction (Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering)*.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-098**

28. First reading of revised policy #6144 *Instruction (Controversial Issues)*.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve first reading of revised policy #6144 *Instruction (Controversial Issues)*.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-099**

29. First reading of **new regulation** form #6163.3 *Instruction (Life Animals in the Classroom)*.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Karima Jackson to approve first reading of **new regulation** form #6163.3 *Instruction (Life Animals in the Classroom)*.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-100**

30. First reading of revised policy #9325 *Bylaws of the Board (Meeting Conduct)*.

A MOTION was made by Nazih Noujaim and SECONDED by Tiffany Burkitt-Lyga to approve first reading of revised policy #9325 *Bylaws of the Board (Meeting Conduct)*.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-101**

31. Act to approve the replacement of cabinets in 4 selected classrooms at Long River in the amount of \$71,359.00.

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to approve the replacement of cabinets in 4 selected classrooms at Long River in the amount of \$71,359.00.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3) **23-102**

This was the only bid that was received.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Noujaim brought up the previous discussion about putting up digital boards in town. Mr. Yamin explained that Prospect has an ordinance against them. Mr. Noujaim also brought attention to the need for more advertisements for residents to sign up for notifications, especially those without children in the school systems. Mr. Yamin agreed and stated he would advertise.

X. NEW BUSINESS**XI. ITEMS for NEXT BOE AGENDA**

1. Capital Improvement Update
2. Policy second readings
3. June 7th recognize retiring teachers

XII. INFORMATION ITEMS

- Expenditure Report - April 2023
- Coming Attractions - May 2023 (mailed 4/17/23) and June 2023

XIII. ENROLLMENT

May 2023

XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel and Negotiations Committee: **Meeting 5/18/23, 6:00 p.m., District Office**
- B. Facilities and Transportation Committee: **Meeting 5/17/23, 6:00 p.m., WRHS**
- C. Curriculum Committee: **Meeting minutes of 4/19/23**
- D. Policy Committee
- E. Public Communications
- F. Technology Committee
- 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. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Student matter
- Personnel

A MOTION was made by Priscilla Cretella and SECONDED by Roxann Vaillancourt to enter into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. to include Mr. Yamin and Mr. DiLeone to discuss a Personnel matter.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-103

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:35 p.m.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Karima Jackson and SECONDED by Roxanne Vaillancourt to adjourn the May 24, 2023 Board of Education meeting at 9:36 p.m.

ALL IN FAVOR (weighted vote totals 7.3)

23-104

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: June 7, 2023, Long River Middle School, 7:00 p.m.,
Special Board of Education Meeting.

Board Secretary,

Christine Arnold

These minutes are subject to Board approval.

Submitted by Kelly Rodriguez, Board Clerk