

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4 Board of Education**

A regular meeting of the Regional School District No. 4 Board of Education was held on Thursday, May 4, 2017 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board members in attendance:

Elaine Fitzgibbons, Leigh Rankin, Susan Hollister, Chris Riley, Jane Cavanaugh, Jim Olson and Jennifer Clark as well as Senior Student Representatives Matt O'Keefe and Maleena Frazier

Also in attendance:

Assistant Superintendent, Kristina Martineau
Business Manager Garth Sawyer;
Valley Regional Principal Mike Barile
John Winthrop Principal William Duffy
Board Clerk Kelley Frazier (Substitute)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Riley called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion made by Jim Olson and seconded by Jennifer Clark, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2017 and the Special Meeting of April 3, 2017 as well as the Accounts Payable Report.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None

OTHER ITEMS

Recognition of Region 4 Student Representatives & Introduction of Junior Representatives

Mr. Riley thanked the seniors for attend the Board of Education meetings for the past year and wished them well on their future endeavors.

JWMS Middle School Student Report

Henry McPherson, Tory Rider and Ryan Ellison gave the John Winthrop student report. Spring sports have begun. Track has had two scrimmages. There are 63 kids participating in the track program. Co-ed volleyball is after school and teams are playing one another. SBAC and pilot science testing for eighth grade will occur in May. Art students will go to the University of Hartford for a workshop. The 8th grade band went to Yale to perform with the Yale band. The 7th grade will go to the Southwick Zoo. Eighth grade will be going to Lake Compounce and Cave Hill in June. Wellness day is tomorrow. Students will attend activities and programs which will promote a healthy mind and body. This week is Teacher Appreciation week. The band and chorus concert will be on May 18th. There will be a Memorial Day ceremony which will have several Veterans in attendance. Six graders will have many activities to allow them to become familiar with John Winthrop and their new classmates.

Seniors: Maleena Frazier and Matthew O'Keefe discussed the events happening at Valley Regional High School. Warriors in the Community Day is May 24th. The Junior Prom was held at Latitude 41 in Mystic. The Senior Reception will be on May 20th in Groton. The Spring Arts Festival at Valley will be this month. There will be a concert and art show. The sophomores went to the state capital for their civics trip. Spring sports are in full spring. AP testing is going on this week and next week. The cafeteria makeover is going well. The representatives discussed their Cap Stone projects.

Juniors: New representatives, Max Klin and Sydney Suedmeier introduced themselves.

Valley Regional High School – Principal, Mike Barile

Mr. Barile introduced the top 10 percent of the graduating class. They introduced themselves and stated where they are going to college. Ms. Hilton discussed the Toronto Festival and the awards the music department received.

Ingrid Walsh was present. She has been part of the musical program for 20 years and the Board and the Administration recognized her for her service. Mr. Barile introduced Mitch Conrad who discussed his Eagle Scout project.

Presentation and Possible VOTE regarding Clinical Program in Region 4

Ms. Smalley discussed programming for students who struggle with social and academic progress. Anxiety and depression is a significant concern in our high school. A therapeutic program would allow us to have students attend Valley Regional High School. School truancy and school avoidance is an additional problem. Savings can be realized by preventing outplacements. Currently when we reach a place where students are not making progress, they are outplaced. Transportation can be almost as costly as tuition. The program elements were discussed. Ms. Smalley introduced Dr. Dauser whom she has worked with in our district. The proposed program would accommodate 10 students. There would be a Parent Contract to ensure student's ultimate success. Dr. Dauser discussed her qualifications and work history. Mr. Riley stated that this is a significant change. This program would begin this fall. Mr. Olson feels that this is a good idea. Ms. Hollister stated the Parent Contract piece is crucial. Mr. Riley feels it is the right thing to do for our students. Ms. Hollister feels it is a terrific idea, but asked about transportation. Typically most students are brought to school, but this will be worked out by each family. Dr. Clark knows that we have to take risks to move forward. Sending kids out sends the wrong message about mental health. Ms. Rankin had no comment. Ms. Fitzgibbons has concerns that this should be done sooner. The Middle School has a team approach and a councilor per grade. Ms. Cavanaugh feels that the population that you are identifying is the right population. They are working with Tri-town regarding school avoidance.

Upon a motion made by Jim Olson and seconded by Dr. Clark the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept the proposal and move forward with the Clinical Program in Region 4 for the next school year. Ayes: Ms. Hollister, Ms. Fitzgibbons, Mr. Riley, Ms. Cavanaugh, Dr. Clark and Mr. Olson. Abstentions: Ms. Rankin

Ms. Cavanaugh asked for reports during the year to evaluate how things are going.

PRINCIPAL UPDATES

General Update

Principal Barile

Mr. Barile presented the NEASC findings. He discussed the report and noted that the school has been reaccredited. Mr. Riley thanked Mr. Barile for his work in getting this accreditation. A press release will be provided to the newspaper. The schedule for next year is being focused on. The flex block is being discussed. There will be an opportunity for students to develop their academics.

Possible VOTE to accept donation of 10 HP Revolve G3 laptop computers from Jake Star

Upon a motion made by Jim Olson and seconded by Jane Cavanaugh the Region 4 Board of Education **VOTED** to accept the donation of 10 HP Revolve G3 laptop computer from Jake Star.

A note will be sent to thank Mr. Star.

Snack Shack

The Lacrosse Booster Club had a ribbon cutting for their new snack shack. It is sturdy and blends in well.

Ms. Wheaton distributed the newly created Emergency Action Plan for travel abroad. She discussed the French students who visited and the trip to Paris. The trip to Castres is an exchange trip. There will be approximately 10 students. The trip to Quebec is by bus.

First Reading and Possible VOTE on request to Approve Student Trip to Paris and Castres, France

Nov 17-25, 2018

Upon a motion made by Jim Olson and seconded by Susan Hollister, the Region 4 Board of Education **VOTED** to approve the student trip to France on November 17-25, 2017 and the Quebec Winter Carnival February 1-4, 2018.

Ms. Cassella thanked the Board for their support and Ms. Wheaton for her mentoring. This is an exchange trip. She anticipates 15 students coming from Spain in the fall and 25 going to Spain in April.

First Reading and Possible VOTE on request to Approve Student Trip to Spain April 13-21, 2018.

Upon a motion made by Jim Olson and seconded by Susan Hollister the Region 4 Board of Education **VOTED** to approve the student trip to Spain on April 13-21, 2018.

John Winthrop Middle School Principal, Bill Duffy

General Update

Principal Duffy discussed the debate competition which was hosted by John Winthrop. One team moved to the final debate in Hartford. *Screenages* will be presented Monday at 6:00pm. This is a documentary about how social media affects teenagers. All students are writing an essay for Memorial Day. Tomorrow is Wellness Day. It is also a career exploration day. Eighth grade artists are participating in the Essex Art show. Sixth grade orientation is Tuesday. Mr. Riley thanked Mr. Duffy for all he does for John Winthrop.

REPORTS

Financial Status Updates

Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the financial status report. The Excess Cost Grant is coming in lower than anticipated. Mr. Sawyer stated that we are looking at a budget surplus. The Administration will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise.

Cafeteria Report

Mr. Sawyer discussed the cafeteria report. We are in line with our projections. The daily average is through March.

Mr. Sawyer will be leaving his position. Mr. Riley thanked Mr. Sawyer for his hard work over the years. He has made a huge difference in the school district.

Committee Reports

Finance update included

Curriculum – No additional update.

Policy – No additional Update.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

No additional Update.

LEARN

Discussion was held that Learn needs to reach out to membership and see what the needs of schools districts are. This would allow Learn to offer better support services. Learn may be focusing on different services and be able to offer more collaborations.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update - Information and Communication

Congratulations to Valley Regional High School for being named number 21 of Connecticut schools in Newsweek. The Referendum passed. Last week Dr. Levy went to the Legislature building to discuss our manufacturing program. A new program to expose students to manufacturing is being reviewed. Scholarships and internships may be available. A meeting will be held with the Commissioner of Labor to discuss this further. Dr. Levy will keep the Board informed.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

#5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention

Upon a motion made by Leigh Rankin and seconded by Jane Cavanaugh, the Region 4 Board of Education **VOTED** to approve Policy #5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention policy.

Discussion Formation of PK-12 Cafeteria Study Committee

The pilot menu has started this week. There is two choices of salads, hot lunch and sandwich per day. Pre-ordering will be available. There will be designated areas for eating for next year's lunch break.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau gave a brief update. This is assessment month. The K-12 Curriculum committees have met. There is excitement of the strategic plan and how we can impact student learning long term. Curriculum is changing to provide opportunities that are authentic so students are able to apply their learning.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Next Joint BOE meeting June 1, 2017
- Next Region 4 BOE Meeting is September 7, 2017

EXECUTIVE SESSION – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE REGARDING MISLICK PROPERTY

The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:57 p.m. for the following matters:

Strategy and Negotiations – Discuss possible real estate acquisition

Strategy and Negotiations – Discuss possible pending litigation

Student Matter – Discuss pending student matter

Personnel – Evaluation of Superintendent

Dr. Levy, Mr. Sawyer, and Bruce Glowac were invited to attend the Executive Session.

The Board moved out of Executive Session at 10:28 p.m.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board **VOTED** (4 yes - Jane Cavanaugh, Jennifer Clark, Leigh Ranking, Jim Olson / 2 no - Chris Riley, Elaine Fitzgibbons / 1 abstention - Susan Hollister = Motion passed) to allow the Superintendent or her designee to negotiate the purchase of property adjacent to Valley Regional High School.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 10:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Clark, Secretary
(Kelley Frazier, Substitute Clerk)