

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE May 3, 2012 MEETING
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4 Board of Education**

March 7th, 2012

A regular meeting of the Regional School District No. 4 Board of Education was held on Wednesday, March 7th, 2012, in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board members in attendance:

Linda Hall, Mary-Beth Harrigan, Duane Gates, Chris Riley, Elaine Fitzgibbons, Mario Gioco, Ann Monaghan, Jennifer Clark as well as Senior Student Representatives Karli Bahner and Alison Gates and Junior Student Representatives Alex Belval and Sarah Burzin.

Also in attendance:

Administrators: Superintendent Dr. Ruth I. Levy,
Assistant Superintendent, Ian Neviasher
Business Manager Garth Sawyer;
Valley Regional Principal Kristina Martineau;
John Winthrop Principal David Russell

Board Clerk: Jennifer Bryan

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Linda Hall called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from the regular meeting of January 5, 2012; minutes from the budget workshops of January 24th, January 31st, and February 7th, 2012; and the Accounts Payable report.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

6 citizens were present.

OTHER ITEMS

Valley Regional Principal, Kristina Martineau presented the Board with a request for approval of a proposed 8 day trip to Costa Rica for students in grades 10-12 over spring recess during the 2012-13 school year. The trip will allow the students to improve their Spanish speaking skills and benefit from the experience of immersion into a foreign culture. Two VRHS foreign languages teachers fielded questions from the Board regarding various specifics of the trip. The trip will include home stays, visits to biological reserves, and humanitarian work at an orphanage. The Board would normally consider the request and take a vote at the next regular meeting in May, however due to concerns of the financial impact on the trip costs if the vote were to be delayed for that long, the Board agreed to take a vote at this meeting.

On motion duly made and noted, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the trip to Costa Rica for school year 2012-13 as presented.

Mr. Gates requested that some of the students who partake of these trips make a presentation to the Board regarding their experiences once the trip is completed.

REPORTS

Student Representatives

Senior Student Representative Karli Bahner reported on the success so far with the policy addendum allowing VRHS students to use their cell phones during school as described by the addendum. She gave several examples of how students have been using their smart phones in very positive ways. Mr. Riley asked if there were any changes to the trial policy that she thought were needed. She did not have any suggestions and didn't feel there were any abuses of this privilege so far. She feels that allowing this usage, is also allowing the students to respect the privilege. Mrs. Martineau reported that faculty members have also been pleased with the change in policy.

Senior Student Representative Alison Gates reported that CAPT started last Friday. Some upperclassmen have been taking advantage of SAT prep classes during their free time on testing mornings. She and Ms. Bahner will be talking to the sophomores regarding the Board representative positions with the hopes of getting new students interested in running to fill the two positions next year.

Junior Student Representative Alex Bevnal reported that both the boys and girls track had an excellent year with 9 of the girls' team making the Shoreline teams. In gymnastics, 4 girls made the State meet and 2 made second team All-State. One of Valley's students had the highest score of anyone at the State meet. The boys' basketball team went 17-4 led by Jonathan Luster who was named league MVP. Tomorrow they continue play in the State tournament. Mrs. Martineau also announced that Mr. Luster was recently named Shoreline Player of the year, a wonderful accomplishment for anyone let alone a junior. Mr. Luster was present and congratulated by the Board.

Junior Student Representative Sarah Burzin reported that 80% of the tickets for the upcoming musical, *Titanic, the Musical* have already been sold, with the show still almost 3 weeks away. Ms. Burzin noted that the sales are quite impressive, especially considering that the subject this year is targeting a more mature audience. She noted that it's a wonderful show for the community to experience as well as allowing future students to get the chance to see the wonderful extracurricular activities they can look forward to participating in.

JWMS – Principal David Russell gave an update on the 2011-12 school year. JWMS student Luke Malcynsky discussed the recent Mystic Art show in which 9 projects by JWMS students were submitted and all were accepted. Two of the student artists received the highest award for their division. He also reported on the debate teams and the upcoming mini-boat launch in Hatteras.

JWMS student Jordan Rosales talked about the recent Lego competition at CCSU. JWMS won judges awards for both the 7th and 8th grade teams. JWMS' Mathcounts team also recently competed at the competition held at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, and they will now move on to the State competition.

Financial Status Updates

Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the financial status report and the cafeteria account report. He presented the Board with recommended budget transfers for 2011-12.

He is currently approximately \$44,000 in surplus at this time and they are looking to make some repairs needed this year that had been put off in past years.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously VOTED to approve the following Region 4 budget transfers for 2011-12 as recommended:

Object 100: Salaries Budget	Decrease of	(\$14,789)
Object 200: Fringe Benefits	Budget Increase of	\$25,708
Object 300: Purchased Services	Budget Increase of	\$28,000
Object 400: Rentals& Repairs	Budget Increase of	\$16,700
Object 500: other outside Serv.	Budget Decrease of	(\$36,450)
Object 600 Supplies	Budget Increase of	\$10,000
Object 700 Equipment	Budget Increase of	\$8,024
Object 800: Other Miscellaneous	Budget Decrease of	(\$35,000)
Object 900: Debt Service & Transfer	Budget Decrease of	<u>(\$2,193)</u>

Net Amount of Increases versus (Decreases) \$0

On motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously VOTED to receive the financial status report and the cafeteria account report as presented.

Principals Update

VRHS –Principal Kristina Martineau noted that the student reps had already covered most of the updates, however she did add that at the recent Shoreline Arts Alliance Competition, almost 40 Valley students' work was represented and 9 took top awards. In combination with other competitions over the last month and a half, Valley students have received about 30 fine arts awards.

Principal Martineau presented the Board with an update on the use of the software program, Performance Plus with regards to its use in improving instruction and academic achievement. She reminded the Board of the goal this year for all Valley faculty to use the Performance Plus program to lead data driven instruction for improved academic achievement. She shared examples of how Data driven decision making at Valley is achieved. It helps to lead the faculty to determine what they can do instructionally to improve student performance and it has really improved conversations at the data team level, allowing them to be focused on fine-tuning curriculum and instruction in essentially real time. There was a brief discussion.

JWMS – Principal David Russell gave an update on the 2011-12 school year. He said that the Young Scholars program, under the direction of Bobbie Nidz continues to amaze him. Students now self-select and any child can participate in what we used to call the Talented and Gifted program. This approach allows many students to participate at a high level who may never have been previously identified. He talked about the mini-boat project. The boat can be viewed in the JWMS lobby. Student input has named the boat "The Charger" in honor of the JW Chargers. The project incorporate math, science, social studies and English curriculum.

Principal Russell announced that current librarian Cara Rothman has resigned, but JWMS was very fortunate that Sara Wasley, one of the language arts teachers, has accepted the position.

The JWMS musical *Seussical the Musical* will be performed March 30th and 31st. Almost 70 students are involved. He highlighted the efforts of Peter Leffingwell, a parent volunteer, who has created an amazing set for the show. The sixth graders from the elementary schools will come to see the show shortly before opening. Tickets are on sale at the main office.

Committee Reports

Region 4 Audit and Finance Committee -

The Joint PK-12 Finance Committee will meet again on March 27th.

The Joint PK-12 Curriculum Committees is scheduled to meet March 20th – Mary-Beth Harrigan

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviasser reported that CMT/CAPT testing is going well so far. A number of students are taking the tests on the computer this year. In addition, the entire 8th grade class will be doing a variety of supplemental CMT testing on the computer. The elementary schools also have a number of grades taking computerized supplemental testing.

Mr. Neviasser reminded members of the upcoming student art exhibition in Central Office.

He also reported on the recently distributed 2010-11 Strategic School Profiles for JW, VR & Region 4. There was a brief discussion regarding some of the highlighted aspects. Mr. Neviasser will report back to the Board with more specifics regarding the calculation of the graduation rate at a future meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Last Friday Dr. Levy gave an update to the local Chamber of Commerce district regarding all of our schools and also shared the student-produced video promoting VRHS with them. She also gave a copy to everyone in attendance, including many local real estate agents.

She reported that work continues on the manufacturing curriculum in order to move forward for next year in conjunction with Whelen Engineering and eventually with other interested local businesses.

There was a discussion regarding the matter of a bond resolution. Linda Hall read the abbreviated resolution. On motion duly made by Mary-Beth Harrigan and seconded by Duane Gates, the Board unanimously VOTED to waive the reading of the entire resolution.

On motion duly made by Jennifer Clark and seconded by Mary-Beth Harrigan, the Board unanimously VOTED to adopt the following resolution as introduced:

"RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$9.0 MILLION REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, AUTHORIZING COMBINING INTO ONE ISSUE AND MAKING DETERMINATIONS WITH THE REFUNDING BONDS ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED BUT UNISSUED BONDS OF THE DISTRICT, AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS FOR THE INVESTMENT OF REFUNDING ESCROW AND ITS REINVESTMENT OVER ITS TERM AND APPROVING THE FORM OF BOARD MINUTES FOR THE FOREGOING VOTE" was hereby approved.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to waive the reading of the entitled resolution, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting.

There was a discussion regarding the proposed 2012-13 Region 4 budget with gross expenditures in the amount of \$17,568,403 (net billings to the towns of \$17,327,124). Only one question was submitted to the administration prior to the meeting and that was regarding class sizes. Dr. Levy explained that they don't average class sizes, but instead look at specific courses to ensure appropriate numbers for the respective course. It is therefore difficult to come up with average class size for the high school. In general they try not to have classes with less than 10 students enrolled, but some may have upwards of 20 or more depending on class specifics and requirements. There was additional discussion prior to the vote.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to move the proposed 2012-13 Region 4 Budget with gross expenditures in the amount of \$17,568,403 (Seventeen million, five hundred sixty-eight thousand, four hundred and three dollars) to Public Hearing on April 2, 2012.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS none present

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to move into executive session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss the Superintendent's recommendation regarding staff non-renewals.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to move out of executive session at 8:53 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

On motion duly made and seconded the Board VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation regarding staff non-renewals.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1 Public Hearing for Proposed Region 4 budget for 2012-12 (April 2nd, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.)
- 2 Region 4 Regular BOE meeting (May 3rd, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.)
- 3 Region 4 Annual Meeting (May 7th, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.)
- 4 Referendum on Region 4 Budget for 2011-12 (May 8th, 2012 noon – 8:00 pm)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at _____ p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Beth Harrigan, BOE Secretary
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk

RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTHORIZATION,
ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$9.0 MILLION
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4 GENERAL
OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, AUTHORIZING
COMBINING INTO ONE ISSUE AND MAKING
DETERMINATIONS WITH THE REFUNDING BONDS ANY
OTHER AUTHORIZED BUT UNISSUED BONDS OF THE
DISTRICT, AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS FOR THE
INVESTMENT OF REFUNDING ESCROW AND ITS
REINVESTMENT OVER ITS TERM

Section 1. \$9.0 million principal amount of refunding bonds of Regional School District No. 4, (hereinafter, the "District") or so much thereof as shall be necessary, are hereby authorized to be issued and the proceeds there from appropriated for the purpose of refunding, including advance refunding, all or any portion of the aggregate principal amount of any issue of the District's General Obligation Bonds now or hereafter outstanding or hereafter authorized, issued and outstanding, (the "Prior Bonds"), including but not limited to outstanding bonds of the District's 2004 issue and for the payment of all fees and expenses incurred in connection therewith, including redemption price, legal, fiscal advisor, underwriting, accounting, escrow verification, investment broker, printing, rating agencies, registrar, transfer and paying and escrow agents, printing, and such other costs and expenses, and those necessary, appropriate or customarily incurred in connection with the refunding of bonds.

Section 2. The bonds shall be in the denomination of \$1,000 or a whole multiple thereof, be issued in fully registered form, and be executed in the name and on behalf of the District by the facsimile or manual signatures of the Regional School District Board (the "Board") Chairman and Treasurer (hereafter the "District Officials"). They shall bear such rate or rates of interest or sold at such price or prices, including discount or premium with respect to par, as shall be determined by the District Officials or their designees pursuant to Section 10-60a of the General Statutes. The bonds shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns and each of the bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the District and its member towns as provided by the General Statutes are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon, and will be paid from property taxation to the extent not paid from other sources. The aggregate principal amount of refunding bonds to be issued, the particular issue or portion thereof they shall refund, the annual installments of principal, redemption provisions, if any, the date, time and manner of issue and sale, interest rate on the bonds, designation of registration transfer and paying agent, financial advisor, underwriter, verification agent or other service providers to facilitate the issuance of the bonds and the transactions herein authorized, and other terms, details and particulars of such bonds, and their issuance and the use and investment of proceeds, including issuance premium, if any, shall be determined by the District Officials or their designee in accordance with the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended, including but not limited to 10-60a. The refunding bonds authorized herein may be issued in one or more series, at

one or more times and from time to time, provided that, the aggregate principal amount of all such refunding bonds issued shall not exceed \$9.0 million.

Section 3. The District Officials are hereby authorized on behalf of the District to enter into bond purchase contracts for the sale of the bonds, insurance or other credit enhancement contracts, escrow agreements, investment contracts to invest the proceeds of the bonds pending their use for the purposes of the issue, including purchasing open market treasury securities, State and Local Government Series, or any investment permitted by law, to enter into interest rate swap agreements or other agreements and determinations authorized by Section 7-370b and 7-370c, and to execute and deliver such other contracts or certificates necessary or appropriate to consummate the issuance of bonds and transactions herein contemplated, to contract with agents to act on behalf of the District with respect to any of the foregoing and to apply the proceeds of such bonds for the purposes herein authorized. In connection with agreements to invest the proceeds of the bonds, the District Officials are specifically authorized to enter into contracts to provide for the investment or reinvestment of amounts held in an advance refunding escrow, including but not limited to agreements to deliver, provide, or receive securities to fund the refunding escrow, or to otherwise facilitate refunding purposes, to purchase securities during the term of the escrow from proceeds derived from maturing escrow securities, including agreements committing to purchase or allow for the purchase of such securities over the term of the escrow, in exchange for payment, and which agreements may be described or are commonly known as escrow float contracts, escrow reinvestment agreements or generally, guaranteed investment contracts. Such agreements and any contract agreement authorized hereunder, may include agreements with and instructions to an escrow agent, or consist of agreements with multiple parties to accomplish its objectives, provisions for delivery and payment of securities or exchanges of cash flow, provisions identifying the type of securities to be delivered, the date, principal amount, maturity date and maturity amount of delivered securities, the timing and amount of exchanged cash flows, if any, default provisions, the preconditions to entering into such agreements, including opinions of counsel, including reasoned opinions addressing the effect of bankruptcy, insolvency, appointment of a conservator or other similar proceedings with respect to any party to such contract, including, but not limited to a party agreeing to provide such securities to the escrow in exchange for payment therefore, or any party to an interest rate swap agreement. The agreements contemplated by this section may consist of more than one agreement entered into with more than one party. Any portion of the payment derived from such contracts may be deposited to the refunding escrow or expended to reduce, directly or indirectly, the amount of bonds required to be issued to refund the District's Prior Bonds.

Section 4. The District Officials are hereby authorized, on behalf of the District, to enter into agreements or otherwise covenant for the benefit of bondholders to provide information on an annual or other periodic basis to nationally recognized municipal securities information repositories or state based information repositories (the "Repositories") and to provide notices to the Repositories of material events as enumerated in Securities and Exchange Commission Exchange Act Rule 15c2-12, as amended, as may be necessary, appropriate or desirable to effect the sale of the bonds and notes authorized by this resolution.

Section 5. The District Officials are authorized to combine with the issue of refunding bonds herein authorized, bonds for any other purpose which the District has authorized but, as of the issue date of the applicable series of refunding bonds, are unissued, including any bonds authorized subsequent to the date of adoption of this resolution. Solely in connection with such combined issue, the District Officials in addition to the authority conferred upon them by any bond resolution authorizing the issue of the bonds to be combined into one issue with the refunding bonds, are hereby delegated the authority to enter into contracts of purchase for such bonds and to determine their interest rate, and to exercise with respect to such combined issue of bonds the authority herein conferred.

Section 6. The District Officials are hereby authorized on behalf of the District to enter into contracts and to execute and deliver certificates necessary, appropriate or advisable in their determination to consummate the issuance of the bonds and the transactions authorized herein.

Section 7. This Resolution shall remain in full force and effect until repealed by the Board.

Excerpt For Minutes of Regular Meeting of
The Board of Education of
Regional School District No. 4
Held March 7, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Regional School District No. 4 was held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012 in the Winthrop Middle School. The meeting was called to order at 07:04 P.M. by Linda Hall, who presided.

Those present and absent were as follows:

PRESENT

Ann Monaghan
Jennifer Clark
Mario Gioco
Linda Hall
Chris Riley
Duane Gates
Elaine Fitzgibbons
Mary-Beth Harrigan

ABSENT

Laurie Tomlinson

Those joining after commencement of the meeting were:

Linda Hall introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled: "RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$9.0 MILLION REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, AUTHORIZING COMBINING INTO ONE ISSUE AND MAKING DETERMINATIONS WITH THE REFUNDING BONDS ANY OTHER AUTHORIZED BUT UNISSUED BONDS OF THE DISTRICT, AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS FOR THE INVESTMENT OF REFUNDING ESCROW AND ITS REINVESTMENT OVER ITS TERM" is hereby approved.

Motion to waive the reading of the entitled resolution, incorporating its full text into the minutes of this meeting made by Mary Beth Harrigan, seconded by Duane Gates. The ayes and nays were as follows:

AYES

NAYS

Ann Monaghan
Jennifer Clark
Mario Gioco
Linda Hall
Chris Riley
Duane Gates
Elaine Fitzgibbons
Mary-Beth Harrigan

Linda Hall thereupon declared the motion carried.

Jen Clark moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and the motion was seconded by Mary Beth Harrigan.

Upon roll call vote, the ayes and nays on the resolution were as follows:

AYES

NAYS

Ann Monaghan
Jennifer Clark
Mario Gioco
Linda Hall
Chris Riley
Duane Gates
Elaine Fitzgibbons
Mary-Beth Harrigan

Linda Hall thereupon declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.