

***THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE Sept 01, 2016 MEETING  
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 05, 2016 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board members in attendance:

Chris Riley, Susan Hollister, Jane Cavanaugh, Elaine Fitzgibbons, Jim Olson, and Leigh Rankin arrived at 7:07 p.m. and Mario Gioco arrived at 7:15 p.m., as well as Senior Student Representatives Elias Mueller and Jenna Taylor, and newly appointed Junior Student Representatives Maleena Frazier and Matthew O'Keefe

Also in attendance:

Administrators: Superintendent Dr. Ruth I. Levy,  
Assistant Superintendent, Kristina Martineau  
Business Manager Garth Sawyer;  
Valley Regional Principal Mike Barile;  
John Winthrop Principal William Duffy

Board Clerk: Jennifer Bryan

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Chris Riley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 03, 2016, the Special Meeting of March 30<sup>th</sup>, and the Accounts Payable Report.

**AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS**

23 citizens were present.

**OTHER ITEMS**

Chairman Riley recognized the service of Senior BOE representatives Julia Hammond and Acacia Bowden over the last two years. The Board presented them with a small token of appreciation for their service.

Region 4 Director of Facilities Bruce Glowac reported that he had been asked to present a request by the Valley Lacrosse Boosters to have a snack shack built at Valley. If approved, all costs to construct the shack would come entirely from the boosters. Once constructed, the shack would become the sole property of Region No. 4. He reviewed blueprints for the planned shack.

There was a discussion regarding placement of the shack and concerns for both aesthetic and safety reasons. Mr. Glowac indicated that prior to construction, all plans would have to be approved by the town for both safety and ordinance issues. The filming platform or “widow’s walk” on top would have restricted access either by a locking, covered ladder if located outside the building, or access may be only through the inside of the shack. The building would be available for requested use by anyone using the field for an event.

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to accept the Lacrosse Booster Club’s generous gift of the construction of a snack shack as presented.

### **Region 4 Student Representatives Report**

JWMS Middle School students Samantha Calamari and Cameron Frazier reported on many activities at John Winthrop Middle School including spirit week, athletics, bully and drug prevention activities, speech competitions, the school newspaper, and an upcoming talent show to raise money for charity.

Senior Student Representatives Julia Hammond and Acacia Bowden reported on many activities at Valley Regional High School including athletics, upcoming testing, debate club, Model UN, upcoming fundraisers for charities, and many senior week activities scheduled for June. The Senior class is donating 2 benches for the art gallery areas near the auditorium as their class gift. Graduation will be held June 15th.

Newly appointed Junior Student Representatives, Matthew O’Keefe and Maleena Frazier were introduced and gave a brief update noting that everyone had been working hard on the upcoming Junior Prom.

### **Principal Updates**

Principal Barile shared a brief update on activities at VRHS and mentioned many students who were recently recognized for outstanding academic achievements. He reported that faculty and administration are continuing to work on NEASC standards and initiatives. He then presented the top 10% of the graduating class to the Board. Each student shared their post-graduation plans.

Members of the Valley Regional Robotics Club shared a presentation about their program, now in its second year. They noted that it is an expensive program, but they have received many generous contributions from community donors and the Region 4 Foundation. They have been very successful in their competitions to date. The students gave a demonstration of their robot to the Board.

Band Instructor Kevin Lam and Choral teacher Laura Hilton presented their proposal and first reading of a request for Board approval of a student trip to the Montreal Worldstrides Music Heritage Festival, April 27-30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Ms. Hilton discussed the general itinerary which provides both cultural and performance experiences for the students. The Board asked several questions regarding various aspects of the trip. Chair Riley asked the Board if they felt comfortable voting on approval for the trip without more consideration time and a second reading. There was Board consensus that a second reading would be unnecessary.

On motion duly made and seconded the Board Unanimously VOTED to approve a student trip to the Montreal Worldstrides Music Heritage Festival on April 27-30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as presented.

John Winthrop Middle School Principal, Bill Duffy reported that it's a very busy time at JWMS. The students recently gave a fantastic performance in their school play, *Xanadu*. He also discussed upcoming performances of DIRT, a one man show on life lessons that the students will see during the school day and that will be held again for parents in the evening. Additionally he discussed the upcoming spring concert and art show, end of year assessments, climate surveys, the upcoming 6th Grade Orientation, and a new Chromebook one-to-one initiative starting next year.

## REPORTS

### Financial Status Updates

Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the financial status report, as well as the cafeteria account report. He reported that they are currently projecting a deficit in legal services, but have a surplus in the heating oil and snow plowing accounts. There was also a little more that will be received for excess costs than originally anticipated, so he is currently projecting a \$29,000 surplus. In addition, the sale of smoothies in the cafeterias has increased breakfast revenues.

### Committee Reports

There was no report given by the Joint BOE Finance Committee. Their next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 27th.

Joint BOE Policy Committee:

The floor was opened for discussion on the following pending policies:

*A Second Reading and Vote on the following policies will be held at June 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint BOE meeting:*

- #5118 Resident/Non-Resident Attendance
- #4134 Tutoring
- #4138/4238 Non-School Employment
- #4147/4247 Employee Safety
- #4152.6/4252.6 Family Medical Leave Act
- #4212.42 Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

Dr. Levy reported that the only questions/suggestions she had received was regarding a language revision in #4212.42 to make it clear that the Supervision District contracts out for their bus services. A red-line revision to clarify that point will be presented for the second reading at the June meeting.

Chair Riley suggested a language change in #4138/4238 to revise the phrase "causes poor public relations within the community" to the new language of "reflects poorly on the district".

Committee Chair Leigh Rankin discussed a couple of comments/questions she had received regarding the Resident/Non-Resident (Tuition) Policy #5118. It was determined that all of the specific information contained in the current policy with regards to future/former/hardship/ and other residents is contained within the expanded newly recommended policy - it is just located at the end of the recommended policy. There

was also a question regarding the use of the word “may” pay instead of will pay with regards to extra services. Dr. Levy confirmed that the district would never pay for additional services for a tuitioned student. It would be the responsibility of the LEA of the student, or their parents, depending on that particular student’s circumstances.

Mrs. Martineau reported that the Joint BOE Curriculum Committees will meet again on September 19th as scheduled.

Elaine Fitzgibbons, Region 4 Representative to the LEARN board gave an update on their activities. She reported that LEARN Director Eileen Howley had recently discussed the decrease in funding they and the magnet schools will be receiving. This will impact our schools because the tuition we currently pay for students who choose to attend magnet schools will be increased to cover the lower revenues.

**Supervision District Committee Update** - Chris Riley reported that the Supervision District budget process is going well.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Levy updated the Board on the following District activities: She reported that the Region 4 budget passed on referendum on May 3rd. She thanked the Board for their time, scrutiny, and efforts to put together a budget to serve students and move our district forward.

She shared that she had recently received communication from their liaison to the sister school in China regarding the recent downturn in the Chinese economy which means that they will be unable to financially support sending students this summer for a two week immersive experience. Therefore, the district plans to do nothing over this coming summer, but does plan to have students visit next summer and possibly have tuition students enroll as early as the second semester of 2016-17.

She reported that per the new State statute, every senior student was recently trained (and certified) in CPR. The instructors shared high praise for the students and their conduct and engagement during the classes.

### **Assistant Superintendent’s Report**

Ms. Martineau gave a general update on activities within the districts including the following: the districtwide PDEC group met recently to plan professional development for next year including tech integration throughout the year. Curriculum committees are currently focusing on the next generation math and science standards for future assessments, and are considering different elementary math resources.

Mrs. Martineau also shared some information with regards to a question she had received from a Board member concerning whether or not Algebra I is offered to middle school students. She shared that yet, 8th graders are offered Algebra I aligned to high school math standards. The grade 6-7 teachers meet every year to review and to make recommendations for students who should be encouraged to enroll in the classes that are offered. Additionally, the high school is beginning conversations regarding possible changes to the sequencing of math classes at the high school.

**AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS** - None present

The Board moved into Executive Session for Self Evaluation at 9:10 p.m.

The Board moved out of Executive Session at 10:40 p.m.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Next Region 4 BOE meeting Sept. 01, 2016
- Next Joint BOE meeting Oct. 06, 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 10:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer Clark, Secretary  
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk