

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

A regular meeting of the Regional School District No. 4 Board of Education was held on Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board members in attendance:

Dr. Jennifer Clark, DG Fitton, Mario Gioco, Trisha Brookhart, Lori Ann Clymas, Dr. Rick Daniels, Michelle Grow, Kate Sandmann (arrived at 7:03), as well as Senior Student Representatives Kate Farrell and Cooper McCormick

Also in attendance:

Administrators: Superintendent Dr. Ruth I. Levy,
Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kristina Martineau
Business Manager Kim Allen;
Valley Regional Principal Mike Barile;
John Winthrop Principal William Duffy
Region 4 Director of Facilities Leigh Rankin

Board Clerk: Jennifer Bryan

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Levy called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Superintendent Levy opened the floor for nominations for the position of Board Chair. Rick Daniels nominated Jennifer Clark. Lori Ann Clymas seconded the nomination.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to elect Jennifer Clark to the position of Board Chair for a one year term.

Chair Clark opened the floor for nominations for the offices of Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Jennifer Clark nominated Jane Cavanaugh for the office of Vice-Chair. Rick Daniels seconded the nomination.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to elect Jane Cavanaugh to the position of Board Vice-Chairman for a one year term.

Jennifer Clark nominated Rick Daniels for the office of Secretary. Michelle Grow seconded the nomination.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to elect Rick Daniels to the position of Board Secretary for a one year term.

Rick Daniels nominated Mario Gioco for the office of Treasurer. Michelle Grow seconded the nomination.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to elect Mario Gioco to the position of Board Treasurer for a one year term.

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 Sept. 06, 2018, Minutes from the special meeting of Sept. 12, 2018, Minutes from the special meeting of October 17, 2018, and the Accounts Payable Report.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Approximately 8 citizens were present. No comments were made.

OTHER ITEMS

JWMS Middle School Students Ben Costanzo and Leif Duval updated the Board on current events at JWMS including the student/faculty volleyball game and sports tryouts. Student leaders recently attended the anti-bullying rally in Middletown and the student walkathon raised over \$1200 for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. The Lego Robotics League competed at an invitational last weekend: CMEA auditions are coming up soon, and auditions for the school musical, *Once on this Island* have started. The students also talked about upcoming "Mix it Up Day" which is a good way to interact with different people.

Region 4 Student Representatives Report

Senior Student Representatives Kate Farrell and Cooper McCormick updated the Board on the following activities at VRHS: The school musical "*Newsies*" cast list was just posted on Saturday and the first read-through will be held soon. Homecoming was held on October 20th and new this year was the addition of food, donated by local restaurants, which seemed to help increase the upperclassman attendance. A Veterans Day presentation was held yesterday. The VRHS acapella group has been busy preparing for their Nov. 30th performance at Carnegie Hall. The National Honor Society will be holding their Santa breakfast soon.

VRHS Faculty Member Bobby Sanchez and Valley Student Daniel Hearn gave a presentation to the Board on Daniel's independent study and Capstone project regarding a water purification system he has designed, with the intent of delivering it to Haiti via the Sister Cities Essex project. They asked the Board to accept a \$5000 donation from Mr. Whelen, to the Tech Ed Department, that would be used to help purchase the supplies to construct, and deliver to Haiti 2 or 3 working purification units.

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to accept the donation of \$5000 from Mr. Whelen to the VRHS Tech Ed Dept. to be earmarked for this project.

Executive Session

The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. regarding negotiations to discuss the key provisions in the Region 4 Custodians contract for 2018-21 and to receive an update on a pending legal matter. Attorney Kevin Roy and Administrators were invited to attend.

The Board moved out of Executive Session at 8:11 p.m.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board VOTED (6 Yes / 1 No - T. Brookhart / 1 Abstain - R. Daniels = **MOTION PASSED**) to add a vote on proceeding with the FOIA appeal to the agenda.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board VOTED (5 Yes / 2 No - M. Gioco, R. Daniels / 1 Abstain - T. Brookhart = **MOTION PASSED**) to proceed with the FOIA appeal and to contact CABA regarding their willingness to help fund the appeal.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to ratify the Agreement between the Region 4 Board of Education, and Local 1303-086 of Council No. 4 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (R4 custodians) for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021.

Principal Updates

Valley Regional High School Principal Mike Barile updated the Board on the recent International Baccalaureate Authorization; the completion and acceptance of the two year NEASC report; the continuing implementation of critical and creative problem solving at VRHS; enhancements to the Capstone Project process, and changes in flex time to support personalized learning initiatives. He also reported there was a record 45% early action college application rate for seniors.

Principal Barile discussed the rationale and asked the Board to consider approving a request for the purchase of a Field Injury Transport Vehicle. Director of Facilities Rankin discussed options for purchasing a used vehicle that comes equipped with the necessary features and would include new tires, a new battery, a 1 year warranty, and delivery. There was a discussion about the need for such a vehicle and if it were to be approved from which line item the money would be taken. Ms. Allen reported that there is currently a savings in the salary line and if the Board were to approve the purchase this evening, the board would then be asked to approve a budget transfer between appropriate accounts at the next meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board VOTED (7 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstain - M. Gioco = **MOTION PASSED**) to approve a purchase amount of up to \$5500 for a Field Injury Transport Vehicle as presented.

Principal Barile presented the profile of the 2018 Graduating Class.

John Winthrop Middle School Principal Bill Duffy updated the Board on the recent Lego Robotics Team competition, noting that the 8th grade team placed 5th out of 27 teams. He described the work and research both the 7th and 8th grade teams completed as part of their projects, including corresponding with engineers at NASA and CalTech. He noted that the teams' work over the last couple of months is just one great example of how JWMS students are applying critical and creative problem solving. All students have been working on their success plans by setting both academic and social goals. Teachers have been setting their professional goal and using district rubrics for assessments.

Principal Duffy noted that this being his last Board meeting with Region 4, he would like to thank everyone for allowing him to serve at the JWMS Principal for the last 7 years. He thanked the Board and the community for their support. The Board and District administration expressed their gratitude for the exemplary service Mr. Duffy has provided to the students and staff at JWMS.

Principal Duffy and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Martineau presented the most recent SBAC scores. They reviewed the results, action plans, and strategies for supporting ELA and Math curriculum.

At 8:58 p.m. Chair Clark called for a 5 minute break, the meeting resumed at approx. 9:03 p.m..

Region 4 Director of Facilities Leigh Rankin provided an update to the Board. She reported that the Region 4 Grounds and Buildings Maintenance and Oversight Committee has been, and will continue to be, meeting to prioritize capital project needs. They will be providing their recommendations to the Board at the first scheduled Region 4 budget workshop.

Ms. Rankin discussed a request for the Board to approve payment of invoices related to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) mandated removal of a heating fuel oil underground storage tank. She requested that the Board approve payment out of the capital reserve account to pay outstanding invoices and also to reimburse the general ledger account for some already paid project invoices totalling approx. \$99,342.64, \$6000, \$3400, and \$400 (including removal of the old tank, removal of contaminated soil, outstanding balance on a new tank, and fees for work by a licensed environmental professional for the mandated project.)

Dr. Daniels voiced his displeasure over the removal of the oil tank without explicit authorization by the Board and he does not want the capital reserve fund reduced by payment of these invoices because the project, although mandated, was not explicitly authorized by the Board.

There was a lengthy discussion to determine the best way to pay these bills and whether it should come out of the capital reserve fund or out of the current budget as suggested by Mr. Gioco. Many agreed that moving forward there must be greater transparency on future capital projects, and that the new checks and balances that have been put into place, and the creation of the R4 Grounds and Buildings Committee will provide that transparency. There was a suggestion by Mr. Fitton that the Board may want to consider writing a Capitalization Rule to define what is capital vs. what is maintenance by setting dollar and/or longevity thresholds to make that determination. Ms. Rankin shared her recommendation that because the mandated tank removal was a capital project, it should be paid out of the capital reserve fund as it's very important to keep capital funds cleanly separated from operating funds.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board VOTED (3 Yes / 4 No - L. Clymas, M. Grow, D. Fitton, J. Clark / 1 abstain - K. Sandmann = MOTION DID NOT PASS) to pay all presented invoices for the oil tank removal from the current operating funds.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board VOTED (4 Yes / 3 No - M. Gioco, R. Daniels, T. Brookhart / 1 abstain - K. Sandmann = MOTION PASSED) to pay all presented invoices for the oil tank removal out of the capital reserve fund.

Ms. Rankin provided an update on the Board's request that she contact real estate agents regarding marketing strategies for the Falls Landing property that the Board is considering selling. She reported the results of her efforts to reach out to four different qualified agents. She only received a response from one of the agents who articulated the current state of the market for properties of that type. Ms. Rankin shared a few examples of recent comparable sales and their very low selling prices. It was the agent's recommendation that it is not a good time to sell this type of property unless one has to.

There was a brief discussion.

Dr. Daniels made a motion to table the issue of the sale of the Falls Landing property because the Board has no need to sell the property at this time.

Prior to voting, several members of the Board asked Mr. Daniels to consider recusing himself from the vote due to the fact that his home is located directly adjacent to the Falls Landing property in question. Dr. Daniels stated that he would not recuse himself.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board VOTED (6 Yes / 0 No / 2 Abstain - D. Fitton, M. Grow = MOTION PASSED) to table the issue of the sale of the Falls Landing property.

Ms. Rankin informed the Board of the Valley Soccer Club's donation of \$1000 to JWMS in recognition of the use of the school's fields.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to accept the donation of \$1000 from Valley Soccer Club to be used at the principal's discretion.

REPORTS

Financial Status Updates

Business Manager Kim Allen reviewed the financial status reports, as well as highlights of the cafeteria account reports for the current fiscal year.

Ms. Allen provided a copy of the state statutes regarding capital accounts and presented a report on the capital reserve account for 2017-18. She will distribute the report to the towns.

Ms. Allen provided a review of the Region 4 sports programs and the budget breakdown showing Title IX is being followed. The report provides actual expenditures for 2017-18 and budgeted amounts for 2018-19. There was a short discussion.

Ms. Allen presented her requested budget transfers to date for 2018-19.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the requested 2018-19 budget transfers as follows:

Object 100: Salaries	Decrease (\$35,000)
Object 300: Purchased Services	Increase \$35,000

Committee Reports

The **Joint BOE Policy Committee** met September 17th and again last evening. They will be sending some policies forward to the next Joint BOE meeting for a first reading in December.

A First Reading and brief discussion was held regarding revisions recommended by the Joint BOE Policy Committee based on requests by Principal Barile to Policy #6146 Graduation Requirements and Policy #6172.6 Virtual On-Line Courses. These policies will come back for a second reading and possible VOTE at the proposed January 8th, 2019 Region 4 BOE meeting.

The **Joint BOE Curriculum Committee** met on Sept. 17th and will meet again on Nov. 27th.

The **Joint BOE Finance Committee** met on October 16th. They continued their review of financial policies and forwarded some recommended revisions to the Joint BOE Policy Committee for their consideration. The Committee will meet again on Nov. 27th.

Supervision District Committee Update - Chair Clark reported that the Supervision District Committee last met on October 4th. At that time she discussed the Region 4 Board's request for more Board meetings and asked if the other Boards would like more meetings as well. She said the other Board Chairs assured her they did not. Additional Region 4 Board meetings will be added to the proposed calendar of BOE meetings for approval at the December 3rd Joint BOE meeting.

Board representative and Committee Chair DG Fitton updated the Board on the work of the Ad Hoc School Security Advisory Committee. They held an all day meeting on Oct. 22nd to prepare their recommendations for each facility after having completed walk-thrus at each location. These recommendations will be ready for each Board's first budget workshop and discussions. The Committee will continue to hold monthly meetings.

Dr. Levy updated the Board on the work of the Ad Hoc Tuition Committee. She reviewed the proposed tuition fee structure that the Committee is recommending be adopted at the Joint BOE meeting in December. There was some discussion and a recommendation was made that the proposed tuition fee structure include whether or not additional fees would be charged for participation in sports.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Levy notified the Board, per policy#3260, of the disposition of materials previously used by the Valley TV Club). They will be sold to an interested school district and the proceeds will be added into the general Region 4 fund as presented.

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously supported Dr. Levy's notification of the disposition of materials.

Dr. Levy presented the Board with the 2016-17 Performance Profile Report (PPR - formerly SSP) for JWMS, VRHS and Region 4. This is the most recent report and was released by the State at the end of February, 2018.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Martineau gave a general update on activities within the districts including work by K-12 curriculum groups and the sharing out of assessments, aiding K-12 articulation, and the laying of groundwork to prioritize standards and assessments to inform possible revisions to report card formatting.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - 3 present

Jim Carey of Essex gave the Board a recap of his FOIA request regarding the SPIRAL International foreign student program, his subsequent complaint to the FOI Commission, the resulting proceedings, and his oral arguments against proposed final decisions by the Commission. He shared copies of the Commission's recent Notice of Final Decision and asked the Board that they not spend money appealing the decision.

Phil Schaller of Ivoryton echoed Mr. Carey's sentiment and asked the Board to not spend money on what he feels is wasteful. He also stated that he, having been a regular attendee at Board meetings over the past year or two, does not feel they are making progress, and instead he feels they are moving backwards and that they need to fix the problem.

Other Items: There was a Board consensus that a review of Board policy and state statutes with regard to capital reserve funds should just be a part of the discussion at the first Region 4 budget workshop, currently proposed for January 23, 2019, as opposed to a separate workshop.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next Joint BOE meeting is December 3rd, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m. @ JWMS

Next Region 4 BOE regular BOE meeting is proposed for Tuesday, January 8th, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. @ JWMS

Region 4 BOE Workshop w/ Nick Caruso on Wed., Jan. 16, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. in CO

Region 4 Budget Workshops are proposed for: Jan. 23rd, Feb. 05, and Feb. 20th, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m. @ CO

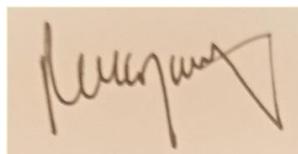
BOE and Community input for 2019-20 budget (on-going)

Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for 2019-20 (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 10:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A rectangular area containing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Rick Daniels".

Rick Daniels, BOE Secretary
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk