

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE May 04, 2017
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, March 2, 2017 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board members in attendance:

Leigh Rankin, Susan Hollister, Chris Riley, Mario Gioco, Jane Cavanaugh, Lori Ann Clymas 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 Jane Cavanaugh and seconded by Jennifer Clark, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2017 and the Accounts Payable Report.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Mike Spanner, a Deep River resident with two daughters in the school system, stated that he is pleased with the education they are getting. He was, however, surprised of the impact of the block schedule this year when his daughter started Valley. It became apparent that there was a lack of consistency in his daughter's education experience. He is supportive of the new scheduling.

Paula Weglarz loves the modification to the schedule. It will address the lack of continuity.

Miriam Morrissey is pleased with the change to the schedule and commends the scheduling committee for making this change. There are very few schools who have the 4x4 schedule. The research shows that this will be best.

Wendy Adamczyk is a math teacher and mother of a sophomore at Valley. She feels that this is a great schedule for all kids.

Lorraine Shea, an Essex resident, feels that the change will be positive to all students. Her son was concerned about the lack of continuity.

Dave Aikins has a freshman at Valley. He volunteers in the Region 4 system in science, math, robotics and technology. His older two children graduated as Valedictorian of their Valley class. When he moved from California he chose Region 4 because of the individualization of education. The block system mirrors a college schedule. He asked the Board to consider some of the strengths of the block system. The new schedule would have 7 block and the current schedule has 8. Customization of classes is not as available with the new scheduling. In the 4x4 schedule kids can double up in core prerequisites or in their interest. We are giving up flexibility. He asks the Board to make sure they understand what they are giving up.

Dan Morrissey, a Deep River resident with three kids in the school system, stated that he is not in favor of the current block schedule due to its lack of continuity. In certain circumstances the block schedule has advantages. One is it is comfortable and there is also specializing. In college you get very little ability to take a wide range of classes. You have a choice of having continuity or diversity because you cannot have both. Kids can slide backwards just after a summer break. He is supporting the new scheduling.

Sarah Spanner read a letter from her daughter voicing her concerns about her freshman year at Valley. There was a severe imbalance in her schedule this year. She noted that 90 minutes is long time for kids and teachers. Often teachers use part of the class time for homework. She hopes this change will better her education.

Matt O'Keefe noted that the underclassmen are complaining about the changes. After learning more about the new schedule, he is now supportive of the new schedule. He has been talked into the benefits of students going to a class the entire year.

OTHER ITEMS

Region 4 Student Representatives Report

JWMS Middle School students

Reagan Brenneman and Jackson Bisson presented the school report. The boys and girls basketball team has ended their successful season. Math Counts went competed at the Coast Guard Academy and will be moving into the State competition. Mock Trial is also competing. The play is Bye Bye Birdie and the performances are on March 31st and April 1. The CMEA will be performing on March 4th. Spirit week begins on Friday. The blood drive is March 8th. Various activities for transitioning from 6th to 7th grade and from 8th to 9th grade are underway.

Maleena Frazier and Matthew O'Keefe discussed the events happening at Valley Regional High School.

On February 16th a recognition rally was held. The purpose was to recognize students who go above and beyond. The two people on the fencing team also had a match during the rally to showcase their sport. The American Legion Oratory competition had two students participate. Zane Bourgey will be moving to the state competition. Aida will be performed by Valley students on March 10, 11 and 12th. National Honor Society went to the elementary schools to celebrate Read Across America day. Winter sports are ending. The girls' basketball team made it into the second round of the State and Shoreline Tournaments. Travis Baldwin from the Indoor Track team won Class S state pole vaulting competition and came in 7th at the State Open. Spring sports are beginning. The Robotics team is going to their competition this weekend. The entire junior class completed the SAT. The sophomores will be taking CAP. Mr. Riley asked the senior representatives to include a brief presentation regarding their Capstone project to the Board at the next meeting.

Crew Update Presentation

This presentation will be at a future meeting.

Discussion and Possible VOTE Regarding Scheduling at the High School

Mr. Barile introduced the team who has been on the scheduling committee. The team consisted of administrators, parents, staff, board members and two consultants. Mr. Barile distributed the slide show presentation which was given to parents. Site visits were done to schools who use this schedule, students attended focus groups, and parents also had an evening presentation. Data from the top 20 public and private was discussed. The new schedule will provide opportunities for our students to succeed. Mr. Riley thanked the staff and Mr. Barile for the work they have done on this.

Ms. Rankin asked what the timing is. Mr. Barile noted that if approved tonight it is important to begin next year. The lunch challenges are being discussed. There will be three waves. It is a flex block with students eating for 20 minutes and then they will have opportunities to work with teachers or have club meetings. Graduation requirements for seniors will be adjusted. Juniors are being met with to discuss their academic plan. Adjustments will be made for students who want AP languages. Ms. Rankin asked about the cost for this transition. Mr. Barile stated that there would be no additional cost. This adjustment is allowable under the current contract.

Jane Cavanaugh is in favor of this. She supports it 100 percent. Our graduation requirements will still be above the state standard.

Susan Hollister feels that it is well constructed schedule. The new schedule will be beneficial.

Lori Ann Clymas discussed that there are pros of the 4x4 schedule but the balance of the education in the new scheduling for the students will be beneficial. She is glad that this change will occur.

Upon a motion made by Susan Hollister and seconded by Lori Ann Clymas the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept the scheduling program as presented by Mr. Barile.

Valley Regional High School – Principal, Mike Barile

General Update

Principal Barile

The seniors are anxiously awaiting the deadline for college acceptance. Mr. Barile shared an article regarding the I/B program. He would like the Board to support this moving forward. It allows us to offer our students additional rigor and continue to award college credit.

John Winthrop Middle School Principal, Bill Duffy

General Update

Principal Duffy discussed the transition process going from 6th to 7th grade and from 8th to 9th grade. The Administrators and the teachers are working together to make this transition go smoothly. Course scheduling will be done. There are various upcoming activities for students making these transitions. Math teachers are engaged in Professional Development to align standards in assessments. JW students participated in the Joe Courtney writing competition. It was a fantastic learning experience. Ms. Sundheimer and Ms. Dalton will present at NE Conference of Middle Schools. The Blood Drive is March 8th.

Discussion and Possible VOTE to Approve Sale of Xanadu Set Piece as Presented

Mr. Duffy would like to sell a Pegasus on a rolling platform from last year's JW play.

Upon a motion made by Jane Cavanaugh and seconded by Susan Hollister the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the sale of the Xanadu set piece as presented.

REPORTS

Financial Status Updates

Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the financial status report. Mr. Sawyer stated that we are looking at a budget surplus. The Administration will keep the Board informed of any developments as they arise. The deficit in health insurance will be absorbed. The ECS reductions from the State is still uncertain. Teacher pensions are also still uncertain.

Cafeteria Report

Mr. Sawyer discussed the cafeteria report. The Cafeteria Committee is reviewing a price increase and making possible changes. This will be brought back to the Board in the future. There was a slight reduction in the lunch sales.

Discussion and possible VOTE on Recommended Region 4 Budget Transfers for 2016-17

This is consistent with what we have done in the past.

Upon a motion made by Mario Gioco and seconded by Jennifer Clark the Region 4 Board of Education **VOTED** unanimously to approve the recommended budget transfers for 2016-17.

Committee Reports

Finance will be held on March 28, 2017.

Curriculum will be held on March 20, 2017.

Policy will be held on March 20, 2017.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Supervision District Committee Update

Adjustments have been made and the budget has gone to public hearing.

LEARN

No update.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

District Update - Information and Communication

Dr. Levy was not present.

Discussion Regarding Any Pending Policies – Standing Item

None to discuss.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Next generation science is being reviewed. This will have minimal impact and will be implemented strategically year by year. The committee is working on the transition. Mr. Riley requests that Board members receive a summary

which clarifies the Accountability Report done by the State. He asked for a format this is easy to read and interrupt. He asked Ms. Martineau to present this at the next meeting.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - none present

Mr. Aikins congratulated the staff for moving the district forward and he is hopeful that the new scheduling will be positive for the region.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to go into Executive Session at 8:26pm.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:27pm.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Staff Non-Renewal Notice as recommended by Superintendent Levy.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Region 4 Public Hearing on Proposed Budget, April 03, 2017
- Next Joint BOE meeting April 6, 2017
- Next Region 4 Annual Meeting May 1, 2017
- Next Region 4 BOE Meeting is May 04, 2017
- BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:28p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Clark, Secretary
(Kelley Frazier, Substitute Clerk)