

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE Nov 05, 2015 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, September 03, 2015 in the John Winthrop Middle School Library, with the following Board members in attendance:

Lauri Wichtowski, Jane Cavanaugh, Chris Riley, Elaine Fitzgibbons, Mario Gioco, Jennifer Clark (7:11 arrival) as well as Senior Student Representatives Acacia Bowden and Julia Hammond.

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 7:06 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board VOTED (5 Yes, 1 abstained = Mario Gioco) to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 04, 2015, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 07, 2015, the Minutes from the Special Meeting of June 08, 2015 and the Accounts Payable Report with the following revision to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 07, 2015:

The word “unanimously” shall be stricken to more accurately reflect the correctly recorded Nay vote (as shown in *italicized print* below):

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Region 4 Board of Education ~~unanimously~~ VOTED (Ayes: Jennifer Clark, Lauri Wichtowski, Jim Olson, Elaine Fitzgibbons, Jane Cavanaugh and Leigh Rankin. Nays: Ann Monaghan = motion passed) to approve the student trip to Spain in April 2016.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Nine citizens were present

OTHER ITEMS

Student Updates were moved to this portion of the agenda:

Senior Student Representatives Acacia Bowden and Julia Hammond reported on the following activities at Valley Regional High School: Freshman orientation at Camp Hazen which included team building activities and a bonfire was a great way for students to get to know their classmates; Most school sports teams will play their first game next week, Google Classroom is being utilized by most teachers; Virtual High School will begin September 9th and is very popular with students because it allows them to study a wide range of subject matter which will then be reflected in their transcripts; Speech, Debate and Mock Trial are all starting their practices and prepping for upcoming competitions; and Seniors have begun to think more about their Capstone project.

Principal Duffy and Principal Barile both introduced eleven new staff members hired at John Winthrop and Valley Regional over the summer. The Board welcomed them all and a short break was taken while everyone was invited to enjoy ice cream.

Assistant Superintendent Martineau, Principal Duffy, and Principal Barile reviewed the CMT/CAPT and SBAC results for 2014-15. As last year was the first year for this style of testing, the scores now simply provide a baseline for moving forward. Action plans based on results at each school were discussed. Ms. Martineau also informed the Board that the State mandated test in Grade 11 is now the SAT, as opposed to SBAC.

Principal Updates

Principal Barile reported on the opening of school. He noted that they had a terrific start and the entire community was very gracious and welcoming to the 615 students. The staff is focused on implementing new technology ranging from iPads to various on-line applications. Back to school night will be held on Sept 8 @ 6:30 p.m. In addition, subcommittees have been set up for the NEASC visit in the fall of 2016. They are continuing the great work initiated last year and will be preparing written reports during this school year for next year's NEASC team visit.

Principal Duffy reported on the opening of school for approximately 320 students. He reported a smooth start, and mentioned that the new drop off and pick up policy has been well received. He noted that last year, and over the summer, they had dedicated additional time to transition 6th grade students into JW, and he feels it has really paid off. Prior to the start of school, staff participated in professional development with a focus on technology, particularly Google Docs and Google Classroom. The Board requested a demonstration of Google Classroom by a teacher at a future meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding two donations offered to John Winthrop Middle School.

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to accept a donation of one Mapex percussion kit (snare pad, bells, and stand) donated by Region 4 parent Mrs. Kelly Lent.

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to accept a donation of one Yamaha alto saxophone donated by Region 4 employee Henry Van Wyngaarden.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Levy updated the Board on the following District activities: She reported a phenomenal opening across all the districts with wonderful weather to start out the year. She also reported that all staff are well prepared and the change in administration across districts has been accomplished seamlessly.

Dr. Levy also reviewed what she had learned during her exit interviews with seniors at the end of the last school year. She said their very honest answers showed mostly positive experiences as well as areas that could be improved upon.

Dr. Levy also reviewed recent changes in legislation that will affect the schools and/or Board policies for 2015-16. Many unfunded mandates were recently passed and went into effect as of July 1, 2015 having both policy and resource implications with which the Board must contend.

REPORTS

Financial Status Updates

Business Manager Garth Sawyer reviewed the financial status report, as well as the cafeteria account report. There was a discussion regarding options for bringing down cafeteria expenses and/or raising cafeteria revenues. He also reviewed the end of year 2014-15 financial status. Currently the 2014-15 year has ended with an \$18,000 surplus, but this amount is still to be verified through the yearly audit.

There was a brief discussion regarding a suggestion to form a cafeteria committee to look at increasing revenues, increasing participation, and decreasing costs. There was a counter suggestion that the Board instead focus their energy on developing their 5 Year Plan, focusing on the big picture first before going to work on the smaller pieces. Work on this plan is set to begin this year in order to develop a plan for 2017-2022. No action was taken on the formation of a cafeteria committee.

Committee Reports

Board Chair Chris Riley asked members to think about which committees they are interested in serving on. He noted that whomever is elected Chair of the Board at the November 5th meeting will be making those assignments.

The Joint BOE Finance Committee is scheduled to meet again on September 29th, but due to a conflict with teacher negotiations, that meeting will have to be cancelled.

Dr. Levy reported that the Joint BOE Policy Committee will meet again on September 28th as scheduled.

Ms. Martineau reported that the Joint BOE Curriculum Committees will meet again on September 28th as scheduled,

Elaine Fitzgibbons, Region 4 Representative to the LEARN board briefly discussed the impact of magnet schools on the future of public community schools.

Supervision District Committee Update - No quorum was present at the regularly scheduled August 20th meeting; no meeting was held.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Martineau gave a general update on activities within the districts including the following: Many teachers received technology professional development provided by Technology Integration Specialist Kirsten Reynolds and Director of Technology Pam Murphy. There are already reports that the impact of the summer workshops was noticeable on the first day of school. She has been told that students have noticed and are pleased. Also, on August 25th all teachers received the next round of NWEA and MAP training.

AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS - none present

The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION –PERSONNEL

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Next Joint BOE meeting Oct. 01, 2015
2. Next Region 4 BOE meeting Nov. 05, 2015
3. Election of Board officers (Nov. or after seating of new members)
4. BOE and Community input for 2016-17 budget (on-going)
5. Presentation of Major Budget Drivers for 2016-17 (Nov.)
6. Profile of 2015 Graduation Class (Nov.)
7. NWEA Update (Nov.)
8. BOE Self-evaluation (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Clark, BOE Secretary
Jennifer Bryan, Clerk