

F.O.I. Compliance – Subject to BOE approval at a future meeting

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: September 02, 2021

Regular Meeting – REMOTE MEETING held

(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website www.reg4.k12.ct.us and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)

Attendance:	<u>Region 4 BOE</u>		<u>Administration:</u>		<u>Other:</u>
(√ = attended)	Kate Sandmann	√	Brian White	√	Carolyn DiPietro
	John Stack	√	Sarah Brzozowy	√	
	Kate Bergeron	√	Bob Grissom	√	
	Jane Cavanaugh	√	Michael Barile	√	
	Rick Daniels	√	Matt Espinosa	√	
	Lon Seidman	√			
	Rob Bibbiani	√			
	Jennifer Clark				
	Lori Ann Clymas				

Call To Order and Verbal Roll Call: 7:00 p.m. by Chair Sandmann

Items / Discussion

Public Comment – No comments were made

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 May 06, 2021; the Annual Meeting of May 03, 2021; the Minutes from the Special Meeting of August 10, 2021; and the accounts payable report.

Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Brian White provided the Board with an update on the following topics:

He discussed the successful opening of school for full in-person learning at all buildings. He thanked his leadership team and the support of our three communities, including our two health districts and local government officials.

He welcomed Dr. Sarah Brzozowy, our new Assistant Superintendent, who is joining the meeting this evening for her first regular BOE meeting this year.

He mentioned that he will be convening a Joint BOE RFP Review Committee on Sept. 8th at 5:30 p.m. to review a draft RFP for a building study that will help to inform future board decisions regarding long term capital needs at all of our buildings.

He reminded everyone that the next step in the process for the proposed JWMS Secured Entry project will be an explanatory meeting scheduled for October 6th.

He reported that they have convened an administrative R4 athletics committee, with Board members invited to attend. This committee will lead to recommendations that will be brought forward to the Region 4 Board later this year. They will be convening stakeholder groups consisting of students, staff, parents and others for a program

self-study. They are also crafting surveys for students, parents and staff members in order to gather feedback on the strengths and needs for the athletics program.

As previously discussed, Superintendent White reiterated the district's commitment to engage in equity work. The administration is currently determining the best way to proceed and will continue to advise the boards as they progress.

He shared a reminder that several of our employee group contracts are up for negotiations this year, either through regular contract expiration, or the expiration of the 1-year push contracts approved last year. We will be working with Shipman and Goodwin Attorney Chris Engler on the non-certified contract negotiations. Additionally, we will begin engaging our teacher's union in the negotiations process in the near future, as their contract expires June 2022.

Finally, Superintendent White shared that we have received some very good feedback and praise from our auditors, who have already made initial working visits to Central Office. We have made some outstanding progress over the past couple of years in addressing a number of issues in our finance office.

The Board had a chance to ask Superintendent White questions.

Superintendent White introduced the Board's realtor, Carolyn DiPietro, who provided an update on the Falls Landing property that is currently listed for sale. She shared the outcome of several property viewings, none of which have resulted in a true interest. She also shared her advertising efforts and continued plans for marketing the property to prospective buyers.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sarah Brzozowy reported on her visits to all of our schools and the positive environments she has observed while there.

Finance Office Report

Finance Director Bob Grissom reviewed enclosures #5 End of Year Financial Status Report #6 Current Year to Date Financial Status Report; #7 Cafeteria Fund Update; and #8 Medical Reserve Tracking.

Mr. Grissom also provided an update on grant funds, specifically ARP and ESSER III Funds.

Mr. Grissom reported that he and Brian have been holding monthly meetings with R4 BOE Treasurer John Stack and R4 BOE Chair Kate Sandman. He invited both of them to say a few words regarding these meetings. Mr. Stack shared a general summary of these meetings and asked Board members to share any specific financial items with him that they may wish to have addressed.

There was time for Board discussion and questions.

Principals Reports

Matt Espinosa – JWMS Principal

Principal Espinosa shared updates on the opening of school with full in-person learning at JWMS, and their increased focus on Social and Emotional Learning this year.

Mike Barile – VRHS Principal

Principal Barile shared updates on the opening of school and reported 547 students currently enrolled at VRHS. He reported that social and emotional well-being, which assists with academic success, is also a focus at Valley.

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to accept a donation of new VRHS personalized volleyball team jackets valued at \$55/jacket with 54 jackets being donated for a total value of \$2,970 from Home Team Supply, Middletown, CT.

Other Reports:

Presentation of recommendations of R4 Long Range Athletics Facilities Planning Committee. Superintendent White shared a brief history of the Committee's work to date, following the completion of a final report by the BSC Group led Study of Region 4 Athletic Facilities and Grounds. He reported that where the Committee landed was that broader input, from more stakeholders would be needed in order to best prioritize some of the various potential projects that the report recommended.

Superintendent White noted that as we begin to conduct a building study of our physical plants in Region 4, what will emerge by the spring time will be a complete picture to the extent that the athletics facilities/grounds study, coupled with the building study will form the backbone of a multi-year capital plan to help support efforts of the Board to understand long term needs along with any bonding that may be required to support those needs in the future.

Public Comment: no comments were made

On motion duly made and seconded the Board **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 8:42 p.m. for a student matter (for the Board to consider a tuition request).

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:47 p.m.

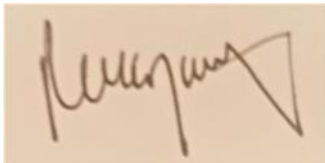
On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously (*all present at start of meeting roll call, except for Kate Bergeron, who did not re-join the public link for this vote*) **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the enrollment of a non-resident student in Valley Regional High School for the 2021-22 school year upon payment of the BOE approved tuition and in compliance with the terms of BOE policies #3240 and #5118.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Informative Special Meeting regarding JWMS Security Building Project (*Oct. 6th 7:00 p.m.*)
- Joint BOE Meeting Thursday, October 07, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Regular Region 4 BOE Meeting Thurs., Nov. 04, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Election of Officers and Committee Assignments (Nov.)

ADJOURNMENT: On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Rick Daniels, Secretary
Regional District #4 – Board of Education