

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

REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date: May 05, 2022

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	√	James Beckman
	John Stack	√	Sarah Brzozowy	√	
	Alex Silva	√	Bob Grissom	√	
	Jane Cavanaugh	√	Mike Barile	√	
	Rick Daniels	√			
	Lon Seidman	√			
	Lol Fearon	√			
	Jennifer Clark	√			
	Lori Ann Clymas				

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

Items / Discussion

Public Comment – there was no comment.

Consent Agenda

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes from Budget Workshop III of March 02, 2022; minutes from the Regular Meeting of March 03, 2022; minutes from Budget Workshop IV and Special Meeting of March 16, 2022; minutes from the Special Meeting of March 23, 2022; minutes from the Public Hearing of April 04, 2022; minutes from the Special Meeting of April 04, 2022; minutes from the Special District Meeting of April 07, 2022; and the accounts payable report.

Student Representatives Report

Valley Regional High School Senior James Beckman provided the Board with an update on a variety of sports, academic, music, and extracurricular activities at VRHS including an update on Seniors' end of year activities.

Superintendent White took a moment to recognize both student representatives, James Beckman and Ava Cunningham who were recently awarded with a Shoreline Superintendent's Award. He congratulated them and the Board members thanked them for their service to the Board this year.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Brian White noted that this is Teacher Appreciation Week and he wanted to recognize and congratulate all of our teachers as we near the end of a very successful year.

The overall feeling in the schools is that summer is in sight and there is lots of excitement with the return of many of our usual end-of-year events.

Mr. White did note that we are monitoring the COVID positivity rate in our three towns. We have seen an uptick in the week going into spring break and upon return from break. We have had several staff cases, and some student cases as well. The district continues to consult with local health departments as appropriate. At this time there is

no need to pivot in any of our practices, but we continue to monitor it carefully in conjunction with our local health authorities.

The Board had a chance to ask Superintendent White questions.

Assistant Superintendent's Report

Dr. Brzozowy shared an update on several activities, including the following:

She has had an opportunity to meet with teachers from all five buildings, one-on-one, to discuss curriculum, instruction, and assessments, as well as where the teachers need support and where they feel the direction of the districts' teaching and learning should be heading. She has already had the chance to meet with 56 teachers, about 62% of our teaching staff, and has more meetings scheduled in the coming week.

We are in the process of exploring the NEASC process for JWMS. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get outside feedback, provide guided self-reflection, and the development of a staff shared vision. The staff is really excited to go through this process.

Testing at the schools is being administered including Smarter Balanced testing at JWMS and IB/AP testing at VRHS.

The District Culture and Climate committee has been meeting consistently. This is a multi-stakeholder group including staff, parents and administrators. They have been keenly focused on the social and emotional health of students and staff, and have been focused on Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum in all buildings.

The Board had a chance to ask questions.

Finance Office Report

Finance Director Bob Grissom reviewed enclosures regarding the Current Year-to-Date Financial Status Report; Cafeteria Fund Update; and Medical Reserve Tracking. The Board had a chance to ask questions after each report.

Member R. Daniels stated his concerns over the administering of the Tech Lease. He believes it violates state statute, because the board is carrying a non-board approved temporary deficit, and spending non-board approved funds, prior to the other districts making payments for their technology equipment obtained through the shared technology lease.

Member J. Clark asked that a plan be determined this evening to address and resolve this concern in a timely fashion, as it cannot be resolved this evening.

Board Treasurer J. Stack asked Mr. Daniels to please write down the elements of his concerns and submit that to the Board and the Central Office Administration. The Administration can then determine the best expert(s), i.e. auditors and/or attorneys to review the concerns, and provide any guidance to best address both the accounting and the legality question(s) discussed this evening.

Other members also shared their thoughts and comments on how to address these issues, both the short term and long term issues, including the possibility of exploring other financial options for how to best purchase technology in future years. Superintendent White said that this will be a topic of consideration and discussion in the next budget development cycle.

There was Board consensus that Mr. Daniels will submit his exact concerns in writing to the Board and Administration so that Administration may share it with the auditors, and as needed, legal counsel, in order to provide guidance and best practice recommendations moving forward.

Chair Sandmann asked R4 BOE Treasurer John Stack if he had any updates he wished to share with the Board. He had nothing new to report.

Principals Reports

There were no principal reports this evening

Other Items:

Superintendent White shared a summary of key provisions of the tentative Region 4 Custodian contract negotiated for 2021-24.

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 (Region 4 custodians) for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

Finance Director Grissom presented a request by the Ann Hendershot Vickery Scholarship Fund to provide written verification that the Board does not object to the termination of the scholarship fund through Bank of America and a transfer of the assets to the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.

On motion duly made and seconded the Board unanimously VOTED to direct the Superintendent to have prepared a letter for signature by the Board Chair, addressed to Ms. Janneth Achury, Assistant Vice President, Bank of America, N.A. Private Bank, 101 East River Drive, 4th Floor, East Hartford, CT 06108 that states the following regarding the Ann Hendershot Vickery Scholarship Fund: The Region 4 Board of Education does not object to the termination of the Trust of Alfred E. Vickery FBO Ann Hendershot Vickery Scholarship Fund and the transfer of the assets, upon termination, to the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. The Board understands and consents to the management and administration of the scholarship funds by the Middlesex Community Foundation for the benefit of Deep River students in accordance with the terms of the Scholarship Fund.

Committee Reports:

Joint BOE Policy Committee Chair, Lon Seidman shared a brief summary of the pending policies, up for discussion this evening, that were presented for a first reading at the last Joint BOE meeting on April 27th. If any Board members have any questions between now and the Second Reading and vote scheduled for the Joint BOE Meeting on June 2nd, please contact him in advance of June 2nd.

Board member J. Cavanaugh shared an update regarding business discussed at the last Supervision District Meeting, including the possibility of purchasing exterior bus cameras to combat a recent increase in road traffic not obeying the extended stop sign arm of loading/unloading buses.

Ms. Cavanaugh also shared an update on the Joint BOE Curriculum Committee, who she said had recently reviewed some courses for VRHS which Dr. Brzozowy will be presenting for Board approval.

Dr. Brzozowy presented six courses at VRHS, recommended by the Joint BOE Curriculum Committee for approval by the Board this evening. These courses represent a wide variety of interests and student levels at Valley. There would be no budgetary impact if these courses are approved. The courses proposed include: IB Marine Science; Human Development and Family Sciences, which will be a UCONN level ECE Course; Introduction to Early Childhood Education which will be a level II course; Children's Literature and Learning, also a level II course; Personal Training for upperclassmen; and an IB Computer Science course.

Superintendent White shared that in the future, as we return to a more normal committee and course development schedule, Administration and the Joint BOE Curriculum Committee will have an opportunity to develop and review respectively, new courses earlier in the fall so that the Board will be aware during the budget development process of any new course proposals.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously VOTED to approve the recommendation of the Joint BOE Curriculum Committee to approve course offerings at Valley Regional High School as presented.

Public Comment: No comments were made.

Executive Session

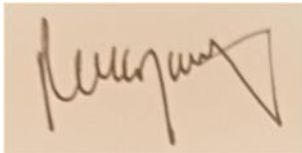
On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to move into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. for the purpose of Personnel – Evaluation of the Superintendent.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Joint BOE Meeting Thursday, June 02, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m. *(R4 will stay in session as needed)*
- Regular Region 4 BOE Meeting Thursday, August 04, 2022 @ 4:00 p.m.
- Regular Region 4 BOE Meeting Thursday, September 01, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Regular Joint BOE Meeting Thursday, October 06, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in brown ink on a light brown rectangular background. The signature is stylized and appears to read "Rick Daniels".

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