

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT  
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4 Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Valley Regional High School Media Center  
September 7, 2023 at 6:00pm**

A regular meeting of the Regional School District No. 4 Board of Education was held on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 6:00pm in the Valley Regional High School Media Center.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

**VERBAL ROLL CALL**

<b>Region 4 BOE</b>	<b>Administration</b>
Lol Fearon	Brian White
John Stack	Bob Grissom
Richard Strauss	Sarah Brzozowy
Jennifer Clark	Mike Barile
Kate Sandmann	Melissa Morgan-Hostetler
Lon Seidman	
Alex Silva	
<b>Absent:</b> Jane Cavanaugh, Rick Daniels	
Also in attendance: Board Clerk Kelley Frazier	

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 1, 2023, minutes of the Regular meeting of May 4, 2023, minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 3, 2023 and the accounts payable report as presented.

**REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS**

**Region 4 Student Representatives Report**

No report this evening.

**Superintendent's Report**

**District Update**

Mr. White noted there was a positive start to the school year. There is a deliberate approach to teaching and learning in all schools. Assessment practices are being reviewed. Internal metrics as they relate to the Strategic Plan will also be a focus. Repairs done at Valley and John Winthrop were discussed. Mold in the Middle School was discovered. Testing was done in areas of concern and it came back positive. Serve Pro and the environmental firm are testing all rooms. Results of the testing is being expedited. John Winthrop students will be moved to Valley Regional. Police and the bus company will be working with the school on traffic issues for drop off and pick up. The HVAC and a dehumidification system will need to be researched. Reimbursement is being researched.

**Assistant Superintendent's Report**

**General Update**

Ms. Brzozowy gave a brief update. The opening to school was very good. Staff has been amazing at both John Winthrop and Valley Regional to accommodate the middle school kids moving to Valley.

**Financial Status Report**

**Financial Status Update**

**End of Year Financial Status Update**

The expended budget was 98.3%. Special education costs were more than anticipated at the end of the year. Auditors will be in Central Office for the next few weeks.

**Current Year to Date Financial Status Update**

All financial obligations are expected to be met. This is very preliminary. The committed balance is 73% of the budget. This is early in the school year.

**Cafeteria Fund Update**

Revenue received was from the state grants and the Smart Funds from the state. The cafeterias for all schools are being upgraded. Reserve funds are being used. There are no uncollected student balances.

**Medical Reserve Tracking**

There was an uptick in claims during the last quarter of the year. The insurance consultant will present at the next Joint Board meeting.

**Grants Update**

No update

**Cafeteria Equipment Update**

A needs assessment by building was done. Equipment for both John Winthrop and Valley Regional was purchased from the reserve.

**BOE Treasurer Report**

No report given.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT****M. Morgan-Hostetler – JWMS**

No update.

**M. Barile - VRHS**

No Update.

**OTHER ITEMS**

**Discussion and possible VOTE to accept a donation of \$4,200 from Nate Segal to be used at the discretion of the Administration to purchase equipment for the VRHS Fitness Room.**

**Discussion and possible VOTE to accept a donation of \$400 from the Community Music School to be used at the discretion of the Administration to benefit Valley TV.**

**Discussion and Possible VOTE to accept a donation of \$6,000 for John Winthrop and \$6,000 for Valley Regional from the Tri-Town Sustainability Team to be used at the discretion of the administration to support a pilot food scraps program at JWMS and VRHS for up to two years.**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to accept all donations, as listed above, and presented by the Finance Director.

**Discussion and possible VOTE to form an ad hoc R4 Fields Renovation Advisory Committee**

A committee is being formed and will start the process of working with the municipal advisor and the Bond Council. Ground is expected to be broken at the end of the school year. Selectmen may be asked to find members to be on the Committee based on their experience.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to form an ad hoc R4 Fields Renovation Advisory Committee.

**Committee Reports****Curriculum**

Next meeting October 18, 2023.

**Finance**

Next meeting October 18, 2023.

**Policy**

Policies were reviewed and will be on for a second reading and vote at the October 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting. Next Committee meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2023.

**Other Committee Reports****Supervision District Committee Updates**

No Update.

**Discussion Regarding any Pending Policy for all BOE's**

No Action taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Comment. Carolyn DePietro and another resident were present. The unnamed resident asked questions regarding the mold at JWMS.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-STUDENT MATTER-CONSIDER STUDENT TUITION REQUEST**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board unanimously **VOTED** to go into Executive Session at 8:16pm. Mr. White, Dr. Brzozowy and Mr. Grissom were invited to attend.

**Executive Session ended at 8:21pm.**

**Action Items:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the board unanimously **VOTED** to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the enrollment of a non-resident student in Valley Regional High School for the 2023-24 school year upon payment of the BOE approved 2023-24 tuition rate in compliance with the terms of BOE policies #3240 and #5118.

The Board determined that they would direct Administration to request some additional information from legal counsel and therefore took NO ACTION regarding the possible VOTE to authorize Superintendent and/or other designee(s) to negotiate the terms of possible sale of District property at Falls Landing and authorize the Superintendent and/or other designee(s) to draft a purchase and sale agreement related thereto to bring back to the Board at a future meeting for its review, discussion and possible vote to approve the purchase and sale agreement and send it to a Special District Meeting for final approval pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes as listed on the agenda.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Joint BOE Meeting Thursday, October 5, 2023 @ 7:00pm
- Regular Region 4 BOE Meeting Thursday, October 5, 2023 immediately following the Joint BOE Meeting.
- Regular Region 4 BOE Meeting – Thursday, November 6, 2023 @ 6:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion duly made and seconded the Region 4 Board of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:23p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kelley Frazier