

Regional School District 12
Special District – Public Hearing Minutes
Shepaug Valley Middle High School
March 13, 2014

The District Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 13, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present. Valerie Andersen was absent.

Also present were: Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations, Don O’Leary, Facilities Director.

Chairman Hirschfield read the warning below.

WARNING
DISTRICT MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING
Regional School District Number 12
Towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington
March 13, 2014

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington are hereby warned that a public meeting of Regional School District Number 12 will be held at Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Regional School District 12 Plan.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12 PLAN

Chairman Hirschfield read the motion that had been approved at the March 4, 2014 Board of Education Special meeting.

RESOLVED, That the officers of the Board of Education and the Superintendent are authorized and directed to cause a district meeting to be called for the purpose of conducting a public hearing at Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. with respect to the following recommendation of the Board, which recommendation is hereby approved:

That the Regional School District 12 Plan, as approved by the State Board of Education on May 11, 1967, be amended by deleting the language “Elementary grades K-5 to remain in their present home town schools,” which appears on page 2 of the plan, and replacing with the language “a Pre-K to 5 consolidated elementary school constructed on the Shepaug campus;” and deleting the language “In the proposed plan, the lower elementary grades, K through 5, will remain in their respective home town schools” from page 5 of the plan.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of the Board of Education hold a meeting at Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Thursday, March 13, 2014 following the aforesaid public hearing to schedule a referendum vote on the amendment to be discussed at the public hearing.

QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE ABOVE ITEM TO BE ENTERTAINED.

Members of the public made statements and comments which included: tuitioning out students at the middle high school level; actions that the Board took at the Special Meeting that followed the hearings on March 4, 2014; the report filed with the town clerks as required under the 10-457c; Region 14; the costs of consolidation, the proposed savings of consolidation, enrollment fluctuations, staff reductions, real estate values, taxes, option of disbanding the Region, K-2/3-5 option, promoting Bridgewater, promoting enrollment, limitations of not consolidating, improved classroom dynamics of consolidation, consolidation saving the district, thinking as a Region, leaving Bridgewater or sending child to private school if referendum passes, response time for emergency services, the work of the Long Range Plan committee, repurposing the elementary school buildings, not in favor of lowering tuition for out of district students, surplus capacity at Shepaug, condition of the elementary schools, the option preference of the three first selectmen, interest rate on bonds, breaking the partnership of the three towns if referendum fails.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.