

Shepaug Valley Regional School District No. 12
Long Range Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes
March 8, 2017

1. Call to Order -
Meeting came to order at 6:00
The following committee members were present:
Anthony Amato, Alan Brown (Chair), Jennifer Pote, Peter Tagley, Rebecca Devine.
Absent: Michelle Gorra
Also present: Pat Cosentino, Teresa DeBrito, Karen Fildes, Kim Gallo
2. Approval of January 4, 2017 Minutes
 With corrected spelling of R. Devine's name in item 4.b.ii.:
 Motion: R. Devine; Second: A. Amato; Vote: Unanimous
3. Presentation, examination and discussion of results of Panorama surveys – Karen Fildes
 - a. Teachers, Students and Parents' survey results in and analyzed. Community survey more difficult to assess due to lack of user controls and low (15%) response rate.
 - b. First surveys good for benchmarking data. Revealed some surprises, were excellent basis for opening up discussions with respondents. Work has just begun on utilizing data for conversations, assessment and improvement. Very promising start.
 - c. Requested national averages to compare our results to, despite the fact that small rural schools are not a large dataset for Panorama.
 - d. Suggested responses to parent and community participants with thanks and with explanations of how their responses were acted upon in order to keep responders willing to respond to subsequent surveying in future years.
4. Strategic Planning Facilitator
 - a. A. Brown explained he met with third potential facilitator who he holds in high regard after his meeting. Found his input superior to other candidates not only due to his experience and insight, but because he suggested that Region 12 should not embark on strategic planning at this time while the future of the AgSTEM project is still unknown. Planning would have to be redone regardless of whether AgSTEM succeeded or failed and if we were to plan now, all of our time and money would be wasted and stakeholders would be frustrated and fatigued by the time a second process was initiated after the AgSTEM decision.
 - b. Committee agreed to postpone strategic planning until the 2017-2018 school year.
5. Further information on International Baccalaureate programs – T. DeBrito
 - a. Comparison of other CT IB schools. Standardized testing score success revealed to be directly tied to poverty in the schools/school districts.
 - b. Asked T. DeBrito to compare those IB schools with non-IB schools in those districts.
 - c. Asked T. DeBrito to ask Guilford HS, with low poverty and relatively good standardized testing scores, why they chose to recently become an IB school.
 - d. Asked T. DeBrito to create a spreadsheet showing total cost to Region 12 of becoming a full IB school, with breakdowns by school (primary, middle, high), from application year through to launch year.
 - e. A. Amato suggested IB has been so protective of its standards that it hasn't evolved over time, especially in regard to technology.
 - f. A. Brown to speak to Bianca Goetzel, a Shepaug senior, about her IB experience.
 - g. T. DeBrito directed the committee to this site <http://www.ibo.org/information-for-parents/> to see informational videos about IB curriculum, program and its benefits.
6. Meeting adjourned at 7:44. Motion: R. Devine; Second, A. Amato; Vote, Unanimous.