

Shepaug Valley Regional School District 12
Long Range Planning Committee Meeting
February 23, 2015

1. Call to Order-
Meeting came to order at 5:10
The following committee members were present:
Alan Brown (Chair), Michelle Gorra, Kelly Lott, Jenn Pote
Absent: Greg Cava, Emily Hibbard
Also present: Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent; Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum,
2. Minutes of October 6, 2014 meeting were approved. Motion, M. Gorra; Second, J. Pote; Vote, Unanimous.
3. Minutes of December 15, 2014 meeting were approved. Motion, M. Gorra; Second, J. Pote; Vote, Unanimous.
4. A discussion of two options for maintaining the educational and social viability of shrinking class populations in Burnham and Booth: multi-grade classes and the creation of a K-2/3-5 split between the two schools. The Chairman posited that further multi-grade classes would require a 10-47(c) referendum. The Superintendent posited that a K-2/3-5 split would require a 10-47(c) referendum. The Superintendent suggested that to actively pursue either option this year and reach the point of requiring a referendum on either or both options would excite and distract the community sufficiently to possibly derail the planned referenda on the new agriscience program and the Shepaug renovation project. The Chairman maintained that work (exploration, development, consideration) on both options should continue this year in order to be as knowledgeable as possible as soon as possible about each option's pros and cons due to the fact that while time passes, the elementary schools' populations are, currently, still dwindling. The Chairman noted that the Burnham PTO president is putting her house on the market because she has not been convinced multi-grade classes will be beneficial to her children. He also noted that houses are selling again in Region 12, but only a few buyers have school-age (or even pre-school-age) children.
5. It was agreed by members of the Committee that the Region and the Towns should be working together to make the schools as attractive as possible to potential new residents with school-age children.
6. The superintendent announced that the Education Connection after-school program will not proceed because not enough families showed interest in enrolling their children. EdConn requires a minimum of 18 students per building per program.
7. A discussion of the potentially renovated configurations of the science labs and the project's currently estimated cost, \$4 million for 5 labs/clabs. The proposal for the agriscience building will be to extend Shepaug at the pool, auto shop, wood shop side of the building.
8. Meeting adjourned at 6:14. Motion, M. Gorra; Second, J. Pote; Vote, Unanimous.