

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley Middle/High School
January 6, 2014

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, January 6, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Michael Sinatra and Kelly Lott were absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

Field Trip: Senior Project Ski Trip to Mount Snow, West Dover, VT – January 19, 2014 (Grades 9-12).

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino explained the recent notification she received from the State regarding a new policy (Section 10-287c-21) on regulations for school construction grants that requires cost estimates for projects exceeding an estimated \$2 million. Estimates are required to be filed with the Office of School Facilities Plan Review Unit. Dr. Cosentino talked further to explain the importance of obtaining costs and numbers by a licensed architect or certified cost estimator.

Personnel Matters: Dr. Cosentino informed the Board of the following: Anita LoPresti, Grade 5 Teacher at WPS, resigned effective 12/20/2013; Charles Calabrese, Custodian at WPS resigned effective 11/21/13; Adam O'Neil, Custodian at WPS appointed effective 12/26/2013; Joan Temple, Library Media at SVMHS on leave of absence from 12/11/13 - TBD.

CABE – Legislative Breakfast (1/23/14) at Education Connection: Dr. Cosentino reminded everyone about the breakfast.

Fletcher-Thompson / ARCADIS update: Dr. Cosentino handed out a proposed schedule on milestones to referendum and went over the dates and the meeting topics. A mailing will go out to inform the public of the informational sessions that are planned for each town where the architect will present three conceptual designs and cost estimates.

Dr. Cosentino handed out a schedule/list of the topics for the business and education committee meetings for the remainder of the school year.

Dr. Cosentino handed out a draft of the 2014-2015 school calendar. It is on the agenda for approval but to give the Board a chance to review it, approval will wait until next month's business meeting. A State uniform school calendar will take effect in the 2015-2016 school year.

Vision / Mission – Emily Judd: Emily Judd went through the process to date in meeting and workshops with staff, administrators and the District PTO in working towards developing the Vision / Mission for the Region. Mrs. Judd's presentation was interactive with the Board for their feedback and in constructing a draft of a vision / mission statement. She noted that as the district and the State are in a state of change, it is a good time to look at the statement for the Region. A final draft will be brought to the Board in March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications: Mr. Brown reported that the committee will meet in February.

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported that the schedule was given out earlier by Dr. Cosentino.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: No report.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee met earlier. In the meeting, the committee went over the audit with Charles Heavens. Mrs. Andersen praised Mr. Giesen and his staff for their excellent work. The auditor has given a clean report. The cafeteria showed a deficit of \$37,000. The pension is over funded 3%. Mrs. Andersen reported approximately \$276,843 will be going back to the Towns. A contribution has been made to the 1% fund - \$213,000. A 1993 bond will be going away in 2014 and another in 2016. The committee will request approval for the audit later in the meeting.

Region 12's Vision / Mission Strategic Plans: No report.

Negotiations: The SVEA contract was approved at the last meeting but has not been signed by the teachers' representative yet but is expected to be soon.

Mrs. Andersen pointed out that the Elementary School Repair Fund has a balance of \$458,000. There was a discussion on the procedure of the lease and an amendment to allow the director of facilities to compile the list.

Policy: The committee has found that many of the policies they are reviewing and amending, link to other policies that then need to be updated. The committee has decided to work with CABA on 37 policies that need to be amended.

Long Range Planning: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Tabled Motion: Chairman Hirschfield explained that the motion tabled at the last meeting would require a passing vote to bring it off the table before the motion itself could be voted on.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded Susan Stumpf to bring tabled motion from last meeting off the table.

VOTE: In favor: Alan Brown and Susan Stumpf.

Opposed: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote and Peter Tagley.

Motion failed. (2 – 8)

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of FY2013 Annual Region 12 Audit Report:

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the FY2013 Annual Region 12 Audit Report.

VOTE: Unanimous.

To consider, and if appropriate, negotiations for bus contract with All Star Transportation: Mr. Giesen explained that the bus contract will expire June 2014 and that under provisions of the contract, the Board can offer an extension by entering into negotiations with the current contractor. Mr. Giesen recommended that the Board request to negotiate a contract with All Star as they have done the last two times. After negotiations, the contract will go to the Board for approval for another five year term.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to request negotiations for a contract with All Star Transportation for a five year term.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Valerie Andersen left the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

First Reading: Policy 4118.231 – Alcohol and Drug-free Workplace: Mrs. Gorra explained the changes that were made.

MOTION: made by Emily Hibbard, seconded by Jennifer Pote to approve Policy 4118.231 – Alcohol and Drug-free Workplace for a first reading.

Discussion followed. The medical prescriptions exceptions will be investigated.

VOTE: Unanimous.

A Point of Order was made by Alan Brown regarding tabling a motion.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.