

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley Middle/High School  
February 10, 2014

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m., on Monday, February 10, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Tony Bedini and Gregory Cava were absent. Kelly Lott arrived at 7:08 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of Minutes:* Education Committee Meeting – January 27, 2014.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield reported on: signing the Teachers' contract, the upcoming CAFE's Day on the Hill on March 5, 2014. He noted the article in the newspaper regarding Burnham School for their achievement as a school of distinction. Chairman Hirschfield recognized Mardie Ford who was a dedicated Board member for many years had passed away last week.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Cosentino reported on her mission trip through Lifetouch. Dr. Cosentino is putting together a slide presentation that will be shown at all of the schools in the coming weeks and at a future Board meeting.

*Field Trip:* Barnard College, New York City, February 22, 2014 (Grades 10-12)

*Personnel Matters:* Dr. Cosentino informed the Board of the following: Jeffrey Masciarelli appointed as Maintenance-Electrician, District wide effective 2/3/14, and Lisa Holmes, Special Education Teacher, SVMHS is on a leave of absence from 1/10/2014 to the end of the school year.

*CAFE – Day on the Hill (3/5/14):* Dr. Cosentino will be attending the Day on the Hill and offered to register anyone else wishing to attend.

*Shipman Goodman:* Dr. Cosentino passed out information on a construction informational session hosted by our attorney; free of charge, on March 4, 2014.

*Fletcher-Thompson / ARCADIS update:* Dr. Cosentino spoke on the public information sessions that have been held; (three of the four). The architects have presented conceptual designs for the PK-5 elementary school. April 8 is the targeted referendum date pending the approval of the Board. Dr. Cosentino handed out the preferred options that have received the most positive input/feedback; conceptual design E and Location 2. The location gives the elementary school its own access road and when the fields are being used for sports, students would not be walking on the elementary campus. Another handout was given with an overview of the enrollment projections based on Peter Prowda's information; includes numbers from the current year to 2023-24. Dr. Cosentino handed out a milestone to referendum schedule and

encouraged the Board to attend the meetings coming up. The Roxbury public information session will be tomorrow night at the Roxbury Town Hall. Dr. Cosentino went through the schedule and described what is expected to take place at each meeting in preparation for a referendum.

*Update on Superintendent's goals for evaluation:* Dr. Cosentino handed out her goals for her mid-evaluation for later in executive session and spoke briefly about some of the goals: Vision / Mission, Common Core Standards, SEED, digital learning environment, the College and Career Center, communication, Board handbook, referendum, budget.

Susan Stumpf suggested that the walkway between the elementary school and the middle high school on the conceptual design be included in the repairs for Shepaug and not the building project.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Communications:* Mr. Brown reported that the committee met earlier and talked about the newsletter that will go out the end of April beginning of May. The committee is soliciting articles from the staff and administrators and welcomes suggestions of items to include in it.

*Education:* Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee met last month. AP scores will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

*Finance:* Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee met earlier. In their meeting, the committee went over the financial report as of January 30<sup>th</sup> with 6.5% remaining in the budget. Medical insurance premium is under budget. Mrs. Andersen reported that prior to the meeting tonight, the committee met with the elementary principals and special education director and tomorrow will be meeting with more staff as they build the budget for next year.

*Negotiations:* A notice was received for negotiations to begin for the nurses.

*Policy:* The committee has several policies on the agenda for first readings and second readings.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

*Second Reading - Policy 6142.10 – Health Education Program:* Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board that no amendments were made at the first reading.

**MOTION:** made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Emily Hibbard to approve Policy 6142.10 – Health Education Program for a second reading.

**VOTE:** In favor: Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: Valerie Andersen.

*Second Reading - Policy 6121 – Nondiscrimination in the Instructional Program:* Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board that this is a required policy that was being implemented but was not in our manual.

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**MOTION:** made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Emily Hibbard to approve Policy 6121 – Nondiscrimination in the Instructional Program for a second reading.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

*Second Reading - Policy 5125.11 – Health/Medical Records:* Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board that this policy also was found in the audit to be missing from the manual.

**MOTION:** made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Jennifer Pote to approve Policy 5125.11 – Health / Medical Records for a second reading.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*First Reading - Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion Due Process:* Mrs. Gorra explained that the SRO, Mark Raimo, Kim Gallo and Matt Perachi reviewed the policy. The edits reflect the changes made by the administrators.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Emily Hibbard to approve Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Peter Tagley to remove the exception of antique firearm from #11 under A.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** In favor: Valerie Andersen, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Alan Brown and James Hirschfield.

(8 – 2 – 0) Motion passes.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Peter Tagley, to approve Policy 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process as amended for a first reading.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

*To consider and if appropriate, approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar:* Dr. Cosentino referenced the 2014-15 school calendar handed out at a prior board meeting. She explained that included in the new teachers' agreement beginning July 2014; with Board approval, the superintendent can choose to have between four to six professional development days. Dr. Cosentino and the administration felt six professional development days would be beneficial. Two half days have been scheduled for just the middle high school for NEASC visits.

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**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Emily Hibbard to enter into executive session at 8:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the superintendent's mid-year evaluation.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

Gregory Cava arrived at 8:15 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 8:40 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.