

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley Middle High School  
April 7, 2014

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:22 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2014 by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present. Michael Sinatra was absent.

Also in attendance were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities; Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services; Cathy Colella, Principal, BFS and BS; Emily Judd, Principal, WPS; Lori Ferreira, Assistant Principal, SVMHS; Curtis Read, First Selectman, Town of Bridgewater; Dennis MacDonald, Finance Board Chair, Town of Bridgewater; and Mark Lyon, First Selectman, Town of Washington.

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown, seconded by Gregory Cava to add agenda item for discussion and possible action on changing the last day of school to June 18, 2014.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of minutes: Education Committee Meeting, March 24, 2014; Retreat, March 31, 2014; Special Meeting, March 31, 2014.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL ENSEMBLE – HAIRSPRAY JR.**

Beth Harvison, Middle School Musical Director along with Leland Kellogg, Assistant Director and Tiffany Billings, Choreographer, presented a number from the Hairspray, Jr. musical that the middle school students will perform on Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. at SVMHS.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

No report.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Vision / Mission:* Dr. Cosentino informed the Board that the Vision / Mission will be presented at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting not tonight.

*Personnel:* Dr. Cosentino informed the Board that Linda Tanius, School Psychologist at SVMHS resigned effective 3/1/2014.

Dr. Cosentino invited everyone to come to the Academy Expo (Science and Technology) that will take place tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at SVMHS in the mall and auditorium. The students will present and the winner will go to the Connecticut Expo Convention Center in Hartford.

*Discuss tuition costs for out-of-district students including Sherman:* Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board about the correspondence from their attorney regarding tuition and the need for a policy. She acknowledged Curtis Read and Dennis MacDonald in the audience. Mr. MacDonald felt that it would be good to know if price is a factor in whether students attend schools in the district. There were concerns expressed regarding students that have special needs and the costs associated with the needs. Allyson O'Hara spoke about legal concerns. Mr. Tagley spoke about a conversation he had with Sherman and that price was not an issue but that sports opportunities and proximity to other schools was a concern for parents.

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown, seconded by Valerie Andersen to have the Policy Committee review the policy and examine the statutes and all the possible issues.

Discussion followed. Peter Tagley left at 8:02 p.m. Mark Lyon felt there could be good but also problems.

**VOTE:** Unanimous. Peter Tagley was not present for the vote.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Communications:* Mr. Brown reported the committee met earlier. They are further ahead with the newsletter than they have been in previous years. They are almost ready to go to print.

*Education:* No report.

*Facilities:* Mr. Cava reported the committee will not meet in April.

*Finance:* Mrs. Andersen reported the committee did not meet but that they worked hard with the budget in small meetings.

*Negotiations:* Mr. Cava reported that there were no objections to the signed Teachers' agreement and it will be in place for the next three years. Negotiations for the nurses will begin in the fall.

*Policies and Bylaws:* Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee did not meet. There is a new policy on the agenda for a first reading. Tuition will be the next policy the committee will work on.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*First Reading – Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (Student Wellness Policy):* Mrs. Gorra spoke about a letter the committee received from a parent regarding their child's allergies. School nurses and administrators were involved in amending the policy.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Susan Stumpf to approve Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (Student Wellness Policy) for a first reading.

Discussion followed. Peter Tagley returned to the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

**VOTE:** In favor: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Valerie Andersen and Kelly Lott.

(9 – 2) Motion passed

*To consider and if appropriate, approve amendment to lease agreement Elementary Non-recurring Capital Fund:* Mr. Cava stated he is not ready to move forward but would like to hear from the first selectmen attending. Curtis Read spoke regarding his meeting with Mr. Cava, Mr. O’Leary, and Dr. Cosentino about the current process and the proposal to amend the process. Mr. Cava felt that the problem was with organizing the formal meeting with the First Selectmen. It was decided that Mr. O’Leary will schedule a meeting with the First Selectmen for a tour of the buildings to follow the current lease agreement.

*To consider and if appropriate, approve resolution of the Board’s support of SVMHS:* Dr. Cosentino explained that at the Retreat there was a discussion about the concerns by staff regarding the uncertainty of SVMHS. Dr. Cosentino read the resolution that the Board could act on.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to adopt the following resolution: “We, the Board of Education, are committed to supporting a comprehensive middle high school on the Shepaug campus to educate our students in the Region”.

Discussion followed. Some felt it is not necessary to formalize a statement that they are committed to SVMHS.

**MOTION:** made by Kelly Lott, seconded by Peter Tagley to amend the motion by removing “committed” in the resolution.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** In favor: Alan Brown, Kelly Lott, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley.

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

(4 – 7) motion failed

Discussion continued on the original motion.

**MOTION:** made by Tony Bedini, seconded by Peter Tagley to call the question.

**VOTE:** In favor: Tony Bedini and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote and Susan Stumpf

(2 – 9) motion failed

Discussion continued. Some felt the statement would clear up the confusion caused because of the things in the paper regarding tuitioning out which is not coming from the Board.

Alan Brown left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

**MOTION:** made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Kelly Lott to table the motion.

**VOTE:** In favor: Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote and Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Emily Hibbard, and James Hirschfield.

Abstained: Michelle Gorra.

(4 – 5 – 1) motion failed – Alan Brown was not present for the vote.

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

Abstained: Kelly Lott and Susan Stumpf.

(8 – 0 – 2) Motion passed – Alan Brown was not present for the vote.

*Discussion and possible action on changing the last day of school to June 18, 2014:* Dr. Cosentino explained that she would like to amend the school calendar to have the last day on June 18 but since there is a field trip scheduled on that day, make the last day for students on June 19 and to make June 20 a professional development day for staff. Dr. Cosentino requested that this item be brought back at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to give time to reschedule the field trips that are scheduled on June 18.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Carolann Dwyer, Bridgewater – spoke on the resolution passed earlier.

Carrie DeMilio, Roxbury – spoke about the information passed out by a resident at a prior meeting causing confusion on the tuitioning out issue. Also spoke about the location of a school.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Emily Hibbard to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.