

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley Middle High School  
June 2, 2014

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:35 p.m., on Monday, June 2, 2014, by Vice Chairman Alan Brown. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, 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, James Hirschfield and Kelly Lott were absent. Emily Hibbard arrived at 6:50 p.m. Jennifer Pote arrived at 6:55 p.m.

**RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS**

Vice Chairman Brown welcomed parents and students and congratulated those receiving awards.

Dr. Cosentino presented the following students with the Litchfield County Superintendents' Association Award:

Sydney Vidal - 5th Grade, Booth Free School  
Mark Kibbe - 5th Grade, Burnham School  
Mary Carew-Miller - 5th Grade, Washington Primary School  
Madison Baker - 8th Grade, Shepaug Middle School  
William Giarrano - 8th Grade, Shepaug Middle School  
Brian DiBella - 11th Grade, Shepaug High School  
Shaelyn Rourk - 12th Grade, Shepaug High School

Recognition of Top Five Academic Seniors. Mrs. Gallo presented awards to the following seniors:

William Harris  
Caroline Hermans  
Shaelyn Rourk  
Dana Walker  
Clara Wolfe

Mrs. Gallo announced Valedictorian Clara Wolfe, of the class of 2014.

Dr. Cosentino and Vice Chairman Brown presented the following students with the CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Student Leadership Award:

Madison Baker - Shepaug Middle School  
Kenyon Kay - Shepaug Middle School  
Emily Chin - Shepaug High School  
Sebastian Taylor - Shepaug High School

Vice Chairman Brown again congratulated the award recipients and their parents. Refreshments followed.

The meeting reconvened at 7:12 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of Minutes:* District Public Hearing – May 15, 2014  
Special Meeting – May 15, 2014  
Education Committee Meeting – May 19, 2014

*Field Trips:* Bronx Zoo, Bronx, NY on June 11, 2014 (Grade 6)

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

No report.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Cosentino updated the Board on Tony Bedini's circumstances and the thank you note she received for the plant that was sent to him. Dr. Cosentino reported on her meeting with the three first selectmen last week and their discussion on working toward a cohesive Region. A brochure will be developed to promote the Region and be available for real estate agencies to give prospective buyers in the three towns. Dr. Cosentino informed the Board that a postcard will be sent out to the homes of students in grades 9-12 sponsored by the Housatonic Valley Drug Prevention Coalition. Dr. Cosentino spoke about a letter sent out to Burnham School families to let them know staff assignments for the 2014-15 school year; it was included in the Board packets.

*Personnel Matters:* Dr. Cosentino informed the Board of the following: Ashley Volpe, Music Teacher, all elementary schools (effective 6/30/14); Erin Birden, Elementary Teacher, Washington Primary School (effective 6/30/14); Karen Hennessey, retirement, Special Education Teacher, SVS, Jody Schroeder, Special Education Teacher, leave of absence from 5/15/14 to the end of the school year; Heather Hurley, Physical Education, SVS extended leave of absence for the first semester of the 2014-15 school year.

*REACH Update:* Dr. Cosentino spoke about the added program to the REACH program and the letter sent containing information on the three options available in the program: Morning class from 9:00-11:45; Extended day class from 9:00-2:00 (no PM transportation) and an afternoon class from 12:30-3:15 (no transportation). Dr. Cosentino encouraged a group to meet in the fall and look at increasing the REACH program and bussing for the following school year to include it in the 2015-16 budget if the Board wants to expand it to Booth Free and Burnham Schools. Mrs. O'Hara gave information on other districts and their preschool programs. Discussion and questions followed.

Dr. Cosentino mentioned that work is being done to produce a postcard to be mailed to homes in the three communities regarding the referendum on June 17, 2014 for the Shepaug repair project.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Communications:* Mr. Brown reported that the committee did not meet this month.

*Facilities:* Mr. Cava reported that the committee met and looked into the repairs that will be made during the summer. The committee is considering a proposal by an unidentified person to donate a turf field on the property and to light the field. A site walk was conducted with the Athletic Director to find an appropriate place for the track. Presently, the Town of Washington does not permit lights higher than 15' and would require an amendment to the zoning requirements.

*Education:* Mrs. Gorra reported that the next meeting has a full agenda. Included will be: State of the Schools; and update on K-12 Counseling Program, College and Career Readiness, Superintendent Goals, recognition of volunteers and Todd Ingersol for his donation of USA flags.

*Finance:* Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee met earlier. In their meeting, the committee went over the financial report as of May 30<sup>th</sup> with 2% remaining in the budget. Mrs. Andersen reported on the items over budget such as legal, auditing and professional services. The committee went over the balance in the 1% Capital Reserve Fund which has a balance of \$266,545. The committee began a discussion on the possible purchase of a piano.

*Negotiations:* Mr. Cava reported that negotiations will commence tomorrow afternoon for the Nurses' agreement which is up the end of June.

*Policy:* The committee met last month. The committee worked on the tuition-in policy.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

*To consider and if appropriate, approve Board of Education Member Handbook:* Dr. Cosentino spoke about page 7 item regarding candidates being introduced to the Board prior to hiring.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Emily Hibbard to approve the Board of Education Member Handbook as presented.

Discussion followed.

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

Opposed: Gregory Cava.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*Healthy School-Nutrition Program – To consider and if appropriate, approve addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) to not participate under the CT Nutrition Standards as published by the CT Department of Education for school year 2014/2015:* Mr. Giesen explained the reasons for not participating in the nutrition program.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to not participate under the Connecticut Nutrition Standards as published by the Connecticut Department of Education for School Year 2014/2015.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

*To consider and if appropriate, approve a lunch price increase beginning the 2014/2015 school year, a request is to increase lunch pricing by \$.25 for both students and adults for the school year 2014/2015. (Students \$2.85 Adults \$3.50):*

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to approve the lunch price increase beginning the 2014/2015 school year by \$.25 for both students and adults (students \$2.85 / adults \$3.50).

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

*To consider and if appropriate, in accordance with CGS 10-5(2), transfer up to 1% or \$216,609 from the approved fiscal year 2013/14 budget appropriation into the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-recurring Expenditures, as recommended by the Finance Committee at the May 5, 2014 meeting:* Mrs. Andersen explained that the transfer into the account will allow for future needed expenditures at any of the district buildings.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen to transfer up to 1% or \$216,609 from the approved fiscal year 2013/14 budget appropriation into the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-recurring Expenditures.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

*To approve, after review by the Director of Facilities, projects totaling \$119,300 from approved projects. This will leave the fund with an unencumbered balance of \$260,662.50 as of June 2, 2014 for future projects under the Elementary Lease Repair Fund:* Mr. Brown explained that funds that were previously approved for projects were funded other ways and would require to be unencumbered.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to return previously approved funding for approved projects to the unencumbered balance of the elementary lease repair fund in the amount of \$119,300.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

*To consider and if appropriate, approve request of Washington Scholarship Fund waiving policy prohibiting alcohol beverages at benefit concert on July 25, 2014.*

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra to waive the policy prohibiting alcoholic beverages at the Washington Scholarship Fund benefit concert on July 25, 2014.

Discussion followed. Jane Payne was in the audience and spoke on behalf of the Washington Scholarship Fund. She thanked the Board for considering their request and noted that the benefit

will be the organization's 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration with over \$2M in scholarships being awarded over the years.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

*To approve 2013-2014 school calendar revision for 181 days of school for students and 187 days for staff with 188<sup>th</sup> day being made up the week of August 18, 2014. School was closed last week on May 28, 2014 due to road conditions after a storm during the night.*

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve the amendment to 2013-2014 school calendar: 181 days of school for students and 187 days for staff with 188<sup>th</sup> days being made up the week of August 18, 2014.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

Mrs. Andersen read an email from Anthony Weymouth thanking the Board for their support to the teachers in Region 12 as well as to the parents and students.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Emily Hibbard to adjourn.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.