

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley Middle/High School
July 8, 2013

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 p.m., on Monday, July 8, 2013, by Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, James Hirschfield, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra and Susan Stumpf. Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations was also present. Emily Hibbard arrived at 7:38 p.m. Michelle Gorra and Peter Tagley were absent.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Election of Officers

Dr. Cosentino welcomed everyone and opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Greg Cava to nominate James Hirschfield as Chair.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Greg Cava to close nominations.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Dr. Cosentino asked members to cast their written vote for Chair.

RESULTS: James Hirschfield – In favor: seven (7) votes, Opposed: one (1), Abstentions: one (1) votes, Absent: three (3).

Dr. Cosentino announced Mr. Hirschfield as the Chair and turned the meeting over to Chairman Hirschfield.

Chairman Hirschfield opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to nominate Alan Brown as Vice Chair.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Greg Cava to close nominations.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Chairman Hirschfield asked members to cast their written vote for Vice Chair.

RESULTS: Alan Brown – In favor: nine (9), Absent: three (3).

Chairman Hirschfield announced Mr. Brown as Vice Chair and opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Greg Cava to nominate Michelle Gorra as Secretary.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michael Sinatra to nominate Susan Stumpf as Secretary.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen to close nominations.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Chairman Hirschfield asked members to cast their written vote for Secretary.

RESULTS: Michelle Gorra – In favor: four (4), Susan Stumpf – In favor: five (5), Absent: Three (3).

Chairman Hirschfield announced Mrs. Stumpf as Secretary and opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer.

MOTION: made by Kelly Lott, seconded by Alan Brown to nominate Valerie Andersen as Treasurer.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to close nominations.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Chairman Hirschfield asked members to cast their written vote for Treasurer.

RESULTS: Valerie Andersen – In favor: nine (9), Absent: three (3).

Chairman Hirschfield announced Mrs. Andersen as Treasurer and congratulated everyone.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Hirschfield gave Board members an opportunity to withdraw items from the consent agenda. Gregory Cava requested the minutes from June 10, 2013 be removed. Valerie Andersen requested the minutes from June 17, 2013 be removed.

Kelly Lott left the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Mr. Cava requested a correction be made on the Kerin & Fazio item on page 2 to reflect that the state of Vermont be referenced in two of the sentences at the end of the paragraph.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to approve the minutes of the Board of Education, Education Committee Meeting on June 10, 2013 as amended.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Mrs. Andersen requested that a change be made in the wording of the costs on page 3. Mr. Sinatra requested that the wording on what he said on page 3 be changed to read, “...we would be the first in the state to have two towns without an elementary school”.

Kelly Lott returned to the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to table the minutes of the June 17, 2013 Educational Committee Meeting until they have been rewritten.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, and Michael Sinatra.

Abstained: Kelly Lott.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield recognized and congratulated the new Board members; Peter Tagley, Jennifer Pote and Susan Stumpf.

Chairman Hirschfield also recognized and congratulated Robert Giesen for the CASBO award he recently received and passed around the article published in the Republican-American last week.

Chairman Hirschfield commented on the July 4 fireworks that unfortunately were cancelled due to the ground being very wet and that by doing so it spared the fields at Shepaug from damage.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino received a report on the audit that has been completed on our Board policies by CABE.

Dr. Cosentino introduced Lori Ferreira who will be the 6-12 Assistant Principal at Shepaug. Lori Ferreira summarized and shared her experience over the last 22 years. Ms. Ferreira began as a consultant with the State Department of Education in Adult Education. She went on to be the Director of Adult Education in Naugatuck until her appointment as Principal at Naugatuck High School. While being the Principal at Naugatuck High School, Ms. Ferreira did a lot of work in curriculum and assessment work and prepared the school for NEASC. Ms. Ferreira then accepted a position with Region 14 serving as Principal at Nonnewaug High School. After a leave to care for her mother, she is excited to accept the 6-12 Assistant Principal position with Region 12.

Dr. Cosentino shared the notification received from the Commissioner of Education, Stefan Pryor, of the 2011-2012 District Annual Performance Reports and Determinations. The notification acknowledges the district met requirements.

The Board members were encouraged to attend the CABE/CAPSS Conference which will be held November 15-16. This year the conference will be in Groton at the Mystic Marriott Hotel.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino shared personnel changes. Pat Cooper, Secretary at SVMS retired after 34 years (effective 7/26/2013); Angela French, Literacy Tutor at WPS resigned (effective 5/31/2013), Erik Holst-Grubbe, Career Technology and Education Teacher resigned to take a position in Newtown (effective 7/2/2013). Reductions in Force (effective 6/30/2013) included the following: Claire Cavalea, Secretary at Burnham (recalled); Bette Gurry, Educational Assistant at Burnham; Mary Katherine Hebinck-Eddy, English Teacher at SVHS (recalled); Mary Hines, Tutor at SVMS; Hilary Kearcher, Grade 4 Teacher at WPS (recalled); Lisa Klein, REACH Paraprofessional; Cindy Koslosky, Secretary at SVHS; Scott Snow, Social Worker; District wide; and Denise Sproviero, Paraprofessional at SVMS.

BOE Meeting Schedule: The schedule of the 2013-2014 Board meetings were in Board packets and available for public. It is also posted on the website.

Board Retreat – July 29, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.: Gary Brochu, the district's attorney from Shipman & Goodwin will be facilitating at the retreat. At the last retreat Mr. Brochu shared information on the Berlin Board of Education Mission/Vision statement. Dr. Cosentino will use it to begin putting together something similar for Region 12's Board of Education. A light dinner will be provided at the retreat.

Update on Real Estate Impact Study: Dr. Cosentino received an email from Chris Kerin on the study. He expects to be done by the end of the month.

Chromebooks: Vic Vicenzi, Network Administrator, spoke about the Chromebooks that are being provided to each Board member. Mr. Vicenzi spoke about the customization and icons on the desktop and the preloaded contact information of everyone in the district. Dr. Cosentino spoke about training that will be available in the future. The hope is to have everything needed for Board meetings available on the Chromebooks for each meeting.

Chairman Hirschfield passed around a sign-up list for committees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications: No report.

Education: Chairman Hirschfield reminded the Board that the Education Committee is a committee of the whole Board. He asked that anyone interested in Chairing the Education Committee, to let him know.

Education Connection: Mrs. Andersen reported on an emergency meeting she attended last week. It was basically regarding contractual work and to authorize Head Start grants.

Facilities: Minutes from the June 17 meeting were in the Board packets. Mrs. Andersen asked what needed to be reviewed by our attorney as referred to in the second paragraph of the minutes. Mr. Cava explained that he drafted an amendment on the lease agreement and asked that the Board attorney review it. The amendment will change from a meeting once a year to an ongoing process. Mr. Sinatra asked about the estimates on the Pool HVAC. Mr. Bedini explained the estimates are coming in much higher than expected. Don is looking into the feasibility of using the existing building heating system during the heating season to heat the pool water. Mr. Sinatra also asked about the situation with the diving board and stand and if there is a contingency plan. Dr. Cosentino assured Mr. Sinatra that Region 12 will have a swim team even if they dive somewhere else. She will find out more on the diving board and report back at the next meeting.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee has not met since their last meeting in June. She reported that she is up-to-date on all her treasurer duties as of today. Mr. Giesen added that they are doing an independent insurance dependent audit survey of everyone on the insurance. This audit assures that anyone on medical insurance has provided the proper documents and everything is in order.

Regional School Repairs: Mr. Bedini reported that Don will be investigating the power issues at all of the three elementary schools as they are having problems with the internet, SMARTboards. It hasn't been clearly identified yet whether it is a power problem or interference from fluorescent lights and probably will be the next project for the elementary school lease fund.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Possible planning for referendum: Dr. Cosentino handed out a draft of steps to take in preparing for regionalization revision and building project. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Seger, Bridgewater, asked about the list and plans for summer maintenance and repairs. He also requested that the tiered classrooms have carpet installed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing Central Office 13/14 salaries and to discuss Administrator contract re: vacation days at 8:13 p.m.

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VOTE: Unanimous.

Returned to public session at 8:58 p.m.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava that the evaluation and compensation of the central office staff is the responsibility of the Superintendent.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.