

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley Middle/High School  
October 7, 2013

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, October 7, 2013, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Also present were: Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations. Michael Sinatra arrived at 7:01 p.m. Alan Brown arrived at 7:11 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent agenda items approved:

*Approval of Minutes:* Business Meeting – September 9, 2013; Educational Committee Meeting – September 16, 2013; Retreat – September 30, 2013.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield spoke about the committee list.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*October 1 Enrollment:* As of October 1, 2013, the total enrollment is 797. Questions were asked about classroom sizes/sections, identified students in REACH, moving a grade/class to another school, and the K-5 grades at each school in each town. Discussion followed.

Gregory Cava left the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

*Field Trip:* Dr. Cosentino gave information on the Quebec Canada trip that Heidi Edel has planned for students in Grades 8-12, February 6 to February 9, 2014.

**MOTION:** made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Emily Hibbard to approve the Quebec Canada trip scheduled for February 6 to February 9, 2014.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

Dr. Cosentino informed the Board about a student who will travel to Nepal India to work with a doctor in a program called Projects Abroad for her senior project. Her parents are making all the arrangements and it will not cost the district anything.

Gregory Cava returned to the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

*Personnel:* Dr. Cosentino shared personnel information. Resignation: Keith Bohan, Maintenance – Electrician, District wide, (effective 9/27/2013). Leaves of Absence: Heather Hurley, PE/Health Teacher at SVMHS (1/22/2014 to 6/30/2014); Tara Flaherty, Math Teacher, SVMHS (2/28/2014 to 6/30/2014).

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Communications:* Mr. Brown reported that the committee is looking for more members.

*Education:* Mrs. Gorra reported that their next meeting is October 21<sup>st</sup>. A presentation on the CMT and CAPT scores is on the agenda. Mrs. Andersen requested the committee include a presentation on Special Education Services at a future meeting.

*Education Connection:* No report.

*Facilities:* Mr. Cava reported that the committee has been working on the list and it is near completion. Mr. Cava hopes the committee will be able to make a recommendation to the Board after their meeting in two weeks and it has passed through bond counsel.

*Finance:* Mrs. Andersen reported on their meeting earlier tonight. The committee went through the financial report as of September 30<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the upcoming transportation contract that will expire at the end of June 2014. It will be a Board decision to either go out to bid or extend the contract with the current vendor. The audit done by Sterling and Sterling benefited the district \$8200 after the \$800 expense of the audit. Health insurance for those that do not receive it will be an ongoing discussion.

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

*Negotiations:* Mr. Cava reported that they are arranging dates for negotiations for the certified staff agreement.

*Policy:* Mrs. Gorra reported the committee met September 16. They reviewed loose ends from last year and began dealing with the four mandated policies that need to be added. She expects to have policies for the Board to approve soon.

*Long Range Plan – Goal 3:* Dr. Cosentino noted that they have items on the agenda under new business.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Discussion on database of local vendors:* Mr. Tagley began a discussion on a database of local vendors for projects that do not required RFPs. Discussion followed. The Facilities Committee will discuss further with Don O'Leary.

*Consider and if appropriate, approve scope of work of repairs at middle high school as outlined by the Facilities Committee to be part of the referendum:* Mr. Cava requested this item be tabled until the next Business Meeting so that the committee can complete their list.

*Consider and if appropriate, authorize RFP to hire a project manager for initial phase of pre-referendum:* Dr. Cosentino spoke about hiring a consultant that will help the Building Committee at their meeting on October 10 from 3:00-6:00 p.m., with the questions and scoring matrix for the architects that will be sharing their qualifications. She explained that a project manager would need to be hired for the initial phase / pre-referendum. If the referendum failed, then the project manager would be dismissed. If the referendum passes, a project manager would be retained for the duration of the project. Costs will be in the proposal.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra to authorize an RFP to hire a project manager for initial phase of pre-referendum.

Discussion followed.

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

Opposed: Kelly Lott.

Abstained: Michael Sinatra.

(10 – 1 – 1)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tom Seger, Bridgewater, spoke about putting the amendment to the regionalization plan without attaching a dollar amount to the referendum question.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Alan Brown to go into executive session for the purpose of considering a personnel issue at 8:30 p.m.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

Kelly Lott left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:50 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.