

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley Middle/High School
November 4, 2013

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, November 4, 2013, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Also present were: Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations. Alan Brown arrived at 7:01 p.m. Michelle Gorra arrived at 7:19 p.m.

Also in attendance were: Lisa McQueen, Nurse at Burnham School and Sandi DiBella, Nurse Coordinator, District wide and Nurse at Booth Free School.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items approved:

Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – October 21, 2013.

Field Trip: Philadelphia, PA – Model UN Club – January 30, 2014 to February 2, 2014 (Grades 10-12).

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield noted that the Girls' Soccer and Field Hockey teams were playing in the State tournaments tonight.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

October 1 Enrollment: A revised report of the October 1, 2013 enrollment was handed out. Dr. Cosentino explained that a student was counted that should not have been included but is now attending. The correct number for the October 1 date for the State is 796.

Dr. Cosentino noted a handout for workshops being sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education for Board members related to their positions. The workshops will be held December 10. Chairman Hirschfield encouraged members to take advantage of the opportunity to attend the workshops.

Exit surveys of staff and discharged students: Dr. Cosentino referred to the surveys that were included in Board packets and noted that a small percent of surveys were returned by families but more responses were received from exiting staff. Staff responses included: consolidation approval, enjoyed the staff, professionalism, equity in the schools, enjoyed the small feel. Responses from families included: not enough academic rigor, grading.

Strategic School Profiles 2011-2012: Dr. Cosentino noted the State is behind in publishing Strategic School Profiles. The District profile for the October 1, 2011 indicated enrollment in 2011 at 886, a significant drop in enrollment down 90 students in two years.

Dr. Cosentino requested that the Chromebook lesson be rescheduled as a workshop in the near future.

Review of Special Education services within the district and responsibilities outside the school: Ally O'Hara began her presentation speaking about the positions, related services and contracted services that make up the Special Education department along with how many are serving at each level and their responsibilities. Mrs. O'Hara reviewed the responsibilities of the Region to identified students in district, to students that are placed by parents at private schools, to students placed by the district at private special education facilities and to students that attend out-of-district by choice (Nonnewaug). Lastly, Mrs. O'Hara spoke about the Services Plan (611 IDEA grant), the department's goals and current progress.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications: Mr. Brown reported that the committee will meet sometime in January or February.

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported that their next meeting is November 18.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: Mr. Cava reported that the committee has made progress in putting the repair list together for the middle high school. Mr. Cava hopes to distribute the list to the Board ten days prior to the meeting on the 18th. He requested that any questions be emailed so that the questions can be addressed at the meeting. Everyone was invited to attend the committee meeting at 5:00 p.m. on the 18th. The committee hopes that the Board can make a decision at their meeting that night.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported on their meeting earlier tonight. The committee went through the financial report as of October 30th. The committee reviewed the final results of the health audit done by Sterling and Sterling. Health costs will be reduced by five dependents who do not qualify to be on the health plan. The expected revenue for tuition of 21 Sherman students will actually be for 18; a revenue deficit of \$38,000. This will be offset by non-resident tuitions which were not planned.

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

Negotiations: Mr. Cava reported that negotiations have commenced and will be ongoing.

Policy: Mrs. Gorra reported the committee has several policies on the agenda for a first reading. The committee has been going through the audit and found some snags in numbering etc. Some policies are cross-referenced with other policies and not consistent so they want to work on them all at once.

Long Range Plan – Goal 3: Dr. Cosentino noted that the building committee is close to recommending an architect and hope to do that by the next meeting. The project manager submissions are due on Wednesday and hope to recommend a project manager to the Board at the next meeting as well. Discussion followed.

Emily Hibbard left the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 5141.221 Pediculosis: Mrs. Gorra introduced Sandi DiBella and Lisa McQueen who were in attendance to answer questions. Mrs. Gorra noted that the policy was changed from the former policy.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen to approve Policy 5141.221 Pediculosis for a first reading.

Discussion followed. Sandi DiBella and Lisa McQueen answered questions from the Board.

VOTE: Unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 6171.2 Preschool Special Education: Mrs. Gorra noted that this policy was one that was identified in the audit as lacking in the policy manual but was not lacking in procedure. The department was following the law.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 6171.2 Preschool Special Education for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: Unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 6142.101 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity: Mrs. Gorra noted the changes were lined through. It was sent to the health committee. Item #2 in the policy now reflects the changes in the food program. Other deletions are on how the policy is administered.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 6142.101 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: Unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Real Estate Report: A discussion followed on the comprehensive real estate report submitted by Kerin & Fazio, LLC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.