

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting
Shepaug Valley Middle/High School
December 2, 2013

The Board of Education Business Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2013, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra and Susan Stumpf. Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present. Michelle Gorra arrived at 7:03. Kelly Lott arrived at 7:04 p.m. Valerie Andersen, Emily Hibbard and Peter Tagley were absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda items were approved.

Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – November 18, 2013

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino informed the Board about a grade two class at Washington Primary School that recently received two new students bringing the class size to 24. The class is complex with many needs and has an excellent teacher. Dr. Cosentino spoke about strategies that are in place.

Upcoming meetings with Project Manager and Architect: Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board of the sessions scheduled in each town to give the community members an opportunity to voice their thoughts about the new PK-5 school building.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications: No report.

Education: No report.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: No report.

Finance: Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee met Monday, November 25.

Region 12's Vision / Mission Strategic Plans: Dr. Cosentino hopes to work on the Vision / Mission with the Board for their input at a meeting in January.

Negotiations: Mr. Cava reported that he will give an update in executive session.

Policy: Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee has a few policies on the agenda for a first reading and some for second reading. Mrs. Gorra explained that there are a number of policies that need minor revisions and the committee would like to bring them to the Board at both their Business meetings and the Education Committee meetings. Mrs. Gorra requested that policies that are being considered be made available online or on Google drive so that they can be pulled up during meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 5141.221 Pediculosis: Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board that the policy had been revised with input from the school nurses and that there were no changes at the first reading.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Alan Brown to accept Policy 5141.221 Pediculosis for a second reading.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 6171.2 Preschool Special Education: Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board that this policy was not changed at the first reading. The policy talks about the requirement of identifying students with special needs.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Alan Brown to accept Policy 6171.2 Preschool Special Education for a second reading.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 6142.101 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity: Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board that this policy was reviewed by the Wellness Committee and the PE/Health Coordinator before the first reading. There are no changes since the first reading.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Jennifer Pote to accept proposed Policy 6142.101 Student Nutrition and Physical Activity for a second reading.

VOTE: Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 1331 Smoke Free Environment: Mrs. Gorra thanked Sue Haverly for her help in preparing the policy documents with strike-outs and red lettering to show changes. Mrs. Gorra mentioned that there are four policies that were looked at that deal with smoking. The major change in this policy is that there is no longer a designated smoking area. The last sentence should have been stricken. Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Susan Stumpf, seconded by Gregory Cava to approve Policy 1331 Smoke Free Environment amended by deleting the final paragraph for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Delete Policy 5131.65 Smoking Elimination: Mrs. Gorra talked about changes in the program making this policy unnecessary.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Jennifer Pote to delete Policy 5131.65 Smoking Elimination for a first reading as it is no longer needed.

VOTE: Unanimous.

To consider and, if appropriate, approve the scope of work to the middle/high school as recommended by the Facilities Committee to be included in the referendum with the PK-5 school building on the Shepaug campus: Mr. Cava went over the items that the committee recommended be included with the referendum that calls for a new PK-5 school and a five year investment on the middle/high school. He explained that after the five year investment time, another decision would be made.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Jennifer Pote to approve the scope of work to the middle/high school as recommended by the Facilities Committee in the amount of \$8,281,989 to be included in the referendum with the PK-5 school building on the Shepaug campus.

Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Susan Stumpf, seconded by Kelly Lott to table the motion on the table.

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

Opposed: Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote and Michael Sinatra.

Motion failed (3 – 6)

Discussion followed. Chairman Hirschfield called for a vote on the motion to approve the scope of work to the middle/high school as recommended by the Facilities Committee in the amount of \$8,281,989 to be included in the referendum with the PK-5 school building on the Shepaug campus.

VOTE: In favor: Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote and Michael Sinatra.

Opposed: Alan Brown, Kelly Lott, and Susan Stumpf.

Motion passed (6 – 3)

To consider, and if appropriate, the scheduling of two early dismissal days (March 13, 2014 and April 3, 2014) at the middle/high school for preparation for NEASC: Dr. Cosentino explained the type of work that goes into preparing for the NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) visit that is

schedule for March 22, 23, and 24, 2015. The high school has asked for two early dismissal days for staff to work on NEASC.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve amending the school calendar with two early dismissal days (March 13, 2014 and April 3, 2014) at the middle/high school to prepare for NEASC.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Jennifer Pote that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of an update on negotiations and a personnel issue.

VOTE: Unanimous.

The Board entered into executive session at 9:00 p.m.

The Board came out of executive session at 9:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.