

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley Middle High School  
February 24, 2014

The Education Committee of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m., on Monday, February 24, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present. Gregory Cava arrived at 7:50 p.m.

Also present were: Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations., Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services, Todd Dyer, Director of School Counseling, Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities, Principals Kim Gallo, Cathy Colella and Emily Judd, Lori Ferreira and Sheila Gambino.

In the audience were Barbara Henry, First Selectman, Roxbury and Curtis Read, First Selectman, Bridgewater.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of minutes:* Business Meeting – February 10, 2014

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

No report

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Correspondence:* Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board that they had a letter from Merryhill Farm in their packets. Dr. Cosentino also reported that Booth Free School and Washington Primary School each have eleven children registered for Kindergarten and Burnham School has four registered for the fall.

### **EDUCATION**

*AP Scores and Offerings:* Ms. Ferreira gave a review of curriculum changes and updates. Guidance Director, Todd Dyer, spoke about students taking AP courses and the rigor at the college level. Mr. Dyer handed out an AP Five-Year School Summary (2013) to Board members.

*NEASC:* Mrs. Gallo spoke about the review of Shepaug (grades 6-12) that will be coming up in March, 2015. Mrs. Gallo summarized the NEASC Standards, Core Values and Beliefs and referred to the posters that can be found in all the schools.

### **PK-5 PROJECT AND REPAIRS AT SHEPAUG**

*Preparing for upcoming public hearings:* Dr. Cosentino explained that there would be a presentation by the architects in regard to the new consolidated school. A summary of Goal 3 was put into the packets as well as a summary by Jonathan Costa. Dr. Cosentino mentioned the timeline for holding the referendum.

*Draft of conceptual design and cost estimates on the PK-5 project and repairs at Shepaug-Presented by Fletcher-Thompson and ARCADIS:* Dr. Cosentino introduced members from Fletcher-Thompson and ARCADIS who were present for tonight's meeting where the overview of Concept E showing the visual for the new proposed consolidated elementary school was presented to the Board of Education. A conceptual design manual was handed out to each Board member. A PowerPoint showing the design, cost of the project, and layout choices was shown. Open discussion with the Board followed the presentation.

(Greg Cava arrived.)

Repairs to Shepaug Middle High School were reviewed and it was noted that the Board of Education had previously approved the dollar amount of \$8,281,939. With the potential reimbursement, the net would be approximately \$6.96 million. Project costs were broken down to show the hard cost items and the soft cost items.

Anthony Amato spoke about project costs and with a PowerPoint presentation graphing cost per student and forecasting. The question of busing was asked and it was said that regardless of how many students are on the bus, the bus would still have to travel the route, thus the cost of the bus would still be there. There was a brief question and answer period with Mr. Amato.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*To consider and if appropriate, recommend appropriation and borrowing authorization for PK-5 project and repairs at Shepaug:* Upon receiving the Resolution handouts from Dr. Cosentino, Board of Education member Peter Tagley asked the Superintendent if legal Council had been contacted and Dr. Cosentino said they were contacted.

**MOTION:** made by Peter Tagley and seconded by Valerie Andersen (*Peter Tagley read the following resolution*)

**RESOLVED,** That the officers of the Board of Education and the Superintendent are authorized and directed to cause a district meeting to be called for the purpose of conducting a public hearing at Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. with respect to the following recommendations of the Board, which recommendations are hereby approved:

1. That \$40,879,191 be appropriated for (1) costs related to the design, construction, furnishing and equipping of a new, approximately 277 to 300 student capacity, consolidated elementary school, to be located on the Shepaug Valley Campus in the Town of Washington, to serve the entire pre-kindergarten through grade 5 population of the District, site improvements, related work and improvements, and costs related to the financing of the project (estimated cost \$32,597,202), and (2) costs related to the design, construction and installation of various improvements and renovations to Shepaug Valley Middle High School, contemplated to include replacement of the existing running track with a standard certified running track including related drainage and other improvements, replacement of bleachers in the pool/gymnasium, site lighting improvements, heating, ventilating and air conditioning

system improvements, exhaust system improvements, energy management system improvements, hot water system improvements including installation of water heaters and water storage tanks, sewage injection system improvements, and various related furnishings, equipment, and building and site improvements, and costs related to the financing of the project (estimated cost \$8,281,989). The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, survey, testing and permitting costs, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, materials, technology infrastructure and equipment, on- and off-site improvements including athletic and play facilities, utilities and utility extensions and connections, relocation costs, architects' fees, engineering fees, construction management costs and fees, consultant fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project and its financing. The Board of Education, or any building committee delegated all or any portion of such responsibility by the Board of Education, shall be authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project, and may reduce or modify the scope of the project as desirable, and the entire appropriation, but as to each portion of the project, not an amount in excess of the estimated cost of each such portion of the project, may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified. No expenditure shall be made pursuant to this appropriation for the elementary school until an amendment to the plan of Regional School District Number 12 allowing for a consolidated elementary school, to be located on the Shepaug Valley Campus in the Town of Washington, to serve the entire pre-kindergarten through grade 5 population of the District, has been approved.

2. That \$40,879,191 bonds, notes, and temporary notes of the District be authorized to finance the appropriation. The amount of the bonds, notes, and temporary notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the District for the project.

3. That the Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body delegated such authority by the Board of Education, be authorized to require the District and its member towns to comply with applicable federal income tax requirements for tax-exempt bonds, and to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information.

4. That the Board of Education be authorized to approve the entering into of contracts for the project, and the Board of Education, or such officer or body to whom the Board delegates such authority, be authorized to approve the expenditure of said appropriation and such other matters as it deems desirable or necessary to complete the project.

5. That the appropriation made hereby shall not be effective until the District has received any necessary report approving said project pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

6. That the appropriation and bond, note and temporary note authorization be submitted to referendum vote of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in the member towns of the District.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the projects be referred to the Washington Planning and Zoning Commission for a report pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the members of the Board of Education hold a meeting at Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 following the aforesaid public hearing to act on the recommendations of the Board which are to be discussed at the public hearing.

Discussion following the motion included the concern about the funding of both projects in one question, and the itemization item of the track as a repair when it

had already been repaired. Some Board members were not happy with the wordage of the resolution.

**MOTION:** made by Susan Stumpf and seconded by Kelly Lott to amend the motion and remove “and may reduce or modify the scope of the project as desirable, and the entire appropriation” from the resolution.

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

Opposed: Peter Tagley, Tony Bedini, Greg Cava, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Valerie Andersen, Jennifer Pote and Emily Hibbard.

Abstained: Michael Sinatra.

Motion failed (3 – 8 – 1)

Discussion continued on the resolution. Greg Cava felt there was too much verbiage. Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board that Council wrote the resolution and Valerie Andersen had reminded the Board of the June 2013 meeting. The wordage in regard to the track was once again mentioned.

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown and seconded by Greg Cava to remove “replacement of the existing running track with a standard certified running track including related drainage and other improvements” from Resolution agenda item 6.2.

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

Abstained: Michael Sinatra.

Motion passed (11 – 0 – 1)

Vote on the original motion with amendment:

**VOTE:** In Favor: Peter Tagley, Tony Bedini, Greg Cava, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Valerie Andersen, Jennifer Pote and Emily Hibbard.

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

Motion passed (8 - 4)

*To consider and if appropriate, approve, amendment to the Regionalization Plan.*

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen and seconded by Emily Hibbard (*Valerie Andersen read the following resolution*)

**RESOLVED,** That the officers of the Board of Education and the Superintendent are authorized and directed to cause a district meeting to be called for the purpose of conducting a public hearing at Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Tuesday, March 4,

2014 at 7:00 p.m. with respect to the following recommendation of the Board, which recommendation is hereby approved:

That the Regional School District 12 Plan, as approved by the State Board of Education on May 11, 1967, be amended by deleting the language “Elementary grades K-5 to remain in their present home town schools,” which appears on page 2 of the plan, and deleting the language “In the proposed plan, the lower elementary grades, K through 5, will remain in their respective home town schools” from page 5 of the plan.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the members of the Board of Education hold a meeting at Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 following the aforesaid public hearing to schedule a referendum vote on the amendment to be discussed at the public hearing.

Some Board members thought that the language of the Resolution should include the word consolidation and that the wordage was too broad. Susan Stumpf thought that the Resolution needed to be clear and should include consolidation.

**MOTION:** made by Susan Stumpf and seconded by Kelly Lott to amend Valerie’s motion to have the resolution include at the end of the second paragraph “and build a consolidated school on the Shepaug campus”.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, and Susan Stumpf.

Opposed: Peter Tagley, Gregory Cava, James Hirschfield, Valerie Andersen, and Jennifer Pote

Abstained: Michael Sinatra and Michelle Gorra.

Motion failed (5 – 5 – 2 )

Questions were asked as to why consolidation was not included and Dr. Cosentino explained why Board Council recommended to remove the language.

**VOTE:** In Favor: Peter Tagley, Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Emily Hibbard, and Valerie Andersen.

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

Motion passed (8 – 4)

*To consider and if appropriate, schedule a public hearing on March 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. (Pending Board approval of item 6.2 and 6.3)*

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen and seconded by Alan Brown to consider and if appropriate, schedule a public hearing on March 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Opposed: Michael Sinatra.

Motion passed (11 – 1)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*To consider and if appropriate, add school days for students and staff on April 14 and 15, 2014 to the school calendar:* There was a brief discussion about adding days to the April break. No action was taken.

Due to the lateness of the meeting, Chairman Hirschfield asked that agenda items 7.2, 7.3, 8.1 be moved to the next meeting.

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown and seconded by Gregory Cava to move agenda items 7.2, 7.3, 8.1 to the next meeting date.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dennis MacDonald (Bridgewater) - introduced himself as the Chairman of the Board of Finance and the parent of a student at WPS. He spoke on repairs, consolidation and the questions being posed.

Paul Lang (Roxbury) – Remarked on the Strategic Plan Report he downloaded. He also agrees that there needs to be clarity in the upcoming questions.

Tom Seger (Bridgewater) – Would like clarity in the questions and he remarked about agenda item 6.3, amending the Regionalization Plan.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown and seconded by Gregory Cava to adjourn at 11:10 p.m.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.