

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

The Education Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, March 24, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Also present was Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent. Valerie Andersen arrived at 7:03 p.m. Kelly Lott arrived at 7:08 p.m. Michelle Gorra and Michael Sinatra were absent.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations; Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities; Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services; Kim Gallo, Principal, SVMHS; Cathy Colella, Principal, BFS and BS; Emily Judd, Principal, WPS; Lori Ferreira, Assistant Principal, SVMHS; Karen Fildes, Instructional Technology Specialist; and Sheila Gambino, Career & Technology Teacher.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: Special Public District Hearing, March 4, 2014 (7PM)
Special Public District Hearing, March 4, 2014 (7:15 PM)
Special Meeting March 4, 2014
Special Meeting March 10, 2014
Business Meeting March 10, 2014
Special Public District Hearing, March 13, 2014
Special Meeting, March 13, 2014

Field Trips: Sturbridge Village June 18, 2014 (Grade 4-BFS, BS, WPS); Museum of Mathematics, NYC, March 31, 2014 (Grade 9).

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

James Hirschfield reported that he appointed a committee to address the issue of public information to be available before the referendum. On the committee are: James Hirschfield, Gregory Cava and Susan Stumpf. The committee will meet on April 8 at the Central Office.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: In recognition of Board of Education appreciation month, Dr. Cosentino thanked Board members for their dedication and service. Art teacher, Michael Rivera and his students were recognized for the wire flowers they made for each Board member.

Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board members of the letter in their packets sent by Mr. Camp.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino informed the Board of the resignations of Kelly Boianghu, School Counselor at SVMHS (effective March 27, 2014) and Debra Boucher, paraprofessional at SVMHS (effective March 21, 2014).

Rules for Board members and public officials during a pending referendum: Information in the packets the Board received included the correspondence sent by Gary Brochu, Board Attorney. Valerie Andersen asked if there was a plan to address the community prior to the referendum vote. Dr. Cosentino said that she will call the architects to see when they would be available, that she has the schedule for softball and baseball games and that she will make a schedule and will send it to Board members to sign up for dates. Dr. Cosentino said she is looking to have these meetings on Saturdays.

EDUCATION

Shepaug Middle School Update: Principal Mrs. Gallo made mention that the wire flowers given to the Board had been coordinated by student Kendall Ross. Mrs. Gallo reported on changes and how students are adapting within Shepaug. Mrs. Gallo also spoke about Vertical Alignment, that we are one school, and gave an update on Curriculum Assessment. It was noted that Teresa DeBrito has been bringing in consultants to work with the teachers. Peter Tagley asked about Common Core and Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board that Common Core is on the agenda for the Board Retreat this Monday, March 31 at 5:00 pm.

Project Lead the Way by Sheila Gambino: Teams of students from grades 6-8 gave PowerPoint presentations for the Board and each grade level gave a demonstration of the different projects they had been working on. The 6th grade team spoke about the 3D printer and handed out Shepaug keychain discs they had made. Grade 7 made presentations based on different energy sources and the 8th grade teams demonstrated their robots. One such robot named, Tank, could take a block from point A to point B and drop it off. Ms. Gambino shared with the Board that there has been interaction with middle school and high school students involving their robots through a Robotics Team.

SEED Update by Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum: Mrs. DeBrito handed out an overview which showed a comparison between the old and the new process for teacher evaluations through SEED. Mrs. DeBrito reviewed what is currently in place. Dr. Cosentino spoke about the flexibility option. This was followed by a more detailed explanation by Dr. Cosentino and Mrs. DeBrito to help clarify the flexibility request.

To Consider and if appropriate, approve flexibility changes to the Region 12 SEED evaluation document as managed by the Superintendent:

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava and seconded by Alan Brown to approve flexibility changes to the Region 12 SEED evaluation document as managed by the Superintendent.

VOTE: Unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading: Policy 5131.6 – Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco: In the absence of Michelle Gorra, Policy Committee member Alan Brown reviewed the policy for the Board.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen and seconded by Emily Hibbard to adopt as a second reading, Policy 5131.6 – Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco.

There was discussion about the contents of the policy and there not being a definition for what an

e-cigarette is. There was also concern for some of the wording within the policy. The question arose if an attorney looks at the policy and Mr. Hirschfield explained that our policies are in line with CABA and that CABA does have an attorney who can review the policy.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf, Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Gregory Cava

Abstained: Kelly Lott

(8 – 1 – 1) Motion passed

Second Reading: Policy 5141.21 – Administering Medication: In the absence of Michelle Gorra, Policy Committee member Alan Brown, reviewed the policy for the Board and he noted the many dates this policy has had to be revised in the past.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava and seconded by Valerie Andersen to adopt as a second reading, Policy 5141.21– Administering Medication.

VOTE: Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

To consider and if appropriate, adjust the tuition for out-of-district students including Sherman: Robert Giesen, Director of Finance, reviewed tuition costs. A discussion followed. Alan Brown suggested that a pilot program be done lowering the tuition rate to attract out of district students.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown and seconded by Kelly Lott for a five year pilot program to offer a tuition amount at 60% as opposed to 90% starting with the school year 2014-2015.

Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen and seconded by Peter Tagley to table the motion since we are still in a contract with Sherman.

Discussion followed. A Point of Order was made regarding tabling a motion.

Mrs. Andersen and Mr. Tagley withdrew their motion and second. Discussion followed regarding postponing the topic of tuition.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen and seconded by Peter Tagley to postpone the consideration of Mr. Brown's motion until the Region can plan a renegotiation of the Sherman contract.

Discussion followed. Several Board members spoke about implementing a program with a reduced tuition rate but asked for more information and to have the three first selectmen give their input. It was suggested to put it on the agenda in the near future.

Valerie Andersen **amended her motion** to include bringing it back as an agenda item at the Board of Education Meeting on May 19, 2014 so that more information can be gathered.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Greg Cava, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, and Peter Tagley.
 Opposed: Susan Stumpf.
 Abstained: Alan Brown.

(8 – 1 – 1) Motion passed

To consider and if appropriate, approve contract for All Star Transportation (as recommended by the Finance Committee):

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen and seconded by Gregory Cava to approve contract for All Star Transportation (as recommended by the Finance Committee).

Robert Giesen reviewed the information that was included in the Board packet.

VOTE: Unanimous

Discussion to consider, and if appropriate, authorize an expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$137,000 from the Elementary Capital Nonrecurring Fund (lease,) as detailed below.

| Location | Item | Amount |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Booth Free School | Asbestos Removal for Heat Repairs | \$15,000 |
| Booth Free School | Rear Grading –Stairs & Base of Drive | 10,000 |
| Booth Free School | Septic Repairs | 10,000 |
| Booth Free School | Paint – 15 Classrooms | 15,000 |
| | | 50,000 |
| | | |
| Burnham School | Replace Rubber Floor – Hallway | 7,500 |
| Burnham School | Window Wall Replacement Hallway | 25,000 |
| Burnham School | Paint – 12 Classrooms | 12,000 |
| | | 44,500 |
| | | |
| Washington Primary | Microprocessor based Fire Panel | 6,500 |
| Washington Primary | Sidewalk & Driveway Repairs | 20,000 |
| Washington Primary | Paint – 16 Classrooms | 16,000 |
| | | 42,500 |
| | | |
| | Total | \$137,000 |

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen and seconded by Tony Bedini to authorize an expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$137,000 from the Elementary Capital Nonrecurring Fund (lease) as detailed on the agenda.

Discussion followed. Gregory Cava explained how these items were placed on the list. There were concerns if these items comply with the terms of the lease.

MOTION: made by Tony Bedini and seconded by Valerie Andersen to move the question.

VOTE: Unanimous.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Gregory Cava and Kelly Lott.

Abstained: Alan Brown and Emily Hibbard.

(6 – 2 – 2) Motion passed

To consider and if appropriate, adopt 2014-2015 recommended budget.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen and seconded by Tony Bedini to adopt 2014-2015 recommended budget.

Discussion followed. It was thought that more time should be spent on discussing the proposed budget and it was asked to move the agenda item to another meeting.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown and seconded by Peter Tagley to move the discussion on the 2014-2015 budget to Monday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m., following the Board of Education Retreat so as to have an actual Budget Meeting.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley,

Opposed: Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, and James Hirschfield.

(7 – 3) Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Alan Brown and seconded by Greg Cava to go into executive session at 10:10 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Kelly Lott - Point of Order, to go into Executive Session, does the reason have to be listed as an agenda idea?

VOTE: Unanimous.

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The Board came out of executive session at 10:22 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 p.m.