

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley Middle High School  
May 19, 2014

The Education Committee of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, May 19, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley. Tony Bedini was absent. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities; Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services; Cathy Colella, Principal, BFS and BS; Emily Judd, Principal, WPS; Karen Fildes, Instructional Technology Specialist; Ann Wescott, REACH Preschool Teacher; and Joan Temple, Librarian, SVMHS.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent agenda items approved:

*Approval of minutes:* Business Meeting, May 5, 2014  
District Annual Budget Meeting, May 5, 2014

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

No Report

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Correspondence:* Dr. Cosentino reported that in reference to the SEEC complaint filed by Patrick Dwyer, Bridgewater, a report has been requested by SEEC. This will be submitted after review with legal counsel. A letter emailed by Julie Stuart and Carolyn Dwyer was also mentioned by Dr. Cosentino. (A copy was handed out to Board members.)

Mr. O'Leary, Director of Facilities, asked the Board for their approval in the hiring for a part-time maintenance position. This would be 20 hours per week at \$25.00 per hour not to exceed 1000 hours per year and this position will not include benefits. Mr. O'Leary explained that this position would be for general maintenance and grounds work. The person being considered has skills in air conditioning and heating repair which would save the Region money as work would not have to be contracted out.

**MOTION:** made by Greg Cava and seconded by Michelle Gorra for the hiring of a part-time maintenance position at 20 hours a week/\$25.00 per hour/1000 hours per year excluding benefits.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

*Development of Career Pathways for Middle School Students.* Dr. Cosentino mentioned that prior to tonight's meeting, Board members were given a brief tour of Shepaug's TV Studio. Dr. Cosentino turned the meeting over to Principal Kim Gallo. Mrs. Gallo passed out an informational packet that outlined the

Reviewing Efforts for Attracting Students to Shepaug. Mrs. Gallo reviewed each area in the handout. One of the items mentioned for attracting new students was the concept of being able to give graduating seniors a certificate that would give the student credits for college or experience in the work force. Questions and remarks followed Mrs. Gallo's presentation.

*A Virtual High School and Chromebook update* was presented by Joan Temple and Karen Fildes. Mrs. Temple started by explaining what the Virtual High School (VHS) is and read the mission statement. This year there were 12 AP courses that students had signed up for and enrollment for next year has already begun. Two students, Emily Taylor and Caroline Hermans, gave brief presentations on their experience and how the VHS was a positive factor for them. Mrs. Fildes also spoke on the VHS and how, for next school year, a period will be scheduled in for students. Mrs. Fildes reviewed Chromebook usage within the district and how the Chromebook has enabled the use of Google Doc across the Region between students and schools. BYOD was discussed between Mrs. Fildes and Board members.

*A Presentation on the REACH program* was given by Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Mrs. O'Hara briefly explained how enrollment is planned for the classrooms and that currently there are 31 students and at the moment; two children are in Child Find Evaluations. There are six children on a waiting list not including one staff member's child. Also speaking on the REACH program was Ann Wescott, REACH teacher. Discussion followed. Mrs. O'Hara said that she would be able to come back to the June 2<sup>nd</sup> board meeting with more information in regard to enrollment for the children on the wait list.

*Multiage Information* was reported on by Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. Mrs. DeBrito gave the Board a handout with information she had gathered including a list of resources and a list of schools in Connecticut with the multiage classrooms. Mrs. DeBrito summarized her findings and also shared that site visits of schools with multiage classrooms would be scheduled. Discussion followed. Mrs. DeBrito followed her presentation speaking on teacher training and that she had the opportunity to schedule a three-day training seminar in Chicago for administrators. This will include Dr. Cosentino and six administrators. It will take place at the end of July. Valerie Andersen inquired about teaching Math and Mrs. DeBrito said she could present on this at a future meeting. It was asked when the website showing the Region's curriculum would be up. It was agreed that to be sure all areas were complete and up-to-date; the information would be ready in about six months.

## **EDUCATION**

*A revised school name* was presented by Kim Gallo, Principal. It was asked that the school name be changed to Shepaug Valley School which would help recognize the building concept as one school.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen and seconded by Kelly Lott to change the current school name "Shepaug Valley Middle High School" to "Shepaug Valley School".

**VOTE:** In favor: Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Greg Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: James Hirschfield.

Motion Passed (10-0-1)

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *Second Reading of Policy 0521 – Nondiscrimination/Equity/Title IX*

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen and seconded by Greg Cava to accept policy 0521, Nondiscrimination/Equity/Title IX as a second reading.

Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy. There was some discussion in reference to the phrase “in location and use of facilities”.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The idea of moving agenda item, Public Comment, earlier on the agenda was discussed. Chairman Hirschfield said this would be considered and possibly changed. Valerie Andersen mentioned her concern about handouts from the public being distributed at the Board meetings and that it causes confusion. Mrs. Andersen spoke about her concern when the public gives handouts to the Board at a Board meeting and the public believing it is from the Region 12 Board of Education.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Julie Stuart, Bridgewater, commented on the presentation by Kim Gallo. Ms. Stuart also mentioned that it might be helpful to have a link on the District website for perspective students and their families. Lastly, Ms. Stuart commented on multiage classrooms.

Carolyn Dwyer, Bridgewater, remarked on District programs.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** made by Peter Tagley and seconded by Greg Cava to adjourn.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.