

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley Middle/High School
November 18, 2013

The Education Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:03 p.m., on Monday, November 18, 2013, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley. Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present. Kelly Lott arrived at 7:05 p.m. Valerie Andersen arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Also present were: Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations, Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities, Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services, Principals: Kim Gallo, Cathy Colella, Emily Judd, Vice Principal Lori Ferreira, Karen Fildes and Stephanie Davies.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM APPROVED

Approval of minutes: Business meeting November 4, 2013

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report

EDUCATION

Teacher's caseload and new MHS schedule – Kim Gallo: Mrs. Gallo gave a brief summary of the grades 6-12 teacher caseloads and handed out a spreadsheet showing all teachers' caseloads per period.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino shared that the State Legislature has passed into law a regional calendar that would be the same throughout the state. For example: the first day of school will always be the week prior to Labor Day, spring break would always be the third week in April, professional development would take place the day after a holiday. Each RESC will send its recommendations to the State.

Personnel: Leaves of absence - Donna Alex, Secretary (Guidance), SVMHS and Patricia Howard, Nurse, WPS. Dr. Cosentino explained that Donna Alex is on a Leave of Absence due to the fact that she is taking a public office position in the Town of Washington and is covered under General Assembly Section 31-51. Valerie Andersen added that Mrs. Alex has been an asset to the guidance department.

Review of CABE CAPSS Convention: Michelle Gorra reported on the Convention.

Connecticut Lighthouse Project: This program is to help Boards of Education focus on student achievement and to look forward to the future.

The Chromebook Workshop will take place tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. at SMHS.

NEW BUSINESS

To consider and if appropriate, approve hiring of Fletcher-Thompson as architect for PK-5 building project.

- a) Pre-referendum of \$102,000*
- b) Post referendum, provided successful referendum, of \$1,341,000*

To consider and if appropriate, approve hiring of project manager.

- a) Pre-referendum of \$41,400*
- b) Post referendum, provided successful, of \$562,009*

Tony Bedini spoke on behalf of the Building Committee. Mr. Bedini said that the committee had discussed the responsibilities of who would be hired. It was noted that companies had been compared before it had been decided who to hire and that presentations had been made to the committee. Discussion followed. Valerie Andersen suggested that the Board not vote on post referendum items 6.1b and 6.2b tonight. Chairman Hirschfield asked Tony Bedini if the committee would find it acceptable not to vote on the post referendum amounts. Mr. Bedini thought that would be okay. It was decided that items 6.1b and 6.2b would be tabled.

Kelly Lott left the meeting at 8:03 p.m. and returned at 8:06 p.m.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra that the Board of Education hire Fletcher-Thompson as architect for a PK-5 building project at a pre-referendum basic cost of \$102,000.

There was further discussion on new business items. Kelly Lott asked if the talk on cost could be pushed to a later time so that the Board could see what the people want first. Reference was made to the motion approved on June 17, 2013. More discussion followed. Susan Stumpf asked if the votes could be tabled until the next meeting when more specifics on the dollar amounts could be presented.

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Valerie Andersen to move the question.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Greg Cava, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote and Peter Tagley,

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

Abstained: Michelle Gorra

Motion passed (7-4-1)

Chairman Hirschfield restated the motion.

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

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

Motion passed (8-4)

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra that the Board of Education hire ARCADIS as project manager at a pre-referendum cost of \$41,400.

Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Susan Stumpf , seconded by Michael Sinatra to table the consideration to hire a project manager at a pre-referendum cost of \$41,400 until the cost can be broken out.

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

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

Motion failed (4-8)

Discussion continued on the original motion that the Board of Education hire ARCADIS as project manager at a pre-referendum cost of \$41,400.

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

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

Motion passed (8-4)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eileen Buchheit, Bridgewater - commented on consolidation.

Ed Wainwright, Bridgewater – commented on the Building Committee.

Tom Seger, Bridgewater - commented on the Building Committee, consolidation and the dollar amounts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.