

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley Middle/High School  
December 16, 2013

The Education Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, December 16, 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 Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Kelly Lott arrived at 8:00 p.m. Valerie Andersen was absent.

Also present were: Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities, Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Emily Judd, Principal Washington Primary School, Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services and Karen Fildes, Instructional Technology Specialist.

**MOTION:** by Alan Brown, seconded by Michael Sinatra to add item 8.2 to the agenda, removal of Policy 5131.65 – Smoking Elimination.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**HOLIDAY MUSICAL PERFORMANCE by SHEPAUG VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH GRADE STRING ENSEMBLE.**

The strings ensemble performed two holiday songs for the Board of Education under the direction of Jason Malli.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent agenda items approved:

*Approval of minutes:* Business Meeting December 2, 2013

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Jim Hirschfield stated that due to the lack of Board of Education representation on the Building Committee and no representation from Bridgewater, the Building Committee would be represented under the Facilities Committee.

Since there has been small representation from Board of Education members on committees, the question was raised if the general public and school staff should be on committees. No action was taken.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Correspondence:* Dr. Cosentino shared with the Board that Shepaug had five Juniors that scored a five on all four areas of the CAPT given in March 2013.

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*Personnel:* Appointment of Sara Osborne, Secretary (Guidance), SVMHS.

Dr. Cosentino reported that she will be traveling to the Dominican Republic January 21-28, 2014 thru the LifeTouch Memory Trip, Build a School. This is an opportunity that Dr. Cosentino won through LifeTouch School Portraits.

## **EDUCATION**

*SPI (School Performance Index) and DPI (District Performance Index):* Teresa DeBrito reported on SPI (School Performance Index) and DPI (District Performance Index). A handout showing scores was given to Board members.

## **STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield brought up an issue raised previously by Kelly Lott. Are we in a lawful position before the Region can be amended? Chairman Hirschfield reported that we cannot have the questions of amending the Region and a cost on the same ballot. It was explained that the vote to amend the Region could only be voted on by residents living in the district and the question to spend money can only be voted on by a taxpayer. In some cases a person would not necessarily qualify for both ballots. Chairman Hirschfield explained that both questions could take place on the same day.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Presentation by Fletcher-Thompson and ARCADIS on the findings from the Future of Education in Region 12. Discussion on the future of schools with Fletcher-Thompson and ARCADIS:* A summary of the three town meetings in regards to the concerns of the citizens pertaining to the building of a new regional school was reported on. Reporting were Dan Casinelli, Principal at Fletcher Thompson Architectural Firm, Angela Cahill, Fletcher Thompson, Michael Berger, Fletcher Thompson, Nagardeoleka Vikas, Fletcher Thompson, Nicholas Macy, ARCADIS, Ken Biega, O & G partnering with ARCADIS.

There was a brief discussion with Board members.

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown, seconded by Kelly Lott that The Board should bring to referendum the following question: "Shall the Regional School District 12 plan, as approved by the State Board of Education on May 11, 1967, be amended by deleting the term, "Elementary grades [kindergarten through fifth grade] to remain in their present home town schools" and inserting in its place "The district consolidate elementary grades [kindergarten through fifth grade] into a single elementary school, to be located on the existing Shepaug campus."

**MOTION:** made by Greg Cava, seconded by Peter Tagley to table the above motion.

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

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

Motion to table original motion passed (7-4)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

*Second Reading of Policy 1331 Smoke Free Environment.*

**MOTION:** made by Emily Hibbard, seconded by Jennifer Pote to accept the second reading of Policy 1331, Smoke Free Environment.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

*Policy 5131.65 Smoking Elimination*

**MOTION:** made by Greg Cava, seconded by Emily Hibbard to remove policy 5131.65, Smoking Elimination.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joe Buchheit, Bridgewater - commented on the presentations from Fletcher-Thompson and ARCADIS.

Julie Stuart, Bridgewater - commented on the upcoming vote for consolidation. Two ballots for the two questions. Ms. Stuart also commented on the Long Range Plan and asked that the Board focus on Education, not buildings.

Bridget Buchheit-Carney, Bridgewater - commented that she has concerns about what was presented by Fletcher-Thompson.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Alan Brown to go into executive session for the purpose of a discussion of negotiations strategies and consideration of potential settlement for the 2014-2017 SVEA contract.

**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.

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**ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown, seconded by Emily Hibbard to approve the Professional Agreement between the Shepaug Valley Regional School District 12 Board of Education and the Shepaug Valley Education Association July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.