

Regional School District 12
Board of Education, Education Meeting
Shepaug Valley Middle High School
June 16, 2014

The Education Committee meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:33 p.m., on Monday, June 16, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley. Kelly Lott arrived at 6:43 p.m. Emily Hibbard arrived at 7:17 p.m. Valerie Andersen was absent. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present.

Also in attendance were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Robert Geisen, Director of Finance; Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities; Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services; Principals Kim Gallo, SVS, Cathy Colella, BFS and BS, Emily Judd, WPS; Lori Ferreira, Assistant Principal, SVS; Todd Dyer, Beth Harrison and Michael McManus from the Guidance Department.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michelle Gorra to add item to the agenda under new business; 10.4 First Reading - Policy 5118.3 – Nonresident Attendance.

VOTE: Unanimous.

RECOGNITION OF TODD INGERSOLL

Mr. Ingersoll, who was not able to attend, was recognized for his generous donation of \$1000 for the purchase of U.S. flags for classrooms in the Region.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

Dr. Cosentino recognized parent volunteers for their commitment to the Region. Dr. Cosentino thanked the volunteers for their time, their effort and stressed how important our volunteers are to the schools, staff and students of each school. As Dr. Cosentino presented the volunteer with a crystal apple, she gave a brief bio of each recipient.

Jennifer Pote, Washington Primary School, Barbara Baird, Shepaug High School, Linda Schneider, Shepaug Middle School. Anthony Amato, district wide volunteer, Linda Vidal, Booth Free School, and Kristine Reed, Burnham School, were recognized but were absent.

A reception followed. The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda items approved:

Minutes: Business Meeting, June 2, 2014.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield reported that he attended the high school's graduation on Saturday. He thanked Mrs. Gallo and her staff for such a nice ceremony and acknowledged all the work put into the preparation. Chairman Hirschfield also stated that he would be attending the eighth grade advancement ceremony on Tuesday evening.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino mentioned the Spartan Chronicle that had been handed out to the Board members. Students and staff were thanked for their work on the school newspaper. Dr. Cosentino informed the members of the Board that the CABA Convention will be in November in Mystic, Ct and the Region will pay for any Board member wishing to attend.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino informed the Board of the following appointments: Gabriel Byer-Alcorace, School Psychologist, SVS; Kim Harrison, School Guidance Counselor, SVS; and Michael McManus, College and Career Coordinator, SVS. Dr. Cosentino informed the Board of the resignations received from: Kara Street, Burnham School elementary teacher and Mark Raimo, District School Resource Officer.

EDUCATION

State of the Schools: Principals Emily Judd, Cathy Colella and Kim Gallo gave an overview. Mrs. Judd started with an introduction. Cathy Colella focused on the elementary level and Kim Gallo focused on Shepaug. Once each section of the handout had been reviewed, a slideshow was presented.

Review on Career and College Center services from 2013-2014: The CCC services were presented by the Guidance Department, Todd Dyer, Kim Harrison and Michael McManus. A copy of the Power Point being shown was handed out and each slide was reviewed by the Guidance team. Mr. Dyer stated that next Tuesday there would be a meeting to review the year and to start planning forward. The focus for next year will be Naviance and Communication.

Superintendent's Goals: Dr. Cosentino handed out a copy of her goals and reviewed progress for each goal.

Kelly Lott left the meeting at 8:37 p.m., and returned at 8:42 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

To consider and if appropriate, approve SEED evaluation for teachers and administrators. Teresa DeBrito handed out a copy of the changes for SEED 2014-15. Mrs. DeBrito explained the changes and answered questions on the changes.

MOTION: made by Greg Cava and seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve the SEED Evaluation for Teachers and Administrators 2014-15 with the changes made as outlined in the document presented.

VOTE: Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

To consider and if appropriate, encumber \$82,000.00 for pianos with a vendor to be determined: Gregory Cava was asked by Chairman James Hirschfield to speak on behalf of the above request. Mr. Cava spoke about the meeting with Dr. Cosentino, Lori Ferreira, the Music Dept. and a few Board members to discuss the needs of replacing the current pianos. Mr. Cava gave a report on the state of the pianos at Shepaug and thoughts on the purchasing of replacement piano(s). Mr. Cava requested that the Board encumber funds for the Music Dept. to acquire two pianos.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra and seconded by Jenn Pote to encumber \$82,000.00 for pianos with a vendor to be determined.

Discussion

AMENDMENT: made by Alan Brown and seconded by Kelly Lott to add that the motion cover the purchase of three pianos.

Discussion

Alan Brown withdrew his amendment, Kelly Lott withdrew her second.

VOTE: In favor: Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Kelly Lott, Jenn Pote, Michael Sinatra and Susan Stumpf.

Opposed: Peter Tagley

Abstained: Alan Brown

Motion passed (9-1-1)

To consider and if appropriate, hire a public relations firm to market the region: After some discussion, it was agreed that this is something the Superintendent shouldn't have to spend time on and that there were more important issues for Dr. Cosentino to put time into. The Board requested that Dr. Cosentino bring PR proposals to the Board.

Emily Hibbard left the meeting at 9:46 p.m., and returned at 9:49 p.m.

To consider and if appropriate, approve the Learner Outcomes to be part of Shepaug's graduation requirements. Kim Gallo gave a brief presentation on Learner Outcomes and a short explanation of the Rubric that was handed out. Lori Ferreira answered questions.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown and seconded by Gregory Cava to approve the Learner Outcomes as being a part of Shepaug's graduation requirements.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Motion passed (11-0)

Policy 5118.3, Nonresident Attendance, was presented and explained by Michelle Gorra. Questions were asked in regard to the policy being reviewed by Legal Counsel. Mrs. Gorra said that the policy presented had been reviewed by CABA attorneys. Mrs. Gorra also stated that the Policy Committee had looked at policies from other towns on this same topic.

MOTION: made by Susan Stumpf and seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve Policy 5118.3 - Nonresident Attendance as a first reading.

VOTE: In favor: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Gregory Cava.

Motion passed (10-1)

Peter Tagley had expressed his concern about the Letters to the Editor that have been in the area newspapers and the referendum to make repairs on Shepaug that was voted down. Mr. Tagley asked if it could be arranged for the First Selectmen and the Board of Finance from the three towns to meet with the Board of Education. The purpose for this meeting would be to hear what direction the towns would like to see the Board go toward making repairs at Shepaug and ideas for the region's schools. It was suggested by Alan Brown and agreed that this could be done over the summer as a retreat.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley and seconded by Gregory Cava to move into executive session for the purpose of the Superintendent's end-of-year evaluation and to review Central Office 2014/2015 salaries.

VOTE: Unanimous.

The Board entered executive session at 10:25 p.m.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

The Board came out of executive session at 11:41 p.m.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve a 5% increase to the Business Manager's salary for the 2014/2015 year.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Peter Tagley to approve a 5% increase to the Facilities Manager's salary for the 2014/2015 and include 6.5% annuity.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Tony Bedini that the evaluation and compensation of the central office staff is the responsibility of the Superintendent.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Tony Bedini to extend the Superintendent's contract for three years beginning July 1, 2014 at \$190,000, 8% annuity, 30 vacation days with 8.5 days carried over this year.

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

Opposed: Alan Brown.

Abstained: Michael Sinatra.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 pm.