

Regional School District 12
Public District Budget Hearing
Shepaug Valley Middle High School
April 7, 2014

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Notice is hereby given to all those entitled to vote in town meetings in the towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington, that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library of the Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street, Washington, CT to present the Annual Budget for the year 2014-2015, prepared by the Regional Board of Education for Shepaug Valley Regional School District 12, copies of which will be available at the Public Meeting.

SHEPAUG VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12
BRIDGEWATER – ROXBURY – WASHINGTON
By – James Hirschfield, Chairman
Board of Education
Washington Depot, CT 06794

OVERVIEW PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET PROCESS AND THE 2014-2015 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR RSD 12

Valerie Andersen gave an overview of the budget process. She noted significant changes in the budget that included a decrease in staffing at the elementary level. The Board approved at their last meeting to move \$160,000 for a replacement heating system at WPS out of the operating budget to the Elementary Non-recurring Capital fund which brought the budget down to \$21,618,021 or a .20% decrease over last year. Mrs. Andersen also spoke about the discussion at the last Board meeting regarding adding the FTE (full time equivalent) for a Kindergarten teacher at Burnham School for four students enrolled for next year.

QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE BUDGET

Chairman Hirschfield opened the floor to the public for questions and comments.

Ed Wainwright, Bridgewater, asked the following questions:

1. Requested information on the Elementary Non-recurring Capital Fund – how much is in the account? Mrs. Andersen answered that currently the balance is \$508,000 but \$160,000 will be coming out of it. Mrs. Andersen said she would provide the reconciliation to Mr. Wainwright via email.
2. Where are the elementary interventionists and remedial tutors FTE (full time equivalent) reductions being cut from / which schools? Dr. Cosentino stated that she needs to wait until all PPTs are completed in the

district at which time the needs in each school will be allocated. Dr. Cosentino also noted that these positions will not be lost but that responsibilities will be reallocated to other staff.

3. Is Dr. Cosentino picking on the elementary schools? Dr. Cosentino responded by reminding that last year she looked more carefully at the middle high school level. By changing the schedule, it allowed for staff to be shared and reduced. This year with input by the administrators, the focus was on the elementary level to run more efficient schools.

4. Mr. Wainwright spoke about transportation that was provided in the past when students were sent to another elementary school and that transportation is being paid for students attending private schools who live in the region. Valerie Andersen explained the requirement under state statute whereby the Region must pay for the transportation for students that live in the Region going to private schools. Mr. Wainwright asked how much it would cost for the four students to be transported to BFS. Dr. Cosentino explained that they will have a K-5 school at both Booth Free and Burnham. She explained that she is allowing parents who would like to have their child at a Kindergarten only class to transport them to BFS. The Board's attorney advises it is illegal to not have a K-5 school in each town due to the regionalization plan.

Carolyn Dwyer, Bridgewater – asked the Board to consider the history on interventionists' issue. She also spoke about revisiting the multiage structure; K-2 / 3-5 configurations through a referendum.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Hirschfield adjourned the hearing at 7:20 p.m.