

Regional School District 12  
Special District – Public Hearing Minutes  
Shepaug Valley Middle High School  
March 4, 2014

The District Public Hearing was called to order at 7:01 p.m., on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, Teresa DeBrito, Curriculum & Instruction Director, Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations, Don O’Leary, Facilities Director were also present. Alan Brown and Gregory Cava arrived at 7:02 p.m. Michael Sinatra arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Also present were: Anthony Amato, Volunteer - Town of Washington; Michael Berger, Architect, Fletcher-Thompson; Barry Bernabe, Webster Bank; Ken Biega, Project Manager, ARCADIS/O & G Industries; Gary Brochu, Board Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin; Daniel Casinelli, Architect, Fletcher-Thompson; Glenn Rybacki, Esquire, Bond Counsel, Day Pitney LLC.

Chairman Hirschfield read the warning below.

WARNING  
DISTRICT MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING  
Regional School District Number 12  
Towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington  
March 4, 2014

The electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington are hereby warned that a public meeting of Regional School District Number 12 will be held at Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Regional School District 12 Plan.

**AMENDMENT TO THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12 PLAN**

Chairman Hirschfield read the motion that had been approved at the February 24, 2014 Board of Education meeting.

**RESOLVED**, That the officers of the Board of Education and the Superintendent are authorized and directed to cause a district meeting to be called for the purpose of conducting a public hearing at Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. with respect to the following recommendation of the Board, which recommendation is hereby approved:

That the Regional School District 12 Plan, as approved by the State Board of Education on May 11, 1967, be amended by deleting the language “Elementary grades K-5 to remain in their present home town schools,” which appears on page 2 of the plan, and deleting the language “In the proposed plan, the lower elementary grades, K through 5, will remain in their respective home town schools” from page 5 of the plan.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the members of the Board of Education hold a meeting at Shepaug Valley Middle High School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 following the aforesaid public hearing to schedule a referendum vote on the amendment to be discussed at the public hearing.

Chairman Hirschfield spoke about the vote on the amendment to the Regionalization Plan which was approved at the February 24 meeting. He explained that a motion was made that evening to amend the motion above to add language where the deletion of “home town schools” was and to add “construction of a consolidated elementary school”. Based on the advice from the Board attorney that was received that evening, the majority of the Board members voted it down. Today, the attorney had a discussion with the State and it is now his opinion that the language should be added. Chairman Hirschfield went on to explain that adding the language cannot be done at the hearing but when the Board conducts a Special Meeting after the hearings, they can decide to add the language. If they do, another public hearing would then need to be scheduled on the amendment to the Regional Plan before it can go to the public for a vote.

**QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE ABOVE ITEM TO BE ENTERTAINED.**

Questions and comments were given by the public. They included: The mailings sent out to all residents regarding the amendment to the Regionalization Plan, the PK-5 building project and repairs to Shepaug; the Sec. 10-47c requirements; tuitioning out students; specific language in the amendment; vague language in the amendment; advantages of being a Region 12 community; deregionalization; proposed elementary school building safety; effect on taxpayers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.