

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley Middle High School  
March 13, 2014

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:44 p.m., on Thursday, March 13, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Emily Hibbard, Michelle Gorra, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Also present was Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent. Valerie Andersen was absent.

Also present were: Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations and Don O'Leary, Facilities Director.

**TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT OF A RESOLUTION 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 REPLACING WITH THE LANGUAGE "A PRE-K TO 5 CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTED ON THE SHEPAUG CAMPUS;" 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; ESTABLISHING THE PARTICULARS OF A DISTRICT REFERENDUM WITH RESPECT TO SUCH AMENDMENT;**

**MOTION:** made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Michelle Gorra (the following)

**RESOLVED**, That Board of Education adopts the following resolution, to be submitted for approval by a referendum vote of the voters of the District:

**RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT TO REFERENDUM VOTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12 PLAN**

**RESOLVED**, 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 replacing with the language "a Pre-K to 5 consolidated elementary school constructed on the Shepaug campus;" 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.

**RESOLVED**, that the above amendment be submitted for approval by referendum vote of the qualified voters of the District; and that said referendum be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2014; that notice of said referendum be given by publication and posting between five and fifteen days before said date, and that said notices of the referendum in the Towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington be substantially in the following form:

"WARNING  
REFERENDUM VOTE  
Regional School District Number 12  
Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
April 29, 2014

Referendum votes of the electors of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_, Connecticut at the following polling places:

[INSERT POLLING PLACES]

and simultaneously in the other Towns in Regional School District Number 12 on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. pursuant to Section 10-47c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, upon a resolution adopted by the Regional Board of Education at its meeting held March 13, 2014, which resolution will be placed on the ballot label as 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 LANGUAGE “ELEMENTARY GRADES K-5 TO REMAIN IN THEIR PRESENT HOME TOWN SCHOOLS,” WHICH APPEARS ON PAGE 2 OF THE PLAN, AND REPLACING WITH THE LANGUAGE “A PRE-K TO 5 CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTED ON THE SHEPAUG CAMPUS;” 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?”

Voters approving a resolution shall vote “Yes” and those opposing said resolution shall vote “No”. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Connecticut this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk  
Town of \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion followed regarding the language, the date for the referendum and explanatory materials.

**MOTION:** made by Tony Bedini, seconded by Emily Hibbard to move the question.

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

Opposed: Michelle Gorra.

Motion passed (10 – 1)

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:**

**VOTE:** In favor: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Michelle Gorra, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Michael Sinatra and Susan Stumpf.

Motion passed (9 – 2)

**TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF EXPLANATORY MATERIALS WITH RESPECT TO SUCH REFERENDUM; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra (the following)

**RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official's discretion, to prepare, and to cause to be printed and distributed, concise explanatory texts regarding the aforesaid resolution to be submitted to the voters of the District at referendum to be held April 29, 2014, such explanatory texts to be subject to the approval of the District's general counsel and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of Section 9-369b of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.

Discussion followed. Chairman Hirschfield clarified that he would appoint a committee (consisting of one Board member from each town) to work on the explanatory materials.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON REOLUTIONS SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT A RESOLUTION, APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT ITS MEETING HELD MARCH 4, 2014, WITH RESPECT TO AN APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION FOR COSTS RELATED TO DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF A NEW, APPROXIMATELY 277 TO 300 STUDENT CAPACITY, CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, TO BE LOCATED ON THE SHEPAUG VALLEY CAMPUS IN THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON, AND COSTS RELATED TO THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AND RENOVATIONS TO SHEPAUG VALLEY MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL; ESTABLISHING THE PARTICULARS OF A DISTRICT REFERENDUM WITH RESPECT TO SUCH APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION;**

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra (the following)

**RESOLVED**, that the resolution, approved by the Board at its meeting held March 4, 2014, with respect to an appropriation and borrowing authorization for costs related to the design, construction, furnishing and equipping of a new, approximately 277 to 300 student capacity, consolidated elementary (pre-k through grade five) school, to be located on the Shepaug Valley Campus in the Town of Washington, costs related to the design, construction and installation of various improvements and renovations to Shepaug Valley Middle High School be submitted for approval by referendum vote of the voters of the District; and that said referendum be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2014; that notice of said referendum be given by publication and posting between five and fifteen days before said date, and that said notices of the referendum in the Towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington be substantially in the following form:

“WARNING  
REFERENDUM VOTE  
Regional School District Number 12  
Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
April 29, 2014

Referendum votes of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_, Connecticut will be held in the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ at the following polling places:

[INSERT POLLING PLACES]

and simultaneously in the other Towns in Regional School District Number 12 on Tuesday, April 29, 2014 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, upon a resolution adopted by the Regional Board of Education at its meeting held March 4, 2014, which resolution will be placed on the ballot labels as the following question:

“SHALL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 12 APPROPRIATE \$40,879,191 FOR COSTS OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING AND EQUIPPING OF A NEW CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO BE LOCATED ON THE SHEPAUG VALLEY CAMPUS IN THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON (ESTIMATED COST \$32,597,202) AND COSTS OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AND RENOVATIONS AT SHEPAUG VALLEY MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL (ESTIMATED COST \$8,281,989); AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND TEMPORARY NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAIDED FROM GRANTS?”

Voters approving a resolution shall vote “Yes” and those opposing said resolution shall vote “No”. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Connecticut this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk  
Town of \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion regarding the explanatory materials followed.

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

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

Motion passed (7 – 4)

**TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF EXPLANATORY MATERIALS WITH RESPECT TO SUCH REFERENDUM;**

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Emily Hibbard (the following)

**RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official's discretion, to prepare, and to cause to be printed and distributed, concise explanatory texts regarding the aforesaid resolution to be submitted to the voters of the District at referendum to be held April 29, 2014, such explanatory texts to be subject to the approval of the District's general counsel and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of Section 9-369b of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**TO CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS IN AID OF THE PROJECT; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO.**

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra (the following)

**RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Regional School District Number 12, the Chairman and Secretary of the Regional Board and the chairman of any building committee established for the any of the aforesaid proposed school building projects are authorized on behalf of the District to execute one or more applications for State grants in aid of the said projects and to accept or reject such grants on behalf of the District and to execute any and all necessary agreements and other documents in connection therewith.

Discussion followed regarding reasons for approving to apply for grants tonight instead of waiting until after the referendum.

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

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

Abstained: Michael Sinatra.

Motion passed (7 – 3 – 1)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.