

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
January 5, 2015

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, January 5, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Emily Hibbard and Kelly Lott were absent.

Chairman Hirschfield began the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of Robert “Bucky” Lowe and Matthew Franjola, two former Board members who passed away recently.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – December 15, 2014
Special Meeting – December 15, 2014

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield spoke about the passing of former Board chairs: Bucky Lowe who served 11 years on the Board with six years as chair; and Matthew Franjola who also served on the Board as chair.

Chairman Hirschfield shared information from a letter he received from the Board’s Attorney Gary Brochu, regarding compliance with the Board of Labor as it relates to Dr. Stuhlman and other members of the administration.

Chairman Hirschfield reported that the SEEC (State Elections Enforcement Commission) has dismissed the complaint filed by Patrick Dwyer. Chairman Hirschfield noted that the Board takes these matters very seriously.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino reported that CABE recognized the Board’s 2014 Newsletter initiated by Mr. Brown. A letter along with a certificate of honorable mention was read.

Dr. Cosentino shared a letter signed by Bridgewater Selectmen Curtis Read and Alan Brown requesting that funds be included in the 2015-16 budget for transportation for the proposed before and after school care for grades K-8. Discussion followed.

Dr. Cosentino shared the letter received by Senator Kane in support of an Ag Science STEM program at Shepaug. Discussion followed. Information sessions on the program will be scheduled for the public as well as for students and parents.

Dr. Cosentino shared the letter from Tim Cook that was received the day after the last board meeting. Mr.

Cook is a 1973 graduate of Shepaug, lives in New Preston and presented his ideas to Litchfield at one of their meetings. His letter was also published in the newspapers. Dr. Cosentino shared that she has not heard from Litchfield but shared that the Region would be happy to take Litchfield students and work out an agreement with them.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported the appointment of Katie Brunetto as the Educational Assistant at BFS and the resignation effective date for Jason Malli has been changed to January 21, 2015.

Field Trips: Dr. Cosentino informed the Board of two field trips: Repertorio Espanol, New York City on April 7, 2015 (Grade 11), and The Museum of Modern Art, New York City on May 15, 2015 (Grade 11).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported that the next meeting will be on January 26. It will include a special music presentation and a presentation on the multi-age classrooms by Cathy Colella.

Education Connection: No meetings last month.

Facilities: No report.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee met earlier and went over the financials for December. There will be a meeting with Wells Fargo for the pension plan on February 9 and auditor; Charles Heaven. The meeting will be at 3 PM at the Central Offices. Fuel is now locked in at \$2.50. The committee discussed the Sherman contract which will run out this spring. Budget workshops are being scheduled. Dr. Cosentino announced that she will present her budget on March 9th.

Negotiations: Mr. Cava reported that they have received official notification for the custodian and cafeteria workers negotiations as well as a notification for the clerical staff negotiations. Mr. Hirschfield reported that he signed the Administrators' contract earlier tonight.

Policy: Mrs. Gorra reported that they will meet on January 26 and will review the policy that was tabled at a prior Board meeting. There are three policies on the agenda for tonight.

Long Range Plan: Mr. Brown reported that the committee will meet January 26. The committee talked about how they can support the Board's direction on what needs to be done at Shepaug. Discussion followed on referendum preparations. Dr. Cosentino reported that the two architectural quotes received for pricing out repairs at Shepaug came in at \$250,000. Additional information is being gathered to be shared with the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 3292 – Investing: No changes were made at the first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 3292 – Investing for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 3517 – Security of Buildings and Grounds:

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 3517 – Security of Buildings and Grounds for a second reading.

Mr. Cava requested that the policy include Section 30-3 to P.A. 13-3 which is helpful in finding the reference more quickly.

AMEND

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra to amend the motion to include “Section 87” to P.A. 13-3.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 3542.31 – Free or Reduced Priced Lunches:

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to approve Policy 3542.31 – Free or Reduced Priced Lunches for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar: Dr. Cosentino explained that the state has put the schools in six regions (areas). They are suggesting dates for the calendar for the 2015-2016 school year and are requiring certain dates on the calendar beginning in 2016-2017 school year.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar as presented.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

Approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar:

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen to approve the 2016-2017 School Calendar as presented.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: James Hirschfield and Susan Stumpf.

Abstained: Alan Brown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.