

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
March 9, 2015

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:19 p.m., on Monday, March 9, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Michelle Gorra arrived at 8:02 p.m. Michael Sinatra was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Wainwright, Bridgewater – inquired about the attachments to the Agriscience STEM program application.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – February 23, 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board about attending the NEASC welcoming reception on Sunday, March 22. Dr. Cosentino spoke about the possible date change to March 31 for the upcoming retreat. Dr. Cosentino gave an update on the application for the Agriscience STEM program. Dr. Cosentino shared that Michelle Gorra and two students will attend the CAFE Day on the Hill with her on March 25. September 15, 2015 is the date that is being considered for the referendum on the agriscience and the science labs. Currently there are 29 students enrolled in Kindergarten next year: 15 WPS; 8 BFS; 6 BS. Dr. Cosentino shared that Region 12 is the highest cost per pupil in the state at \$26,136.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: No report.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: Mr. Cava referred to the minutes from the Facilities Committee meeting regarding the science labs. He spoke about the proposal from Kaestle Boos: two full labs and three demonstration labs. Discussion followed. Ice dams at Burnham were also discussed.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee met earlier with a representative from Wells Fargo who presented a portfolio on the pension plan. The committee discussed the Sherman contract and went over financials for February.

Negotiations: Mr. Cava reported that negotiations are going on for the non-certified staff: custodian and cafeteria workers and the clerical staff.

Policy: No report.

Long Range Plan: Mr. Brown reported that the committee met two weeks ago. The committee talked about supporting Shepaug and the agriscience program. Mr. Brown felt that consideration should be given to a K-2, 3-5 configuration for Burnham and Booth Free Schools. Discussion followed. Dr. Cosentino recommended that discussion on elementary school configurations should be deferred and concentrate on Shepaug and the referendum at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider request for GUNN Memorial Library to use Washington Primary School for the Washington Connecticut Antique Show waiving policy prohibiting alcoholic beverages for two evenings; Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October 10, 2015.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Alan Brown to allow the GUNN Memorial Library to use Washington Primary School for the Washington Connecticut Antique Show waiving the policy prohibiting alcoholic beverages for their event on October 9 and 10, 2015. (GUNN Memorial Library must provide liability insurance and alcohol must not be served while students are on the campus.)

Discussion followed. Dr. Cosentino spoke about how the WPS students were included in the show last year putting together a mural on the wall which was visible at the entrance. Students from WPS and Shepaug art classes were allowed to view prior to the show. Chairman Hirschfield stressed that alcohol will not be served while students are on the campus.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.