

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
April 6, 2015

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:14 p.m., on Monday, April 6, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present. Valerie Andersen, Kelly Lott and Michael Sinatra were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – March 23, 2015
Retreat – March 31, 2015
Special Meeting – March 31, 2015

Field Trips: Community Service Camping Trip, Canaan, CT, April 11-15, 2015 (Grades 10-12)

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield thanked all Board members and staff for all they did for the NEASC visit.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino invited the Board members to attend one of the Technology Integration Tours that are being held at each school on either Thursday or Friday this week.

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino referenced a letter from the teachers' union (SVEA) pertaining to the rate of pay for a substitute teacher.

Personnel Matters: Dr. Cosentino reported that Regina Cipri, Special Education Teacher at Shepaug Valley School resigned (effective June 30, 2015) and that Kevin O'Neill, Educational Assistant at Shepaug Valley School was terminated (effective March 18, 2015).

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Gregory Cava to accept the resignation of Regina Cipri, Special Education Teacher (effective June 30, 2015).

VOTE: unanimous.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Susan Stumpf to accept the termination of Kevin O'Neill, Educational Assistant at Shepaug Valley School (effective March 18, 2015).

Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Alan Brown to table the motion until after executive session.

VOTE: unanimous.

Field Trips: Dr. Cosentino informed the Board about a field trip to Ellis Island for all Grade 5 students in all the elementary schools on June 8, 2015.

NEASC follow-up: Principal Kim Gallo gave a brief update on the NEASC visit. She spoke about the welcoming reception on Sunday and the participation of the staff and students during their four day visit. The NEASC committee saw Shepaug as a vision driven school. The visit helped staff understand the value of the self-evaluation that was completed over the last two years in preparation for the visit. Comments from the staff included how proud they are to be a part of this school. NEASC Committee members shadowed students for a half day and they conducted impromptu visits to each classroom. There were many committee meetings regarding core values, guiding beliefs, teaching and learning, all put through the lens of the seven standards. Mrs. Gallo described their visit as rigorous and a positive showing of Shepaug. The feedback that she received from the committee was that the staff, the students, the parents and the Board of Education all understand what the vision is for Shepaug. A report from the NEASC team is expected to arrive in about six to eight weeks. Once Dr. Cosentino and Mrs. Gallo review it, they will present it to the Board and the public.

Baldwin Media Marketing update: Ann Baldwin spoke about the types of communications that have been done to date (handout was given). A lot of work is done behind the scenes but is effective. Internal and external communications include: Board Retreat, staff development, Fitch Rating press release, Great Financial News press release, TedX press release, three Dr. Pat Shows (Introduction to Baldwin Media Marketing role and Region 12 update; Update on Ag-science STEM program; Regional district update with a representative from Roxbury, Bridgewater, Washington; CABE Day on the Hill with students featured on NBC Connecticut; Regional Information sessions on Ag-science program. Ms. Baldwin spoke on the projects pending: new logo and tagline for Region 12; alumni picnic-outreach and press release; end of April direct mail piece; design and development of Ag-science flyer (May/June).

Dr. Cosentino referred to *The Chronicle*, Shepaug Valley School's newspaper (a copy was given to each Board member) and an article in the New-Times about the multi-grade classroom written by Sue Tuz was passed around.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported that there will be a presentation on the engineering and robotics courses at the April meeting.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: Mr. Cava reported the next meeting will be on April 20.

Finance: No report.

Negotiations: Mr. Cava reported that the committee is meeting tomorrow night for negotiations with the clerical/paraprofessional staff and then on April 21 for negotiations with custodian and cafeteria workers.

Policy: Mrs. Gorra reported on the meeting held on March 23rd. Currently they are working on several policies dealing with administering medications, a liability policy, bullying policy. With so many policies needing work, the committee hopes schedule a two hour long meeting.

Long Range Plan: Mr. Brown reported that the committee sat in with the Facilities Committee at their last meeting as their work ties in with the renovations to Shepaug and the agriscience program. Mr. Brown reported the committee is planning for their long range plan. They will not meet on April 20 but will meet in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff non-renewals pursuant to CT GS, Sect. 10-151: Chairman Hirschfield read the names of the non-renewals: Danielle Ciccone, Science Teacher at SVS and Amy Kivela, Elementary Teacher at Booth Free School.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Alan Brown to approve the non-renewals as read.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the non-renewal requirements. She spoke about the two positions that were cut out of next year's budget and that Ms. Ciccone and Ms. Kivela have received letters letting them know that they would not be renewed next year due to the elimination of positions. Dr. Cosentino also spoke about the recall procedure if a position becomes available.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

To consider and if appropriate, approve contract with Board of Education of the Town of Sherman commencing 2015 through 2018: Dr. Cosentino spoke about the meeting with Sherman contingent. A contract was negotiated for a period of three years.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the contract with the Board of Education of the Town of Sherman commencing 2015 through 2018.

Discussion followed. Questions were asked about tuition and transportation once the agriscience program is in place.

VOTE: unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Gregory Cava to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter at 7:59 p.m.

VOTE: unanimous.

Chairman Hirschfield gave a five minute recess before going into Executive Session.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

The Board returned to regular session at 8:07 p.m.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michelle Gorra to remove the tabling of motion regarding the termination of a personnel member.

VOTE: unanimous.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michelle Gorra to accept the Superintendent's report of the termination of Kevin O'Neill as Educational Assistant at Shepaug Valley School (effective March 18, 2015).

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.