

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
May 4, 2015

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:14 p.m., on Monday, May 4, 2015, by Vice Chairman Alan Brown. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley. Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. James Hirschfield was absent. Jennifer Pote arrived at 7:16 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS: SHREK – BETH HARVISON

The Board enjoyed a performance from one of the scenes in Shrek in the auditorium. They returned to the library at 7:25 p.m. to reconvene their meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – April 20, 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Vice Chairman Brown spoke about the District newsletter mailed out last Friday. Vice Chairman Brown also spoke about the picture in the CAFE Journal of two Shepaug students that visited the CAFE Day on the Hill with Dr. Cosentino, Michelle Gorra and Karen Fildes. The Journal also included a piece from Ann Baldwin regarding the agriscience program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino asked the Board members to speak about their Technology Tour experience. Alan Brown and Gregory Cava participated in the tours at Burnham School and Shepaug. Each spoke about the great things students are learning and the technology being used. Dr. Cosentino recognized National Teachers Week and Nurses Day on Wednesday. Dr. Cosentino reminded everyone about the referendum tomorrow. WPS will have a sign-up tomorrow to see if they have enough interest for an after school program. Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board that the next meeting will be a special recognition for volunteers and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Personnel Matters: Dr. Cosentino reported that four teachers have requested the retirement incentive: Janet Behr, Math Interventionist at WPS, Denise Frank, Math Interventionist at WPS, Marie Immohr, Math Interventionist at BFS and BS and Abbie McGough, Speech & Language Pathologist at BFS and WPS (all effective June 30, 2015).

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen to accept the four retirements with gratitude for their many years of service.

VOTE: unanimous.

Dr. Cosentino reported that Alicia Robinson, English Teacher at SVS, resigned effective June 30, 2015.

Field Trips: Dr. Cosentino reported that 30 students from Grades 9-12 will travel to New York City to see *On the Town* at Lyric Theatre on May 30, 2015. Dr. Cosentino reported that the Senior Trip to Boston was excellent and the hotel that they stayed at commented on their exceptional behavior.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported on the presentations made at the last Education Committee meeting and the great work going on in the technology classes. She expressed that perhaps the Facilities Committee could allow the students to have a real hands-on project at the school. The next meeting will include Todd Dyer speaking on the college experience and the guidance department. There will also be a presentation on the PK study.

Education Connection: Their next meeting is on Thursday.

Facilities: Mr. Cava reported they will meet in two weeks and will talk about the proposal from Kaestle Boos.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee met earlier, went over the April 28 financial report. In June, the Board can advance 1% into the 1% Capital Reserve account. The committee will recommend at a future meeting to increase the lunch rates to help offset the loss with the lunch program. Mrs. Andersen explained the Region owns approximately \$70,000 worth of stock in Sun Life which was the previous life insurance carrier due to a change from being a mutual company that went public and distributed stock.

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

Policy: Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee met April 20. The committee will bring a policy to the Board at their next meeting for a first reading.

Long Range Plan: Mr. Brown reported that the committee did not meet but instead met with the Policy Committee. It is uncertain if the committee will meet in May.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of the drawings (draft) for the Shepaug Valley Regional Agriscience STEM Academy: Dr. Cosentino shared the drawings by Kaestle Boos for the proposed agriscience program. She spoke about being mindful of time constraints as we wait to hear from the state on the application. Dr. Cosentino explained the areas that will be renovated in the current building and the new construction for equestrian and small animals. She also explained the layout inside the buildings.

To consider and if appropriate, approve changes to the 2015-2016 Teacher Evaluation Plan: Mrs. DeBrito spoke about the changes to the teacher evaluation plan. She explained the dispute resolution process

outlining the appeal process. The membership committee for the 2015-16 school year has been changed and Mrs. DeBrito explained the cycle for informal and formal evaluations on opposite years.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the changes to the 2015-16 Teachers Evaluation Plan as presented.

Discussion followed. Concerns about the dispute resolution process were discussed.

MOTION made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Kelly Lott to approve the changes to the 2015-2016
AMENDED: Teachers' Evaluation Plan as presented subject to review by legal counsel for approval.

VOTE: In favor: Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Alan Brown.

Abstained: Valerie Andersen.

Motion passed (9 – 1 – 1)

To consider and if appropriate, approve revision to the 2014-2015 School Calendar: Dr. Cosentino explained the revisions to the calendar; June 10 is currently an early dismissal for professional development and would be changed to a full day of school. June 18 would be an early dismissal day.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen to make June 10 a full day of school and June 18 an early dismissal day.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.