

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
June 1, 2015

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:33 p.m., on Monday, June 1, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, and Susan Stumpf were absent. Gregory Cava arrived at 6:34 p.m. Tony Bedini arrived at 7:00 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS

Chairman Hirschfield welcomed parents and students and congratulated those receiving awards.

Dr. Cosentino and Chairman Hirschfield presented the following students with the Litchfield County Superintendents' Association Award:

Riley Guilbeault - 5th Grade, Booth Free School
Evan Woerner - 5th Grade, Burnham School
Wyatt King - 5th Grade, Washington Primary School
Mason Gsell - 8th Grade, Shepaug Valley School
Maribeth Seeger - 11th Grade, Shepaug Valley School
Luke Wright - 12th Grade, Shepaug Valley School

Dr. Cosentino and Chairman Hirschfield presented the following students with the CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Student Leadership Award:

Abigail Gorra - Grade 8, Shepaug Valley School
Wilson King - Grade 8, Shepaug Valley School
Sebastian Taylor - Grade 12, Shepaug Valley School
Jade Walker - Grade 12, Shepaug Valley School

Mrs. Gallo presented awards to the Top Five Academic Seniors.

Rachel Crossley
Noah Grunberg
Kelsey Johnson
Kristine Klein
Sebastian Taylor

Mrs. Gallo announced Salutatorian Kelsey Johnson and Valedictorian Sebastian Taylor of the class of 2015.

Chairman Hirschfield again congratulated the award recipients and their parents. Refreshments followed.

The meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – May 18, 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield spoke about a letter from HVA requesting permission to use WPS for their 25th annual auction in November waiving the alcohol policy. Chairman Hirschfield congratulated the girls' tennis team for winning the doubles and singles Berkshire League Title.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel Matters: Dr. Cosentino reported the appointment of Allison Buckley as an Educational Assistant at SVS; the resignation of Lisa Zenobi-Romano, English Teacher at SVS (effective June 30, 2015); the leave of Rita Gregory, Elementary Teacher at BFS (September 2015 through March 2016).

Senior Projects: Dr. Cosentino reported that she attended three senior project presentations today and encouraged the Board to try to get to some of the presentations (The schedule was included in their packet.).

Agriscience STEM application update: Dr. Cosentino clarified that Art O'Neil is working to get the two house bills for the agriscience program attached to a school construction bill HB 7022. Dr. Cosentino expects to hear on the bill by Thursday.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the schedules for students at Shepaug for the 2015/16 school year. Revisions have been made since last year's problems with getting the schedules out so that parents will have access to their student's schedule the first week in August. Students will have the ability to make schedule changes the third week in August. Currently, teachers have been assigned to the courses they will teach and students are selecting elective courses they would like to take.

Dr. Cosentino shared that she attended the ASAP Young Writers on Saturday night. Two students from Shepaug; Noelia Aquirre (Grade 10) and Bridget Synder (Grade 8), were honored.

Dr. Cosentino reported that nominations are being accepted for Teacher of the Year for the Region. She reported that the District will participate in the Teacher of the Year program with the Connecticut Department of Education. A committee has been formed and the Teacher of the Year will be announced on June 18th.

Dr. Cosentino has set up a Twitter account and will tweet at events. Her hashtag is #supt12.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported the next meeting will be June 15th. There will be presentations on the end of the year state of our schools.

Chairman Hirschfield congratulated Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard and Alan Brown as they were elected to serve another term on the Board. He also recognized that Anthony Amato in Washington and Rebecca Devine in Bridgewater were elected recently to fill spots on the Board. Roxbury is still looking to fill one spot.

Education Connection: Mrs. Gorra attended the meeting last month. They approved their budget and reviewed their goals.

Facilities: The committee will meet in two weeks.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee met earlier and went over the May financial report. There will be three motions to consider on the agenda recommended by the committee regarding the nutrition program, increases to the lunch prices and the transfer to the 1% Capital non-recurring fund. Mr. Giesen has been working on a draft of the question for the ballot and how to handle the bonds for the science labs and the Agriscience STEM Academy. The monies from the shares from Sun Life will go to miscellaneous revenue. A new phone system is being considered and security system for background checks on visitors coming in to the schools.

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

Policy: Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee met in May and have several policies on the agenda for tonight.

Long Range Plan: Mr. Brown reported that the committee has not met. They expect to meet in June.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 6130 Organizational Plan: Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board of the changes and that there were no changes since the first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to approve Policy 6130 Organizational Plan for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 5131.911 Hazing: Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board of the changes to the policy at the first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 5131.911 Hazing for a second reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 4112.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting: Mrs. Gorra explained that the new language is highlighted in yellow. Policy is updated to show the law for all staff to be fingerprinted and a check through DCF.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen to approve Policy 4112.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting for a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 4112.2 Certification: Mrs. Gorra explained the policy had not been updated since 1998.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 4112.2 Certification for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

Healthy School-Nutrition Program – To consider and if appropriate, approve addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) to not participate under the CT Nutrition Standards as published by the CT Department of Education for school year 2015/2016: Mr. Giesen explained the reasons for not participating in the nutrition program.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to not participate under the Connecticut Nutrition Standards as published by the Connecticut Department of Education for School Year 2015/2016.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

To consider and if appropriate, approve a lunch price increase for both students and adults for the school year 2015/16 (students from \$2.85 to \$3.00 and adults from \$3.25 to \$3.75) as recommended by the Finance Committee at the May 4, 2015 meeting:

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Alan Brown to increase lunch prices for students to \$3.00 and adults to \$3.75 for the 2015/16 school year as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Valerie Andersen explained the reason for the increase.

VOTE: unanimous.

Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School Library
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To consider and if appropriate, in accordance with CGS 10-5(2), transfer up to 1% of \$216,180 from the approved fiscal year 2014/15 budget appropriation into the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-recurring Expenditures, as recommended by the Finance Committee at the May 4, 2015 meeting:

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to transfer \$216,180 from the approved fiscal year 2014/15 budget appropriation into the Reserve Fund for Capital and Non-recurring Expenditures as recommended by the Finance Committee.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.