

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
November 3, 2014

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, November 3, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, 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. Kelly Lott and Emily Hibbard were absent. Alan Brown and Gregory Cava arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Also present were: Lori Ferreira, Assistant Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Christine Meyer, Roxbury, spoke about the music program at Shepaug.

Catherine Vikstrom, Bridgewater, spoke about the music program at Shepaug.

Wayne Hileman, Washington (President of Shepaug Friends of Music), spoke about the music program at Shepaug.

Michael Gorra, Washington, spoke about the music program at Shepaug.

Laura daFonte, Roxbury, spoke about the music program at Shepaug.

Greg Cava, Roxbury, spoke about the music program at Shepaug.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of Minutes:* Education Committee Meeting – October 20, 2014

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield congratulated the Cross Country Boys' Team that won the CIAC Class 'S' Championship.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Field Trip – Model United Nations, Philadelphia, PA on January 29, 2015 to February 1, 2015 (Grades 10-12).*

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the field trip to Model United Nations in Philadelphia, PA.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*Presentation – Future of Shepaug Valley School – Kim Gallo:* Kim Gallo introduced Bill Davenport from Region 14. Mr. Davenport is the Director of the Agriscience Program. Mrs. Gallo presented a proposal for a Shepaug Valley Regional Agriscience STEM Academy. She gave reasons to support the program; (i.e. courses directly aligned with advanced college, STEM careers are growing), who supports the program (state funding offsets initial costs, yearly operating grant funding is provided by the state,

sending districts pay tuition and transportation), and who attends the academy (more than 50 students are turned down at Region 14 due to facility constraints, a significant number of Region 12 students interested in STEM related colleges and careers). Mrs. Gallo spoke about the guidance Mr. Davenport is providing in the process along with Harold Makin, Education Consultant from the State Department of Education. Ms. Ferreira and Mrs. Gallo have experience in this program from their previous positions before coming to Region 12. Mrs. Gallo spoke about the proposed areas of study and employment opportunities that will be available to students through this academy. Lastly, Mrs. Gallo spoke about the next steps (Board of Education support, feedback from the selectmen in Region 12 communities, Agriscience school visits, application process with the State Department of Connecticut). A question and answer time followed.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to authorize the Superintendent and the Region 12 administration to move forward with proposal for preparing an Agriscience STEM Academy at Shepaug Valley School.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*Baldwin Media Marketing Update on Plans – Ann Baldwin:* Ms. Baldwin thanked the Board for bringing her on board. She spoke briefly about working with the Board to educate the public about the things going on in the Region. She is excited to promote and be an ally for the Region with the legislature. Dates were discussed for a Retreat.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Education:* Mrs. Gorra reported that the next meeting is on November 17 and it will include a presentation on the K-5 Math Program.

Susan Stumpf left the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

*Education Connection:* Mrs. Gorra reported that she will be attending a meeting this coming Thursday.

*Facilities:* Mr. Cava reported that the committee spent a lot of time at the last meeting going over the renovations at Shepaug. They are working on getting accurate costs before bringing them to the Board.

*Finance:* Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee met earlier and went over the October financials with 6.3% remaining in the budget. She reported that the Elementary non-recurring fund is at \$334,965 after review through to the current period. The electrical generation contract has not been determined yet. The committee has chosen Anthem as the provider for life insurance.

*Negotiations:* Mr. Cava reported on the ongoing negotiations for administrators. It is hoped that they will conclude in December. Negotiations will begin next year for custodians and clerical staff.

*Policy:* Mrs. Gorra reported the committee has a few policies on the agenda tonight.

*Long Range Plan:* Mr. Brown report that the committee will meet November 17 at 5:00 p.m. The committee will continue to look at ways to bolster the elementary schools.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Second Reading – *Policy 3240 – Tuition Fees*: Mrs. Gorra reviewed the policy.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote to approve Policy 3240 – Tuition Fees for a second reading.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*First Reading – Policy 5118 – Non-resident / Non-tuition Attendance*: Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board that they asked the committee to review it with the Board’s feedback and bring it back for a first reading. Changes were noted with the strike outs and red print.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to approve Policy 5118 – Non-resident / Non-Tuition Attendance for a first reading.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*First Reading – Policy 2400 – Administration*: Mrs. Gorra reviewed the policy and the changes the committee recommended.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote to approve Policy 2400 – Administration for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*First Reading – Policy 1411 – Law Enforcement Officials*: Mrs. Gorra reviewed the policy and the changes the committee recommended.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 1411 – Law Enforcement Officials with the *Alternate Position* clause language included for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*First Reading – Policy 0521.1 – Grievance Procedure*: Mrs. Gorra reviewed the policy and the changes the committee recommended.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen to approve Policy 0521.1 – Grievance Procedure for a first reading.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*To consider and if appropriate, authorize an expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$6,000 from the 1% Capital Reserve Fund to modify door configuration in the boys' locker room at Shepaug Valley School to accommodate appropriate access for girls using the training room.*

**MOTION:** made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve funds not to exceed \$6,000 from the 1% Capital Reserve Fund to modify door configuration in the boys' locker room at Shepaug Valley School to accommodate appropriate access for girls using the training room.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board that the swearing in of the School Resource Office will take place on Friday, November 7, 2014 and that immediately following the ceremony, the Lease meeting will be held with the first selectmen of the three towns.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.