

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
December 1, 2014

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 p.m., on Monday, December 1, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, and Susan Stumpf. Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott and Peter Tagley were absent. Alan Brown arrived at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Retreat – November 12, 2014
Education Committee Meeting – November 17, 2014
Retreat – November 24, 2014

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield thanked Board members for attending the retreats and for their work on the current issues.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino reported that they have a team visiting several Vo-ag schools in Connecticut and invited the Board to attend (two visits in December and one in January). Dr. Cosentino spoke about communication that she and Chairman Hirschfield have had with Region 6 to see if there are things that can be done together to help defer costs. Dr. Cosentino shared that a meeting has been scheduled for January 9 with the town leaders, the First Selectman and Chairman of the Board from Region 6, Jonathan Costa, Senator Kane and State Representative O'Neill to discuss regionalization, deregionalization, and other possibilities in the Western Connecticut area. Dr. Cosentino also reminded everyone about the Holiday Bazaar at Shepaug this Thursday night.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported the appointment of Andrew St. Jean as the Front Entrance Security Guard at Shepaug for the evening shift.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported that the next meeting will be on December 15 and it will include a special music presentation.

Education Connection: Mrs. Gorra reported that she was unable to attend the last two meetings.

Facilities: No report.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee met earlier and went over the financials for November. They discussed the transition for the life insurance and the transition to Wells Fargo for the pension plan. Both are going smoothly. The electrical generation contract has now been set. The committee began a discussion on the Sherman contract which will run out this spring.

Negotiations: Mr. Cava reported on the ongoing negotiations for administrators. It will be on the agenda for discussion at a Special Meeting on December 15 at 5:30 p.m., and then be considered at the Board meeting that same night.

Policy: Mrs. Gorra explained that last month they approved a regulation for a first reading which does not require readings or approval. Mrs. Gorra also explained that one policy on the agenda for tonight is not ready for the first reading.

Long Range Plan: Mr. Brown reported that the committee did not meet in November. The committee will meet December 15 from 5:00–5:30 PM and hopes that the administrators will be available to join the committee for a conversation about Shepaug.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 1411 – Law Enforcement Officials: Mrs. Gorra reviewed the policy and the alteration requested at the first reading. Discussion followed on the policy that addresses police questioning a student while school is in session.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 1411 – Law Enforcement Officials for a second reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, and Susan Stumpf.

Opposed: Gregory Cava

(8 – 1) Motion passed

Second Reading – Policy 2400 – Administration: Mrs. Gorra reviewed the policy and noted that there were no changes at the first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 2400 – Administration for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 5118 – Non-resident / Non-tuition Attendance: Mrs. Gorra reviewed the policy and noted that there were no changes at the first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 5118 – Non-resident / Non-Tuition Attendance for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 3292 – Investing: Mrs. Gorra reviewed the policy and shared that the committee received input from the Business Manager.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve Policy 3292 – Investing for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 3514 – Equipment: Mrs. Gorra explained that after speaking with Don O’Leary, who had some concerns with the policy, she would like to take it back to the committee before presenting for a first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to table Policy 3514 – Equipment.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 3517 – Security of Buildings and Grounds: Mrs. Gorra explained the proposed policy.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to approve Policy 3517 – Security of Buildings and Grounds for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 3542.31 – Free or Reduced Priced Lunches: Mrs. Gorra explained the proposed policy.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve Policy 3542.31 – Free or Reduced Priced Lunches for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Alan Brown to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.