

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
February 23, 2015

The Education Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, February 23, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members Valerie Andersen (7:04), Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present. Emily Hibbard and Kelly Lott were absent.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Cathy Colella, Principal, Booth Free and Burnham Schools; Lori Ferreira, Assistant Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Karen Fildes, Instructional Technology Specialist, Shepaug Valley School; Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Sheila Gambino, Computer Teacher, Shepaug Valley School; Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations; Emily Judd, Principal, Washington Primary School; Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSIC PERFORMANCES

The meeting began with a music presentation by the elementary schools' band led by Adam Nanavaty and the elementary schools' chorus led by Victoria Boretsky.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: Business Meeting, January 5, 2015

Approval of field trips: Silver Lake Conference Center, Sharon, CT, May 8-9, 2015 (Grades 6-8)
Silver Lake Conference Center, Sharon, CT, September 25-26, 2015 (Grades 9-12)

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield thanked Dr. Cosentino for the early morning decisions that were made due to the recent weather activity. Chairman Hirschfield mentioned the article in the local newspapers in regard to Region 12 receiving an AA+ on the Fitch Rating. Chairman Hirschfield acknowledged Mr. Giesen and the staff for this rating. Chairman Hirschfield also reported seeing the articles in the newspapers about Region 12 becoming a possible agriscience school. Congratulations were given to Junior, Caroline Kelly as *Athlete of the Week* for Basketball and to Mrs. Joanne Kelly for receiving the *CIAC Women's Tennis Coach of the Year Award*. A card sent by Pat Lowe was read thanking the Board for the flowers that had been sent with the passing of her husband and former Board member, Bucky Lowe.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino reported on kindergarten registration to date: Washington Primary 15, Booth Free 8 and Burnham 6, totaling 29 for the upcoming school year. An update on Shepaug would be given later in the meeting. Dr. Cosentino shared that the *Before and After School Survey* numbers had been tabulated. Based on the survey, at this point in time, there is not enough interest to offer the program.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported on the resignation of Jennifer Northrop, Paraprofessional at WPS and the appointments of David Raposo, Music Teacher at SVS, Charlene Sullivan, Paraprofessional at WPS REACH, Mark Cohagen, Paraprofessional at WPS and Carlene Stahlnecker, Library Clerk at SVS.

Field Trips: The field trips to Barnard College, NYC, Feb. 28, the Bronx Zoo, NY, June 10 and Sturbridge Village, MA, June 5 were noted.

Update on Superintendent's Goals for Evaluation: Dr. Cosentino briefly went through her goals which would be discussed at length when the Board goes into executive session.

Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board of upcoming Board meeting dates for the budget presentation, a multi-age classroom presentation and the Board retreat on March 30th, which Ann Baldwin will also attend.

APPROVE REVISION TO THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Greg Cava to approve the revision to the 2016-2017 School Calendar with the date changes.

Dr. Cosentino explained that the date change for the first day of school in this calendar was moved to Monday, August 29, 2016 and the last day was moved up to June 14, 2017.

VOTE: unanimous. Motion passed.

TO APPROVE THE TECHNOLOGY GRANT THROUGH THE CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES TO SUPPORT TRANSITION TO THE NEW STANDARDS 2014-2015.

Karen Fildes spoke on the need for the grant and explained what it covers. A brief question and answer period followed.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the Technology Grant through the Connecticut State Department of Education for District Technology Upgrades to support transition to the New Standards 2014-2015 as presented by Ms. Fildes.

VOTE: unanimous. Motion passed.

The Board expressed appreciation to Ms. Fildes for taking the time to complete the grant.

ACCEPTANCE OF FY2014 REGION 12 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

Valerie Andersen summarized the meeting that was held with the auditor. Mrs. Andersen noted areas that would need to be watched and she also mentioned that the Region was on a good footing with the Pension Plan for non-certified staff. Mr. Giesen also spoke on the audit. There was a brief question and answer period before voting.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to accept the FY 2014 Region 12 Annual Audit Report as presented.

VOTE: unanimous. Motion passed.

TO AUTHORIZE AN EXPENDITURE OF AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$292,418 FROM THE ELEMENTARY CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND (LEASE) AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE.

Greg Cava explained the request to the Board. Don O'Leary gave each Board member a handout which showed the list of improvements in the order they would be made. Mr. O'Leary said that this was the same list that has been sent previously to the First Selectmen, only some of the needs are now in a different order. Discussion about the lease and the needs followed Greg's explanation.

Michael Sinatra left the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Valerie Andersen to approve spending an amount not to exceed \$292,418 from the capital non-recurring fund (lease) as recommended by the Facilities Committee.

VOTE: unanimous. Motion passed. Michael Sinatra was not present for the vote.

Michael Sinatra returned to the meeting 7:59 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE AGRISCIENCE STEM ACADEMY

Principal Kim Gallo spoke on the application to establish a comprehensive regional Agriscience STEM Academy for Shepaug. A handout had been included with the Board packet containing the application. Mrs. Gallo took the Board through the application explaining it step by step. Bill Davenport, Nonnewaug Agriscience Director, also spoke on behalf of the application process and support for Shepaug.

Alan Brown left the meeting at 8:05 p.m., and returned to the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Discussion including questions for Bob Giesen followed. Valerie Andersen recommended sitting down with the Boards of Finance from each town in the Region to share with them the information presented this evening and to explain the expenditures.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the application for the Agriscience STEM Academy as presented.

VOTE: unanimous. Motion passed.

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The Board expressed appreciation to Mrs. Gallo and Mr. Davenport for all their time and effort spent on the Agriscience STEM Program. Greg Cava complimented Mr. Davenport on the guest speakers he had previously brought with him to speak to the Region 12 Board.

With much appreciation from the Board of Education, Mrs. Gallo handed Board Chairman Hirschfield the application for the Agriscience STEM Academy for his signature.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to go into Executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation at 8:37 p.m.

VOTE: unanimous. Motion passed.

Chairman Hirschfield gave a five minute recess before the Board reconvened in Room C20 for executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board returned to regular session at 9:21 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.