

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Committee Meeting
Shepaug Valley School
May 18, 2015

The meeting of the Education Committee of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:32 p.m., on Monday, May 18, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley. Also present was Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent. Kelly Lott was absent. Emily Hibbard arrived at 8:07 p.m.

Also present were: Cathy Colella, Principal, Booth Free and Burnham Schools; Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Todd Dyer, Director of School Counseling; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Karen Fildes, Instructional Technology Specialist; Sheila Gambino, Technology Teacher, Shepaug Valley School; Emily Judd, Principal, Washington Primary School; Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services; Don O'Leary, Director of Building and Grounds.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

Dr. Cosentino thanked and recognized parent volunteers Paula Conway, Booth Free School, Tamzin Marchese, Shepaug Valley School and Michelle Gorra, District. Dr. Cosentino gave a brief synopsis of each volunteer and presented each with a crystal apple. Also recognized but absent were Erin Elovecky, Burnham School and Bill King, Washington Primary School. Chairman Hirschfield also thanked the volunteers for their dedication to the Region.

The Board recessed at 6:42 p.m. for refreshments and pictures.
The Board reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

Michael Sinatra spoke to the Board about the Walk/Run Lyme Awareness event held on May 9th. The students in charge of the event asked Mr. Sinatra to bring with him tonight a petition asking for legislative change for mandatory testing for all Lyme related diseases. The petition was made available for anyone interested in signing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: Annual District Budget Meeting – May 4, 2015
Business Meeting – May 4, 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield reported that he had received a letter from Principal Kim Gallo, SVS, in which all upcoming school events were listed. Chairman Hirschfield read some of the upcoming events and made accessible the listing.

Chairman Hirschfield acknowledged Kelsey Johnson and Sam Krebs who were honored by the CIAC as Shepaug's Scholastic Athletes of the Year. He also congratulated Shepaug's sports teams on a successful season.

Chairman Hirschfield mentioned that the 2015/2016 School Budget had passed in all three towns.

Peter Tagley commented on the letter to the editor in the *Spectrum* written by Ed Wainwright in regard to private school bussing. Mr. Tagley felt that the Board should respond to Mr. Wainwright's letter to make the public aware of the state law which requires the bussing. Discussion followed. Chairman Hirschfield said he would look into the matter.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino gave kudos to Marianne Maher, Karen Fildes and the Shepaug administration for the Mini-Expo/STEAM Day that took place at Shepaug on May 14, 2015. Outside guests had been invited in as panelist to speak with the students. Dr. Cosentino also acknowledged the Academy students on their presentations.

Dr. Cosentino spoke of the Stephen Reich Memorial Assembly taking place this Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Gallo gave a brief description of the award and assembly. She also shared that Ray Reich had brought her a copy of the documentary that Fox News had created. The Stephen Reich assembly will be the first public viewing of this documentary called Gold Star Families. It will begin Memorial Day weekend. After Memorial Day, the video will be allowed to air on the school channel.

Dr. Cosentino shared that on May 20 there would be a third information session on the Agriscience STEM program. It will be held at the Washington Bryan Memorial Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported that Sydney Santiago has been appointed as Front Entrance Security at SVS. Kristyn DeSousa at BS will take an extended leave of absence for the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Cosentino reported two resignations: Vincent Cosentino resigned from Front Entrance Security at SVS (effective May 22, 2015) and Gail Thorson resigned as Literacy Tutor at WPS (effective June 19, 2015).

EDUCATION

Baldwin Media Marketing Update: Ann Baldwin of Baldwin Media Marketing began by offering her services regarding the Ed Wainwright letter and public communication. Ms. Baldwin shared how she obtained the old broadcasting set from Fox News, Hartford. The "large" delivery arrived Friday and it was given to the school at no cost. A thank you would be sent and possibly a video thank you from the set once it can be placed. Ms. Baldwin mentioned the upcoming meetings to be held in each town with information on the Agriscience STEM program. Ms. Baldwin then gave an update which included samples of a new logo and tag line that are being worked on. Boards with samples of the logos were passed around. Dr. Cosentino will also email the different logos to each Board member and they in return can email back any comments.

College & Career Center and Five Year Review of "Most Competitive College" Acceptances: Todd Dyer and Michael McManus presented a PowerPoint and handed out a corresponding packet. Discussion and questions followed the presentation. Mr. Dyer also introduced consultant Sharon Brennan who explained and answered questions regarding National Student Clearing House. Ms. Brennan explained that colleges belong to this and they feed in data regarding student admissions and transfers. This data is made available to high schools. Dr.

Cosentino said she would join so that this information would become accessible to Shepaug. Discussion followed.

Michael Sinatra left the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and returned at 7:51 p.m.

Pre-K Study: Information on a Pre-K study on the proposed third REACH classroom was presented by Teresa DeBrito and Allyson O'Hara. A handout was given to each Board member which listed the total cost for the additional class in each of the three primary schools. Also included were transportation details, benefits and challenges for each of the schools. Discussion followed. It was asked that before the next lottery (which will be in January, and parents are promised location accommodations) discussion on REACH be brought back to review the lottery process. Valerie Andersen said she was looking at the March 23, 2015 Board minutes and was questioning the discussion/motion/vote on the third REACH classroom.

Emily Hibbard left the meeting at 8:52 p.m. and returned at 8:55 p.m.

POLICIES

First Reading – Policy 6130 – Organizational Plan: Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Greg Cava to approve policy 6130 – Organizational Plan for a first reading.

VOTE: Unanimous

First Reading – Policy 5131.911 – Hazing: Michelle Gorra explained the proposed policy and the additions made by CABE. Discussion on the policy followed.

MOTION: made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Jennifer Pote to approve policy 5131.911 – Hazing for a first reading with recommendations made by the Board for the second reading.

Discussion.

VOTE: Unanimous

Alan Brown left the meeting at 9:13 p.m. and returned at 9:16 p.m.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BURNHAM SCHOOL PTO

There was a discussion on the request from the Burnham School PTO to use the Burnham School for the Burnham PTO dinner dance waiving the policy prohibiting alcoholic beverages for the evening of Friday, June 5th. Dr. Cosentino noted that the building usage request was only in the event of rain.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Susan Stumpf to allow Burnham School PTO to use Burnham School for the Burnham PTO Dinner Dance waiving policy prohibiting alcoholic beverages for the evening of Friday, June 5, 2015, with the provision, alcohol must not be served while students are on the campus.

VOTE: Unanimous

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Greg Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters at 9:20 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

The Board returned to regular session at 9:46 p.m.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Alan Brown to approve the contract as presented by the Superintendent for the Director of Technology Integration, Communication and Community Outreach.

VOTE: Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.