

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
December 15, 2014

The Education Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, December 15, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Kelly Lott, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley. Valerie Andersen was absent. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Lori Ferreira, Assistant Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations; Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities.

MUSIC PRESENTATION: SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE BAND AND HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS

There was a music presentation given by the Shepaug Valley Voices, the seventh and eighth grade Band and the high school Chorus in the auditorium.

The meeting reconvened in the library at 7:25 p.m. Emily Hibbard left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: Business Meeting - December 1, 2014

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield thanked Beth Harvison, music teacher, and the students for the music presentation and noted that the Music Department is doing a wonderful job.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the tribute that students and staff held this morning in honor of Debra Whalen, library clerk, who passed away last week. Dr. Cosentino will send a card to the family on behalf of the Board of Education.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported the resignation of Jason Malli, SVS, Music Teacher, effective June 30, 2014. She also reported the resignation of Amanda Magnuson, Educational Assistant at BFS, effective December 1, 2014, and that Ms. Magnuson is taking on a substitute position in the region.

Dr. Cosentino expressed thanks and appreciation to Don O'Leary for all the improvements in the pool area.

Emily Hibbard returned to the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

AG SCIENCE STEM PRESENTATION

Kim Gallo gave a summary on the proposed Ag Science program and assured everyone that the school would not be renamed; it would remain Shepaug Valley School. Mrs. Gallo also shared that parents with whom she has spoken are very supportive of the Ag Science program coming to Shepaug.

Mrs. Gallo introduced Mr. Bill Davenport, Nonnewaug Agriscience Director. Mr. Davenport gave a presentation showing the different FFA VoAg areas at Nonnewaug School (a handout of the presentation was given to the BOE members). Mr. Davenport spoke about the need for another VoAg school in the state and that Shepaug would be the 20th VoAg School.

Two alumni graduates (2003, 2010) from Nonnewaug High School spoke about their experience at the school and how this had helped them with future decisions and opportunities.

Mr. Davenport introduced Karen Hutchinson, National FFA LPS Specialist, who spoke on the FFA at the National level. Ms. Hutchinson gave the website address for FFA if anyone would like to view the website. www.ffa.org.

Representative Arthur O'Neill was present. Mr. O'Neill shared his support for the Ag Science program at Shepaug Valley School if that was the direction that the Region 12 Board of Education would like to pursue.

Mrs. Gallo closed with remarks about the opportunity this would give students and the school. Mrs. Gallo then thanked Mr. Davenport, Mrs. Hutchinson and Representative Arthur O'Neill.

APPROVE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE SVAA (JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2018) AND REGION 12 BOARD OF EDUCATION

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve the contract as presented in the executive session that was held at the Special Meeting prior to tonight's Board of Education meeting.

Chairman Hirschfield stated that he would not sign the contract until he had been presented with a contract that had a signature by a SVAA representative.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Tony Bedini to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.