

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
April 20, 2015

The meeting of the Education Committee of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, April 20, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present. Kelly Lott arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Also present were: Caren Carpenter, Technology Education Teacher, Shepaug Valley School; Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Sheila Gambino, Technology Education Teacher, Shepaug Valley School; and Don O'Leary, Director of Building and Grounds.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of minutes:* Public District Budget Hearing, April 6, 2015  
Special Meeting, April 6, 2015  
Business Meeting, April 6, 2015

### **MOBILE APP DESIGN AND CAD FOR CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**

Mrs. DeBrito introduced Technology Education Teachers Sheila Gambino and Caren Carpenter. Ms. Gambino who teaches Mobile App Design introduced Sean Welsh, who presented his *iMessageNot* app designed to eliminate the distractions of a cellular device while driving. The app closes the texting capabilities at 20 mph preventing texting while driving. Sean's app will be showcased at the Student Innovation Expo. Ms. Gambino also introduced Jahred Martin who presented his *Better Days* calendar database app which includes a comprehensive directory of common and wacky holidays and links to the history of the special day. Ms. Gambino shared that all students in the course have been creating apps for the upcoming Student Innovation Expo.

Ms. Carpenter spoke about a project her technology class is working on. The project was to design the teacher work area that is in need of updates. Ms. Carpenter spoke about the steps the students took to develop a plan and showed the design they came up with along with special features for the space. Ms. Carpenter also shared work that was done to design a house using the CAD (Computer Aided Design) software.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield shared with the Board that he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Shepaug Valley Administrators Association to identify Lori Ferreira as Associate Principal for as long as she serves in that position. Once she no longer serves in that position, the title will revert back to Assistant Principal as it is currently listed in the SVEA agreement. Chairman Hirschfield congratulated Ms. Ferreira.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Cosentino shared the recent news of Board member Valerie Andersen's daughter, a Shepaug Alumni, Kate Andersen Brower, who wrote the best seller, *The Residence*. Mrs. Andersen shared a story about her daughter's senior project and how it lines up with her accomplishment of writing and reporting in her book.

Dr. Cosentino recognized Chairman Hirschfield as the recipient of the Connecticut Bar Association Honorable Anthony B. DeMeo Pro Bono Award given for his extraordinary efforts and dedication in providing pro bono work.

*Field Trips:* Dr. Cosentino informed the Board about two field trips. One was to the Broadway show, Phantom of the Opera, in New York City on April 16, 2015 (Grade 12) and the Debate Team participated in the Yale Osterweis Debate Tournament in New Haven on April 12, 2015 (Grades 9-12).

*Update on agriscience application:* Dr. Cosentino updated the Board that we are waiting for approval on the two bills in the legislature. Dr. Cosentino will contact Arthur O'Neill tomorrow to find out if there is anything that needs to be done at this time. Dr. Cosentino visited Region 14 along with Kim Gallo and Charlie Boos. Drawings were presented to the Facilities Committee at their meeting earlier and will be presented at the next Board meeting. Information sessions about the science labs and the agriscience program at Shepaug Valley School are being scheduled in each town. Roxbury's will be held on Thursday evening at 7:30 PM. Bridgewater will be held on May 11 at 7:00 PM. A date for Washington has not been determined yet.

*Board calendar for summer 2015:* Dr. Cosentino updated the Board on the changes made to the calendar for July and August. Dates added are needed to prepare for the September referendum.

Michael Sinatra recognized Dr. Cosentino for her recent appointment to the governing board of the AASA (American Association of Superintendents Association). Dr. Cosentino spoke about the three year term that she was elected for and that she is excited to serve.

## **TO CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE, APPROVE ED SPECS FOR SCIENCE LABS**

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the Ed Specs for the science labs as recommended by the Facilities Committee.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No executive session

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.