

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
October 20, 2014

The Education Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:06 p.m., on Monday, October 20, 2014, by Vice Chairman Alan Brown. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley. James Hirschfield was absent. Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent was also present. Kelly Lott arrived at 7:27 p.m.

Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Todd Dyer, Director of School Counseling, Shepaug Valley School; Karen Fildes, Instructional Technology Specialist, District wide; Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to add agenda item 12B - Possible decision and vote on hiring a media public relations firm.

VOTE: unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Wainwright, Bridgewater, thanked the Board for putting the public comment on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Business Meeting – October 6, 2014

Approval of Field Trips: US Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT on November 3, 2014
(Grades 9-12)
Faneuil Hall/Freedom Trail/Science Museum, Boston, MA on May 21, 2015
(Grade 8)

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report.

NEASC PREPARATION PRESENTATION – TERESA DEBRITO AND KIM GALLO

Teresa DeBrito began the presentation with an overview of NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges). She spoke about NEASC's mission to maintain high standards for all member schools. She explained that the Commission on Public Secondary Schools partner with member schools to engage in a reflective process to ensure that student experiences are equitable, a quality education is offered, and there is adherence to the seven standards. Mrs. DeBrito spoke about the phases: Steering Committee, narratives, and evidence. Kim Gallo then spoke on Shepaug's Core Beliefs and the seven standards of NEASC (Core

Values & Guiding Beliefs, Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, School Culture & Leadership, School Resources for Learning, and Community Resources for Learning). Mrs. DeBrito spoke on the value of NEASC and the visit that is planned for March 22-25, 2015. There was a time of questions and answers.

SAT RESULTS – TODD DYER

Todd Dyer, Director of School Counseling, handed out packets containing a variety of information and began his presentation by reviewing the standardized tests; PSAT, SAT, AP ACT, SAT2. He reported that Shepaug student participation has increased in the last several years. The reports for the PSAT (2013-2014) included scores for the Class of 2015 and 2016. The SAT report included scores within a five-year range (2010-2014) along with comparisons between SVS and Connecticut. Discussion followed.

SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL CLASS OF 2014 REPORT – TODD DYER

Todd Dyer, Director of School Counseling, reported on the Shepaug Valley School graduating Class of 2014. Mr. Dyer reported on the launch of the new website for Student Support Services this year. He spoke about the scholarship program – estimating \$125,000 was awarded to students last year. Next, Mr. Dyer went over the future education plans of the class of 2014, a three year report on declared majors of students from 2012-2014, the competitiveness of college acceptances for the class of 2014, the post-secondary plans report covering a three year period (2012-2014), and a report on college applications completed by students and a report on college acceptances. A question and answer time followed.

COURSE OFFERINGS AND ENROLLMENT – KIM GALLO

Kim Gallo reported on the courses offered at Shepaug Valley School for Grades 6 through 12. The report listed the teacher, course taught, grade level and enrollment.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE – KAREN FILDES

Karen Fildes reported on the initiatives and devices brought in this year that were in keeping with the strategic plan goals for the curriculum and developing a digital learning environment. Mrs. Fildes reported on how the Chromebooks have fundamentally changed the classrooms and she shared the positive feedback from teachers. A video art lab was installed. PowerSchool was launched from day one for the first time this year with 92.5% student records being accessed by parents. The SMARTBoards were expanded to Humanities and Unified Arts. With the TV studio up and running, students are now filming on their own without guidance. All students are involved in the Region 12 Studio. She spoke about how the Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences has expanded technology offerings: Mobil App Designs, Foundations of Health & Sciences & Technology, Digital Media Movie Making. Shepaug Valley School hosted TEDx Global on October 8th which was a live streaming broadcast that all students in Grades 6-12 participated in. Lastly, Mrs. Fildes spoke about the new Region 12 website that was launched over the summer.

Emily Hibbard left the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino mentioned the thank you letter from Ann Baldwin from Baldwin Media Marketing.

October 1 Enrollment: The update on the enrollment for the October 1 window was given out. Burnham School – 55; Booth Free School – 78; Washington Primary School – 153; Shepaug Valley School – 461; Total 747.

ABC (A Better Chance) Program in Wilton: Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board that she would be visiting Wilton High School to meet with John Klein who is the president of the ABC Program in the Wilton Public Schools. Jennifer Pote will be visiting along with Dr. Cosentino and an invitation was extended for others to attend.

State PTA Meeting: Dr. Cosentino will be attending the State PTO meeting with a Roxbury PTO parent in Hartford on Tuesday. She met the speaker while building a school in Constanza.

Ebola Letter: Dr. Cosentino will send out a letter to parents and staff this week to assure them that the Region is keeping up on the updates on the Ebola issue.

Update on marketing firms: Dr. Cosentino gave feedback on the presentations given at the last Board meeting after viewing the video. Both firms had good proposals but at this point she leans toward Baldwin Media as someone that can help with getting the good things out to the public about what goes on in the Region.

TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF WELLS FARGO AS THE SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO BANK OF AMERICA FOR THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12 RETIREMENT PLAN (ACCOUNT 42-16-100-8544746) AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the appointment of Wells Fargo as the successor trustee to Bank of America for the Regional School District 12 Retirement Plan (Account 42-16-100-8544746) as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Discussion followed.

Michael Sinatra left the meeting at 9:34 p.m., and returned to the meeting at 9:37 p.m.
Jennifer Pote left the meeting at 9:34 p.m., and returned to the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Motion passed (10 – 0)

Susan Stumpf left the meeting at 9:39 p.m.

TO CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE, ESTABLISH GRADUATION DATE FOR SHEPAUG CLASS OF 2015 (JUNE 13, 2015).

Dr. Cosentino requested that the Board set June 13, 2015 as the date of graduation for the Class of 2015.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Jennifer Pote to set June 13, 2015 as the date of graduation for the Class of 2015.

VOTE: Unanimous.

POSSIBLE DECISION AND VOTE ON HIRING A MEDIA PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to hire the Baldwin Media Marketing for an undetermined period.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, and Michael Sinatra.

Opposed: Tony Bedini and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: Kelly Lott.

Motion passed (6 – 2 – 1)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.