

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Public District Budget Hearing
Shepaug Valley School
April 6, 2016

The Public District Budget Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, by Chairman Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Rebecca Devine, Jennifer Pote and Peter Tagley. Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Michael Sinatra and Sydney Worobel were absent. Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent, was also present.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Chairman Hirschfield read the Notice of Public Budget Hearing:

Notice is hereby given to all those entitled to vote in town meetings in the towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington, that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library of the Shepaug Valley School, 159 South Street, Washington, CT to present the Annual Budget for the year 2016-2017, prepared by the Regional Board of Education for Shepaug Valley Regional School District 12, copies of which will be available at the Public Meeting.

SHEPAUG VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12
BRIDGEWATER – ROXBURY – WASHINGTON
By – James Hirschfield, Chairman
Board of Education
Washington Depot, CT 06794

OVERVIEW PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET PROCESS AND THE 2016-2017 ANNUAL BUDGET FOR RSD 12

Dr. Cosentino gave an overview of the budget process which begins in October. After meeting with administrators and department chairs, she adjusts the budget with Director of Finance and Operations, Bob Giesen. Meetings were held with the Board Finance Committee members and the towns' Finance Board Chairs and First Selectmen. In March, Dr. Cosentino presented her proposed budget. Since her presentation the Board discussed the budget and after making changes, adopted a budget at 0% increase over last year's budget or \$21,561,448; a decrease from the Superintendent's proposed budget of .08%.

QUESTIONS AND/OR STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE BUDGET

Chairman Hirschfield opened the floor to the public for questions and comments.

John Buonaiuto, Washington – Questions about the \$17,500 for academic support. Dr. Cosentino explained the amount goes toward the middle school afterschool program called EASY. Students remain afterschool if they need support in any academic area with teachers that remain after the day is over. Teresa DeBrito also clarified that the late bus is included in that line item.

Also asked about the Interventionists. Dr. Cosentino explained that the District has a literacy and math interventionist at WPS. BS and BFS share a literacy tutor and BFS has a .5 FTE math interventionist. Last year Dr. Cosentino reduced a .5 FTE interventionist and received pushback by the Board. This year the Board reduced .5 FTE interventionist since they put the teacher back at BS. The Board also decided that the teacher of a classroom that has less than 10 students would work with those students that need interventions.

Janet Buonaiuto, Washington – 1) Other purchased services, line 512 Transportation – In District Private and line 513 Transportation – Out of District Special Education. Valerie Andersen explained the mandates of transportation costs that the District is responsible to pay for. 2) Sherman bussing. Valerie Andersen explained how tuition and bussing works for Sherman students.

Ed Wainwright, Bridgewater – Questioned why the money (\$250,000) for renovating the SVS teachers' workspace was not coming out of the 1% fund. Valerie Andersen agreed it should and would bring it up for discussion at the Special meeting following the hearing.

Curtis Read, Bridgewater – Commented in agreement with using money from the 1% fund for the renovation of the teachers' workspace.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Alan Brown, to adjourn the hearing.

VOTE: unanimous.

The hearing was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.