

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
October 19, 2015

The Education Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Roxbury vacancy. Valerie Andersen, Gregory Cava, and Rebecca Devine were absent. Also present were: Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Todd Dyer, Director of School Counseling; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; and Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: Education Committee Meeting – September 28, 2015
District Meeting-Public Hearing – October 5, 2015
Business Meeting – October 5, 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield commented on seeing a number of signs for the upcoming vote on the agriscience program. He also made note to the Board to keep in mind that subconversations are being picked up on the recordings.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino reported that she had received a letter from CASBO which stated Robert Giesen has been named as an advisor to their organization. Dr. Cosentino thanked Mr. Giesen for his service and noted how fortunate the District is to have Mr. Giesen.

Dr. Cosentino reported that the mall flooring and some of the furniture has been ordered. Due to pricing and budget, the furniture for the planetarium area will be done in the spring.

Dr. Cosentino explained the staffing changes and cost at Shepaug Valley School with the schedule change for Grade 8 students which will enable them to take Algebra I. Due to the number of ELL students enrolled in the Region, a teacher is needed one day a week to work with students. It was also reported that the Math Tutor Interventionist at Booth Free School will be paid as a teacher since she is doing teacher duties.

Anthony Amato thanked Dr. Cosentino and the team who had worked on the Algebra I course for 8th graders.

Dr. Cosentino noted that the publicity committee will not be doing another postcard mailing prior to the November vote. There will be one factual mailing which should be in mailboxes the day after Election Day.

Michelle Gorra shared with the Board that she had attended Nonnewaug's Open House. Michelle commented on the Open House saying that students were explaining the different stations, the positive feeling, and also how packed the Open House was with parents and students. Discussion followed on the program.

Dr. Cosentino reported that the Board Retreat scheduled for October 26 has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

Dr. Cosentino also reported that by the end of the week, the electronic version of the NEASC report will be sent to the Board. Kim Gallo will be presenting that report at the November 2nd Board meeting.

Teresa DeBrito spoke on the increased number of ELL students in the District. A report showing a chart of the breakdown of those numbers by year had been handed out to Board members. Discussion followed.

SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL CLASS OF 2015 AND AP RESULTS

A presentation was given by Kim Gallo, Principal, and Todd Dyer, Guidance Director. Mr. Dyer handed out a folder which contained information on College Acceptances, a Three Year Comparison and the pamphlet from the Class of 2015 Scholarship Night. Also in the folder were copies of the PowerPoint presentation and information on the PSAT and ACT. Mr. McManus was acknowledged for the College Banner displays that could be seen on the library walls. Mr. Dyer shared some of the questions he has been asked by parents and students.

The question was asked if the Guidance Department should add the SAT exam fee into the upcoming budget so that the Region would pay for student testing. It had been suggested that this be put into the budget request for 2016/2017. It was also asked if a comparison report could be made available which would compare SAT/ACT scores with that in our DRG.

Discussion with questions followed.

POLICY

First Reading – Policy 4112.6 – Personnel Records: Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy.

MOTION: made by Jennifer Pote, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve policy 4112.6 – Personnel Records as a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 5125 – Student Records: Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy noting the change in age.

MOTION: made by Emily Hibbard, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve policy 5125 – Student Records as a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

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First Reading – Policy 5145.511 – Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program: Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy explaining that this is a new policy and there have been new laws required by the state that we need to put into this policy.

MOTION: made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve policy 5145.511 – Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program as a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.