

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
November 2, 2015

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 2, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Roxbury vacancy. Alan Brown was absent. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: Education Meeting – October 19, 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield congratulated Coach Tom Scarola and the Boys Cross Country Team for winning States. He also congratulated all the fall teams for their hard work. Chairman Hirschfield reminded everyone of the referendum for the AgSTEM on November 10.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino commented on the “pre-referendum” work. Don O'Leary has been working on the lighting in the Mall area at Shepaug. Dr. Cosentino spoke about Mr. O'Leary working with Eversource, who has offered one of their consultants to work with Region 12 at no cost and has also offered an architect to help in the planning of energy efficient updates. Dr. Cosentino stated that Shepaug is the first school Eversource has offered this program to in Connecticut.

Dr. Cosentino made reference to the flyer “What Will Our Children Lose?” which had been sent by Bob Giesen and was in the Board packets.

Dr. Cosentino shared that Principal Dr. Frank LaBanca of Westside Middle School Academy in Danbury will be working with our administrators and science teachers on professional development. Westside Academy will be one of the feeder schools for the AgSTEM program.

Dr. Cosentino communicated that there will be one last mailing going out to every household to remind the communities to vote on November 10. Dr. Cosentino asked that, if anyone did not receive the mailing, to please notify her office and the post office.

Dr. Cosentino shared that the CAFE Convention will be December 9th in Rocky Hill. There will be workshops available. A flyer with the itinerary of events had been given to each Board member.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about attending the open house for the All-Star Transportation Company's new building with Bob Giesen. Dr. Cosentino commented on their new facility.

Dr. Cosentino remarked on the Tractor Parade in Roxbury that she attended with Kim Gallo and her granddaughter. Miniature chocolates were tossed out to people along the parade route. It was noted that Roxbury parents, on their own, had put stickers on the candy wrappers for the AgSTEM program.

Dr. Cosentino proudly read a letter that had been sent by Dudley Diebold on behalf of The Diebold Foundation. The letter stated that the Foundation was pledging a grant in the amount of, and not to exceed, \$1 million. This grant is based upon the approval of the Agriscience STEM program. The letter was acknowledged by a round of applause.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to thank the graciousness of The Diebold Foundation for the incredible and generous grant.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEASC Report: Dr. Cosentino briefly remarked on the NEASC report with a follow-up report by Kim Gallo and Lori Ferreira. The presentation was based around a PowerPoint which noted recommendations and commendations from the NEASC visiting committee. A corresponding hand-out had been given to all Board members. The PowerPoint summarized all areas of the NEASC report. Discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriscience Steering – no report.

Education – no report.

Education Connection – no report.

Facilities – Greg Cava reported that since the NEASC visit, some of the AC/heating issues at Shepaug had been solved.

Finance – Valerie Andersen reported that as of October 23, 2015 there is still \$1.1 million left in the budget that has not been spent or encumbered. The 1% Capital Reserve account has \$293,000 and after a reconciliation of the Lease Fund there is currently an available balance of \$100,000. Mrs. Andersen acknowledged Mr. Giesen for the prices he has been able to secure for propane/diesel and heating. Mr. Hirschfield also thanked Mr. Giesen for his work on being able to secure the prices. Mrs. Gorra asked for a report on the 1% Fund and the Elementary Fund showing work done and work yet to be done.

Long Range Planning – no report

Negotiations – no report

Policies & Bylaws – Michelle Gorra thanked Teresa DeBrito for her work on the Policy Committee, keeping track of the laws, law changes and making sure that our policies are up-to-date with the law changes.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 4112.6/4212.6 Personnel Records. Mrs. Gorra stated that nothing has changed since first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to accept Policy 4112.6/4212.6 Personnel Records as a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 5125, Student Records. Mrs. Gorra stated that nothing has changed since first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to accept Policy 5125, Student Records as a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 5145.511, Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program. Mrs. Gorra stated that nothing had changed since the first reading and since this is a new policy, there were no highlighted areas.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Emily Hibbard, to accept Policy 5145.511, Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program as a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

To consider and if appropriate, establish graduation date for Shepaug Class of 2016 (June 11, 2016). Dr. Cosentino requested that the graduation date for Shepaug Class of 2016 be set for June 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to set the graduation date for the Class of 2016 as June 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

VOTE: unanimous.

To consider and if appropriate, authorize expenditure from the 1% Capital Reserve Fund, not to exceed \$15,000, to replace a boiler at Booth Free School as recommended by the Facilities Committee. There was discussion to authorize the expenditure from the 1% Capital Reserve Fund, not exceeding \$15,000 to replace a boiler at Booth Free School as recommended by the Facilities Committee. Don O’Leary spoke in regard to the need of this request and stated that he would like to replace the boiler, if funding were to be approved, during the break in December as a full day when the school is shut down is needed to be able to do the work and would have the least impact on students and staff.

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MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Emily Hibbard, to authorize the expenditure from the 1% Capital Reserve Fund, not to exceed \$15,000, to replace a boiler at Booth Free School as recommended by the Facilities Committee.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.