

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
January 4, 2016

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, January 4, 2016, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Peter Tagley and Sydney Worobel. Anthony Amato was absent. Also present were: Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations.

Allyson O'Hara, Pupil Personnel Director, Ann Wescott, REACH Teacher, and Anthony Weymouth, REACH Teacher were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Business Meeting, December 7, 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield congratulated the boys and girls basketball teams in the holiday tournament. He is excited for the new things planned going forward.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino spoke about the mall renovations and how much the staff and students are enjoying the space. There will be a presentation on the living walls at the next Facilities Committee meeting.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported the appointment of Vincent Cosentino as Paraprofessional at WPS. She reported the leaves of absence for Cathy Colella, Principal, at BFS and BS from 12/18/15 to 1/7/16, and Sandra DiBella, Nurse at BFS from 12/4 to 12/24/15. Dr. Cosentino reported the resignation of Ron Decker, Custodian at WPS (effective 12/23/15) and Alisa Wissell, Literacy Tutor at WPS (effective 11/15/15).

REACH Program update: Allyson O'Hara shared the results of research done by the REACH committee recently (handout given). Recommendations by the committee included an increase in tuition with supporting data; half day fee from \$600 to \$900 and extended day fee of \$1000 to \$1500. Mrs. O'Hara spoke about the team's recommendation to keep the current transportation plan and location. She explained the reasons being in the best interest of the students. Mrs. O'Hara shared background information on the current program which included staff and classroom sizes. Three classrooms, 2.5

teachers, 3.5 paraprofessionals, 44 students, 8 in preschool with special needs from all three towns. Mrs. O'Hara spoke about the transportation that other districts provide for their preschool program as well as what Region 12 provides. She spoke about the fees in comparison to other districts. Discussion and questions followed.

Region 12 Public Schools Enrollment Projected to 2025 (prepared by Peter Prowda): Robert Giesen shared information in the report compiled by Peter Prowda. The report continues to show the decline in enrollment. Mr. Giesen talked about the factors that Dr. Prowda takes into account in the projections; housing starts, overall population, new constructions, permits, high school dropout rates. The agriscience is not factored in the report. Overall, the decline continues with 728 students in 2015 to 540 in 2025 with leveling out beginning in the 2021-22 school year when Washington Primary is projected to have 158 students with an increase to 169 students by 2025. Discussion and comments followed.

Chairman Hirschfield explained that Michelle Gorra must leave at 8:00 p.m. and requested that New Business and Old Business come before the Committee Reports.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 5113 Attendance/Excuses/Dismissals: Mrs. Gorra explained the comparisons of the current policy with the CABA policy being quite different and that the committee recommends adopting the CABA version.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Emily Hibbard, to adopt Policy 5113 Attendance/Excuses/Dismissals as recommended by the Policy Committee for a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault: Mrs. Gorra explained that the changes to this policy were quite different and that the committee recommends the CABA version.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to adopt Policy 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault as recommended by the Policy Committee for a first reading.

Discussion and questions followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 5118.3 Non-resident Attendance: Mrs. Gorra pointed out the changes being recommended.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Emily Hibbard to accept Policy 5118.3 Non-resident Attendance for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances): Mrs. Gorra explained there were no changes from the first reading.

MOTION: made by Emily Hibbard, seconded by Sydney Worobel, to accept Policy 5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances) for a second reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 5144.1 Use of Physical Force: Mrs. Gorra explained the policy is new. Allyson O'Hara spoke about aspects of the policy including seclusion, restraints. Discussion and questions followed.

MOTION: made by Rebecca Devine, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to accept Policy 5144.1 Use of Physical Force for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriscience Steering: No report.

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported that she will give a presentation on the CABE convention at the next meeting as well as a presentation from Teresa DeBrito on the new SAT assessment.

Michelle Gorra left the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: Mr. Cava reported that he has met with all of the first selectmen and are in the process of choosing a building committee to recommend to the Chair for appointment. Mr. Cava reported on the mall renovations, the budget overage and the \$6200 grant from Eversource for the lighting.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported on the committee meeting held earlier. They reviewed the financials for December and have no concerns. The committee is considering locking in on a two year rate for fuel oil. Charles Heaven has completed the audit which will be presented at the January 25th meeting. Distribution to the towns as a result of the general fund audit is \$138,000 and is split as follows: Bridgewater will receive \$30,000, Roxbury \$45,000 and Washington \$63,000. The Committee will be meeting with administrators for budget reviews in February. The budget presentation will be given on March 7th. Mrs. Andersen explained the Aggregate Spending report that can be found on the website.

Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School Library
January 4, 2016

Long Range Plan: Mr. Brown reported the committee will meet on the 25th with the time yet to be determined.

Negotiations: No report.

Policy: No report.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Sydney Worobel, seconded by Rebecca Devine to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.