

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
March 7, 2016

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:09 p.m., on Monday, March 7, 2016, by Chairman Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, and Peter Tagley. Michelle Gorra and Michael Sinatra were absent. Also present were: Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Lord, Roxbury – spoke about the renovations to the teachers’ work area at SVS and where funds should be paid from.

Angela Macchiarula, Bridgewater – spoke against the proposed 2/3 multiage class at Burnham School, cutting the Spanish teacher, and the teachers’ work space renovations at SVS.

Jeremy Tandler, Washington – shared that his children attend Burnham School. Spoke about the 2/3 multiage class at Burnham School and the curriculum.

Carolan Dwyer, Bridgewater – spoke about many positive changes over the past year. Spoke against the proposed 2/3 multiage class at Burnham School.

Matt Denning, Bridgewater – expressed opinion that the proposed 2/3 multiage class would be a bad idea.

Valerie Andersen left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Gregory Cava requested that the minutes of the Business Meeting on September 21, 2015 be removed from the consent agenda and that the recording be checked to verify a vote to go into executive session.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield congratulated the Shepaug swim team.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino introduced the new Shepaug Spartan logo with different iterations. The logo was designed by a 2009 Shepaug alumni, Jason Welsch, who is a professional illustrator artist.

Dr. Cosentino informed the Board that Kim Gallo went to the state today with the six agreements from the sending towns stating that they are willing to send more than their three year average to the AgSTEM program.

Dr. Cosentino thanked Jim Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Rebecca Devine for attending the MIM on Saturday. The event was a great success.

Dr. Cosentino reported that 100% of the junior class participated in the SATs today.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported the appointment of Richard Eddy as a Paraprofessional (p/t) at WPS and Aime Reutzel as a Paraprofessional at BS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriscience Steering: No report.

Education: No report.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: Mr. Cava reported that all he has to report can be found in the minutes and the reason that the capital budget is down is that they are conserving efforts for the AgSTEM project.

Valerie Andersen returned at 7:33 p.m.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee reviewed the financials for February. The committee plans to transfer \$215,600 to the 1% fund at the April 4 meeting that will fund some of the things discussed.

Long Range Plan: Mr. Brown reported on the meeting they had on February 22. The committee discussed beginning the process to replace the Strategic Plan from four years ago. Next meeting is March 21 at 5 p.m.

Negotiations: No report.

Policy: No report.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 3542.22 Food Service - Code of Conduct: The policy is a new policy. Mr. Brown gave details on the state statute that prompted this policy.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava, to accept Policy 3542.22 Food Service – Code of Conduct for a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 4117.4 Certified Non-Renewal / Suspension: Mr. Brown explained the revision in the policy having to do with budget process and teacher tenure.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Anthony Amato, to accept Policy 4117.4 Certified Non-Renewal /Suspension for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 5113.2 Truancy: Mr. Brown explained the revision in the policy having to do with statutory changes.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava, to accept Policy 5113.2 Truancy for a first reading with an explanation of the eighteen years of age in “Truant” definition.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BURNHAM SCHOOL PTO TO USE BURNHAM SCHOOL

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Gregory Cava to approve the request from Burnham School PTO to use Burnham School for their Comedy Night fundraiser waiving policy prohibiting alcoholic beverages for the evening of Saturday, May 21, 2016 with rules and regulations with alcohol and insurance requirements.

VOTE: unanimous.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Chairman Hirschfield opened the floor for discussion on the proposed budget.

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley to have a budget meeting workshop on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Discussion followed. Dr. Cosentino explained her plan for the 2/3 class with the reasons and advantages for it. Suggestions were made about what to include in the presentation to the public at the March 14 meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.