

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
May 9, 2016

The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2016 by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley. Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Absent were: Emily Hibbard and Sydney Worobel.

Also present were: Karen Fildes, Director of Technology, Communications & Community Outreach; and Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of Minutes:* Education Meeting – April 25, 2016

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield reminded everyone of the vote tomorrow and thanked those that put up signs. He urged everyone to vote. Chairman Hirschfield commended the administration for the newsletter that went out to the public. He thanked Karen Fildes and everyone that put it together for their hard work. Chairman Hirschfield spoke about the article in the newspaper today regarding Shepaug baseball doing very well this year. The Shepaug Valley Middle School promotion will be held on June 10 and the Shepaug Valley High School graduation will be held on June 11 and all Board members are invited to attend.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Correspondence:* Dr. Cosentino gave an update on the kindergarten enrollment numbers for next year. Washington: 11, Roxbury: 14, and Bridgewater: 2. Dr. Cosentino explained the plan to prepare for the work on the teachers' work space over the summer. It includes a tag sale to sell old equipment, old books, old computers (no hard drives). Items will be listed and anything that does not sell will be donated, purged or sold to recycling places. Dr. Cosentino reminded everyone that Nick Caruso from Connecticut Board of Education will be coming to talk about the Lighthouse Project. The May 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup> meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. to honor volunteers and students.

*Nurse and Teacher Appreciation:* In recognition of National Nurse Day and Teacher Appreciation Week, Dr. Cosentino thanked the nurses and teachers for their dedication and hard work for our students. The PTOs have honored them at each school.

*Personnel:* Dr. Cosentino reported that Adam O'Neil, custodian at SVS, resigned (effective March 22, 2016) and that Douglas Winkel, English Teacher at SVS, will retire this year (effective June 30, 2016).

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Alan Brown, to accept Douglas Winkel's retirement with great appreciation for his work and hope for successful next few years.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Agriscience Steering:* Mr. Amato reported that the HB5304 bill for the bonding did not get voted on in the legislature's regular session and that a special session has not been scheduled yet.

*Education:* Next meeting is May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nick Caruso from Connecticut Board of Education will be coming to talk about the Lighthouse Project. Sheila Gambino may have a presentation on their first fuel cell car and Joan Temple will present on SVS library in the digital age.

*Education Connection:* No report.

*Facilities:* Mr. Cava reported that the CBYD (call before you dig) people have marked the site. Wetlands are in the process of being flagged. Mr. O'Leary will be visiting a magnet school to see a variable refrigerant HVAC system, the type that we need in order to meet LEED silver requirements. An RFQ is being done for a commissioning agent. The committee also reviewed the shutdown work that was done during the break (i.e. leak in the boys' locker room caused by a frozen pipe, installation of a new set of doors at Burnham School, all elementary schools have room numbers, lowering of toilets at Washington Primary School, the cafeteria at Shepaug has been painted, the trophy cases have been installed where lockers used to be). Tennis courts are cracking and need to be repaired. Work has been started and should be finished shortly.

Discussion followed on spending funds on agriscience program while waiting to hear from the state.

*Finance:* Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee met tonight. The boys' locker room caused some deficit in accounts but the overall budget remains in the black. Mrs. Andersen reported that after review of the April 30 financial report, they did a reconciliation of the 1% account and capital non-recurring lease. They discussed the bank account that is open to support the agriscience and science labs renovation project, a new way to process accounts payable, and the school lunch program. A meeting with Wells Fargo for the pension plan is set for Monday, May 16 at Central Office at 3:30 p.m.

*Long Range Planning:* Mr. Brown reported that the committee talked about the Lighthouse Project and high school reimaged at the last meeting. The other items; International Baccalaureate, multiage and multi-grade classroom and interschool class population distribution, will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Discussion followed on a REACH program at another elementary school in the District along with WPS.

*Negotiations:* Mr. Cava reported that they have received notification to commence negotiations for the teachers' contract that will expire June 2017.

*Policies & Bylaws:* Mrs. Gorra reported that they met last month. They reviewed samples from CABA on homework policies. They also are working on the graduation requirements policy.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Discussion: College Acceptances:* Alan Brown began a discussion on the newsletter sent out last week that included a list of college acceptances (as of March 1, 2016). Mr. Brown felt strongly that it would be good to let the public know of the other colleges that students were accepted at since March 1 by doing another mailing. Discussion included ideas such as a press release in the newspapers, another mailing in the fall that highlights the class of 2016 and their college choices, something that will help influence families of Grade 8 students to attend Shepaug in the fall, the advantages of repeating good news. Dr. Cosentino read the list of the 34 colleges that did not make the list in the newsletter.

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michael Sinatra to send out a mailing that addresses college acceptances, one card / one sheet fashion within 10 business days.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** In favor: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: none.

Abstained: Valerie Andersen.

Motion passed (9 – 0 – 1)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Anderson, seconded by Greg Cava to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.