

Regional School District 12
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
June 6, 2016

The Business Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2016, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Michelle Gorra, Michael Sinatra, Peter Tagley, and Sydney Worobel. Roxbury-Vacancy. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Absent were: Alan Brown and Rebecca Devine. Jennifer Pote arrived at 6:35 p.m. Gregory Cava arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Chairman Hirschfield welcomed parents and students and congratulated those receiving awards.

RECOGNITION OF MARIANNE MAHER, TEACHER OF THE YEAR (2016-17)

Dr. Cosentino presented a gift to Marianne Maher who was chosen by her colleagues as Teacher of the Year. Ms. Maher will represent the Region at the State level next year.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS

Dr. Cosentino and Chairman Hirschfield presented the following students with the Litchfield County Superintendents' Association Award:

Collin Harty – 5th Grade, Booth Free School
Caitlin Murphy – 5th Grade, Burnham School
Arantza Artieda – 5th Grade, Washington Primary School (absent)
Oscar Cespedes – 8th Grade, Shepaug Valley School (absent)
Madeline Gorra – 11th Grade, Shepaug Valley School
Clayton Schneider – 12th Grade, Shepaug Valley School

Dr. Cosentino and Chairman Hirschfield presented the following students with the CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Student Leadership Award:

Jayden Cornwall – 8th Grade, Shepaug Valley School (absent)
Sienna Moore – 8th Grade, Shepaug Valley School (absent)
John Swanson – 12th Grade, Shepaug Valley School
Emily Taylor – 12th Grade, Shepaug Valley School

Mrs. Gallo presented awards to the Top Five Academic Seniors.

John da Fonte
Dana Wachsmuth
Daniel Kotas
Daniel Laranetto (absent)
Haley Pesce

Mrs. Gallo announced Salutatorian Daniel Laranetto and Valedictorian Haley Pesce of the class of 2016.

Chairman Hirschfield again congratulated the award recipients and their parents. Refreshments followed.

The meeting reconvened at 7:14 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Education Meeting – April 25, 2016

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield reported that Samantha Moravsky won the 2016 CIAC State Open Javelin Championship and Emma Krebs finished in 8th place at the CIAC State Open Track meet in the 800 meter race. Chairman Hirschfield reported that they received a complaint against the Board from the First Selectman in Bridgewater alleging a meeting was called for improper purpose which was held in violation of freedom of information. The Board attorney is handling this matter.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino thanked Todd Dyer and the staff for their efforts with the events and assemblies for scholarships and recognition of students. She reported on the tag sale at Shepaug over the weekend and thanked the custodians, Don O'Leary and Kim Gallo. It brought in \$651.50 which will be returned to the towns. Saturday night she attended the ASAP Young Writers. Three students had work read. On Sunday, Dr. Cosentino attended the Friends of Music at the Roxbury Library in honor of Martha and Doug Winkel and the 40 years of dramatics at Shepaug.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported that Lori Bishop is taking a leave beginning in August. Resignations included: Katie Brunetto, Educational Assistant at BFS (effective June 13, 2016), Kaitlin Clark, Art Teacher at SVS (effective June 1, 2016), Nicole Dabros, Elementary Teacher at WPS (effective June 13, 2016), Kelly O'Connell, Literacy Tutor at WPS (effective June 10, 2016), and Leah Principe, TV Studio Support at SVS (effective June 13, 2016). Dr. Cosentino also reported a reduction in force; Amanda Farren, Paraprofessional at BFS / English Language Tutor at WPS (effective June 13, 2016).

Dr. Cosentino shared upcoming events: Friday at 7 p.m., the 8th grade promotion, Saturday the SVS graduation will be at 10 a.m., On Sunday at 2 p.m., two of Valerie Andersen's family members will be at Hickory Stick Book Store to sign their books; *Crown of Thrones*, and *First Women*.

Shepaug Valley School Library in the Digital Age: Joan Temple was introduced by Teresa DeBrito. Ms. Temple gave a presentation on the SVS Library. She spoke about how the library is used from the beginning of the day at 7:30 a.m. by students working on assignments, printing papers, catching up on sports or just socializing. During the day, many things go on from students and teachers working and collaborating and self-directed learning. She described the library as the heart of the school. Resources include thousands of fiction and non-fiction books, dvds, magazines, and several newspapers. Ms. Temple

spoke about the selection of books and resources including ebooks, digital magazines and periodicals. She also spoke about the difference in online collections and information sources. Ms. Temple spoke about what is ahead for the library. She will be working with teachers on a scope and sequence plan with goals to help students know how to obtain reliable information online and how to use it, make information gathering easier for children using a resource called EBSCO discovery service and to create a quiet reading space in the library. Discussion followed.

College and Career Center, Future Planning Guide: Kim Gallo began the presentation on the CCC by speaking about RAMP which will begin in the fall, increasing usage of the KAHN Academy to prepare for SATs, college ranking process, USA News and World Report. Todd Dyer and Mike McManus presented an annual review on the CCC. Highlights included: increase of on-site college visits, junior job shadow, ready to work panel, field trips to college fairs, colleges and schools, the SVS future planning guide, expansion of electronic resources, medical panel, workshops offered to students, and the continuation of the high impact programming from previous year.

Textbook Updates: Teresa DeBrito presented two textbooks. A textbook for social studies and a textbook for science. The textbook samples were passed around between the Board members. Mrs. DeBrito spoke about the science textbook for the Earth and Energy Essentials course for Grade 9. Mrs. DeBrito also spoke about the textbook for the Global Studies and Civics social studies courses for Grade 9.

Next Generation District Accountability: Mrs. DeBrito spoke about the categories and how districts are now being rated on standardized tests. Mrs. DeBrito spoke about the indicators and academic growth. Questions and comments followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building – Mr. Cava reported that he attended a prep meeting at the state along with the architect, superintendent, and construction manager. The discussion centered on the information from the new regime at DAS; shovel ready will get funding, not shovel ready will not get funding. The committee met and will continue to collect the work that is being done by staff and Kaestle Boos which has been paid for. No further work will be done until the Board decides what they want to do. Discussion followed on the sending towns to the program.

Education – Mrs. Gorra reported that the next meeting is June 13 and a presentation will be given on the State of the Schools.

Education Connection – No report.

Facilities – Mr. Cava reported on the improvements completed in the hallway where the side entry is located.

A discussion on the sign at Burnham related to tuition scholarships and incentives went on for some time.

MOTION: made by Sydney Worobel, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to have the sign taken down and replaced with corrected information and a disclaimer in the same font size as the scholarships and incentives and the phone number of the town hall.

Discussion continued. Concerns included confusion on who the incentives and scholarships are being funded by, the sight lines for busses and maintenance.

AMENDED MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Jennifer Pote, that the sign be replaced with a corrected sign with disclaimer (same size font) and phone number that is not the Region's number within 30 days.

VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Peter Tagley and Sydney Worobel.

Opposed: Valerie Andersen.

Motion passed (8 – 1).

Finance – Mrs. Andersen reported the committee met prior to the meeting. Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee reviewed the May 27 financial report. There are two items on the agenda tonight.

Long Range Planning – No report.

Negotiations – No report.

Policies & Bylaws – Mrs. Gorra reported that a policy is on the agenda for a second reading.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 5111 – Admission / Placement: Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy noting that there were no changes at the first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava, to approve Policy 5111 – Students – Placement / Admissions, as a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

To approve participation with Lighthouse Project: Discussion with a suggestion that the Long Range Planning Committee look at the project and initiate.

To consider encumbering any remaining 2015/16 appropriations to partially offset any potential borrowing of the Agriscience STEM and Shepaug science lab projects: Due to the late hour, the Board will consider this item at the next meeting on June 13th.

To consider addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) to participate under the CT Nutrition Standards as published by the CT Department of Education for school year 2016/17:

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to participate in the Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) under the CT Nutrition Standards as published by the CT Department of Education for the school year 2016/17.

Discussion followed.

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VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield,
Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Gregory Cava and Sydney Worobel.

Motion passed (7 – 2)

Michael Sinatra asked questions about physics concerns for next year. Kim Gallo answered the questions and addressed the concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Valerie Anderson, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.