

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
October 5, 2015

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 10:04 p.m., on Monday, October 5, 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. Alan Brown was absent. Roxbury vacancy. Also present were: Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations.

Also present were: Gary Brochu, Board Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin; Kimberly Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Douglas Gillette, Bond Counsel, Day Pitney LLC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Business Meeting, September 21, 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield thanked the staff, the superintendent, special guests and the Board for their countless hours in preparing for the presentation at the hearing for the Agriscience program held earlier.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported the appointment of Johanna Murphy as Secretary at Shepaug Valley School.

October 1 Enrollment: Dr. Cosentino reported that the Prowda report predicted 714 students for the 2015-16 year and that the October 1 enrollment is 728 students. The number reflects 14 over but 41 are non-resident students. There are 11 staff members students, 21 students from Sherman, four students from New Milford and five others.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriscience Steering: Anthony Amato thanked everyone for their great efforts in putting all the information together for the presentation tonight. Chairman Hirschfield interjected appreciation to Mr. Amato for all his work.

Education: No report.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: Mr. Cava thanked Don O'Leary for all the help he has been to the facilities committee.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported that at the last meeting the committee reviewed the preliminary year-end results as of June 30th and the August 31st financial report. Mrs. Andersen reported on the status of the 1% Capital Reserve fund and the Elementary Capital Reserve account.

Long Range Plan: No report.

Negotiations: No report.

Policy: Mrs. Gorra reported that they will meet next week and there is a policy on the agenda tonight for a second reading.

CONSIDER AND ACT UPON RESOLUTIONS APPROVING THE SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT OF A RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO AN APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION FOR COSTS RELATED TO DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, EQUIPPING AND FINANCING OF AGRISCIENCE STEM ACADEMY FACILITIES ON THE SHEPAUG VALLEY CAMPUS AND RENOVATION OF THE EXISTING SCIENCE WING AT THE SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL; ESTABLISHING THE PARTICULARS OF A DISTRICT REFERENDUM WITH RESPECT TO SUCH APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION; AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF EXPLANATORY MATERIALS WITH RESPECT TO SUCH REFERENDUM; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO. [RESOLUTIONS 7.1; 7.2; 7.3; 7.4]

Chairman Hirschfield requested a motion for the waiving of the reading of the resolutions and incorporating of the same in the minutes.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to waive of the reading of the resolutions 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, and incorporating of the same in the minutes.

VOTE: unanimous.

RESOLUTION 7.1

RESOLVED, That Board of Education adopts the following resolution, to be submitted for approval by a referendum vote of the voters of the District:

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$39,491,387 FOR COSTS OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, EQUIPPING AND FINANCING OF A NEW AGRISCIENCE STEM ACADEMY TO BE LOCATED ON THE SHEPAUG VALLEY CAMPUS IN THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON AND OF A RENOVATED SCIENCE WING AND OTHER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND TEMPORARY NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAIDED FROM GRANTS (ESTIMATED NET PROJECT COST OF \$11,751,921)

RESOLVED,

1. That Regional School District Number 12 of the State of Connecticut appropriate THIRTY-NINE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$39,491,387) for costs related to:

(a) Agriscience STEM Academy: Design, construction, furnishing, equipping and financing of Agriscience STEM Academy facilities to be located on the Shepaug Valley Campus at 159 South Street in the Town of Washington, contemplated to include, but not limited to, construction of four buildings: a classrooms and administrative offices building (approximately 26,000 square feet), an equine facility (approximately 20,000 square feet), a large and small animal facility (approximately 10,100 square feet), and an equipment garage (approximately 4,900 square feet); renovation of existing shop space at Shepaug Valley School to accommodate the program (approximately 9,500 square feet); renovation of chemistry/laboratories (CLABS) in the existing science wing at the Shepaug Valley School; site work and improvements (approximately 34 acres); and other related work and improvements (estimated cost of \$37,998,367); and

(b) Shepaug Valley School Science Wing Renovations: Design, construction, furnishing, equipping and financing of renovations to the existing science wing at the Shepaug Valley School located on the Shepaug Valley Campus at 159 South Street in the Town of Washington (approximately 10,170 square feet), contemplated to provide, but not limited to, chemistry/laboratories (CLABS), one teacher's preparation area/workroom, and a chemical storage area; various items to meet safety code requirements; new equipment including lab equipment, sinks, hoods, lab stations and ADA compliant lab/work stations; technology updates; new flooring, windows, doors, lighting, and HVAC equipment to comply with ventilation standards; and other related work and improvements; and, to the extent of available funds, such other improvements to the existing Shepaug Valley School facilities as are determined by the Board of Education or any building committee delegated such responsibility by the Board of Education (estimated cost of \$1,493,020).

The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, survey, testing and permitting costs, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, materials, technology infrastructure and equipment, site improvements, architects' fees, engineering fees, construction management costs and fees, consultant fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, other financing costs, and other expenses related to the projects and their financing. The Board of Education, or any building committee or committees delegated all or any portion of such responsibility by the Board of Education, is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of each project, and may reduce or modify the scope of each project as desirable, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the projects as so reduced or modified. The District anticipates receiving grants from the State Department of Education for estimated approximately 70.2% of the aggregate cost of the projects, for a resulting estimated aggregate net cost of the projects to the District of ELEVEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$11,751,921).

2. That the District issue its bonds and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed THIRTY-NINE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$39,491,387) to finance the appropriation for the projects. The amount of the bonds or notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the District for the projects, and not separately appropriated to pay project costs. The bonds and temporary notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns, secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the District and its member towns. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds and notes. The Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates the authority to make such determinations, are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds and notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for keeping a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the District in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

3. That the District hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the projects. The Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the District pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

4. That the Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board delegates such authority, are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

5. That the Board of Education is authorized to approve the entering into of contracts for each project, and the Board of Education, or such officer or body to whom the Board delegates such authority, is authorized to approve the expenditure of said appropriation and such other matters as it deems desirable or necessary to complete the projects.

6. That the appropriation and authorization of bonds and temporary notes shall be subject to approval by a referendum vote to be held in the Towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington, being all of the towns comprising said District.

RESOLUTION 7.2

RESOLVED, that the above bond and temporary note authorization for the new Agriscience STEM Academy and renovations to the Shepaug Valley School Science Wing be submitted for approval by referendum vote of the voters of the District; and that said referendum be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015; that notice of said referendum be given by publication and posting between five and fifteen days before said date, and that said notices of the referendum in the Towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington be substantially in the following form:

“WARNING
REFERENDUM VOTE
Regional School District Number 12
Town of _____
November 10, 2015

Referendum votes of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of _____, Connecticut will be held in the Town of _____ at the following polling places:

[INSERT POLLING PLACES]

and simultaneously in the other Towns in Regional School District Number 12 on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, upon a resolution adopted by the Regional Board of Education at meeting held October 5, 2015, which resolution will be placed on the ballot as the following question:

“SHALL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 12 APPROPRIATE \$39,491,387 FOR COSTS OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, EQUIPPING AND FINANCING OF A NEW AGRISCIENCE STEM ACADEMY TO BE LOCATED ON THE SHEPAUG VALLEY CAMPUS IN THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON AND OF A RENOVATED SCIENCE WING AND OTHER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND TEMPORARY NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAYED FROM GRANTS (ESTIMATED NET PROJECT COST OF \$11,751,921)?”

Voters approving the resolution shall vote “Yes” and those opposing the resolution shall vote “No”. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office.

Dated at _____, Connecticut this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Town Clerk
Town of _____”

RESOLUTION 7.3

RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Board of Education is authorized, in such official's discretion, to prepare, and to cause to be printed and distributed, concise explanatory texts regarding the aforesaid question to be submitted to the voters of the District at referendum to be held November 10, 2015, such explanatory texts to be subject to the approval of the District's general counsel and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of Section 9-369b of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.

RESOLUTION 7.4

RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Regional School District Number 12, the Chairman and Secretary of the Regional Board and the chairman of any building committee established for any of the aforesaid Agriscience STEM Academy and Shepaug Valley School Science Wing renovations projects are authorized on behalf of the District to execute one or more applications for State grants in aid of the said projects, to accept or reject such grants on behalf of the District and to execute any and all necessary agreements and other documents in connection therewith; and that, upon the appropriation of funds therefore, the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications is approved.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Resolutions 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 as incorporated into the minutes.

VOTE: unanimous.

SECOND READING – POLICY 5141.21 – ADMINISTERING MEDICATION

Mrs. Gorra requested approval of Policy 5141.21 for a second reading noting there were no changes since the first reading.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to accept Policy 5141.21 – Administering Medication for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.