

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
December 7, 2015

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, December 7, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Gregory Cava (arrive at 7:01 p.m.), Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Michael Sinatra, Peter Tagley and Sydney Worobel. Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown and Emily Hibbard were absent. Also present were: Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations.

Kimberly Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Allyson O'Hara, Pupil Personnel Director, Don O'Leary, Facilities Director were also present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of Minutes:* Special Meeting, November 13, 2015  
Education Committee Meeting, November 16, 2015

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield is pleased that things are moving forward with the Agriscience STEM Academy.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Correspondence:* Dr. Cosentino spoke about the good things going on in the schools.

*Personnel:* Dr. Cosentino reported the appointment of Christine Harty as Secretary at SVS, Roan Leffler as Front Entrance Security at SVS, and Jeffrey Martorelli as Custodian (p/t) at WPS. She reported the leave of absence for Karen Waupotic, Educational Technology Specialist at SVS from 12/2015 to TBD, the resignation of Drew Barksdale from WPS as a paraprofessional (effective 12/23/2015) and the retirement of Julie Dolen from SVS as a secretary (effective 11/15/2015).

*CABE convention highlights:* Dr. Cosentino shared highlights from the convention that she attended with two board members. Michelle Gorra will present an overview of the convention at a future meeting. Sydney Worobel will be attending a new board member conference on Wednesday. Dr. Cosentino invited board members to attend the National School Board Association (NSBA) convention in April 2016. Dr. Cosentino will be attending along with Jennifer Pote, Sydney Worobel and possibly Michelle Gorra.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Agriscience Steering:* No report.

Kim Gallo responded to an inquiry by Michelle Gorra on how anyone from the public who would like to be on the advisory committee for the agriscience curriculum can contact Kim Gallo.

*Education:* Mrs. Gorra reported that a presentation on the preschool REACH program will be at their next meeting.

*Education Connection:* Dr. Cosentino shared that Dani Thibodeau, the executive director, is retiring and they are searching for her replacement.

*Facilities:* Mr. Cava reported that the committee is making a recommendation as seen in item 8.4 for an architect for the agriscience project. He also reported that at their last committee meeting, they have been discussing the make-up of the building committee using the guidelines from the state.

*Finance:* Mr. Giesen reported on the committee meeting held earlier. They reviewed the preliminary fund balance return to the towns: \$138,000. Revenue came from Sun Life stock, the former life insurance company; open purchase orders from last year; additional unexpected tuition-in students. Mrs. Gorra reported on the balance of the 1% fund: \$553,000.

*Long Range Plan:* No report.

*Negotiations:* No report.

*Policy:* Mrs. Gorra reported that there are several policies on the agenda tonight. She shared information she learned at the workshop she attended at the CABA conference where there were 19 legislative acts that affected 30 policies this year. This puts a lot of work on school districts to update policies.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*Second Reading – Policy 5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process:* Mrs. Gorra reminded the board of the discussion at the first reading.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to accept Policy 5114 Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process for a second reading.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Jennifer Pote to accept Policy 5118.3 Non-resident Attendance for a first reading.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*First Reading – Policy 5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances):* Mrs. Gorra explained the changes being recommended.

**MOTION:** made by Anthony Amato, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to accept Policy 5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drugs, and Tobacco (including Performance Enhancing Substances) for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*First 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 Gregory Cava, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to accept Policy 5144.1 Use of Physical Force for a first reading.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*Approve contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,650,000 with Kaestle Boos as architect for the Agriscience STEM Academy project:* Gregory Cava spoke about the interviews of two architects conducted on November 30<sup>th</sup>, the costs proposed, and the Facilities Committee recommendation. Discussion and questions followed.

**MOTION:** made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Michael Sinatra to approve contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,650,000 with Kaestle Boos as architect for the Agriscience STEM Academy as recommended by the Facilities Committee on the condition that this amount does not exceed the original line item for these services.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

Chairman Hirschfield asked for input on cancelling the Education Committee Meeting on December 14, 2015.

**MOTION:** made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Anthony Amato, to cancel the December 14, 2015 Educational Meeting of the Board of Education.

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

Opposed: Michelle Gorra.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Emily Hibbard to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.