

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
January 25, 2016

The Education Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:03 p.m., on Monday, January 25, 2016 by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Peter Tagley and Sydney Worobel (arrived at 7:05 p.m.). Emily Hibbard and Michael Sinatra were absent. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present.

Also present were: Cathy Colella, Principal, Booth Free and Burnham Schools; Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Karen Fildes, Director of Technology, Communications & Community Outreach; Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; and Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: Business Meeting, January 4, 2016

Notification of field trips: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY on April 14, 2016 (Grade 11)
Museum of American Finance, New York, NY on April 26, 2016 (Grades 9-12)

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Jennifer Pote to add to the agenda under New Business: A discussion of funding for the Theater Department.

VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Peter Tagley and Sydney Worobel.

Opposed: Valerie Andersen.

Motion passed (8 – 1). Greg Cava arrived after the motion and vote.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield acknowledged Ryan LaMay (boys basketball) for scoring 51 points in his last game and he also acknowledged that Caroline Kelly (girls basketball team) is 11 points away from reaching 1000 points. Ryan LaMay was also mentioned as one of the students who have been nominated in the CPTV "UChoose Student-Athlete of the Week" poll and that anyone can cast a vote for Ryan on their website.

Chairman Hirschfield thanked Valerie Andersen for organizing a lunch with Mr. and Mrs. Diebold to thank them for their gracious and generous contribution to the AgSTEM project through the Diebold Foundation. Chairman Hirschfield, Mrs. Andersen and Dr. Cosentino attend the lunch and expressed their gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Diebold on behalf of the Board.

Chairman Hirschfield reported that he has signed the contract with Kaestle-Boos for the AgSTEM project. He also announced the names for the building committee. The Chair for the committee will be Greg Cava. The committee includes Rebecca Devine and Sydney Worobel from the Board along with Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations, Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities, Alex McNaughton from Bridgewater, John Kuck from Washington and Frank Lasky from Roxbury. Mr. Cava gave a brief summary on the members of the committee along with the needs and expectations of the committee.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Facilities Committee Presentation – Dr. Cosentino commented on the presentation by Colin Decker during the Facilities Committee meeting that was held earlier. As his Senior Project, Colin presented the committee with his idea on a Living Wall in the lobby area just outside the doors to the library. The Facilities Committee had approved Colin's request. Mr. Cava also remarked on how good Colin's presentation skills were.

Correspondence – Dr. Cosentino made mention that on February 24, CABA would be hosting a breakfast and that March 2, is CABA Day on the Hill. Board members can be registered to attend either event by contacting Debby.

Field Trip – Dr. Cosentino requested approval for the field trip to Boston, MA, January 28-31, 2016, for students in Grades 10-12 to participate in The Model United Nations Conference.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve the field trip to Boston, MA, January 28-31, 2016, for the purpose of attending the Model United Nations Conference.

VOTE: unanimous.

Dr. Cosentino reported the appointments of Amanda Farren, English Language Tutor at WPS, Allison Gsell, Paraprofessional at WPS and Elyse Sadtler, Literacy Tutor at WPS. The resignation of Elyse Sadtler from Burnham School effective January 22, 2016 and the leave of absence for Lynne Longo, School Psychologist at Burnham School were also reported.

Minds in Motion. Dr. Cosentino spoke briefly on the Minds in Motion event that will be held at Shepaug Valley School on February 27, 2016. Flyers were available.

ACE Program – Dr. Cosentino introduced Lanie Flanagan who spoke on behalf of the ACES program currently being held after school at Burnham School. Ms. Flanagan summarized the program and remarked on the need for the program in the district. Ms. Flanagan also offered her services to duplicate the program at Booth Free School and Washington Primary School. There was discussion about providing a bus for Booth Free students to take them to Burnham. Dr. Cosentino stated that busing for this program is being included in the upcoming budget. She also spoke about including sixth grade students in the program as long as there is staff to supervise those students and that they could start as early as Monday if they wished.

NEASC Report: Kim Gallo and Lori Ferriera presented a final NEASC report with a PowerPoint presentation.

Dr. Cosentino left the meeting at 7:40 p.m and returned at 7:43 p.m.

Discussion on the presentation.

Update on Superintendent's Goals for Mid-Year Evaluation: Dr. Cosentino summarized her goals as she went over the handout listing her goals. Discussion would take place later during Executive Session.

Michelle Gorra left the meeting at 8:10 p.m. and returned at 8:13 p.m.

2016 TESTING

Teresa DeBrito presented information on the upcoming 2016 tests. Mrs. DeBrito handed out a packet that showed an overview of the CT Assessment System, SAT Specifications, a sample student report, resources available and a copy of the parent invitation letter that had been sent home to each 10th and 11th grade parent. This letter invited parents to an informational meeting to be held on February 28. Discussion followed.

Rebecca Devine left the meeting at 8:30 p.m. and returned at 8:33 p.m.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR GUNN MEMORIAL LIBRARY TO USE WASHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Chairman Hirschfield read a letter he received from Jean Chapin the Executive Director from Gunn Library in regard to the request. Dr. Cosentino commented that October 7 is a Professional Development Day so students would not be in the school building that day. The question was asked if students would be able to come to the show since they would have art work displayed. Dr. Cosentino stated that due to the circumstances of the request, arrangements would need to be made through the Gunn Library Committee to allow students to preview the show before the show started due to the fact that alcoholic beverages would be available during the show times.

MOTION: made by Greg Cava seconded by Valerie Andersen, to approve the request from GUNN Memorial Library to use Washington Primary School for the Washington Connecticut Antiques and Design Show waiving policy prohibiting alcoholic beverages for two evenings: Friday, October 7 and Saturday, October 8, 2016, and to include the regular stipulation for insurance coverage.

VOTE: unanimous.

ACCEPTANCE OF FY2015 REGION 12 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

Valerie Andersen spoke on the audit. Mrs. Andersen reported that \$138,474.00 will be returned back to the towns. Mrs. Andersen acknowledged how fortunate the Region is to have Mr. Giesen and the office staff. Most of this money was from the selling of stock, tuition income and interest income. It was also noted that

by accepting the audit, per State Statute, the Board is bound to return the money to the towns. Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Greg Cava, to accept the FY2015 Region 12 Annual Audit Report as recommended by the Finance Committee.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Theatre Department Funding: Michelle Gorra spoke on parent/student fundraising information that had been given to her. Mrs. Gorra inquired if money in the budget could be made available to help with the expenses of this year's production. Dr. Cosentino, Kim Gallo and Bob Giesen will review funding and see if they can provide additional funding for this year and in future budgets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Greg Cava, seconded by Anthony Amato, to go into Executive Session at 9:18 p.m. for the purpose of the Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation.

VOTE: unanimous.

Chairman Hirschfield gave a 5 minute recess before going into Executive Session at 9:26 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Returned to regular session at 10:25 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.