

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Education Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
February 22, 2016

The Education Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, February 22, 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, Peter Tagley and Sydney Worbel. Emily Hibbard was absent. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools was also present.

Also present were: Todd Dyer, Director of School Counseling at Shepaug Valley School, Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations, Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities.

Invited guest: Representative Arthur O'Neill (arrived at 7:37 p.m.).

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of minutes:* Education Committee Meeting, January 25, 2016.

*Field Trips:* Boston, MA trip for Grade 8 on June 7, 2016.

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield congratulated the winter sport teams on their fall season.

Chairman Hirschfield also reported on the appointment of Robert Horrigan from Roxbury to the building committee. Mr. Horrigan had been appointed due to the resignation of a Roxbury committee member. Greg Cava, committee chairperson, briefly spoke about Mr. Horrigan and noted that the committee would be meeting tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6:00 p.m.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Correspondence* – Dr. Cosentino reminded everyone about the Minds in Motion event taking place at Shepaug Valley School on Saturday. Presently, 140 students are registered and 80 adults.

Dr. Cosentino shared that on Wednesday she will attend the legislative public hearing session along with Kim Gallo, Laura Miller, and Ken Schultz (WPS PTO President) and other school community members to testify on behalf of HB-5304, AgSTEM funding.

Dr. Cosentino provided calendar dates for upcoming meetings. March 2 is CABE-Day on the Hill. Dr. Cosentino, Michelle Gorra, Karen Fildes, Kim Gallo and possibly a few students will be attending. The Budget Presentation will be on March 7 at 6:30 p.m. A Budget Workshop will be held on March 14 at 7 p.m.

The next Education Meeting will be on March 21 at 7 p.m. Dr. Cosentino also announced that the Retreat scheduled for March 28 is canceled.

*Field Trips* – Dr. Cosentino mentioned that she had spoken with Kim Gallo and due to the Zika Virus, the field trip to Mexico has been postponed. Dr. Cosentino also reported on the field trip for the Senior Class Trip to Boston, MA on April 29 – May 1.

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve the field trip request for the Senior Class trip to Boston, MA on April 29 – May 1.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

Dr. Cosentino announced the current Kindergarten registration numbers: Washington Primary: 12, Booth Free School: 13, and Burnham School: 3.

*Personnel* - Dr. Cosentino reported on the appointments of MaryAnn Somoroff, Paraprofessional at SVS, Marissa Maitz, Front Entrance Security at SVS, and William Murphy, Custodian at WPS. Dr. Cosentino reported on the resignation of Roan Leffler, Front Entrance Security at SVS and the termination of Adam O’Neil, Custodian at SVS.

*Legislative Session Update* – Dr. Cosentino mentioned that Representative Arthur O’Neill had been invited to this evening’s meeting but has not yet arrived. Rep. O’Neill had planned on giving an update on the Legislative Session for the upcoming vote on the AgSTEM program that will be on the Legislative floor February 24.

*RAMP “Recognized American School Counseling Association Model Program”* – Todd Dyer gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the RAMP program which included two handouts. One handout explained the RAMP application process and the other was a calendar indicating events, services and meetings held within each month. Discussion followed. Mr. Dyer was thanked for his presentation and members of the Board commented on how much they appreciated what the Guidance Department is doing.

## **POLICY**

*Second Reading – Policy 5113 – Attendance/Excuses/Dismissals.* Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy and stated that nothing changed since the first reading. Mrs. Gorra also remarked that the reason for this revision is due to updates with state laws. Discussion followed. It was noted that due to the age, REACH is not included.

**MOTION:** made by Greg Cava, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve Policy 5113 – Attendance/Excuses/Dismissals, as a second reading.

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

Abstained: Valerie Andersen.

Motion passed (10 – 1).

*Second Reading – Policy 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault.* Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy and stated that nothing changed since the first reading. She explained that revisions to this policy are due to the change in hours and language revisions. It was noted that this policy does apply to the REACH Program.

**MOTION:** made by Greg Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 5141.4 – Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Assault, as a second reading.

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

Abstained: Valerie Andersen.

Motion passed (10 – 1).

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** made by Greg Cava, seconded by Alan Brown, to go into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m., for the purpose of discussion of the Superintendent’s Mid-Year Evaluation.

Discussion followed in regard to what to do if Rep. O’Neill arrived while the Board was in Executive Session. Anthony Amato noted a voice mail that had been sent to him by Rep. O’Neill.

Rep. O’Neill arrived 7:37 p.m. Anthony Amato introduced Rep. O’Neill. Rep. O’Neill reported on the status of HB-5304 that will be presented at the Wednesday, February 24 hearing. Rep. O’Neill handed out a copy of that day’s agenda to Board members and explained the steps that the Bill will go through before being presented to the Governor for final signature. There was discussion and dialogue between Rep. O’Neill and Board members which included concerns from the opposition that had been sent to Rep. O’Neill. Rep. O’Neill stated that the Bill can be followed by going onto the State website at [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov). Rep. O’Neill also said that his office can be contacted by emailing [nancy.jalbert@cga.ct.gov](mailto:nancy.jalbert@cga.ct.gov). Rep. O’Neill was thanked for taking the time to attend the Board of Education meeting and updating the Board on the Bill.

Chairman Hirschfield reminded the Board of the motion to go into executive Session for the purpose of the Superintendent’s Mid-Year Evaluation.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. after a five-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board returned to regular session at 9:35 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.