

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

The Education Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:04 p.m., on Monday, April 25, 2016, by Vice Chairman Alan Brown. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Peter Tagley and Sydney Worobel. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, was also present. James Hirschfield and Emily Hibbard were absent.

Also present were: Cathy Colella, Principal, Booth Free and Burnham Schools; Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations; Emily Judd, Principal, Washington Primary School; Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities.

### **MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION**

The Board members adjourned at 7:05 p.m., to the auditorium for a musical presentation by the elementary chorus and band which consisted of students from Booth Free, Burnham and Washington Primary Schools, followed by the Shepaug Valley School chorus and band.

The meeting reconvened at 7:27 p.m., in the library. Vice Chairman Alan Brown complimented the staff and students for a wonderful presentation and also thanked the parents for attending.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of minutes:* District Budget Hearing – April 6, 2016  
Special Meeting – April 6, 2016  
Business Meeting – April 6, 2016

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

No report.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Correspondence:* Dr. Cosentino complimented the students and the music teachers on their musical presentation and acknowledged the growth that was shown from students at the primary school level to the high school level. Parents were also acknowledged.

*Hiking Field Trip to CT Appalachian Trail on June 17-22, 2016 for Grades 11-12.*

**MOTION:** made by Greg Cava, seconded by Sydney Worobel, to approve the CT Appalachian Trail Hiking trip, June 17-22, 2016. Attended by students in Grades 11 and 12.

Discussion - Mrs. Gallo explained that this was a trip organized by teacher Mike Nolan to help teach kids good things about community service. Questions included the date being after graduation and the trip being coed. Dr. Cosentino added that there will be 8 students and 2 adults on this field trip.

**VOTE:** unanimous

Dr. Cosentino remarked on the book *First Women*, written by Kate Andersen-Brower, a Shepaug alumnus who is also the daughter of Board member Valerie Andersen. Kate's book is currently sixth on the NY Times Best Sellers list.

Dr. Cosentino stated that she had brought "Vote" signs with her that are available for distribution. The signs can be distributed but should not go out until May 4. The signs are reusable since they do not have a date on them and there will not be additional expenses requested for a mailing of a postcard.

Dr. Cosentino thanked Don O'Leary and his department for the work that has been accomplished at all the schools during the spring break. Dr. Cosentino gave a brief summary of the work done.

Dr. Cosentino acknowledged and thanked all the school secretaries and administrative assistants in the district. Dr. Cosentino mentioned that Wednesday is Administrative Professionals' Day.

Dr. Cosentino remarked on the April 13, College Admissions Presentation that Todd Dyer and the Guidance Department had put together. Dana Forchette, representative from UConn, Torrington, was in attendance. Valuable information was obtained by students and parents in regard to the admissions process. Dr. Cosentino stated that this was an excellent workshop.

Dr. Cosentino noted that the Long Range Planning Committee may invite Nick Caruso (CABE, Light House Project) to give a presentation at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Business meeting. Dr. Cosentino commented on the Light House Project and that information on this could be found on the CABE website.

*A CABE Convention Review:* Michelle Gorra attended the November 2015, CABE Convention with Dr. Cosentino and Sydney Worobel. Mrs. Gorra showed a PowerPoint presentation that focused on two areas: Keeping Our Students and Catching Up on Leading the Way. She spoke about the similarities our Region has with Old Saybrook in regard to enrollment. Mrs. Gorra visited many booths with good ideas and that possibly some of the activities could be tried at Shepaug. Old Saybrook uses National School Public Relations Association as a reference. Mrs. Gorra mentioned that data information from past years on Shepaug and other schools in the state can be found on the <http://trendct.org/> website. Discussion followed.

## **POLICIES**

*Second Reading – Policy 4118.5– Personnel - -Rights, Responsibilities, Duties.* Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy. Mrs. Gorra stated this is a second reading and that the highlighted sections are requirements by law. Clarification was given on the two numbers at the top of the policy; to reference certified staff and non-certified staff. Both groups are covered by the same policy.

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**MOTION:** made by Greg Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve policy 4118.5 – Personnel – Rights, Responsibilities, Duties as a second reading.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

Motion passed.

*Second Reading – 4118.11– Personnel – Nondiscrimination.* Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy. Mrs. Gorra stated this is a second reading and again the highlighted sections are due to changes in the law. Again, this is a policy for both certified and non-certified staff.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Greg Cava, to approve policy 4118.11 – Personnel - Nondiscrimination as a second reading.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

Motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Greg Cava, to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.

**VOTE:** unanimous.