

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Education Committee Meeting  
Shepaug Valley School  
September 28, 2015

The Education Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, September 28, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Gregory Cava arrived at 7:05 p.m. Roxbury vacancy. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, was also present.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations; Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services; Elementary Principals Cathy Colella and Emily Judd.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield thanked the Superintendent, Board members, Kim Gallo and everyone who has volunteered their time for the preparation of the AgSTEM program and for the public presentations.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Cosentino spoke about Shepaug Valley School students in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades who will be offered the PSAT and be paid for by the Region. The PSAT, which will be taken in October, will be aligned with the new SAT which is in line with Common Core.

Dr. Cosentino shared that work is being done to put college acceptances and alumni on the web. A presentation will be given at a future meeting.

Dr. Cosentino made reference to the mailing that would be going home tomorrow. The mailing had been given to each Board member before the start of the meeting. Dr. Cosentino also stated that this would be the last communication to go out from her office before the Public Hearing on October 5, 2015.

Dr. Cosentino reported the resignation of Karin Olsen, Secretary, Shepaug Valley School.

Dr. Cosentino gave a brief update on Agriscience. Dr. Cosentino referenced dates of the upcoming meetings and thanked the Board members for their support and work.

**MOTION:** made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to add an item to the agenda for a conversation on the letter which will be mailed out. The letter is in regard to the Agriscience STEM program.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

This will be added as item 6a on the agenda.

## **POLICY**

*First Reading – Policy 5141.21 – Administering Medication:* Michelle Gorra reviewed the policy noting additions and stating that this is a policy that is reviewed yearly. It has been reviewed by Dr. Altorelli, our medical advisor, and Edith Poidomani, Region 12's head nurse. Discussion and more explanation followed.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Emily Hibbard, to approve Policy 5141.21 – Administering Medication as a first reading.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

## **TESTING RESULTS PRESENTATION**

Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment started her presentation with a handout showing the 2015 assessment results. Mrs. DeBrito went through the booklet page by page and explained the information on each page. On page 5, Mrs. DeBrito brought attention to Burnham School where Grade 5 students were at 100 % for ELA, Math and Science. At the end of her presentation, Mrs. DeBrito mentioned that on Wednesday, September 30, she would be meeting with Grade 8 parents in regard to math and algebra. Discussion with the Board followed.

## **OPEN LETTER FROM THE REGION 12 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Copies of an open letter to be distributed by mail were handed out to the Board. The letter will be from the Board and mailed to residents in Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington. There was discussion on wording and information to be included. It was decided that at the conclusion of the meeting, the letter would be edited so that it could be ready to go to print the next morning.

**MOTION:** made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve the funding of approximately \$1500 for a letter in reference to AgSTEM with edits, to be mailed to all residents in Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

Jennifer Pote left the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

## **SHEPAUG VALLEY AGRISCIENCE STEM ACADEMY AND SCIENCE LABS RENOVATIONS**

*Consider and act upon resolutions with respect to an appropriation and borrowing authorization for costs related to design, construction, furnishing, equipping and financing of Agriscience STEM Academy facilities to be located on the Shepaug Valley Campus, and of renovations of the existing science wing at the Shepaug Valley School located on the Shepaug Valley Campus; the establishment of a public hearing on such recommendations if approved; the referral of the projects to the Washington Planning Commission of a report pursuant to Conn. General Statutes 8-24; and other matters related thereto.*

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve the following:

**RESOLVED,** That the officers of the Board of Education and the Superintendent are authorized and directed to cause a district meeting to be called for the purpose of conducting a public hearing at Shepaug Valley School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Monday, October 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with respect to the following recommendations of the Board, which recommendations are hereby approved:

1. That \$39,491,387 be appropriated for costs related to design, construction, furnishing, equipping and financing of (a) 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, an equine facility, a large and small animal facility, and an equipment garage; renovation of existing shop space at Shepaug Valley School to accommodate the program, renovation of chemistry/laboratories (CLABS) in the existing science wing at the Shepaug Valley School, site work and improvements, and other related work and improvements (estimated cost of \$37,998,367), and (b) renovation of the existing science wing at the Shepaug Valley School located on the Shepaug Valley Campus at 159 South Street in the Town of Washington, 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 Board of Education, or any building committee or committees delegated all or any portion of such responsibility by the Board of Education, shall be 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 an 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 \$11,751,921.

2. That \$39,491,387 bonds and temporary notes of the District be authorized to finance the appropriation. The amount of the bonds or notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants, if any, received by the District for the projects, and not separately appropriated to pay project costs.

3. That the Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body delegated such authority by the Board of Education, be authorized to require the District and its member towns to comply with applicable federal income tax requirements for tax-exempt bonds, and to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information.

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

5. That the appropriation and bond and temporary note authorization be submitted to referendum vote of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in the member towns of the District.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*To schedule a public hearing on October 5, 2015 at 7:00 PM.*

**MOTION:** made by Greg Cava, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve the following:

**RESOLVED**, That the officers of the Board of Education and the Superintendent are authorized and directed to cause a district meeting to be called for the purpose of conducting a public hearing at Shepaug Valley School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Monday, October 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. with respect to the above recommendations regarding an appropriation and bond and temporary note authorization for costs of the Agriscience STEM Academy facilities construction and Shepaug Valley School science wing renovations projects.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the members of the Board of Education hold a meeting at Shepaug Valley School, 159 South Street in Washington, Connecticut on Monday, October 5, 2015 following the aforesaid public hearing to act on the recommendations of the Board which are to be discussed at the public hearing.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Agriscience STEM Academy facilities construction and Shepaug Valley School science wing renovations projects, be referred to the applicable Planning Commission of the Town of Washington for a report pursuant to Section 8-24 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.