

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
November 16, 2015

Prior to the start of the meeting, refreshments were available to acknowledge the successful passing of the AgSTEM referendum.

The Education Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:10 p.m., on Monday, November 16, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Peter Tagley and Sydney Worobel. Rebecca Devine was absent. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, was 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; Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations; Emily Judd, Principal, Washington Primary School and Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of minutes:* Business Meeting, November 2, 2015

#### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield thanked the citizens of the Region, regardless of how they voted, for coming out and voting on the referendum. Mr. Hirschfield also thanked the Steering Committee, the staff, the community, volunteers and the town workers who were working at the poles.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Cosentino thanked the staff and everyone who voted to support the project along with a special thank you to Kim Gallo and Bill Davenport from Nonnewaug, who acted as a consultant for Shepaug during the process. Dr. Cosentino acknowledged all the positive letters to the editor in the local newspapers and thanked those who had written them.

Dr. Cosentino reported that this Friday and Saturday, she will attend the CABE convention with other Board members including new Board member Sydney Worobel.

Dr. Cosentino reported that she will be joining Region 12 students who will be receiving The Superintendent's Leadership Awards from The Litchfield County Superintendents' Association on Wednesday evening this week at The Cornucopia in Torrington.

Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
November 16, 2015

Dr. Cosentino said that she met with a Region 12 committee who will be working on a nomination process for the Region's State "Teacher of the Year Award".

Dr. Cosentino updated the Board on CAG, Minds in Motion. Dr. Cosentino said that on Saturday, February 27, 2016, there will be a speaker and workshops for students and parents at Shepaug. Surrounding communities will also be invited.

Dr. Cosentino said she was fortunate to have represented CAPSS at the BEST Summit last week. Leaders from all over the state from various municipalities were also in attendance. Dr. Cosentino gave a brief report. An article about the Summit that was in the November 10, 2015 News Times and had been included in the Board packets.

Dr. Cosentino stated that after last Tuesday's vote on the AgSTEM referendum, Bob Giesen completed the ED049 paperwork and hand delivered it to the State for signatures and official stamp. Dr. Cosentino and Robert Giesen reviewed the timeline with the steps needed for a building project for an agriscience facility. Dr. Cosentino shared that interviews of architects along with presentations by them would take place on November 30 at 5:15 p.m. and Board members are invited to attend. The Facility Committee will then send a recommendation to the Board for approval at the December 7 board meeting. Dr. Cosentino reviewed the responsibilities that the committee would have. There will be two committees forming, an Agriscience Steering Committee which will be looking at the curriculum piece and a Building Committee. Dr. Cosentino said that a Building Committee will be appointed by Chairman Hirschfield. Discussion followed.

Dr. Cosentino shared that Dr. Frank LaBanca, Westside Middle School Academy, Danbury, will be at Shepaug on Wednesday and will be working on Professional Development with our SVS science teachers for the year. Westside Middle School will be one of our feeder schools for the Agriscience STEM Academy.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about an article in the Republican-American today in reference to the State having money available to us. The copy of the article was written in regard to the AgSTEM program and the statements made by Representative Arthur O'Neill.

Chairman Hirschfield wanted to state that at the Board of Education meeting last Friday, the Board appointed the current Facility Committee as the interim Building Committee for this project and that he will be appointing the final Building Committee soon. Chairman Hirschfield is working on the structure of the Building Committee and the Agriscience Steering Committee and how they will inter-relate with each other. He will relay the information to the Superintendent and to the Board as soon as possible.

## **POLICIES**

*First Reading – Policy 5114- Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process.* Michelle Gorra explained the policy and said that the highlighted areas were new language that had been added due to the new law. Discussion followed.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, no second, to accept the policy as a First Reading with the removal of "PreK" from the policy

Continued discussion on the policy.

Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
November 16, 2015

**MOTION:** made by Greg Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to accept Policy 5114 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process as presented for a First Reading.

Discussion.

**VOTE:** In favor: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Peter Tagley and Sydney Worobel.

Opposed: Valerie Andersen

Motion passed (10 – 1)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.