

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
July 13, 2015

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, July 13, 2015, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, and Peter Tagley. Alan Brown was absent. Michael Sinatra arrived at 7:03 p.m. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and Don O'Leary, Director of Building and Grounds.

### **WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman Hirschfield welcomed Rebecca Devine from Bridgewater and Anthony Amato from Washington.

Chairman Hirschfield explained that normally at the first Board meeting in July new officers are elected for the year but because this is a Special Meeting, the Board's attorney confirmed that former officers can serve up to 30 days. Officers will be elected at the July 20 Board meeting. Chairman Hirschfield announced that the Town of Roxbury does have a vacancy on the Board that they are trying to fill.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Cosentino welcomed the new Board members. Dr. Cosentino gave an overview of the agriscience situation. The HB7210 was passed and signed by the Governor on July 6. Currently, the ED049 has been submitted, although not complete. Ellen Cohn is the new Deputy Commissioner and is also on the Education Committee who will approve the plan. Dr. Cosentino reported that in her conversation with Ms. Cohn, she assured her that all who are on the committee are 100% in favor of the agriscience program and they will be meeting in August. Once the Education Committee approves the program, the referendum will be schedule for November 10. The portion of the ED049 showing approval of the funds will be submitted to the state after the referendum passes. Dr. Cosentino referred to the email she forwarded to the Board from the Board attorney confirming that the agriscience program does not affect the Regionalization Plan. Dr. Cosentino spoke about the work that Ann Baldwin will head up with the publicity committee to inform the public of the referendum and delineate groups in the towns. Charlie Boos is working on the architect plan, Bob Giesen is working with bond counsel and the question for the referendum.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the plans that will be shared in more detail for the entrance/mall in Shepaug. The money is coming from the 2014-15 budget that was saved with the insurance instead of asking for funds through a referendum.

Dr. Cosentino explained the change in the SVS schedule for the humanities by separating the classes. She explained that by having the classes together, it limits what electives students can take and that teachers can still teach together, just not back to back. Dr. Cosentino shared that a new teacher has been hired who holds the 092 endorsement which allows her to serve as an Instructional Leader and she will teach humanities American Studies.

Special Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
July 13, 2015

Dr. Cosentino shared that Burnham is moving forward with an after school program which their PTO or town is sponsoring.

Dr. Cosentino shared information on the CABA conference in November each year. A summer conference is being held in July and Dr. Cosentino encourage anyone interested to attend.

Dr. Cosentino will host a CAG Minds In Motion in the spring; April 9, 2016. She is looking for volunteers to help put it together.

The August 3, 2015 Special Meeting is cancelled. On August 17 there will be a Board Retreat at 5 PM. Ann Baldwin will work with the Board on planning for the referendum. There will be a Special Meeting on August 17 following the Retreat if needed.

Dr. Cosentino spent time in Washington DC participating in the AASA Conference. They are working to reauthorization EASA.

### **SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL ENTRANCE/MALL UPDATE**

Gregory Cava gave details on the renovations and the flooring product that the Facilities Committee is recommending to be used in the entrance/mall area at Shepaug. Mr. Cava also shared plans for lighting, painting, furnishings and charging stations. Mr. William Finn, Reliable Flooring, spoke about the product Powerbond (monolithic flooring) maintenance, installation (no off gassing of glue) and quality. He spoke about Powerbond being used at Yale Hospital, airports, offices.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the renovations and upgrades to the Shepaug Valley School entrance/mall area with an expected completion date of January 1, 2016 or sooner as recommended by the Facilities Committee.

Discussion followed. Dr. Cosentino shared that funds are available for the project due to savings from the 2014-2015 budget.

**AMENDED MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the renovations and upgrades to the Shepaug Valley School entrance/mall area with an expected completion date of January 1, 2016 or sooner as recommended by the Facilities Committee with a budget not to exceed \$220,000.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

### **AGRISCIENCE UPDATE**

Dr. Cosentino introduced Charlie Boos of Kaestle Boos. Mr. Boos presented drawings for the facilities for the agriscience program and spoke about the placement of the equine and small and large animal centers. He spoke about the fields and tennis courts being completely redone. The science facility located on the south end of the building will be gutted and renovated as part of this project. A parent drop off will be located in the new facility. Mr. Boos estimated a budget in August will be presented and in the \$35M range. Mr. Boos spoke about prerferendum services that will need to be put into place for a

referendum on November 10. Mr. Boos addressed questions from the Board regarding outside space for animals, septic issues, fields for sports, walking path around the property, etc.

### **PLANNING FOR A REFERENDUM – ANN BALDWIN**

Ann Baldwin began by asking new Board members to send her their bios to her for a press release. Ms. Baldwin spoke about a story that Channel 30 was set to do on the legislation and the agriscience proposal but at the last minute they cancelled. She is still hopeful as things progress that they will still do a story. Ms. Baldwin spoke about the new TV studio set that was recently installed and ready for use. She reminded the Board that she will work with them at the Retreat scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup> on the language for the referendum and being prepared for community outreach information sessions ready to answer questions the public may ask. She will be working with the communications committee on a video, lawn signs as well as other tools. Discussion followed on state support for the program, state reimbursement rate, approval timeline, curriculum approval, and more.

### **CAG MINDS IN MOTION**

Dr. Cosentino shared that she is planning a CAG Minds In Motion conference which is expected to be held in April 2016. Dr. Cosentino is looking for volunteers.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Rebecca Devine to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion on negotiation strategies and consideration of potential settlement for The Shepaug Valley Custodians and Cafeteria School Employees agreement (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018) and to invite Robert Giesen into Executive Session at 8:47 p.m.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

Chairman Hirschfield gave a 5 minute recess before going into Executive Session.

### **ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

The Board returned to regular session at 9:06 p.m.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to accept The Shepaug Valley Custodians and Cafeteria School Employees agreement (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018) as presented in Executive Session.

Special Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
July 13, 2015

**VOTE:** unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.