

Regional School District 12
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
February 6, 2017

The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2017, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Alan Brown, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley. Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Valerie Andersen was absent. Anthony Amato arrived at 7:08 p.m., and Gregory Cava arrived at 7:34 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Bronson, Roxbury – Urged Board to move forward with AgSTEM.
John Buonaiuto, Washington – Spoke about enrollment numbers for AgSTEM.
Samantha Steinis, Roxbury – Urged Board to move forward with AgSTEM.
Neil Kennedy, Roxbury – Urged Board to move forward with AgSTEM.
Tim Laughlin, Washington – Urged Board to move forward with AgSTEM.
Jim McDonough, Washington – Urged Board to move forward with AgSTEM.
Peter Mariano, Roxbury – Urged Board to move forward with AgSTEM.
Jason McCabe, Washington – Urged Board to move forward with AgSTEM.
Ken Shultz, Washington – Urged Board to move forward with AgSTEM.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting – January 3, 2017
Business Meeting – January 9, 2017
Special Meeting – January 18, 2017

Field Trip: (For Information Only)

The Bronx Zoo, Bronx, NY on June 7, 2017 (Grade 6)
American Museum of Natural History, NYC on March 1, 2017 (BFS, Grades 3-5)

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield congratulated the School Counseling Department led by Todd Dyer for meeting the criteria to be registered with ASCA (American School Counselor Association) program. The ASCA has recognized over 650 schools since its inception in 2004. Chairman Hirschfield also shared that the counseling department has been recognized by RAMP as a school of distinction. He also recognized the Shepaug Varsity Cheerleading Team for winning first place in their division at the Blue Devils Victory Crusader Cheer competition at the West Haven High School. The Middle School Swim Team won numerous standout performances at the Connecticut Middle School Championship at SCSU with Giacomo "Flying Jack" Colangelo crowned Diving Champion, eighth-grade student Katie Tolla broke two Shepaug records and earned two gold medals with first-place finishes in the 100 free and 50 fly. SVS girls' swim team won 3rd place overall. Chairman Hirschfield also recognized all the athletes at Shepaug who compete for their hard work.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino also congratulated the counseling department for their hard work and achievements. Dr. Cosentino shared an article from the *Post* about President Trump and his quest to make *America Great Again*. He in the article he claims that we need more high-tech kids and we need to do more for the STEM sector. Dr. Cosentino spoke on the enrollment in K-5; Burnham – currently 44, enrolled for 2017/18 - 39; Booth Free – currently 85, enrolled for 2017/18 - 71; Washington – currently 112, enrolled for 2017/18 - 102. A handout included tuition students and staff students.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported on the appointment of Leigh Childs as paraprofessional at BFS and two leaves of absence: Stephanie Brocavich, Science Teacher at SVS (March 10, 2017-June 2, 2017) and Alicia Hynes, World Language Teacher at SVS (May 15, 2017-August 24, 2017). Resignation of Caitlin Higa, paraprofessional at BFS (effective January 23, 2017).

MOTION: Peter Tagley, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to move Item 9, Action Items, to be next on the agenda and then continue with Items 6, 7, 8, 10.

VOTE: unanimous.

AUTHORIZE THE BUILDING COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND APPROVE KAESTLE BOOS ASSOCIATES AND O&G INDUSTRIES COSTS TO CONTINUE WORK TO THE BID PHASE PER CONTRACT ON THE AGSTEM AND SCIENCE LAB PROJECTS.

Dr. Cosentino referenced the costs for the contractors on a handout showing the costs going forward. If the project is stopped by the State at any point, the contractors will stop at that point with no further payments. Mr. Boos spoke about the timeline for design development and the construction document phase. Questions followed.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to authorize the Building Committee to review and approve Kaestle Boos Associates and O&G Industries costs to continue work to the bid phase per contract on the AgSTEM and science lab projects.

Jennifer Pote left the meeting at 8:18 p.m., and returned at 8:23 p.m.

Comments and discussions followed. Mr. Giesen explained how the monies would be paid if by chance the state withdraws the project from the priority list. A BAND loan or future budgets are options.

VOTE: **In favor:** Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, and Michael Sinatra.

Opposed: None

Abstained: Anthony Amato and Peter Tagley.

Motion passed (9 – 0 – 2)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building – Ms. Devine reported that the Building Committee met earlier. They reviewed the invoices for O&G and Kaestle Boos.

Education/Curriculum – No report.

EdAdvance – No report.

Facilities – Mr. Cava reported the committee has not met because of weather.

Finance – Mr. Giesen reported that the committee met last week with the auditors and went over the audit report.

Long Range Planning – Mr. Brown reported that the committee will meet in March.

Negotiations – Mr. Cava reported that the teachers' negotiations are complete and hope to approve the contract in executive session. Nurses' negotiations will begin shortly. Chairman Hirschfield added that the teachers' contract has been signed by the teachers' union and if approved in executive session, he will sign it tonight.

Policies & Bylaws – Mrs. Gorra reported that the last meeting was cancelled. They plan to meet next Thursday.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider and approve date change of Board business meeting and budget hearing from April 3, 2017 to March 27, 2017 or move budget hearing to April 6, 2017. Dr. Cosentino explained the need to move the date of the budget hearing.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Alan Brown, to change the date of the business meeting and the budget hearing from April 3, 2017 to March 27, 2017.

VOTE: unanimous.

Consider request for GUNN Memorial Library to use Washington Primary School for the 2017 Washington Connecticut Antiques and Design Show waiving policy prohibiting alcoholic beverages for two evenings; Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7, 2017.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to grant the request of GUNN Memorial Library to use Washington Primary School for the 2017 Washington Connecticut Antiques and Design Show waiving policy prohibiting alcoholic beverages for two evenings provided the usual stipulations that there are no alcoholic beverages on premises or served during times when students are in the building and the usual insurance coverages and requirements for use of school facilities are met.

VOTE: unanimous.

Acceptance of FY2016 Region 12 Annual Audit Report as recommended by the Finance Committee.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Jennifer Pote to accept the FY2016 Annual Audit Report as presented.

Mrs. Gorra spoke about the audit as a clean audit. She spoke about how State monies are disappearing slowly and will continue. Mrs. Gorra pointed out that it is now required to list the State's \$24M liability for the retirement obligation for certified teachers but it is not the districts. There is talk at the State to shift this liability to the municipalities. This year the non-certified staff retirement is 87.39% funded whereas it was over 100% funded last year. The reason is because age tables changed and rate of return was reduced by .25%. The ending fund balance was \$167,900; Bridgewater will receive \$34,600, Roxbury will receive \$56,400, and Washington will receive \$76,900. ECS grant cut to the towns will be covered by the monies being returned to them.

VOTE: unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to go into executive session at 8:38 p.m., for the purpose of discussion of negotiations strategies and considerations of potential settlement for the 2017-2020 SVEA contract.

VOTE: unanimous.

The Board took a brief recess at 8:38 p.m., and reconvened in executive session at 8:48 p.m.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve the SVEA contract as negotiated by the Negotiations Committee.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Debby Bliven