

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
March 6, 2017

The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2017, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, 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. Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, and Rebecca Devine were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

No consent agenda.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino reminded everyone of CABA Day on the Hill on Wednesday, March 8th. Dr. Cosentino also reported that Lisa Roush was on the front cover of the News-Times as the curator of the New Milford Historical Society Museum and she congratulated Mr. Cava for running a fine campaign.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building – Mr. Cava reported that the committee will meet tomorrow night.

Education/Curriculum – Mr. Sinatra and Mrs. Gorra will meet tomorrow. At the next Education Meeting, a presentation will be given on accountability reports as well as the K-12 PE and Wellness Program. Chairman Hirschfield spoke highly of the presentations at the last Education Meeting.

EdAdvance – No report.

Facilities – Mr. Cava reported the committee will meet on the 20th.

Finance – Mr. Giesen reported that the committee met two weeks ago. They went over the financial reports for the month of February. They will have another meeting in two weeks.

Long Range Planning – Mr. Brown reported that the committee will meet on Wednesday to review the results from the surveys.

Negotiations – Mr. Cava reported that they are about to commence negotiations with the nurses’ bargaining unit.

Policies & Bylaws – Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee met twice to make up for cancelled meetings and have many policy readings on the agenda tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 4152.6 Personal Leaves: Mrs. Gorra shared that our lawyer reviewed the policy as requested by the Board and shared his input.

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 4152.6 Personal Leaves for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 5117.1 School Attendance Areas: Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board that at the first reading the only request was to spell out the acronyms the first time mentioned in the policy.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Peter Tagley, to approve Policy 5117.1 School Attendance Areas for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 5142 Student Safety: Mrs. Gorra spoke about the strike out on #10 and that at the first reading it was questioned whether the word ‘all’ should be used. The committee checked with the School Resource Officer and she confirmed that all fire and crises response drills are evaluated. The committee recommended putting the word ‘all’ back in.

MOTION: made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 5142 Student Safety for a second reading with the word ‘all’ in item #10.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment: Mrs. Gorra noted the acronym spelled out.

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Alan Brown to approve Policy 5145.14 Campus Recruitment for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 5141 Student Health Services: Mrs. Gorra shared that the district medical advisor and the nurse supervisor were consulted regarding the changes made to the policy.

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MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 5141 Student Health Services for a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 5145.15 Directory Information: Mrs. Gorra pointed out the new language in yellow. Discussion followed regarding what information is legally mandated to be released. Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Alan Brown, to approve Policy 5145.15 Directory Information for a first reading.

VOTE: In favor: Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Gregory Cava.

Abstained: none.

Motion passed. (8 – 1 – 0)

First Reading – Policy 6154 Homework: Mrs. Gorra shared that the administrators were consulted regarding the changes made to the policy. Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 6154 Homework for a first reading.

VOTE: In favor: Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Gregory Cava.

Abstained: none.

Motion passed. (8 – 1 – 0)

First Reading – Policy 9126 Treasurer: Mrs. Gorra noted that Mrs. DeBrito found that this policy was not in date with the current practice.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 9126 Treasurer for a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Peter Tagley asked about policies regarding gender identity. Dr. Cosentino spoke about state policy she recently forwarded to the Board from Governor Malloy.

Chairman Hirschfield announced that Tim Laughlin was appointed to the Building Committee. Mrs. Gorra spoke about Mr. Laughlin's experience in working with the state on projects and his communication with DAS and legislators.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mrs. Gorra expressed concern about the timing on legislature agenda and inquired about the possible teacher pension contribution being proposed at the state level which may not take effect (if it does) until as late as December. Mr. Giesen explained that it was brought up many years ago. It did not go through at that time, instead the state income tax was implemented. Questions and discussions followed on other school funding (ECS and Educational Cost for special education) cuts at the state level through grants.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Gregory Cava, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Debby Bliven