

Regional School District 12
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
August 29, 2016

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2016 by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley. Roxbury – vacancy. Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Absent were: Michelle Gorra, and Sydney Worobel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Howard Barnett, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.

John Bouniauto, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.

Randy Carreira, New Preston – spoke about AgSTEM project.

Art Peters, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.

Erica Ryland, Washington – spoke about AgSTEM project.

Ed Wainwright, Bridgewater – spoke about AgSTEM and science labs project.

Scott Werkhoven, Washington – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Business Meeting – July 25, 2016
Special Meeting – August 16, 2016

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield spoke as a citizen in response to comments made about Mr. Davenport. The goal of the Board of Education is to better the education of the students. He explained how Mr. Davenport became involved in helping the district investigate an AgSTEM program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino spoke about how staff was recognized for 10 or more years at her convocation on August 25th. She then recognized Board members for their service as follows: Valerie Andersen – starting her 20th year, Alan Brown – starting his 10th year, Michelle Gorra – starting her 13th year, Jim Hirschfield – starting his 20th year, and Peter Tagley (in his second stint) – starting his 16th year. Shepaug logo pins were given to all Board members.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the threat made to a Roxbury School in Ohio and the confusion of it being Booth Free School in Roxbury. State police were at each school today for the first day of school for students. All went exceptionally well.

Dr. Cosentino shared that she received notification from the state that the district is in full compliance with the Student File Review Process (IDEA) and spoke about the constant efforts of Allyson O'Hara and the Special Education Department.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the State's Five Year Plan that was included in the packet and that she felt it would be useful as the District's Strategic Plan is being updated.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported on the following appointments: Ellen Conard, Paraprofessional (part-time) at WPS; Marc DiNicola, Educational Assistant at BFS; Brooke Faison, Technology Library Clerk at WPS; Amanda Farren, Literacy Tutor at BFS; Laura Gordon, Special Education Teacher (.4 fte) for private schools; Joanne Kelly, Library Clerk at SVS; Alexa Masi, Media Communications Assistant (part-time); Linda McMillan, Art Teacher at SVS; Brittany Turney, Library Clerk (part-time) at WPS; Cristina Valdino-Hardy, Paraprofessional at BS. Leaves of Absences included: Michael Nolan, Spanish Teacher at SVS (August 24, 2016 to September 16, 2016). Resignations included: Amanda Farren, Educational Assistant at BFS (effective August 15, 2016); Marissa Maitz, Front Entrance Security at SVS (effective August 22, 2016); and Carlene Stahlnecker, Library Clerk at SVS (effective July 26, 2016). Dr. Cosentino reported that Linda Pryblyski, Literacy Tutor at BFS retired (effective August 1, 2016).

Field Trip: Silver Lake Conference Center (Peer Leadership Training) for Grades 9-12 on September 16-17, 2016.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve the field trip to Silver Lake Conference Center on September 16-17, 2016 for Grades 9-12.

VOTE: unanimous.

Enrollment Update: Dr. Cosentino shared the up-to-date enrollments at the schools: Burnham – 47, Booth Free – 85, Washington Primary – 162, Shepaug – 411. Total – 705. Dr. Cosentino will provide Prowda projections at the next meeting.

First Day of School for Students: Dr. Cosentino reported that the first day of school went well.

Teachers' Workspace and Summer Work Update: Dr. Cosentino spoke about the teachers' workspace. Although not complete, it is looking great. She also spoke about the other summer work which Don O'Leary will report on at another time.

HS - Chemistry: Dr. Cosentino reported that we have two students taking AP Chemistry after school. The students are being taught by Mr. Gransky who is a retired teacher from Arch Bridge School and he is also retired from the military.

Mr. Brown questioned the Roxbury incident. Discussion followed. Chairman Hirschfield will send a letter to Trooper Sordi's office regarding the handling of the incident.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Education/Curriculum – No report.

EdAdvance – No report.

Facilities – Mr. Cava reported on the improvements completed during the summer and that a full report will be given at another time.

Finance – Mrs. Andersen reported the committee will meet on September 12.

Long Range Planning – Mr. Brown reported the committee will meet on September 15 and then as listed on the revised meeting schedule as noted on the agenda. They will cover the Panarama surveys, international baccalaureate and multiage/multi-grade classrooms.

Negotiations – Mr. Cava reported that the teachers’ negotiations will commence this fall. Chairman Hirschfield explained the process as controlled by statute.

Policies & Bylaws – Mr. Brown reported that they will meet soon.

OLD BUSINESS

Agriscience Update: Mr. Cava spoke about the space/square footage for animals and needing clarification from the State before asking Kaestle Boos to redesign plans. Discussion followed.

Mr. Brown commented on addressing the misinformation given from the public comments made earlier. Mr. Cava spoke in regard to Mr. Davenport and his passion for students interested in agriscience but are turned away from the program in Region 14 due to lack of space. The program at Region 12 will provide opportunities to them. Discussion followed.

Dr. Cosentino clarified the comments made about Mr. Davenport. She spoke about the great deal of time that Mr. Davenport gave to the Region by volunteering to help the Board and how thankful the Region is for his expertise and time.

NEW BUSINESS

Superintendent’s Goals: Dr. Cosentino went through her goals.

Consider and approve changes to the Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2016-2017: Added the Long Range Planning Committee Meetings and two more Retreats.

Mr. Brown spoke about the enrollment numbers for the AgSTEM that Mr. Carreira handed out during his public comment. He noted that we are close to the projected enrollment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Anthony Amato, to enter into executive session to discuss the evaluation criteria for superintendent and to review non-certified staff contract extensions at 9:00 p.m.

VOTE: unanimous.

Chairman Hirschfield called a five minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:05 p.m. in executive session.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Alan Brown, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.