

Regional School District 12  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
October 3, 2016

The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3, 2016, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley. Two Roxbury Vacancies. Patricia E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Alan Brown and Jennifer Pote were absent.

**WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman Hirschfield reported that Roxbury is having a town meeting at which two ladies have put their names forward to fill the two Roxbury vacant seats on the Board. Once that is completed, they will attend tonight or the next Board meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of Minutes:* Education/Curriculum Meeting – September 26, 2016

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Hirschfield expressed appreciation to those working on committees of the Board and for the time they put in doing the Board's work.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Correspondence:* Dr. Cosentino shared that the middle school students placed first for their video 'The World I Want to Live in' at the Film Festival in Washington DC. A mentor from the American Film Institute will be assigned to work the students. A discussion on public relations followed.

*Superintendent's Goals:* Dr. Cosentino read her goals (work in progress) and spoke about evaluation process yet to be determined. Discussion followed.

*Personnel:* Dr. Cosentino reported on the following appointments: Lori McGovern, Literacy Tutor at WPS.

Dr. Cosentino reported the official total enrollment submitted to the state for the October 1 window as 706 students. Discussion followed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Building* – Mr. Cava reported the committee met earlier tonight. They reviewed the plans and discussed the request from DAS to put more of the AgSTEM program inside the existing footprint of Shepaug. Kaestle Boos felt that would be doable. The Building Committee authorized Kaestle Boos to revise the conceptual plans. The plans are expected to be available on the 14<sup>th</sup> and presented at the Building Committee meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> with hopes to bring a recommendation to the Board. Questions and discussion followed.

*Education/Curriculum* – Mr. Sinatra reported that he and Mrs. Gorra met with Teresa DeBrito last Friday. They went over a schedule of topics for the year. Mr. Sinatra encouraged anyone with a presentation topic to email them. A presentation will be given on Atlas Curriculum Mapping and sequencing of courses in the district sometime this year. Todd Dyer will be giving a presentation on the Class of 2016.

*EdAdvance* – Mrs. Andersen reported she will attend the meeting on Thursday.

*Facilities* – Mr. Cava reported that the meeting in October will be rescheduled. Hallways were done over the summer with the resilient flooring, LED lights, and painting. The teachers' work area is almost complete. Windows in the cafeteria have been replaced. The pool area has a new scoreboard donated by parents and installed by the Region. The walk-off carpet in the SVS entrance been replaced. Elementary school projects will be done under the elementary fund over the next year.

*Finance* – Mrs. Andersen reported the committee met earlier. She spoke about her duties as the Finance Committee Chair. The committee reviewed the September 28 financials. Mrs. Andersen spoke about bus expenses and savings realized this year. Heating oil prices are going down; current rate \$1.95 and Mr. Giesen is looking to set rate for 2017-18 at \$1.85-\$1.95. The committee discussed looking at the budgets and actual expenditures by school in addition to the district level.

*Long Range Planning* – No report.

*Negotiations* – Mr. Cava reported that the teachers' negotiations will commence on October 12.

*Policies & Bylaws* – Mrs. Gorra reported that there are many policies on the agenda for later tonight. The committee is close to finishing the audit. CABE posted on their website the agenda for the whole year.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*First Reading – Policy 4115 Evaluation/Support:* Mrs. Gorra spoke about the changes to the policy.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve Policy 4115 Evaluation/Support for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*First Reading – Policy 5111.1 Foreign Exchange Students:* Mrs. Gorra spoke about the changes to the policy.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 5111.1 Foreign Exchange Students for a first reading.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*First Reading – Policy 5112 Students Age of Attendance:* Mrs. Gorra spoke about the changes to the policy.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen, to approve Policy 5112 Students Age of Attendance for a first reading.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*First Reading – Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements:* Mrs. Gorra spoke about the changes to the policy.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen, to approve Policy 6146 Requirements for Graduation Requirements for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*First Reading – Policy 6146.2 Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations:* Mrs. Gorra spoke about the changes to the policy.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 6146.2 Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*First Reading – Policy 9326 Video Taping at Board of Education Meetings:* Mrs. Gorra explained that his is a new policy.

**MOTION:** made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve Policy 9326 Video Taping at Board of Education Meetings for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*To Consider and if appropriate, approve gym floor repairs at Shepaug Valley School for an amount not to exceed \$35,000 as recommended by the Facilities Committee:* Mr. Cava explained the issue of a metal track on the floor in the gym for a wall that was once used to separate the gym in half and that a student has proposed a senior project to update the Spartan logo in the center of the gym floor. He spoke about the timeline and cost. Discussion followed.

**MOTION:** made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Anthony Amato, to approve gym floor repairs at Shepaug Valley School for an amount not to exceed \$35,000 as recommended by the Facilities Committee.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** In favor: Anthony Amato, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: Valerie Andersen.

Motion passed (7 – 0 – 1)

*To Consider and if appropriate, approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar:* Dr. Cosentino explained the mandates for the regional calendar.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar as presented.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*To Consider and if appropriate, approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar:* Dr. Cosentino explained the mandates for the regional calendar.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Valerie Andersen, to approve the 2018-2019 School Calendar as presented.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

No action items.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Peter Tagley, to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.