

Regional School District 12
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
November 7, 2016

The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7, 2016, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, 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. Gregory Cava was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Buonaiuto, Washington – Spoke about Policy 9236 Video Taping Board Meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Cosentino provided details on the field trip by Catalonian Delegation to the United States in NYC as requested by Valerie Andersen.

Approval of Minutes: Education Meeting – October 17, 2016
Retreat – October 24, 2016

Field Trip: (For Information Only) Catalonian Delegation to the United States in NYC November 19, 2016 (Grades 10-12).

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield expressed congratulations to Sean Parker for winning the Berkshire League and State Class S Championship in Cross Country and leading the team to a 2nd place finish.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board of their retreat scheduled for March 13. She suggested inviting Bob Radar or someone from CABE to work with them on the roles of the Board and the Superintendent.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported on the following appointments: Eileen LeBlanc and Autumn Jensen as paraprofessionals at WPS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building – No report.

Education/Curriculum – Mrs. Gorra reported that the next meeting is next Monday.

EdAdvance – Mrs. Andersen reported she attended the dedication of the educational center in Danbury in honor of Dani Thibideau the former executive director. She also attended the meeting this past Thursday in Litchfield with the new director. Mrs. Andersen spoke about the programs they provide i.e. adult education, Birth to Three, School Readiness, fingerprinting services, etc.

Facilities – No report.

Finance – Mrs. Andersen reported the committee met earlier. The committee talked about having a public forum for the AgSTEM program. The committee reviewed the October 31st financials. Mr. Giesen set electric generation rate that will save money. The committee reviewed the 1% fund balance of \$292,000 and the lease that has a balance of \$101,000.

Long Range Planning – Mr. Brown reported that the committee met last Wednesday and talked about the surveys for teachers, students and parents. Teacher and student surveys will end in November, and parent surveys will end in January. Results will be ready to present at the February meeting in conjunction with a facilitator not yet hired. The topic for the meeting in January will be the International Baccalaureate. Mr. Brown spoke about how the surveys are a good way to get input from stakeholders in the school system to begin developing goals for the Strategic Plan. The committee is also looking into surveys for the community. Questions and discussion followed.

Negotiations – Mr. Hirschfield reported that the teachers’ negotiations are ongoing.

Policies & Bylaws – Mrs. Gorra reported that there are many policies on the agenda for later tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 4115 Evaluation/Support: Mrs. Gorra spoke about the changes made at the first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 4115 Evaluation/Support for a second reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 5111.1 Foreign Exchange Students: Mrs. Gorra reminded everyone that there were no changes since the first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Stephanie Kolnick, to approve Policy 5111.1 Foreign Exchange Students for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

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

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 5112 Students Age of Attendance for a second reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

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

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 6146 Requirements for Graduation Requirements for a second reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 6146.2 Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations: Mrs. Gorra explained changes to the policy. Valerie Andersen noted that a sentence was incomplete in the first paragraph. Mrs. Gorra looked back on the first reading and found it is missing the word ‘science’.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve Policy 6146.2 Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations for a second reading with the addition of the word ‘science’ at the end of the first paragraph.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 9326 Video Taping at Board of Education Meetings: Mrs. Gorra clarified that this policy is used in other districts to allow the use of electronic recording devices but requires anyone wishing to record to notify the Chair before the meeting begins.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 9326 Video Taping at Board of Education Meetings for a second reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

Mrs. Gorra asked that something be said at the beginning of the meetings for the next couple months to help inform the public of the new policy for recording meetings. Ms. Devine suggested a statement be put on the top of the posted agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 4152.6 Personal Leaves: Mrs. Gorra spoke about the policy needing to be updated. Ms. Devine questioned whether the terminology of ‘civil unions’ is needed any longer. Mrs. Gorra will ask counsel.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve Policy 4152.6 Personal Leaves for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS

Revision to the Board Meeting Schedule for 2016-2017: Dr. Cosentino explained the change to the schedule. The November 21st meeting will now be held November 14th instead.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve the change to the meeting schedule.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Alan Brown to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.