

Regional School District 12
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
December 5, 2016

The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2016, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, 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. Stephanie Kolnick arrived at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to amend the agenda to add item 8.4 Timing of the Business Plan.

Discussion followed.

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

Opposed: Valerie Andersen.

Motion passed (11 – 1 – 0)

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Business Meeting – November 7, 2016
Education Meeting – November 14, 2016
Special Meeting – November 28, 2016

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield reminded everyone of the high school concert tomorrow night, December 6, at 7 p.m. and the middle school concert on Thursday, December 8, at 7 p.m. The holiday bazaar is also on Thursday night.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino shared that she will be at the State Capital tomorrow with the high school team for High School Reimagined. Our Team is presenting on having Virtual School on snow days. Brianna Getzel and Jack Roush will be students accompanying them.

Dr. Cosentino shared that she will attend the legislative breakfast on Friday, December 9, at 7:30 a.m. in Sandy Hook and that anyone wishing to attend may. There is another legislative breakfast at EdAdvance in Litchfield on Wednesday, December 7th.

Board Retreat on March 13, 2017: Dr. Cosentino confirmed that Patrice McCarthy from CAFE will work with the Board on the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Superintendent at their retreat scheduled for March 13.

TEACH 2016 Fellowship in the Persian Gulf: Dr. Cosentino introduced Wendy Youngblood who just returned from her International TEACH (Teachers Educating Across the Cultures in Harmony) trip to the Persian Gulf. Ms. Youngblood's two week trip was sponsored by the U.S. - Arab Bilateral Chamber of Commerce. She shared the goals of GCC (Gulf Cooperative Council) and three new things she learned while there. Ms. Youngblood spoke about how she is bringing what she learned into the classroom. Ms. Youngblood spoke about a blog she set up and options for students to interact with items that she posted. Ms. Youngblood shared stories and pictures of places she visited. Questions and answers followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building – Mr. Cava reported that the committee may meet this month.

Education/Curriculum – Mrs. Gorra reported that the next meeting is Monday, December 19. Topic to be determined.

EdAdvance – Mrs. Andersen reported the December meeting was cancelled. She spoke about helping out with the business plan.

Facilities – Mr. Cava reported the committee will meet on December 19 after not meeting in quite a while.

Finance – Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee met earlier. The committee reviewed the monthly financials and potential expenditures related to special education. Mr. Amato spoke about the schedule of AgSTEM expenses-to-date that Bob Giesen put together as well as to-be-incurred-expenses from Kaestle Boos and suggested it be a supplement to the business plan. Mrs. Andersen spoke about meeting scheduled at 1 p.m., with concerned citizens on the AgSTEM on December 18 at Central Office.

Long Range Planning – Mr. Brown talked about the decision not to survey administrators since there are only a few and want to retain anonymity. Mr. Brown hopes that the committee can meet in the next two weeks.

Negotiations – Mr. Cava reported completion of negotiations with the teachers. Will bring to the Board in executive session as soon as possible.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 4152.6 Personal Leaves: Mrs. Gorra spoke about the civil unions language that was removed since the first reading.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 4152.6 Personal Leaves for a second reading.

Discussion followed. Mr. Cava expressed concern that the policy and the upcoming agreement with the teachers' union be consistent.

AMENDED MOTION: made by Anthony Amato, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 4152.6 Personal Leaves for a second reading subject to board counsel review and approval as written.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 5117.1 Intra-District Choice/Open Enrollment: Mrs. Gorra pointed out the changes highlighted in yellow.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 5117.1 Intra-District Choice/Open Enrollment for a first reading.

Discussion followed. It was requested that acronyms be spelled out the first time used in a policy.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 5142 Student Safety: Mrs. Gorra spoke about the changes to the policy.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Anthony Amato, to approve Policy 5142 Student Safety for a first reading and eliminate the word “all” in item 10.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: *In favor:* Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Alan Brown.

Motion passed (11 – 1 – 0)

First Reading – Policy 5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment: Mrs. Gorra spoke about the changes to the policy.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Stephanie Kolnick, to approve Policy 5145.14 On-Campus Recruitment for a first reading.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: unanimous.

TIMING OF THE BUSINESS PLAN

Alan Brown spoke about developing and having the business plan ready for the December 19 meeting.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to have the business plan for the AgSTEM ready for the next meeting on December 19, 2016.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about reducing the greenhouses as DAS requested which will reduce the cost. Without the final costs, it is difficult to complete the business plan. If the business plan is not available on December 19, a special meeting can be called as soon as it is. Mr. Cava explained the sizes and functions of greenhouses. Discussion followed.

Alan Brown and Michelle Gorra removed their motion.

Valerie Andersen left at 8:50 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items.

Jennifer Pote requested that the morning alert phone call for delayed openings be done later than 4:45 a.m. for parents and families.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.