

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Meeting
Shepaug Valley School
March 20, 2017

The Education Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, March 20, 2017, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, and Michael Sinatra (7:13) Lisa Roush and Peter Tagley were absent. Also present were: Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent; and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations.

Also present were: Cathy Colella, Principal at BFS / BS; Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal at SVS; Kim Gallo, Principal at SVS; Emily Judd, Principal at WPS; Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services; and Donald O'Leary, Director of Facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Curtis Read, Bridgewater – Commented on the proposed budget.
Carolann Dwyer, Bridgewater – Commented on the Burnham School grade merging.
Diana Kelly, Bridgewater – Commented on enrollment, grade merging.
Jeremy Tandler, Washington – Children attend Burnham School. Commented on grade merging.
Patrick Dwyer, Bridgewater – Commented on the proposed budget.
Julie Stuart, Bridgewater – Praised programs at SVS and commented on the proposed budget and grade merging.
Ed Wainwright, Bridgewater – Commented on grade merging
Angela Macchiarula, Bridgewater – Commented on grade merging.
Angelica Jacob, Bridgewater – Commented on grade merging. Read email from parent Krystle Toczylowski, regarding grade merging and teacher cut. Read email from Cindy Meglio regarding Burnham School.
Joy Ruppert, Bridgewater – Commented on grade merging.
Matt Denning, Bridgewater – Commented on grade merging.

Valerie Andersen responded to comments made by Mr. Read and Mr. Wainwright by offering legal information and budget information, which was on the agenda for discussion. Also clarified were the grades at Burnham School that could possibly be merged in the 2017/18 school year.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approved Minutes: Education Meeting – February 27, 2017
Special Meeting – March 6, 2017
Business Meeting – March 6, 2017
Retreat – March 13, 2017

Field Trips: Field trip to Tarrytown Music Theatre, Tarrytown, NY for Grades 8-9.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Board Appreciation: Dr. Cosentino recognized Board members for School Board Member Appreciation Month. She thanked them for their continued work as Board members and presented thank you gifts.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported on the resignation of Nancy Hagan, Paraprofessional at WPS/SVS (effective March 17, 2017).

Field Trip Approvals: Senior Class Trip to Six Flags, Agawam, MA, Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH, Dinner Cruise, World Trade Center, Quincy Market, Boston, MA on April 28-30, 2017.

MOTION: made by Greg Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to approve the Senior Class Trip to Six Flags, Agawam, MA, Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH, Dinner Cruise, World Trade Center, Quincy Market, Boston, MA on April 28-30, 2017.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEXT GENERATION ACCOUNTABILITY – presented by Teresa DeBrito. Mrs. DeBrito passed out a booklet, Next Generation Accountability Report: 2015-16, to each Board member with information on Regional performance as well as information on a school by school basis. Mrs. DeBrito reviewed each area page by page and also drew attention to the fact that Region 12 was at the top of our DRG, (C), having an 86.1% accountability. Mrs. DeBrito acknowledged Lori Ferreira and Karen Fildes for their work on being sure all current test coding was in place and matched. The question had been posed to Mrs. DeBrito, of the possibility that a press release could be sent out with the presented information. Discussion followed.

K-12 PE/WELLNESS CURRICULUM OVERVIEW presented by Department Chair, Jason Conway. Mr. Conway spoke on the Physical Education/Health Curriculum, meeting the State Standards, and the different aspects within the PE Department. A slide show coincided with the presentation. Mr. Conway acknowledged his team of teachers and the philosophy of the department. Questions and comments followed. Mr. Conway and his team were thanked for their teaching strategies, use of the facilities at hand and how his department enables every student to partake in the program.

ACTION ITEMS

Budget Discussion began with Valerie Andersen speaking on the Region's budget history and process. Mrs. Andersen stated that population is an important factor in the making of the budget. Mrs. Andersen, then moved on to review budget code items in the 700 series. The focus of the conversation was in the reduction area, staff reductions. Discussion extended to questions and comments in regard to the teacher reduction and grade merging at Burnham School. There was concern with the third grade only having four students next year and the benefits, or not, of having these students in a class of 11 which would be combining Grades 3 and 4 in the 2017/18 school year.

10:23 p.m. Alan Brown left the meeting, returned at 10:27 p.m.

10:25 p.m. Rebecca Devine left the meeting, returned 10:28 p.m.

10:30 p.m. Michael Sinatra left the meeting, returned at 10:33 p.m.

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It was asked of Dr. Cosentino and Ms. Colella to gather information on what the possible plan for the upcoming school year would be and bring that information back at the next meeting. More questions pertaining to the 700 series followed and were clarified. After lengthy discussion of budget items in the reduction area, it was decided that the budget review would be continued to the March 27 meeting.

Also mentioned was the District Budget Hearing that is to be held March 27, and it was asked how the continued discussion would affect the budget timeline. Mr. Giesen stated that continuing discussion on March 27 would not affect the timeline. It was clarified that the hearing could happen and after the hearing, public comment, followed by the scheduled Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m. by unanimous consent.

SH / March 2017