

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Meeting
Shepaug Valley School
September 26, 2016

The Education/Curriculum Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, September 26, 2016, by Chairman, James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Sydney Worobel was absent. One Roxbury seat vacant. Greg Cava arrived at 7:05 p.m. and left the meeting at 7:13 p.m. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, was also present.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Karen Fildes Director of Technology; Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations; Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services; Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities, Principals: Kim Gallo, SVS; Cathy Colella, BFS, BS and Emily Judd, WPS; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal, SVS.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: September 12, 2016

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield reported that he had received official notification that Board member Sydney Worobel has resigned due to a change in residency. Chairman Hirschfield stated that there is a possibility of new members to fill the two Roxbury vacant seats.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence – Dr. Cosentino reported that she has had communication from CABA asking if any Board member would be interested in being appointed as an arbitrator. Valerie Andersen had shown interest and Dr. Cosentino stated that Valerie's name had been accepted by the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education who would be submitting her name to Governor Malloy for approval.

Appointment: Dr. Cosentino reported that Robin Hollister was hired as Front Entry Security at SVS.

Field Trip Approvals: Field Trip to the White House Student Film Festival in Washington, D.C. on October 2-4, 2016, for Grades 6-8 and to the Model UN Conference in Boston, MA on January 26-29, 2017, for Grades 9-12.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Alan Brown, to approve the field trip requests to the White House Student Film Festival in Washington, D.C., October 2-4, 2016 (Grades 6-8) and to the Model UN Conference in Boston, MA on January 26-29, 2017 (Grades 9-12).

VOTE: unanimous.

VIDEO PRODUCTION

Dr. Cosentino introduced teacher Breanne Pitt, advisor for the Video Club. Mrs. Pitt started her presentation by showing a video in which President Obama spoke about the White House Student Film Festival. The students who were chosen to go to the White House for the video they had submitted entitled, *The World I Want to Live In*, spoke about what they had learned in producing the video and their upcoming itinerary. The presentation ended with a showing of the video. The Board complimented Mrs. Pitt and her students for a job well done.

REACH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Mrs. O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services, shared an email she had received from former Bridgewater resident Joe Poletto, who now resides in California. The email was in regard to The Blue Rose Foundation which he and his wife have started to help economically disadvantaged families. Mrs. O'Hara stated the Foundation awards scholarships to preschool children who would otherwise be unable to attend a preschool. Mr. Poletto's purpose for contacting Mrs. O'Hara was to inform her of a benefit event being held on October 20, in Manhattan. The goal of this event is to have the proceeds go to the REACH Preschool Program. Mr. Poletto believes that over the next five years \$50,000 could be raised. The scholarship would be able to annually award \$10,000 to families that could benefit with financial support for their child to attend the REACH Program. Dr. Cosentino invited anyone interested in attending with her and Mrs. O'Hara to let her know and a ticket would be purchased for them.

An invitation made by the REACH students was passed around to Board members inviting them to visit them.

PROGRESS REPORT

Booklets, entitled Regional School District 12, 2016 Assessment Results, were distributed to Board members and administrators by Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. The booklet showed standardized test results for Smarter Balanced, CMT Science, CAPT and SAT. Graphs and percentages were pictured for each test and grade. Information was also listed, per test and grade, stating how Region 12 compared to schools in and outside the DRG. Mrs. DeBrito reviewed and explained the results. She commented on the positive student growth and achievement throughout the grades. Concluding her presentation, Mrs. DeBrito acknowledged teachers and administrators on their hard work which had been reflected by the student results. Mrs. DeBrito mentioned how important it was that teachers were able to collaborate as a group by grade level meetings and curriculum meetings. Board members also appreciated and acknowledged the work by the Region's staff and hard work by the students. It was mentioned that since Mrs. DeBrito had such a nice presentation with the booklet, that members of the Board suggested it be made available at Town Halls in the three towns and if possible to the local real estate agents. It had also been requested to make the booklet available on the Region's website. Valerie Andersen asked that maybe in future reporting, a comparison of the three individual elementary schools may not be needed. Questions followed.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items.

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There was a discussion about a date for the next Building Committee Meeting because of concerns in giving direction to Kaestle Boos for the AgSTEM project.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, and seconded by Jennifer Pote, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

VOTE: unanimous.