

Regional School District 12
Board of Education, Education Meeting
Shepaug Valley School
October 17, 2016

The Education Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, October 17, 2016, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent; and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities; Principals Kim Gallo, Cathy Colella and Emily Judd; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal; and Todd Dyer, Director of School Counseling.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Hirschfield welcomed new Board members Stephanie Kolnick, Roxbury and Lisa Roush, Roxbury.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Heidi Edel, French Teacher at SVS - spoke about the upcoming France trip and safety concerns.

John Buonaiuto, Washington – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Doug Delisle – Bridgewater – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Holly Flor, Roxbury – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Tim Laughlin, Washington – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Christy Harty, Roxbury – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Janet Buonaiuto, Washington – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Jessica Granger, Danbury – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Paula Conway, Roxbury – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Ken Schultz, New Preston – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Adam Hughes, Bridgewater – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Samantha Steinis, Roxbury – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Jessica Barr, New Preston – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Spencer Hardy, New Preston – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Lauren Werkhoven, Washington – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

Sue Nicholas, New Preston – spoke about the AgSTEM project.

* Chairman Hirschfield made the executive decision to move item 7, White House Student Film Festival Trip Report, up in the agenda.

WHITE HOUSE STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL TRIP REPORT

Teacher Breanne Pitt, Shepaug Video Club Advisor, introduced the middle school students who attended the White House Film Festival. The students placed in the top three for their video entitled “The World I Want to Live In”. As a report of the film festival, Mrs. Pitt showed a YouTube video that she had put together summarizing their trip to Washington, D.C. Board members praised Mrs. Pitt and the students for a job well done. Mrs. Pitt stated that the “winning”, was having your video shown on the large screen on the White House lawn and that part of the winning was also having a member of the American Film

Institute as a mentor. As of yet, she does not know who it will be but, this person will be coming to Shepaug to work with students. Following the event summary, Mrs. Gallo handed out a replica of the certificate, which had been presented to the school, to each of the students to have as a memento. The team was congratulated by Chairman Hirschfield and they were also acknowledged with a round of applause by Board members.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: Business Meeting, October 3, 2016.

Dr. Cosentino mentioned the Senior Project Work Day at Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY that took place October 12, 2016.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino reported on the hiring of Milone & McBroom to do a demography study which would be similar to Mr. Prowda's studies. In a letter from Milone & McBroom, which Dr. Cosentino made available, it was stated that they felt information gathered from Mr. Prowda should be sufficient for our needs.

Panorama Timeline: Dr. Cosentino stated that the Long Range Planning Committee would not be meeting until November but that she had been in touch with Karen Fildes and wanted to be sure all Board members had received the information pertaining to the Panorama Timeline. Dr. Cosentino mentioned the timeline dates as follows: the teacher survey, late October, the student survey, late November, and the parent survey will be going out in January.

France Trip, Spring 2017: Dr. Cosentino shared her concerns for the previously approved field trip to France, April 2017. Based on unsolicited information she had received from outside sources, such as National Security, Dr. Cosentino recommended to the Board that the trip be canceled and student safety be considered. Dr. Cosentino suggested that an alternate trip be planned. Discussion and dialogue with teacher Heidi Edel followed. Mrs. Edel stated that since deposits have been made, the sooner a decision could be made the better. During discussion Dr. Cosentino read information from two reports she had been sent. One was from Homeland Security, the other from the U.S. Embassy in Paris. Dr. Cosentino stated that copies of the letters had been shared with Board members.

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Anthony Amato, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to cancel the France Trip, Spring of 2017.

Discussion continued.

VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Stephanie Kolnick, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Greg Cava and James Hirschfield.

Abstained: Jennifer Pote.

Motion passed (9 – 2 – 1)

Chairman Hirschfield thanked Mrs. Edel for her time and effort on the matter.

Valerie Andersen mentioned the Blue Rose Foundation fundraiser and passed around an article she had read in the newspaper which gave information about the fundraiser.

CLASS OF 2016

Todd Dyer handed out packets to Board members and faculty in attendance pertaining to the graduating Class of 2016. Mr. Dyer reviewed the information in the packets. The packets contained information regarding college acceptances, SAT scoring, ACT scoring and AP/VHS course offerings. The Board was very pleased in the reporting of the students and how well they had done. It was commented that this information should somehow be shared with the community. Mr. Dyer stated that moving forward, all students eligible will now be taking the SATs. Discussion and questions were open throughout Mr. Dyer's presentation.

Rebecca Devine left the meeting at 8:48 p.m., and returned at 8:50 p.m.

AgSTEM

Rightsizing of Building Project, presented by Kaestle Boos: Up-to-date information was presented by Building Committee Chairperson, Greg Cava. There was discussion as to what is happening thus far and about a new set of plans to be presented. Mr. Cava stated that, plans had been submitted to the Building Committee by Kaestle Boos that night prior to the Board of Education meeting. It had been decided that since revisions still needed to be made, that the Building Committee did not have a set of plans ready to bring to the Board for approval. Mr. Cava stated that the plans in the revision state, were bringing AgSTEM classrooms into the current Shepaug building. As per State recommendation, the current building would best be utilized in that manner and for the number of students in the projected enrollments. A timeline with target dates was questioned.

Dr. Cosentino remarked that she would be happy to work with Kaestle Boos on a timeline.

Michael Sinatra left the meeting at 9:55 p.m., and returned at 9:58 p.m.

Michelle Gorra left the meeting at 9:57 p.m., and returned at 9:59 p.m.

Projected Enrollment: Dr. Cosentino made available to Board members and the audience, information showing numbers for the Region 12 AgSTEM Enrollment Projections. Dr. Cosentino walked through each of the columns and explained how the numbers were derived.

Discussion / questions.

ESTABLISH GRADUATION DATE FOR SHEPAUG CLASS OF 2017

MOTION: made by Greg Cava, seconded by Alan Brown, to approve June 17, 2017, as the graduation date for the Class of 2017.

VOTE: unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS

Remaining Efforts to Expunge Old Logo: Dr. Cosentino shared that correspondence sent out by the Alumni Association would now be using the new logo. Dr. Cosentino also stated that she had been in touch with Matt Perachi regarding the old logo on the sports uniforms. Mr. Perachi had given Dr. Cosentino numbers as to how much it would cost to replace sports uniforms with the new logo. Middle school uniforms would cost \$27,745.00 and high school uniforms, \$61,586.00. It had been suggested that as uniforms needed to be replaced, that is when the new logo would be transferred.

Anthony Amato shared an article he had read in the Wall Street Journal about Urban Farming.

Valerie Andersen questioned item 4.2 on the agenda. It was explained that this was a senior project regarding Wildlife and Water.

Superintendent's Goals: Dr. Cosentino stated that since the last meeting, no changes had been made and once the Board approved her goals, she would meet with the four members of the committee and they would work together on moving forward and putting together a timeline and an end-of-the year evaluation.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Valerie Andersen, to accept the Superintendent's goals as presented at the previous meeting, October 7, 2017.

Discussion.

VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Greg Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: Stephanie Kolnick and Lisa Roush.

Motion passed (10 – 2)

Dr. Cosentino reminded everyone of the Board Retreat, October 24 at 6:00 p.m. and summarized the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to adjourn at 10:40 p.m.

VOTE: unanimous.