

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Meeting
Shepaug Valley School
December 19, 2016

The Education Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, December 19, 2016, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Alan Brown (7:03), Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra (7:15), Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, was also present. Absent: Anthony Amato and Valerie Andersen.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services; Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities; Principals Cathy Colella and Emily Judd; and Karen Fildes, Director of Technology and Communications.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: Business Meeting, December 5, 2016.

Field Trip (FYI): Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC (Grade 11) on April 18, 2017.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield updated Board members in regard to a complaint filed April 8, 2016, against the Board of Education by Curtis Read, First Selectman of Bridgewater, to the Freedom of Information Commission. A first hearing had been held by the Commission in Hartford on July 6, 2016. On November 16, 2016, it was concluded that no violation had taken place. At a hearing on December 7, 2016, the conclusion was upheld, and the complaint was dismissed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino announced the appointment of Stephanie Maynard, Educational Assistant at WPS.

Region 12 Public Schools Projected Enrollment to 2026 report prepared by Peter Prowda was handed out by Dr. Cosentino. A review of the handout would take place at a later date. A brief discussion followed with comments and questions.

Public Comment Guidelines was reviewed by Dr. Cosentino. Dr. Cosentino stated that a committee drafted the guidelines and a review of the guidelines would take place at the next Board meeting.

Dr. Cosentino drew attention to the first annual Class Report newsletter that had been given to each Board member prior to the meeting. The newsletter has been mailed and the community should receive it within the next few days.

BURNHAM SCHOOL K-2 CONFIGURATION

Speaking in regard to the K-2 configuration at Burnham School were: Teresa DeBrito, Cathy Colella, Linda Sloane, and Amy Stiles. Burnham School Principal, Cathy Colella, began the presentation with an introduction on

the current K-2 configuration. Consultant Linda Sloane, spoke on behalf of the configuration and shared her experience with this program which is also implemented at the Lee Kellogg School, Falls Village. Grade 2 teacher, Amy Stiles explained what a typical day and week look like. A handout showing these schedules were given to Board members. Discussion and questions followed. Teresa DeBrito followed up the presentation speaking on the process, as to how this program came about and strategies used. Mrs. DeBrito mentioned that she attended PTO meetings, sent out an informative letter, and a survey was sent to parents to give them the opportunity to share concerns and give feedback. Mrs. DeBrito noted that a follow up meeting had been held on December 1. She also stated that a visit to Washington Montessori School would take place after the first of the year. Discussion followed. Questions were addressed by Mrs. DeBrito, Ms. Colella, Ms. Sloane and Mrs. Stiles. Board members thanked the team for their presentation and information and for the work they are currently doing.

7:25 p.m., Greg Cava left the meeting, and returned at 7:47 p.m.

7:43 p.m., Jennifer Pote left the meeting, and returned at 7:44 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carolan Dwyer, Bridgewater, spoke with regard of her support to the K-2 configuration at Burnham School and the possible merging/looping of grades.

Curtis Read, Bridgewater, spoke in regard to his support of the K-2 Configuration at Burnham School and the FOI letter.

John Buonaiuto, Washington, commented on the Public Comment Guidelines that were outlined by Dr. Cosentino. Mr. Buonaiuto stated that he liked having Public Comment on the agenda when it followed agenda items.

ACTION ITEMS

Follow up on Legal Opinion for Policy 4152.6 Personal Leaves. Chairman Hirschfield had checked with legal counsel but he is not prepared to address the policy tonight and will put the item on a future agenda to revisit the policy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGIES AND THE CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL SETTLEMENT FOR THE 2017-20 SVEA CONTRACT.

Chairman Hirschfield explained that the final contract was not yet ready from the union and would not be until January. No Executive Session needed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to adjourn at 8:17 pm.

VOTE: unanimous.