

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Special Meeting
Shepaug Valley School
January 3, 2017

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 3, 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, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, was also present.

Also present were: Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Karen Fildes, Director of Technology and Communications; Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; and Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities.

Invited Guest: Douglas Gillette, Bond Counsel, Day Pitney.

UPDATED AgSTEM

Chairman Hirschfield introduced Bond Counsel, Douglas Gillette, who addressed certain referendum issues in question. Mr. Gillette addressed concerns and spoke on referendum issues in relation to the scope of the current project. Mr. Gillette made mention of his letter to Dr. Cosentino dated December 13, 2016, to which various scenarios to the agriscience project had been addressed. Also addressed by Mr. Gillette were concerns as to what and when an additional referendum would be needed. Discussion followed.

Board members and the general public were given a document, dated December 30, 2016, which showed the current figures of the revisions to the project. Included in this document were three enrollment scenarios, a debt chart showing principal and interest and a projected schedule submitted by Kaestle Boos Associates for the AgSTEM project. Dr. Cosentino began with a brief summary followed by questions from the Board. Michelle Gorra and Anthony Amato reviewed the enrollment scenarios which were provided in the document. Discussion followed. Mentioned was the private donation and how it would be best utilized. Board member Valerie Anderson reminded the Board that it is possible the donation was given with certain intentions and that the Board should be "mindful" of that. Kim Gallo concluded the update by reviewing the projected project schedule and answering questions. Dr. Cosentino stated that on January 10, 2017, there would be a forum at 6 p.m., in the auditorium with a mini presentation on the AgSTEM project and at either the January 23rd or February 26th Board meeting the vote would be made as to whether or not the Board should move forward to work on the project with Kaestle Boos and O&G. Both will be invited to this Board meeting. Chairman Hirschfield suggested this take place at the January 23rd meeting. Follow up discussion and thoughts were voiced.

TO CONSIDER AND IF APPROPRIATE, APPROVE PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES AS PRESENTED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR A TRIAL PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS.

Valerie Andersen reviewed the document which outlined Public Comment Guidelines. Jennifer Pote who is also on the Public Comment Guidelines Committee shared committee thoughts. It was noted that this document is not a policy but only guidelines to be made available and known to the public for reference during future Board meetings. It was also noted that protocols listed, are currently stated in Board Policy 9325 and 1120 and that the guidelines are only being revisited.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to adopt the Region 12 Public Comment Guidelines as presented by the subcommittee for a trial period of three months.

Discussion followed. It was reiterated that tonight's motion is not the same as bringing a policy for approval to the Board, and that the motion was an approval for the Guidelines, which is not a policy of its own, thus it would not be necessary for this to go to the Policy Committee.

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Greg Cava, to move the question.

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

Opposed: Michelle Gorra.

Motion passed: (11 – 1)

VOTE on the original motion as made by Valerie Andersen:

In favor: Valerie Andersen, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Greg Cava, and Michael Sinatra.

Abstained: James Hirschfield.

Motion passed (7 – 4 – 1)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Peter Tagley, to adjourn at 10:03 p.m.

VOTE: unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Haverly.