

Regional School District 12
Board of Education, Special Meeting
Shepaug Valley School
January 18, 2017

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:02 p.m., in the Shepaug Valley School Auditorium, on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato (6:27), Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine (6:45), Michelle Gorra, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Also present were: Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent; and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations.

Invited Guests: Ken Biega, O & G Industries; Jennifer Mangiagli, Kaestle Boos Associates; and Gary Brochu, Shipman & Goodwin.

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

Chairman Hirschfield began the meeting explaining the process which would be followed during the course of the evening. Mr. Hirschfield stated that a presentation would begin the meeting with public comment and questions after the presentation. A signup sheet for comments had been made available and interested parties would be called upon in the order in which they signed up.

Gregory Cava left the meeting at 6:08 p.m., and returned at 6:12 p.m.

REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE AgSTEM PROJECT

Dr. Cosentino reviewed the agenda process then moved into a PowerPoint presentation being displayed on the stage screen which enabled the audience to follow the presentation. A summary handout showing various PowerPoint slides had also been made available. Introduced to review the various slides were Principal Kim Gallo, Shepaug Valley School; Jennifer Mangiagli, Kaestle Boos Associates; Board of Education members: Gregory Cava and Valerie Andersen. Ending the presentation, Dr. Cosentino acknowledged Kim Gallo, Bob Giesen, all the Board of Education members and the staff for the work and time spent on the AgSTEM project.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Chairman Hirschfield began the question and answer session by calling on, in order of signup, community members. Instructions were given for those speaking to go to the microphone and state their name and town prior to their comments.

Questions and comments were given by the public which included: The cost of funding the AgSTEM project, responsible parties for approving funding, accuracy of the information that has been given to the public, references to a letter by Benjamin Barnes, enrollment numbers, curriculum choices for Agriscience and general education students, classroom usage, changes to the composition of the Board, advantages the program gives to students, the quality of students enrolling in the program, the positive diversity that would be brought into the district, future employment opportunities for students, revisiting the referendum, should we be shovel ready and should the Board vote to move forward.

Greg Cava left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Addressing the concerns by the community were: Dr. Cosentino, Chairman Hirschfield, Valerie Andersen, Principal Kim Gallo, and Attorney Brochu.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to adjourn at 9:09 pm.

VOTE: unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Haverly