

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
September 11, 2017

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:08 p.m., on Monday, September 11, 2017, by Chairman Anthony Amato. Present were Board members: John Buonaiuto, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Dr. Cosentino, Superintendent was also present. Alan Brown and Stephanie Kolnick were absent. Julie Stuart arrived at 7:15 p.m. and Gregory Cava arrived at 7:17 p.m.

Also present were: Cathy Colella, Principal, BFS and BS; Teresa DeBrito, CIA Director, and Kim Gallo, Principal at SVS.

Chairman Amato deferred Executive Session to when the Building Committee adjourned their meeting so that Gregory Cava and Julie Stuart could attend.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Business Meeting, August 28, 2017

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REPORTS AND RECOGNITION

Board Chair's Report: Chairman Amato explained that the taping system has a two hour taping limit so there have been videos that have time missing. Going forward there may be a pause in the meeting to accommodate the switching of the DVD to continue taping the meeting in entirety.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Cosentino reported on the enrollment. Currently, there is a total of 688 students. Burnham has 47 students, Booth Free has 70 students, Washington Primary has 148, and Shepaug has 423.

Correspondence – Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board that a letter from Loy Wilkinson was in their packet.

Library clerk position at Burnham School – Dr. Cosentino shared that there will be a library clerk at Burnham School for 20 hours a week.

Field Trip to Fenway Park, Boston MA on September 13, 2017 (Grades 11-12) – Dr. Cosentino informed the Board of the upcoming field trip. Students were invited to be part of the behind the scenes workings of how things go on at Fenway Park. Funding was discussed.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the recent power outage at Washington Primary School. The staff handled the situation very well.

Gregory Cava and Julie Stuart arrived.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by James Hirschfield, to enter into executive session at 7:22 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the tuition-in program.

VOTE: unanimous.

Chairman Amato invited Dr. Cosentino and Attorney Ben FrazziniKendrick into executive session.

The Board returned to public session at 7:57 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS AND UPDATES

Update and Discussion: AgSTEM / Building Committee – Gregory Cava gave an update and explained the need for a commissioning agent which went out to bid. Seven were received. Four will be interviewed. Several things are needed to move project forward. T2 guidance and development for the curriculum should be concluded this month. Monies were authorized by the Board for surveying and the traffic study that is required. The septic design funding of \$13,000 has not yet been authorized by the Board and needs to be done soon before winter weather. Questions and discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to add an item to the agenda: Authorize the Building Committee to spend up to \$13,000 for the phase II septic design.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: In favor: Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra and Julie Stuart.

Opposed: John Buonaiuto and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: Anthony Amato.

Motion passed (7 – 2 – 1)

Authorize Building Committee to spend up to \$13,000 for phase II septic study – Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to authorize the Building Committee to spend up to \$13,000 for phase II septic study (includes site meetings, coordination, conducting of the field work which includes deep hole and perk test).

VOTE: In favor: Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra and Julie Stuart.

Opposed: John Buonaiuto and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: Anthony Amato.

Motion passed (7 – 2 – 1)

Policies – Michelle Gorra explained that copies were missing in the packet for three of the policies so the only one that will be considered for a first reading is the policy regarding reference checks.

MOTION: made by James Hirschfield, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 4112.51/4212.51 Personnel – Certified/Non-certified as first reading of the Board.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, John Buonaiuto, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra and Julie Stuart and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: none.

Abstained: Gregory Cava.

Motion passed (9 – 0 – 1)

Committee Reports:

EdAdvance – Mrs. Gorra reported that EdAdvance will have their first open annual meeting on October 5 from 4-6 p.m.

Finance – Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee will meet on September 18 at 6 p.m.

Policies and Bylaws – Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee will meet in two weeks.

Education/Curriculum – Mr. Sinatra reported that the next meeting will be on September 25 and Todd Dyer will report on the Class of 2017.

Facilities – Mr. Cava reported that the committee will meet on September 25 and will report at next Business meeting.

Negotiations – Mr. Cava reported that there has been discussion for the administrators' negotiations for their contract that runs out June 2018. There will be upcoming and ongoing negotiations for contracts with administrators, and the unions representing cafeteria and custodians, and paraprofessionals and secretaries.

ACTION ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Jennifer Pote, that the Board authorize the superintendent to disenroll non-resident students as recommended to the Board pursuant to Board Policy 5118.3.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by James Hirschfield, seconded by Lisa Roush, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Debby Bliven