

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
August 18, 2014

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m., on Monday, July 14, 2014, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Susan Stumpf, and Peter Tagley. Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent was also present. Valerie Andersen arrived at 7:12. Gregory Cava, Emily Hibbard and Kelly Lott were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Business Meeting – July 14, 2014.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield recognized the work that has been going on during the summer and the Bridgewater Fair that was held over the weekend.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino showed pictures of the four pianos that were purchased for Shepaug. Dr. Cosentino invited the Board to attend opening day for staff coming up on Thursday. Dr. Cosentino shared her goals for the 2014-15 year in draft form and requested feedback. Dr. Cosentino spoke about the brochure that was developed and printed. The brochures will be available at real estate agencies and were given out at the Bridgewater Fair. Dr. Cosentino went over the current enrollment numbers. Burnham School, 53; Booth Free School – 78; Washington Primary School – 150; Shepaug – 468 (20 Sherman, 8 staff children) for a total of 749.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported on new hires: James McDonough, Special Education Teacher at SVS; Amanda Magnuson, Educational Assistant at BFS; Christopher Sutton, Physics Teacher at SVS; Robert Tomlinson, Front Entrance Security at SVS. Dr. Cosentino reported that Alfred Ulozas, Special Education Paraprofessional at WPS has retired (effective 7/30/2014). She also reported on staff that have resigned: Nicole Caldara, Front Entrance Security at SVS (effective 7/30/2014) and Sara Osborne, Guidance Secretary at SVS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications: Mr. Brown spoke about the need for public relations and that possibly the firm that the district hires can take that over or instruct the committee on how to proceed.

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported that she plans to put together a schedule for the year with Teresa DeBrito similar to what they did last year. She requested that if anyone has a topic they would like included on the schedule to let her know.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: Mr. Bedini reported that the committee reviewed the list for the yearly walk thru. Mr. Brown inquired about the ice/snow guards for Burnham School. Don O'Leary highlighted the work that was completed during the summer.

Finance: Mrs. Andersen reported that the committee did not meet but that rates were locked in for oil, diesel fuel and that they are below last year's rates.

Negotiations: Mr. Hirschfield reported that the nurses have signed their contract and if the Board agrees during executive session on the agreement, it will be signed tonight. Mr. Hirschfield also reported they have received notice to begin negotiations with the administrators this fall.

Policy: Mrs. Gorra reported the committee will meet September 15. She updated the Board on the review being done by counsel on the policy for Non-resident Attendance.

Long Rang Plan: Dr. Cosentino expressed her hope that the upcoming Retreat would result in the members of the Board and the town leaders uniformly supporting Shepaug Valley School. Mr. Brown is considering chairing the committee and felt it would be advantageous to work with a smaller committee with a spokesperson from each town. Discussion followed. Chairman Hirschfield will make a decision on the LRP Chair after the Retreat.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

To consider and if appropriate, approve request from Housatonic Valley Association to use Washington Primary School for their 24th Annual Benefit Auction to be held on November 23, 2014, waiving policy prohibiting alcohol beverages: Dr. Cosentino spoke about the event last year.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Alan Brown to approve the request from Housatonic Valley Association to use the Washington Primary School for their 24th Annual Benefit Auction to be held on November 23, 2014, waiving policy prohibiting alcohol beverages.

VOTE: Unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategies and consideration of potential settlement for the 2014-17 Nurses contract and to discuss legal counsel at 7:58 p.m., and to invite Robert Giesen to attend.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

The Board came out of executive session at 8:36 p.m.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote to approve the Nurses agreement effective July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.