

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Special Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
March 27, 2017

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 8:08 p.m., on Monday, March 27, 2017, by Chairman 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 E. Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2017-18 BUDGET

Set and approve the school district's budget for the year 2017-18.

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Valerie Andersen, to adopt the proposed budget by the Superintendent for the 2017-2018 school year.

The proposed budget is a 0% increase. Valerie Andersen began reviewing the budget beginning with account numbers in the 100s. Questions followed which included the increase in the line item for phones. Mr. Giesen explained that the phones were installed in rooms where there weren't any and that it is a safety issue along with modernization of phone system. Reduction in special education line item due to students that have aged out of the system. Reduction in line item for supplies.

Dr. Cosentino left the meeting at 8:43 p.m. and returned at 8:45 p.m.

Michelle Gorra suggested adding back a .4 FTE music position; \$25,700. Dr. Cosentino explained the proposed cut in the music department but supported Mrs. Gorra's motion to add the .4FTE position.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: Peter Tagley and Valerie Andersen withdrew their motion.

MOTION: made by Michelle Gorra, seconded by Valerie Andersen, to add .4 FTE music position in the amount of \$25,700 to the proposed Superintendent's budget for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Giesen calculated the budget to be \$21,387,146 or .12% increase with the addition of the .4 FTE. Discussion followed.

VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush and Michael Sinatra.

Opposed: Valerie Andersen and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: No abstentions.

Motion passed (10 – 2 – 0).

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to add a 1.0 FTE teaching position into the budget in the amount of \$82,000.

Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Valerie Andersen, to move the question.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Lisa Roush and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Stephanie Kolnick, and Michael Sinatra.

Abstained: No abstentions.

Motion failed (3 – 9 – 0).

Discussion continued on motion to add a 1.0 FTE teaching position into the budget.

VOTE: In favor: Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Stephanie Kolnick, and Michael Sinatra.

Opposed: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: No abstentions.

Motion failed (5 – 7 – 0).

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to allow the administration to, at their discretion, move \$25,700 from the 743 Capital Facilities into the 1% Fund.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, and Lisa Roush.

Opposed: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: Stephanie Kolnick.

Motion failed (5 – 6 – 1).

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Lisa Roush, to adopt the proposed budget with the added .4 FTE music teacher, \$21,387,146 or a .12% increase over the previous year's budget.

VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Stephanie Kolnick and Michael Sinatra.

Abstained: No abstentions.

Motion passed (7 – 5 – 0).

Set district meeting date for May 1, 2017 and possible referendum date for May 2, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Debby Bliven