

Regional School District 12  
Board of Education  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Shepaug Valley School  
July 17, 2017

The Board of Education Business Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, July 17, 2017, by Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D. Superintendent. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, John Buonaiuto, Gregory Cava, James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Julie Stuart, and Peter Tagley. Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations was also present. Michelle Gorra and Lisa Roush were absent.

## **BOARD REORGANIZATION**

### **Election of Officers**

Dr. Cosentino welcomed everyone, took attendance and opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair.

**MOTION:** made by James Hirschfield, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to nominate Michelle Gorra as Chair.

Mr. Hirschfield spoke about Mrs. Gorra.

**MOTION:** made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Peter Tagley, to nominate Anthony Amato as Chair.

Mr. Sinatra spoke about Mr. Amato.

Dr. Cosentino closed nominations seeing there were no others. Ballots were handed out. Dr. Cosentino asked members to cast their written vote for the Chair.

**RESULTS:** Anthony Amato – In favor: eight (8) votes  
Michelle Gorra – In favor: two (2) votes  
Two (2) absent ballots

Dr. Cosentino announced Mr. Amato as the Chair and turned the meeting over to Chairman Amato.

Chairman Amato thanked those for their support. The Chairman opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

**MOTION:** made by James Hirschfield, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to nominate Michelle Gorra as Vice Chair.

made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to nominate Alan Brown as Vice Chair.

**RESULTS:** Michelle Gorra – In favor: three (3) votes  
Alan Brown – In favor: seven (7) votes  
Two (2) absent ballots

Chairman Amato announced Alan Brown as Vice Chair and opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

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**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to nominate Stephanie Kolnick as Secretary.

Chairman Amato closed nominations seeing there were no others and asked members to cast their written vote for Secretary.

**RESULTS:** Stephanie Kolnick – In favor: ten (10) votes  
Two (2) absent ballots

Chairman Amato announced Stephanie Kolnick as Secretary and opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Alan Brown, to nominate Michelle Gorra as Treasurer.

Chairman Amato closed nominations seeing there were no others and asked members to cast their written vote for Treasurer.

**RESULTS:** Michelle Gorra – In favor: ten (10) votes  
Two (2) absent ballots

Chairman Amato announced Michelle Gorra as Treasurer and congratulated everyone.

### **WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Chairman Amato welcomed John Buoniauto who was elected in May to represent Washington.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Leslie Anderson, Washington – gave statements regarding the AgSTEM

Joan Lodsins, Washington – spoke about taping meetings

James Hirschfield left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Approval of Minutes:* Business Meeting, June 5, 2017  
Education Meeting, June 12, 2017  
Special Meeting, June 28, 2017

### **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chairman Amato thanked everyone for their support. He passed around the committee sign-up sheet and asked Board members to sign up for the committee(s) they would like to be on.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

*Correspondence* – Dr. Cosentino read a letter from Valerie Andersen thanking them for their service and wished them well as they begin the 2017-18 year. She also thanked them for the party and chair.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about an article in the News-Times regarding SBAC scores. Out of nine districts, Region 12 is the only district that increased in both reading and math scores. All other districts either went down in one or up in one. She praised the students, teachers and the strong curriculum.

Dr. Cosentino reported the resignations of Leigh Childs, paraprofessional at BFS (effective June 22, 2017; Brandi Dougherty, Social Studies teacher at SVS (effective July 11, 2017); and Lawrence Knapp, Front Entrance Door Monitor (effective July 11, 2017).

Dr. Cosentino reminded everyone that the CABE/CAPSS Convention will be November 17-18, 2017.

Dr. Cosentino reported that she attended the AASA conference in Washington, DC last week. They are fighting for public schools with a big emphasis on medicare funding, the cuts being considered and how it will affect our neediest kids.

Michael Sinatra spoke on the regret of Brandi Dougherty's resignation. He shared that both his daughters had Mrs. Dougherty as their teacher and how the students loved her.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Building:* Mr. Cava reported that they have been meeting regularly. The architects are doing drawings with the assistance of the consultant. We are continuing to move forward.

*Education:* Mr. Sinatra reported that he and Michelle will meet with Teresa over the summer to put together a schedule.

*Facilities:* Mr. Cava reported that one project focused on this summer is to evaluate the cost to make the playground accessible at the Booth Free School. Dr. Cosentino reported that Don is working at Burnham School to put doors between the classrooms. He is painting at all the schools, and heating for the pool at SVS. The scoreboard for SVS was ordered and has been delivered.

*Long Range Planning:* Mr. Brown reported that they have not met but will be continuing with IB in the coming year.

*Negotiations:* Mr. Cava reported that the negotiations with the Nurses are at an impasse and going to mediation.

*Policy:* No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*Update on AgSTEM:* Peter Tagley asked what the building committee has been authorized to spend. Mr. Giesen referred to the meeting in February when the Board authorized spending as outlined on the handout. The handout showed what has been spent to date. The Board authorized approximately \$1.8

million which is reimbursable by the state. With the motion in February, the project will be stopped if the state does not come through with funding. Questions and discussion followed. Dr. Cosentino spoke about how the curriculum is developed. Julie Stuart asked about the communication that was going to be sent to the three first selectmen to explain why the expenditures were made instead of waiting. The building committee will discuss the communication to the first selectmen at their meeting tomorrow night.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

*Presentation by Doug Clement on PR Proposal for Region 12:* Mr. Clement gave a handout of his proposed initial plan. He spoke about the things he would do and his fee. Questions and answers followed.

*Discuss and possible motion to approve contract with Doug Clement, Public Relations:*

**MOTION:** made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve a six month contract with Doug Clement and Region 12 at the proposed fee of \$2000/month.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*Approve contract extensions; to June 30, 2020, for Karen Fildes and Don O'Leary:* Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board that they discussed the extensions in executive session but never voted.

**MOTION:** made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Alan Brown, to extend contracts to June 30, 2020 for Karen Fildes and Don O'Leary.

Discussion followed.

**VOTE:** In favor: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra, Julie Stuart, and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: none.

Abstained: John Buonaiuto

Motion passed (8 – 0 – 1)

*Review job description posting for Director of Finance and Operations:* Dr. Cosentino explained that Mr. Giesen is willing to stay on part-time and help train the new person. She referred to the job posting that was included in the packets. Chairman Amato felt that it would be good to wait on posting until Michelle

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Gorra returns and they can meet to go over it. In the meantime, he requested that everyone review and send comments to him and Michelle; copying Pat, Bob and the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION:       made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE:           unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.