

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
February 5, 2018

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:02 p.m., on Monday, February 5, 2018, by Chairman Anthony Amato. Present were Board members: John Buonaiuto, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, Julie Stuart and Peter Tagley. Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Alan Brown was absent.

Allyson O'Hara, Pupil Personnel Director was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Streib, Washington – Asked questions about AgSTEM quota and declining enrollment. Chairman Amato responded by explaining that the district has a plan which includes the hiring of a director for the AgSTEM program that is included in the budget. The director will begin recruiting starting on their first day hired.

CONSENT AGENDA

The minutes of the Education Meeting for January 22, 2018 were removed later at the end of the meeting.

REPORTS AND RECOGNITION

Board Chair's Report: Chairman Amato reported that the superintendent search is underway. The Board selected Dr. Erardi who has just completed a search for Avon. He will be conducting focus groups with the staff, parents, and communities. A link to a survey will be provided on the district's website for anyone wanting to participate which was encouraged. Applications are due March 23rd. Interviews are planned to begin the first week in April.

Superintendent's Report: In the absence of Dr. Cosentino, Teresa DeBrito shared information on a field trip for Grade 11 students going to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on April 30, 2018.

Committee Reports:

Building – Mr. Amato requested that Mr. Cava report later under the AgSTEM Update item.

EdAdvance – No report.

Education – Mr. Sinatra reported that the committee met earlier. One of the topics they talked about was an upcoming CABA conference on education high school start times. Teresa DeBrito will be attending. Mr. Sinatra urged anyone that is interested to attend. Greenwich and Ridgefield high schools recently moved to a later time. Mr. Sinatra also reported that Teresa DeBrito updated the committee on the VHS offerings and he passed around a list of the VHS courses.

Facilities – Mr. Cava reported that the committee is working on the capital needs plan. The district continues to have an issue with the pool heater. Mr. Cava spoke about concerns from the public that were expressed about the access to the building whenever there is a delay or closing due to weather. Mr. Cava expressed that safety is of utmost importance when weather is the factor. The committee is looking at making a recommendation to the Board in the near future.

Gregory Cava left the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Finance – Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee met earlier. They reviewed the financials. The building repair account is down due to a frozen pipe at Burnham and flooding at the high school last month. They are looking at the Capital reserve accounts to make recommendations for items that will come up in the next budget that will be eligible to come out of the 1% capital and elementary lease accounts. The surplus checks have gone out to the towns. The committee had a preliminary discussion on staffing changes for the upcoming budget. Budget workshops are beginning Wednesday night. Mrs. Gorra reported that she continues to attend the Boards of Finance Committee meetings at the towns. The committee will share how the financing for the AgSTEM project works as well as a timetable as things proceed.

Long Range Planning – No report.

Policies and Bylaws – Mrs. Gorra reported that they continue to meet and have several policies on the agenda tonight. Mrs. Gorra also reported on the out-of-district tuition ad hoc committee which met and made recommendations to the lawyer to reword the policy. The policy will come back to the full board soon.

Stephanie Kolnick left the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Gregory Cava returned to the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Negotiations – No report.

NEW BUSINESS AND UPDATES

AgSTEM Update:

Financial Status – Bob Giesen reported that there has been no change since his December report. There are some invoices that have not been acted on by the building committee at this point.

Stephanie Kolnick returned to the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Michael Sinatra left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Project Status – Gregory Cava reported that the Building Committee is trying to square up the contract with some amendments. One amendment was needed to cover T2 Services for work Kaestle Boos engaged with them. That has been signed and is all set. Another amendment involved septic and traffic engineering services. The septic is broken down in three phases: data gathering, percolation in Phase 1 is done; Phase 3 includes designing the reserve area, designing the pool backwash, and designing the proposed system for the equine animal garage facility; and Phase 2 is the analysis for existing water usage and is also done.

Mr. Cava reported that additional anticipated charges of \$102,474 for schematic design to revise are due to new directions from the state and design development will be an additional \$25,000. Architect support from T2 and landscape support has been resolved with an agreement by KBA to reduce by half. Another issue with the contract that was executed back in January 2016 needed to extend the delivery date to May 2020. Total of services is \$86,337. We are waiting for the amendment to be signed. Bob gave an understanding of where these extra fees would come from. He found savings for two items; the Commissioning Agent was less than what was expected to be spent and the telephone system is \$5,000 vs \$68,522.

Michael Sinatra returned to the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Mr. Cava spoke about the temporary facilities needed for the science labs which was not estimated. They are considering keeping the current chemistry lab in use because the fume hood is the expensive item. They will move kiln out to a permanent location so it does not need to be moved twice. As the facilities committee is working on a capital plan, Don O'Leary is looking at *opt alts* work that needs to be done during construction this budget cycle and could help save costs while the site is mobilized. Questions and comments followed.

Policies:

Second Reading – Policy 5118.1 Students, Homeless Students. Mrs. Gorra explained number 7 was added because of change in state law. She explained that there are two strike outs that should have been done prior to tonight's the meeting.

MOTION: made by James Hirschfield, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 5118.1 Students, Homeless Students with the strike outs as suggested for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 6121.1 Instruction, Equal Opportunity. Mrs. Gorra explained that this policy is routinely updated. She explained that there are three strike outs that were missed before the meeting.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 6121.1 Instruction, Equal Opportunity with the strike outs as suggested for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 0521 Goals, Nondiscrimination/Equity/Title IX. Mrs. Gorra explained that this policy was sent back to the committee after discussion on the word 'all' in the second paragraph.

MOTION: made by James Hirschfield, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 0521 Goals, Nondiscrimination/Equity/Title IX for a first reading with the amended to say 'status of a veteran' and the last paragraph to read 'The District provides equal access to all (e.g. Boy Scouts) designated youth groups.

Mr. Cava asked about the requirement of naming the Boy Scouts which was clarified that it was required by federal statute.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 5144.1 Students, Use of Physical Force. Mrs. Gorra explained there is new language in yellow required by law.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Stephanie Kolnick, to approve Policy 5144.1 Students, Use of Physical Force for a first reading with an amendment to the last line under Crisis Intervention Teams to read ‘The Board shall cause the superintendent of schools to maintain...’

VOTE: unanimous.

Mr. Cava requested the minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda so that he can read them over for terms used.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to remove the minutes from the Consent Agenda and bring back at the next meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by James Hirschfield, seconded by Gregory Cava, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Debby Bliven