

Regional School District 12
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
April 9, 2018

The Business Meeting was called to order at 7:49 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 2018, by Chairman Anthony Amato. Present were Board members: Alan Brown, John Buonaiuto, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Julie Stuart and Peter Tagley. Also present were Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent, and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations. Lisa Roush and Michael Sinatra were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Amato spoke about the proposed budget emphasizing the unfortunate health premium causing the increase in the budget and hopes that the Board and the public would have clarity on it.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Personnel - Dr. Cosentino reported that Diana Dighton resigned as Front Entrance Door Monitor at SVS (effective April 5, 2018).

Dr. Cosentino spoke about upcoming events and encouraged the Board to attend. They included students' artwork on display from April 13th – 28th at the Judy Black Memorial Park and Garden; Exhibition at Hunt Hill Farm on April 18; spring concerts and sporting events.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EdAdvance – No report.

Education – No report.

Facilities – Mr. Cava reported that the committee is discussing the long term capital plan. In the plan, they are looking at items that have been taken out of the AgSTEM project.

Finance – Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee met earlier. They went over the March financials. Bob updated the committee on the 1% fund. After the transfer made for this year as well as encumbering all of the work out of the proposed operating budget and the work approved for this year, a balance remains of \$760,746. The committee talked about having a meeting with Barry Bernabe who secures the BANDS and Bonds in order for him to go over interest rates with them.

Long Range Planning – No report.

Negotiations – Mr. Cava reported that they are about to commence negotiations with the cafeteria and custodians, and the clerical unions.

Policies & Bylaws – Mrs. Gorra reported that there are policies on the agenda tonight.

NEW BUSINESS AND UPDATES

AgSTEM Update:

Financial Status – Mr. Giesen referred to the report in the packet. On page 2, \$1,015,072 is remaining. The building committee approved \$72,000 tonight in their meeting.

Project Plan Status – Mr. Cava reported that the building committee authorized payments on the project totaling \$1,029,735 and an additional \$72,000 was authorized earlier tonight. The design development phase is finished and the project is now in the construction document phase. Mr. Cava will be going to the state soon with design development drawings. The Building Committee is currently discussing the phase I and phase II site assessment on the property and have not authorized a contractor yet. At the next meeting, Mr. Cava expects to have a different financial reporting document by O & G. The committee also discussed the electric service to the building that needs to be replaced. It will need to be rerouted to the school a different way and we expect Eversource would pay for the new transformer and we would pay for the excavation. More details to come. Demolition will begin as soon as school ends and award bids by July. Kaestle Boos has provided boards of renderings that will be placed in all three town halls and in the four schools.

John Buonaiuto left the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Policies:

Second Reading – Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements: Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board that there were no changes made at the first reading.

MOTION: made by James Hirschfield, seconded by Peter Tagley, to approve Policy 6146 Graduation Requirements for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous. (John Buonaiuto returned to the meeting at 8:09 p.m. during the vote)

First Reading – Policy 5118.2 Enrollment of the Children of Non-resident Certified and Non-certified Staff: Mrs. Gorra explained the reasons for the new language. Tuition payments need to be resolved before school begins. She explained that the committee wanted to be consistent with the two policies regarding tuition payments for non-residents and staff's children. The Board moved ahead to Policy 5118.3.

First Reading – Policy 5118.3 Non-resident Attendance: Mr. Hirschfield spoke about the committee that was formed at the request of the Board Chair to evaluate the policy with the Board attorney after some significant issues. The administration asked for modifications to the policy. Mr. Hirschfield explained that prior to this policy; there were district to district agreements. This policy is an agreement between our district and parents. Mr. Hirschfield spoke about the concerns that the Special Education Director has with the policy when students have special needs after enrollment. Dr. Cosentino added information on the issues that the district has faced in the current year including trouble with payments not being made. Discussion followed.

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MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 5118.3 Non-resident Attendance for a first reading with two amendments. 1) Tuition payments shall be made in two equal installments, on or before August 1st, and on or before January 2nd. Students will not be allowed to begin in Region 12 Public Schools if their first payment is not received on or before August 1st of each year. 2) A clause that the policy does not apply to enrollment in the AgSTEM program.

VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, John Buonaiuto, Gregory Cava, Michelle Gorra, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Julie Stuart and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: James Hirschfield.

Abstained: There were no abstentions.

Motion passed (9 – 1 – 0)

First Reading – Policy 5118.2 Enrollment of the Children of Non-resident Certified and Non-certified Staff: Mrs. Gorra suggested leaving the one payment for the staff tuition since it is minimal. Discussion followed.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Gregory Cava, to approve Policy 5118.2 Enrollment of the Children of Non-resident Certified and Non-certified Staff for a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Alan Brown to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Debby Bliven