

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Meeting Minutes
Booth Free School
February 26, 2018

The Education Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:32 p.m., on Monday, February 26, 2018, by Chairman Anthony Amato. Present were Board members: John Buonaiuto, Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools was also present. James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, and Julie Stuart were absent. Gregory Cava arrived at 7:04 p.m. Jennifer Pote arrived at 7:17 p.m.

Also present were: Cathy Colella, Principal at BFS / BS; Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Karen Fildes, Director of Technology & Communications; Kim Gallo, Principal at SVS; Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services; and Donald O'Leary, Director of Facilities.

TOUR OF BOOTH FREE SCHOOL

Principal Cathy Colella led the Board on a tour of the school. The first stop was the kitchen and Ms. Colella explained the renovations that will be done to create a handicapped accessible bathroom facility. Ms. Colella took them outside where the access walkway will be built to the playground. They then saw the kindergarten classroom, music and makerspace room, first grade classroom, second grade classroom, third grade classroom, kindness tree in the hallway, the framed picture of Hervy Booth; Ms. Colella explained the picture of the Booth Free School, one room schoolhouse; which is currently the grade four classroom and where they went next, communication station, fifth grade classroom, library, computer lab, resource room, math and reading intervention room, the main office and ended the tour with the nurses station.

K-5 PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

Teresa DeBrito explained the district wide Project Lead the Way program. She spoke about what the students will be doing at each station. The second grade students are learning about erosion, how the weather impacts the earth. The third grade students are learning about motion and physics, and the fourth grade students are also learning about physics in how they can have a vehicle go down a ramp and have their passenger be protected (passengers are eggs). Mrs. DeBrito introduced Maryanne Zoeller who is the STEM enrichment teacher. Mrs. Zoeller spoke about the training that she and a teacher from each elementary school attended during the summer. The kids are solving real world problems. Each module has a story with a problem they are trying to solve. A video was played showing students at Booth Free School in Project Lead the Way classes. Next the Board members were able to go from station to station and see the projects that students showcased.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: Education Meeting, January 22, 2018
Special Meeting, February 1, 2018
Business Meeting, February 5, 2018

REPORTS AND RECOGNITION

Board Chair's Report: Chairman Amato encouraged everyone to view the digital learning videos that have been published this week.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Cosentino echoed Mr. Amato regarding the digital learning videos and thanked Colin Sullivan who put the videos together. Colin does the voiceover in the videos, he goes around to the schools to video tape, he was at Minds in Motion all day Saturday, and he will take over the sound at Shepaug since the music teacher left.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported that Rosemary Ermini, the guidance counselor at Shepaug is retiring at the end of June this year. She reported that Amy Thayer will be taking a leave of absence beginning May and return for the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

Honorable Mention in the CABE Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications: Dr. Cosentino reported that the district newsletter received Honorable Mention in the CABE Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications contest.

Dr. Cosentino reported that she received great news today that Shepaug has been nationally recognized and ranked 33 in Connecticut by the US News and World Report. She reported that we have been awarded a bronze medal from the 2014-15 school year which is when we started doing a lot of work with SAT, PSAT, CollegeBoard, more AP courses.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about an article in the Washington Living magazine. Karen Fildes has a good relationship with the editor and in this issue we received extensive coverage focusing on the STEM.

Dr. Cosentino reported the kindergarten registration count for 2018-2019. Booth Free School - 12, Burnham School - 3 and Washington Primary School - 11.

Dr. Cosentino reminded everyone that the Panorama survey will be going out in March for students and parents.

Minds in Motion: Dr. Cosentino spoke about the Minds in Motion held on Saturday. It went very well with about 200 students, 140 kids were from outside the region. Dr. Cosentino commended Julie King, Paula Conway, Michelle Manafe, and Brooke Faison who did everything. It promotes Region 12 and allows us to showcase our Region.

CABE Day on the Hill: Dr. Cosentino, Kim Gallo and Michelle Gorra will be attending CABE Day on the Hill on March 7th.

AASA Conference Highlights: Dr. Cosentino shared highlights from the AASA conference that she attended recently in Nashville.

Safety Protocols: Kim Gallo began the presentation on safety talking about the recent shooting in Parkland, Florida and the concerns parents may have. An anonymous reporting system is being looked into to be available online. Barbara Alenckis, the School Resource Officer for the region, spoke as she gave a PowerPoint. She gave details over controlling opportunities with the four D's: Deter, Delay, Detect, Deny. Deter includes a well maintained school appearance, police presence / vehicle outside, visitor screening, positive reputation. Delay includes uphill school location, serpentine driveway, locked doors. Detect includes video surveillance cameras (over 100 in the region), door buzzer system, Raptor system, student and staff awareness. Deny includes refuse entry, lockdown procedure, barricade, flight or fight. SRO Alenckis spoke about lockdown drills mandated every third month, and the things that are being done, i.e. lock doors, lock windows, phone lines in every room,

buzzer system for access (video and audio), screen and direct visitors (Raptor system), identify visitors with visitor lanyards, conduct mandated fire and crisis drills. She spoke about the All Hazards Safety and Security Plan that addresses many emergency situations and also includes a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment every two years. Kim Gallo ended the presentation speaking about a letter that was sent home to parents with resources about how to talk to their children. She stressed that she is accessible and they can talk with her any time. Questions and comments followed.

ACTION ITEMS

Consider request from Burnham School PTO to use Burnham School for their Cinco de Mayo Auction fundraiser waiving the policy prohibiting alcohol beverages for the evening of May 5, 2018.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to waive the policy prohibiting alcoholic beverages for the Burnham School PTO Cinco de Mayo Auction fundraiser on the evening of May 5, 2018 with the provision that alcohol must not be served until all students have left the building and subject to insurance required in Board policy.

VOTE: unanimous.

AgSTEM Update: Financial Status: In the absence of Bob Giesen, Greg Cava reported that the Building Committee met earlier and approved payment for \$221,110. All architectural and professional related services will now be paid.

Project Status: Mr. Cava reported that the schematic and design stage is completed and in two weeks they will authorize the construction document phase. This will allow the project to go out to bid. The Board chairman will execute the 2nd and 3rd amendments to Architects contract. At the Building Committee meeting earlier, the architects presented a walk around of the exterior of the buildings. Mr. Cava hopes to present it to the Board at an upcoming meeting. They have received from the commissioning agent a signed contract. Mr. Cava received an updated schedule that calls for a start of construction date of October 1, 2018 and delivery of the AgSTEM by August, 2019 and the science lab renovations in August and December 2019. There is an updated site plan with some tweaks to the north end for the robotics classroom and graphics lab. Questions followed.

Policies:

Second Reading - Policy 0521 Nondiscrimination/Equity/Title IX: Mrs. Gorra explained the changes from the first reading.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 0521 Nondiscrimination/Equity/Title IX for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading - Policy 5144.1 Use of Physical Force: Mrs. Gorra reviewed the changes from the first reading.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 5144.1 Use of Physical Force for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting returned to public session and was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Debby Bliven