

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
July 20, 2015

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, July 20, 2015, by Superintendent Dr. Patricia Cosentino. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield and Peter Tagley. Jennifer Pote arrived at 7:39 p.m. Valerie Andersen arrived at 7:47 p.m. Michelle Gorra and Michael Sinatra 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 Alan Brown, seconded by Gregory Cava to nominate James Hirschfield as Chair.

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: James Hirschfield – In favor: six (6) votes; Abstention: one (1); Absent: four (4).

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

Chairman Hirschfield thanked those who voted for him and also for the time they give to serve on the Board. The Chairman opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

MOTION: made by Emily Hibbard, seconded by Rebecca Devine to nominate Alan Brown as Vice Chair.

Chairman Hirschfield closed the nominations seeing there were no others and asked members to cast their written vote for Vice Chair.

RESULTS: Alan Brown – In favor: seven (7) votes; Absent: four (4).

Chairman Hirschfield announced Mr. Brown as Vice Chair and opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Emily Hibbard to nominate Rebecca Devine as Secretary.

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

RESULTS: Rebecca Devine – In favor: six (6) votes; Abstained: one (1); Absent: four (4).

Chairman Hirschfield announced Ms. Devine as Secretary and opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Emily Hibbard to nominate Valerie Andersen as Treasurer.

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

RESULTS: Valerie Andersen – In favor: seven (7) votes, Absent: four (4).

Chairman Hirschfield announced Mrs. Andersen as Treasurer and congratulated everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting, June 15, 2015.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield thanked the Board for their confidence in him to serve as Chair. He then passed around a sign-up sheet for committees.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board about the information that she emailed them regarding the legislature passing of the bill for the agriscience program and spoke about the next steps. Kim Gallo will be visiting the state next week to meet with Ellen Cohn and Harold Makin to talk about the curriculum and the program. They will present the information at their State Education Committee Meeting planned for August 4. Once approved, it will be a matter of our passing the referendum. A calendar will be available at the August 17 Board meeting outlining the timeline for mailings, info sessions, etc., leading up the referendum.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the plan that will be in place to service students at Booth Free and Burnham Schools who need intervention in math. The students will be serviced by a certified teacher. Discussion followed. Mr. Brown raised concerns with the accommodations.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Rebecca Devine that a full-time certified teacher be put in place to administer the math intervention program for Booth Free and Burnham Schools for the 2015-16 school year.
Discussion followed.

MOTION WITHDRAWN by Alan Brown and Rebecca Devine.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported on the new hires: Linda Kanuch, Art Teacher at SVS (one year position); Amanda Magnuson, Special Education Teacher (.9 FTE) at SVS, Nicole Martone, English Teacher / Instructional Leader at SVS; Leah Principe, TV Studio Support (.2 FTE) at SVS; Dara Ray, Elementary Teacher (Grade 5) at WPS; Noreen Shea, Reading Specialist at SVS; Heather Traulsen-Rohrman, Paraprofessional (.5 FTE) REACH program at WPS; Alisa Wissell, Literacy Tutor at WPS.

Dr. Cosentino reported that Victoria Boretsky, Music Teacher at all elementary schools resigned (effective 6/30/2015) and Andrew Tenholder, Literacy Tutor at WPS resigned (effective 7/3/15). She also reported that Patricia Fraley, Secretary at SVS is retiring (effective 7/31/15).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: No report.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: Mr. Cava reported that the improvements to the mall will not be completed before school begins. Quotes for the walls are pending. Improvement will begin with the ceilings and lighting. He hopes to have a Facilities Meeting in August to discuss details.

Finance: No report.

Long Range Plan: No report.

Negotiations: Mr. Cava reported that clerical and paraprofessional negotiations are complete and will be presented in executive session.

Policy: Mr. Brown reported the committee has a policy on the agenda for a first reading tonight.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 3323 Soliciting Prices: Alan Brown spoke about changes in the rates in the policy.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to accept Policy 3323 Soliciting Prices for a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Approve daily rate of pay for substitute teachers: Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board that the teachers' union requested back in the spring that the Board consider increasing the rate paid to substitute teachers. The daily rate then was \$70 a day. After looking at other districts, the recommendation is to increase to \$80/day 1 – 20; \$85 after day 20 or if substituted more than 30 days in the previous school year; \$110 a day in a sub assignment lasting 20+ days beginning on first day of assignment; BA Step 1 rate in a sub assignment lasting 90+ days beginning on first day of assignment.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote to accept the recommendation for the sub pay rate increase as proposed by the Superintendent and the Business Manager.

VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Emily Hibbard, James Hirschfield, Jennifer Pote and Peter Tagley.

Abstained: Gregory Cava.

(8 – 0 – 1) Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Alan Brown to go into executive session at 8:14 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of negotiation strategies and consideration of potential settlement for the Shepaug Valley Clerical Employees agreement (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018) and to invite Robert Giesen and Dr. Cosentino to attend.

VOTE: unanimous.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

The Board returned to regular session at 8:30 p.m.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Jennifer Pote to approve the contract for the Shepaug Valley Clerical Employees subject to ratification by the union.

AMENDED

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, and accepted by Valerie Andersen and Jennifer Pote that if the union does not ratify the contract, that the Board withdraws its approval.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.