

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
September 21, 2015

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:06 p.m., on Monday, September 21, 2015, by Vice Chairman Brown. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, Jennifer Pote, Michael Sinatra and Peter Tagley. Valerie Andersen and James Hirschfield were absent. Roxbury vacancy. Also present were: Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations.

Kimberly Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School and Don O'Leary, Director of Facilities were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Business Meeting, August 31, 2015
Special Meeting, September 14, 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Vice Chairman Brown spoke about the presentation on the proposed Agriscience program held at Burnham School on Saturday. There was some discussion about the questions that were asked at the presentation and the answers.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino reported that she received a thank you letter from ASAP for the funds from the budget for programs they offer. Dr. Cosentino passed out information on a special meeting that the Sherman Board of Education will have on September 24. The meeting will focus on a presentation of information on the Common Core Standards and the SBAC Assessments. Special guests include Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of Education; Patrice McCarthy, Chief Counsel for the Connecticut Boards of Education; and Jonathan Costa, Director of School Programs and Services at Education Connection. Dr. Cosentino reminded the Board that Teresa DeBrito will do a presentation at the next Board meeting on the results for Region 12 on the SBAC.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported the appointment of Elyse Sadtler as Paraprofessional at Burnham School.

Field Trip: Mr. Michael Nolan presented details of the proposed trip through Simply Smiles to Oaxaca, Mexico the week of July 2-9, 2015. He spoke about safety and the experience that students will have.

Mr. Nolan shared pictures of students who traveled to Oaxaca in the past and the impact on the students.
Mr. Nolan answered questions.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to approve the Oaxaca, Mexico trip as presented, July 2-9, 2015.

VOTE: unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriscience Steering: No report.

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported that a presentation on the analysis of the SBAC scores will be given at the next meeting on September 28th. The meeting the following month will include a presentation by Todd Dyer on last year's senior class AP scores. The calendar for the year is still being put together.

Education Connection: No report.

Facilities: Mr. Cava reported on the improvements being done in the Mall at Shepaug. They include cleaning the walls, lighting, painting, trophy cases removed and will be resituated, furniture has been ordered. Completion is expected during the winter holiday vacation. Questions were asked about the pond at Shepaug and the pool. Mr. O'Leary gave details on both.

Finance: No report.

Long Range Plan: Mr. Brown reported that the committee will not meet until after the referendum.

Negotiations: No report.

Policy: Mrs. Gorra reported that they will meet next week and there is a policy on the agenda tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 3323 Soliciting Prices: Mrs. Gorra handed out the policy for a second reading. Nothing changed since first reading.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to accept Policy 3323 Soliciting Prices as presented for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Agriscience Update: Dr. Cosentino spoke about the feedback they are receiving from the information sessions and reviewed the schedule of upcoming sessions. She spoke about the bags that are being given out with information in them. Bags are being distributed to stores, town meetings, and libraries. Dr. Cosentino shared that she is writing a letter to the editor and prompted others to write letters. Dr. Cosentino spoke about finalizing the numbers with bonding. The first postcard went out last week and

another will be going out in a week about the public hearing with another going out before the referendum. Discussion and questions followed.

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the confidential legal advice from the Board attorney regarding the referendum needing a simple majority across the region.

NEW BUSINESS

To consider and if appropriate, approve the question for the referendum: Vice Chairman Brown noted the question and resolution in the packet.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve the proposed draft ballot heading and resolution as follows:

BALLOT HEADING:

“SHALL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 12 APPROPRIATE \$39,491,387 FOR COSTS OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, EQUIPPING AND FINANCING OF A NEW AGRISCIENCE STEM ACADEMY TO BE LOCATED ON THE SHEPAUG VALLEY CAMPUS IN THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON AND OF A RENOVATED SCIENCE WING AND OTHER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND TEMPORARY NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAIDED FROM GRANTS (ESTIMATED NET PROJECT COST OF \$11,751,921)?”

RESOLUTION OF REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION:

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$39,491,387 FOR COSTS OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, EQUIPPING AND FINANCING OF A NEW AGRISCIENCE STEM ACADEMY TO BE LOCATED ON THE SHEPAUG VALLEY CAMPUS IN THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON AND OF A RENOVATED SCIENCE WING AND OTHER FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SHEPAUG VALLEY SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND TEMPORARY NOTES TO FINANCE THE PORTION OF THE APPROPRIATION NOT DEFRAIDED FROM GRANTS (ESTIMATED NET PROJECT COST OF \$11,751,921)

RESOLVED,

1. That Regional School District Number 12 of the State of Connecticut appropriate THIRTY-NINE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$39,491,387) for costs related to:

(a) Agriscience STEM Academy: Design, construction, furnishing, equipping and financing of Agriscience STEM Academy facilities to be located on the Shepaug Valley Campus at 159 South Street in the Town of Washington, contemplated to include, but not limited to, construction of four buildings: a classrooms and administrative offices building (approximately 26,000 square

feet), an equine facility (approximately 20,000 square feet), a large and small animal facility (approximately 10,100 square feet), and an equipment garage (approximately 4,900 square feet); renovation of existing shop space at Shepaug Valley School to accommodate the program (approximately 9,500 square feet); renovation of chemistry/laboratories (CLABS) in the existing science wing at the Shepaug Valley School; site work and improvements (approximately 34 acres); and other related work and improvements (estimated cost of \$37,998,367); and

(b) Shepaug Valley School Science Wing Renovations: Design, construction, furnishing, equipping and financing of renovations to the existing science wing at the Shepaug Valley School located on the Shepaug Valley Campus at 159 South Street in the Town of Washington (approximately 10,170 square feet), contemplated to provide, but not limited to, chemistry/laboratories (CLABS), one teacher's preparation area/workroom, and a chemical storage area; various items to meet safety code requirements; new equipment including lab equipment, sinks, hoods, lab stations and ADA compliant lab/work stations; technology updates; new flooring, windows, doors, lighting, and HVAC equipment to comply with ventilation standards; and other related work and improvements; and, to the extent of available funds, such other improvements to the existing Shepaug Valley School facilities as are determined by the Board of Education or any building committee delegated such responsibility by the Board of Education (estimated cost of \$1,493,020).

The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, survey, testing and permitting costs, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, materials, technology infrastructure and equipment, site improvements, architects' fees, engineering fees, construction management costs and fees, consultant fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, other financing costs, and other expenses related to the projects and their financing. The Board of Education, or any building committee or committees delegated all or any portion of such responsibility by the Board of Education, is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of each project, and may reduce or modify the scope of each project as desirable, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the projects as so reduced or modified. The District anticipates receiving grants from the State Department of Education for estimated approximately 70.2% of the aggregate cost of the projects, for a resulting estimated aggregate net cost of the projects to the District of ELEVEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$11,751,921).

2. That the District issue its bonds and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed THIRTY-NINE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY-ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$39,491,387) to finance the appropriation for the projects. The amount of the bonds or notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the District for the projects, and not separately appropriated to pay project costs. The bonds and temporary notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns, secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the District and its member towns. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds and notes. The Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates the authority to make

such determinations, are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds and notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for keeping a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the District in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

3. That the District hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the projects. The Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the District pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

4. That the Chairman and the Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board delegates such authority, are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

5. That the Board of Education is authorized to approve the entering into of contracts for each project, and the Board of Education, or such officer or body to whom the Board delegates such authority, is authorized to approve the expenditure of said appropriation and such other matters as it deems desirable or necessary to complete the projects.

6. That the appropriation and authorization of bonds and temporary notes shall be subject to approval by a referendum vote to be held in the Towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington, being all of the towns comprising said District.

Discussion followed on the wording of the question.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Emily Hibbard to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School Library
September 21, 2015

VOTE: unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.