

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Business Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
June 5, 2017

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:35 p.m., on Monday, June 5, 2017, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato (6:57 p.m.), Alan Brown (6:38 p.m.), Gregory Cava (6:45 p.m.), Michelle Gorra, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush (6:37 p.m.), Michael Sinatra, Julie Stuart and Peter Tagley. Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent and Robert Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations were also present. Valerie Andersen was absent.

Also present were: Cathy Colella, Principal, Booth Free School and Burnham School; Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Kim Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley School; Emily Judd, Principal, Washington Primary School.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

Chairman Hirschfield welcomed Julie Stuart who was newly elected as the Board member representing Bridgewater.

RECOGNITION OF KELLY WHITE, TEACHER OF THE YEAR (2017-2018)

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the process in selecting the Teacher of the Year. Dr. Cosentino presented a gift to Kelly White who was chosen by her colleagues as the district's 2017-18 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. White will represent the region at the State level next year.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS

Chairman Hirschfield welcomed parents and students and congratulated those receiving awards.

Dr. Cosentino presented the following students with the Litchfield County Superintendents' Association Award:

Kaitlyn Smeriglio - 5th Grade, Booth Free School (absent)
Dylan Fiore - 5th Grade, Burnham School (absent)
Claire Kersten - 5th Grade, Washington Primary School
Spencer Herron - 8th Grade, Shepaug Valley School (absent)
Nadia Racz - 11th Grade, Shepaug Valley School
Fernando Pires - 12th Grade, Shepaug Valley School (absent)

Recognition of Top Five Academic Seniors. Mrs. Gallo presented awards to the following seniors:

Noelia Aguirre (absent)
Madeline Gorra
Joshua Jordan
Bianca Getzel - Salutatorian
Martin Meyer - Valedictorian

Dr. Cosentino and Chairman Hirschfield presented the following students with the CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Student Leadership Award:

Darius Moreno - Grade 8, Shepaug Valley School (absent)
Rachel Andrews - Grade 8, Shepaug Valley School
Martin Meyer - Grade 12, Shepaug Valley School
Madeline Gorra - Grade 12, Shepaug Valley School

Chairman Hirschfield again congratulated the award recipients and their families. Refreshments followed at 7:01 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:21 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – May 15, 2017
Special Meeting – May 18, 2017

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield congratulated the students from the elementary on up to the middle school and high school grades who received recognition earlier. Chairman Hirschfield congratulated all the sports teams (tennis, track, baseball, softball) and made special mention of Sean Parker who was awarded the prestigious Raymond Marinko Award. The girls 4 X 800 relay track team consisting of Noelia Aguirre, Lauren Bresson, Emma Krebs, and Elisa Afiouni, who set a new school record of 9:48.73 at the CIAC State Open were also noted. Chairman Hirschfield recognized all the staff for their work this year with students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Cosentino spoke about the sad news of losing a student this week. She thanked Mrs. Gallo, Mrs. Laughlin and the staff who have gone above and beyond for the students and families during this very difficult time. Mrs. Gallo spoke on the support and services in place for students and families throughout this time and said that it will be ongoing.

Dr. Cosentino thanked Debby Bliven for her work in getting the plaques and awards together for recognizing our students. Dr. Cosentino thanked Jennifer Pote and ASAP for a fabulous evening at the Young Writers on Saturday. Shepaug had three students participate and were chosen. Dr. Cosentino spoke about visiting the Judy Black Memorial Garden where our students' art is on display.

Personnel Matters: Dr. Cosentino reported the appointment of Lawrence Knapp as Front Entrance Door Monitor at SVS; the resignation of Kimberly Knapp as Front Entrance Door Monitor at SVS; (effective May 19, 2017); the leave of absence of Claire Cavalea, Secretary at BS (May 1, 2017 through July 3, 2017). Dr. Cosentino announced the retirement of Bob Giesen, Director of Finance and Operations (effective July 1, 2017). The Board gave a standing ovation and Dr. Cosentino spoke highly of Bob and that he would remain part-time until someone can be hired to replace him.

Jennifer Pote requested that a tuition discount for siblings be considered at the next meeting. Dr. Cosentino gave more information on the request that was received by a family who has a student currently attending and wants their sibling to attend but finds the cost prohibitive. Reduced tuition for families with multiple students will be considered at the next meeting.

Overview of 2017-18 Plan for Burnham School: Cathy Colella presented the updated plan on curriculum and the classroom arrangements at Burnham School beginning in the fall. The K, 1, 2 class will have two certified teachers; Amy Stiles and Isabel Bray and one tutor, Michelle Segerson. The Grade 3, 4 and 5 class will have two certified teachers; Jacqui Collentine and Pam Lucchesi and one tutor, Amanda Farren. Two paras will float between the classrooms. The K class will be separated for art, music and PE. Grade 5 will participate in grade-specific programs such as DARE, Second Step, Yearbook and Aloha. Ms. Colella reported that the staff has done site visits to schools with similar classroom configurations and they plan to continue working with the consultant during the school year. She spoke about the school becoming a showcase that could bring more people to the area and will give people an opportunity to see education in a different collaborative way. Ms. Colella talked about the benefits of multi-age classrooms and team teaching giving children several years with the same teacher who can develop a deeper understanding of each child's strengths and needs to support them better. Ms. Colella spoke on how the model is built on the success and effectiveness of the K, 1 class already in place. Some things still being worked on are the implementation of schedules, making sure there is time for teachers to plan together, room arrangements, grade level standards and how to implement instructions. Ms. Colella concluded her presentation by expressing that she and the staff are excited about the challenge and want to showcase Burnham as an alternative to the traditional school setting. They believe that Region 12 can become the environment that offers options which may be a draw for future families of the district. They hope the Board embraces their work and helps them to recognize its uniqueness. Questions and discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building: Mr. Cava reported that the committee will meet tomorrow night and review the latest information received from O&G concerning the pricing out of the schematic design of the school.

Education: Mrs. Gorra reported the next meeting will be June 12th. There will be presentations on the end of the year state of our schools from the administrators.

EdAdvance: No report.

Facilities: Mr. Cava reported that the committee has not met but is concentrating on the priorities of the schools.

Finance: Mr. Giesen reported that the committee met earlier with Barry, financial advisor, to go over the estimated costs for the projects. Cirma has given the district a 10% reduction for property liability and locked it in for three years.

Long Range Plan: Mr. Brown reported that the committee did not meet because they did not have a quorum.

Mr. Brown shared that he just received word that the boys broke the school record in the 4 X 400 at the State Open. On the team are: Cameron Brown, Sean Welsh, Chandler Wetherbee, and Gavin McCabe.

Negotiations: Mr. Cava reported that negotiations are still going on for the nurses and hopes to conclude before the contract expires on June 30.

Policy: Mrs. Gorra reported that the committee met last month and has several policies on the agenda for tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

Second Reading – Policy 5145.15 Directory Information: Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board of the question on what information must be provided and if the date of birth had to be included. The committee recommends to leaving that information in the directory.

MOTION: made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 5125.15 Directory Information for a second reading.

Discussion followed. Mr. Cava felt the policy should be an opt in not opt out.

VOTE: In favor: Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Michelle Gorra, James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, Julie Stuart and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Gregory Cava.

Motion passed (10 – 1 – 0)

Second Reading – Policy 9126 ByLaws of the Board, Treasurer: Mrs. Gorra reminded the Board of the changes to the policy at the first reading.

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 9126 Bylaws of the Board, Treasurer for a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

First Reading – Policy 4111/4211 Recruitment and Selection: Mrs. Gorra explained that the revision brings it into compliance with the new laws. Mr. Cava requested to have counsel review for contractual purposes.

MOTION: made by Anthony Amato, seconded by Lisa Roush, to approve Policy 4111/4211 Recruitment and Selection for a first reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

First Reading – Policy 5118.1 Homeless Students: Mrs. Gorra explained the responsibility for transportation for a homeless student.

MOTION: made by Jennifer Pote, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve Policy 5118.1 Homeless Students for a first reading.

Chairman Hirschfield explained how the readings work to bring a policy to approval.

VOTE: unanimous.

Healthy School-Nutrition Program – To consider and if appropriate, approve addendum to Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs (ED-099) to not participate under the CT Nutrition Standards as published by the CT Department of Education for school year 2017/2018: Mr. Giesen explained the reasons for not participating in the nutrition program.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Anthony Amato, to not participate under the Connecticut Nutrition Standards as published by the Connecticut Department of Education for School Year 2017/2018.

VOTE: unanimous.

Chairman Hirschfield read a letter from Housatonic Valley Association requesting permission to use WPS for their 25th annual auction in November waiving the alcohol policy.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michael Sinatra, add item to the agenda 11.4 to consider and if appropriate approve Housatonic Valley Association request to use WPS.

VOTE: unanimous.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve HVA's request to use WPS for their 27th Annual Auction on November 5, 2017 waiving the policy prohibiting alcohol beverages.

Dr. Cosentino shared that after the letter was received, HVA called and said the date does not work for the organization any longer and they are looking for another date.

Alan Brown and Michael Sinatra withdrew their motion.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Alan Brown to enter into executive session at 8:31 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Non-Certified Staff 2017/18 Salaries, Central Office Personnel Matter and the Superintendent's Year End Evaluation.

VOTE: unanimous.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

The Board returned to regular session at 11:43 p.m.

MOTION: made by Lisa Roush, seconded by Michelle Gorra, to amend the Superintendent's contract to include payment for the employee share of the annual premium of health benefits and deductible totaling \$1569.76 per year; raise car allowance to \$350 a month; and carryover four vacation days to the 2017/18 school year.

VOTE: unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Debby Bliven