

Regional School District 12
Board of Education Meeting
Education Committee
Shepaug Valley Middle/High School
June 18, 2012

The Education Committee Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:38 p.m., on Monday, June 18, 2012, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Frannie Caco, Laird Davis, Mardie Ford (Education Committee Chair), Michelle Gorra, Kelly Lott, and Michael Sinatra. Bruce E. Storm, Ed.D., Superintendent, was also present. Gregory Cava arrived at 6:46 p.m. Emily Hibbard arrived at 8:09 p.m.

Anne Stuhlman, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Cathy G. Colella, Principal, Booth Free and Burnham Schools, Teresa P. DeBrito, Principal, Shepaug Valley Middle School, Kimberly Gallo, Principal, Shepaug Valley High School, Emily Judd, Principal, Washington Primary School, Leslie Holst-Grubee, Spanish Teacher, Shepaug Valley Middle School, and Barbara Mendelson, Spanish Teacher, Shepaug Valley High School were also in attendance.

RECOGNITION OF BRUCE E. STORM, Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Hirschfield thanked and recognized Superintendent Dr. Storm for his dedication and leadership to Region 12 and the many accomplishments over his tenure with the district. He then presented Dr. Storm with a gift and invited all to refreshments in honor of Dr. Storm's retirement at the end of the month.

Meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Tony Bedini to approve the minutes as amended of the Board of Education, Business Meeting on June 4, 2012.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Frannie Caco, Mardie Ford, Michelle Gorra, and James Hirschfield.

Abstained: Gregory Cava, Laird Davis, Kelly Lott, and Michael Sinatra.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield mentioned that he was able to attend the Middle School and the High School graduations and the High School Academic Awards. He thanked all who were involved. Chairman Hirschfield acknowledged those retiring at the end of the month: Robert Hopkins, Janet Strausberg, Peter Frisbie, William Domonell, Cynthia Hopkins, Carol Muska, Susan Niesobecki, Rebecca Tanner, Nels English, Gary Parkosewich, Linda Lavacca, Lil Winter (8/10/12), Barbara Mendelson, Christopher Shay, Pamela Wilson, and Dorothy Bates.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Gregory Cava to accept the retirements with great appreciation for their service to the school system.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michelle Gorra to amend the agenda under New Business to add the Connecticut Community Foundation Grant Proposal.

VOTE: Unanimous.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Field Trip: Fran Beilinson took students to the Bronx Zoo in New York City on June 13, 2012.

Personnel Matters: Dr. Storm mentioned the retirement of Lil Winter after 26 years of service and the appointment of a Prek-12 Technology Specialist that will be discussed in executive session.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL

Anthony Weymouth requested approval to apply for a grant through the Connecticut Community Foundation that will be used to work with community preschools.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michelle Gorra to approve the application for the collaborative grant to the Connecticut Community Foundation.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: Unanimous.

PRESENTATION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH TEXTBOOK

Leslie Holst-Grubbe, Spanish Teacher at the Middle School presented Avancemos Spanish textbooks to replace the current outdated textbooks (1995) for grades 6 and 7 students. She gave reasons why the committee choose the Avancemos textbooks and gave details about the online subscriptions for students that correlate with the textbook. In total, Ms. Holst-Grubbe would order 55 textbooks and 90 six year online subscriptions.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Laird Davis to approve the Avancemos Spanish textbooks as recommended by the Textbook Committee.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: Unanimous.

PRESENTATION BY DOUG WINKEL REGARDING SHEPAUG DRAMA PROGRAM

Doug Winkel presented to the Board the history of the Diebold Foundation as a financial resource to the Shepaug Drama Program over the past 13 years. The Diebold Foundation has suffered financial hardship and will no longer be supplementing the program. Mr. Winkel shared financial and production information (handouts) over the past several years and requested the Board consider funding the program in the amount of \$30,000. Discussion followed.

SHEPAUG HIGH SCHOOL END OF YEAR REPORT

Kimberly Gallo made a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the 2011-12 school year. She began by comparing the former mission statement with the current mission statement. The former stated “What the school does for the students” and the current, “What we do together as learners”. Mrs. Gallo expounded on the 21st Century skills; Collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication. Assured Performance Tasks (a real world exercise asking students to think and apply what they learned in the classroom) are in every subject that is being taught. Samples were passed around to the Board members. Mrs. Gallo talked about the Curricula Umbrellas under the secondary school reform plan. She also described Shepaug as a heterogeneously grouped school and talked about how that works with the Honors Challenge. Every teacher participated this year in Tuesday Curriculum Writing to look at core curriculum. This will continue this summer with Dr. Stuhlman working with an Interdisciplinary Committee. Critical friends – a process where teachers met to challenge each other with the curriculum. Mrs. Gallo went on to show how learner outcomes are measured and assessed with rubrics: solving problems, defending conclusions and judgments, engaging the creative process and answering the call for citizenship. Lastly, Mrs. Gallo boasted about Shepaug being chosen by NEASC as a model school program – Creating a 21st Century Mission Statement, and that Shepaug ranked in the top 5% of Connecticut high schools for college completion by Connecticut’s Regence.

K-8 DATA DISPLAY – SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Dr. Stuhlman pointed out a section in the library where Principals had set up displays of data samples that they have collected over the course of the school year. The data includes student performance/student growth. The Board spent time viewing the displays.

The meeting reconvened at 8:38 p.m.

SECOND READING

Policy 9271 – Code of Ethics: Michelle Gorra reminded the Board that there were no changes last time.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Laird Davis to accept the second reading of Policy 9271, Code of Ethics as the bylaws of the Board.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: In favor: Valerie Andersen, Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Frannie Caco, Laird Davis, Mardie Ford, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, James, Hirschfield, Kelly Lott and Michael Sinatra.

Abstained: Gregory Cava

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: made by Laird Davis, seconded by Mardie Ford that the Board enter into executive session to discuss two personnel matters at 8:51 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Dr. Storm was invited into executive session and Dr. Cosentino was invited to join the session at approximately 9:20 p.m.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: made by Gregory Cava, seconded by Michael Sinatra to return to public session at 9:52 p.m.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEM

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michelle Gorra, that the Board pay Dr. Bruce E. Storm a severance payment of \$68,362.00, payable in two equal installments of \$34,181.00 each, with the first installment due on or before June 30, 2012, and the seconded installment due on or before June 30, 2013. It is understood that with this two-part distribution, Region 12 fulfills its obligations to Dr. Bruce E. Storm and no further payment or remuneration of any kind shall be due or paid to him related to any aspect of his employment in Region 12 and no interest will accrue or be payable to Dr. E. Storm on any portion of said \$68,362.00 payment.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: made by Alan Brown, seconded by Michelle Gorra that the Board approve the creation of the position of PreK-12 Technology Specialist, and that Karen Fildes be employed to fill that position at an annual salary of \$95,179.00, plus benefits.

VOTE: In favor: Tony Bedini, Alan Brown, Frannie Caco, Gregory Cava, Laird Davis, Mardie Ford, Michelle Gorra, Emily Hibbard, James, Hirschfield, Kelly Lott and Michael Sinatra.

Opposed: Valerie Andersen

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.