FINAL

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023

The Board of Education Meeting was held at Shepaug Valley School. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2023, by Chairman Gregory Cava. Present were Board members: Joseph Abdella, John Buonaiuto, Stephanie Kolnick, Angela Macchiarulo, Justin Ongley, Jennifer Pote, Jane Sarjeant, Julie Stuart, Peter Tagley, and Mary Weber. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Marc Gosselin Jr., and Nicole Grant, Director of Finance.

Also in attendance were Ben Allen, Media Communications Specialist; Matt Perachi, Athletic Director, Dean of Students at Shepaug Valley School; Jennifer Garzone, Head Football Coach – Northwest United Co-op with some of the players.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

## NORTHWEST UNITED CO-OP FOOTBALL RECOGNITION

Matt Perachi, Athletic Director and Dean of Students at Shepaug Valley School, introduced Head Coach Jennifer Garzone of Northwest United to Board members. Coach Garzone introduced each football player from Region 12 to the Board members. Both Coach Garzone and some of the players spoke about their season and thanked Board of Education members for allowing Shepaug Valley School to join the co-op team. Questions followed.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Board of Education Meeting, December 12, 2022

**MOTION:** made by Joseph Abdella, seconded by Julie Stuart, to adopt the minutes for the Board of Education Meeting on December 12, 2022, with an amendment. (Censure Board of Education Member's Conduct)

**VOTE:** unanimous.

Board of Education Meeting, October 24, 2022

**MOTION:** made by Mary Weber, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to adopt the minutes for the Board of Education Meeting on October 24, 2022, with an amendment. (Public Session)

**VOTE:** unanimous.

**REPORTS AND RECOGNITIONS**

*Board Chairman's Report:* Chairman Cava expressed how he enjoyed recognizing our student athletes tonight and would like to have other recognitions of our teams and athletes in the future.

*Superintendent's Report:* Superintendent Dr. Gosselin agreed with and thanked Chairman Cava regarding our athletics department/student-athletes and the positive contributions they have made to the student body.

Superintendent Dr. Gosselin shared that there will be a unified elementary school band and chorus concert at Shepaug Valley School this Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Gosselin also shared that this month our elementary school students will be given the STAR test, an assessment of English, Language Arts, and Math, allowing us to gauge student growth over the school year.

On Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., Shepaug will be hosting Unified Sports Basketball, which is an opportunity for students with special needs or learning differences to participate in athletics in a way that coincides with their own skills and abilities. Last Friday, January 6, 2023, Shepaug hosted Rival's Night with a head-to-head boys and girls basketball game played against Nonnewaug in a packed gym full of spectators.

Superintendent Dr. Gosselin will be hosting a series of Superintendent "Meet and Greets" in all three towns to allow community members to engage in casual open conversation about their concerns for the district.

Superintendent Dr. Gosselin also recently started comparing some of the Board policies to new legislation guidelines and is advising the Board to consider appointing a policy committee to assist in refining the policies set forth recently by Shipman & Goodwin.

EdAdvance has secured an $8.7 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help support the mental health needs of students by funding two full-time social workers in our school district.

Superintendent Dr. Gosselin shared that he has recently been meeting with Board members individually to get an understanding of their individual hopes and goals for Region 12.

Superintendent Dr. Gosselin shared the following appointments: Jesse Hungerford, Agriscience Substitute Teacher at Shepaug Valley School (January 3, 2023-February 3, 2023), and Marie Pelaccia, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Facilities at Central Offices; Retirements/Resignations: Mark Stanwich, Custodian at Shepaug Valley School (effective March 3, 2023). He also notified Board members of an upcoming field trip to the Big E Fairgrounds, Springfield, MA on March 31, 2023 (grades 10-12).

Chairman Cava addressed the Board in regard to the need for a future policy committee.

*Committee Reports:*

*Treasurer's Report* – John Buonaiuto recently reviewed invoices for the district, some of which included the payment made to Barrett Roofing for Burnham School's roof replacement in the amount of $297,587 and Cherry Hill Glass in the amount of $363,218 for a little over half of the necessary replacement windows to Shepaug Valley School. These windows are currently in storage until we are able to acquire the rest of the windows and start the replacement process. The maintenance garage project has been completed with an overall cost of $705,016.

Mr. Buonaiuto shared that Charles Heaven Company has recently finished our 2021-2022 audit.

*Curriculum & Educational Programming* – Justin Ongley shared that during the meeting, much time was spent with Dr. Gosselin discussing current and future goals, specifically addressing the state's "science of reading " legislation. Dr. DeBrito gave the committee some background information on the new legislation which led to the group brainstorming on how to address this during future meetings. There was also a discussion on the benefits of foreign language instruction at the elementary level, which will continue to be discussed at the next meeting.

*EdAdvance* – Joseph Abdella reported that he attended the latest Board of Directors meeting on January 5, 2023. The 8.7 million dollar grant awarded to EdAdvance will aid in funding two social workers to our district. The East Street property was finalized and the Grove Street property will be finalized by January 23, 2023. These properties will allow the expansion of their Early Childhood Learning Center and other special education opportunities.

*Finance & Operations* – No report.

*Long Range Planning* – Julie Stuart shared that although there has not been another meeting with the committee, she will be attending Burnham School's and Booth Free School's PTO meetings, and Jennifer Pote will be going to Washington Primary School's PTO meeting to update attendees on the progress of the Long Range Plan.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Second Reading, Policy 3280 - Gift, Grants, and Bequests to the District. Chairman Cava opened the floor up for questions, concerns or modifications on Policy 3280.

**MOTION:** made by Joseph Abdella, seconded by Jane Sarjeant, to approve for a second reading, Policy 3280 - Gift, Grants, and Bequests to the District.

John Buonaiuto asked Nicole Grant about our district's ability to accept stock as a donation after he recollected a recent benefactor's generous offer to donate stock to our district. Nicole answered Mr. Buonaiuto's question by saying that although the district did look into a brokerage account to be able to liquidate the stock, the benefactor chose instead to donate cash.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

*Consider and if appropriate, approve the Board Meeting Schedule for 2023-2024.*

**MOTION:** made by Jennifer Pote, seconded by Stephanie Kolnick, to approve the Board Meeting Schedule for 2023-2024 with two changes: Retreat from September 25, 2023, to September 18, 2023, and add a meeting on January 22, 2024.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

*To discuss a Personnel matter*

**MOTION:** made by Mary Weber, seconded by Stephanie Kolnick, to discuss a personnel matter at 7:54 p.m.

**VOTE:** unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Board returned to Public Session at 8:55 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by consent.

*Respectfully submitted by D. Quijada*