

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING
January 5, 2010

Present: Barickman, Gaspar, Goldberg, Joyce-Kirk, Lewson, Miller
Administration: Cicchetti, Sullivan, Mas, Pierson Ugol, Wessman Huber, Martin, Wallin, Farrell, Freeston
Others: 13 members of the staff & community, and a representative of the Redding Pilot

Dr. Gaspar called the January 5, 2010 meeting to order at 7:32 pm in the JRMS Community Room.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to recess to executive session for a discussion and review of school security.

Barickman, Joyce-Kirk. Approved. Unanimous.

The building administrators, Mrs. Sullivan and Police Chief Fuchs were invited to be present. The meeting recessed at 7:33 pm.

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2009 meeting as submitted.

Barickman, Lewson. Approved. 4-0-2. Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Miller abstained.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2009 meeting as submitted. Lewson, Joyce-Kirk. Approved. 5-0-1. Mr. Miller abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lew Andrews, High Ridge Road: Mr. Andrews announced that NABR would present a 20-minute presentation on the group's proposed budget plan to reduce the Town of Redding and Schools' budgets by 10% in 2010 on Thursday, January 14, 2010 at the Mark Twain Library. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

The board members welcomed the new Superintendent, Dr. Michael Cicchetti.

REVIEW OF THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE REDDING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Chief of Police, Doug Fuchs, reviewed the role of the School Resource Officer. The position is a part-time position and is funded within the Police Department operating budget. The officer is available to the staff and a point of contact for the administrators. In addition, the officer's role is to create a positive relationship with the students.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Gaspar, with the recommendation of the current members of the Facilities Management Committee, appointed Chris Nolan, Dan Conlon and Mike D'Agostino to the Committee with terms expiring in June 2010.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF 2010-2011 EXPENDITURES

The administration presented a power point presentation of the proposed expenditures for the next fiscal year. Copies of the presentation were made available to the public.

The proposal for the foundation portion of the budget included a reduction of a 1.0 FTE position at RES and a reassignment of staff at JRMS to accommodate shifts in enrollment. The foundation budget, an increase of 5.3%, includes:

- Maintaining current programs and services
- Additional support for mathematics
- 8th grade writing portfolios
- Update of strategic plan
- Increase of Writing Specialist to 1.0 FTE at JRMS
- Shift current Math Specialist to 1.0 FTE at RES (compared with 0.8 RES & 0.2 JRMS)
- Reinstate summer curriculum hours
- Reinstate professional development, conferences & travel

Improvements, with an increase of 0.84%, include:

- Math Specialist position at JRMS, 1.0 FTE
- 6th grade Science textbooks
- Increase in Specialist support in Special Education
- Capital improvements (upgrade of heating units in 5th grade wing and replacement of some doors at RES)

New programs, with an increase of 0.11%, includes an outside consultant to assist with the update of the Strategic Plan.

Items considered but deferred included additional custodial support, additional math support at RES, Homework Center Advisor at JRMS, and capital items (replacement of gym floor at RES and security enhancements at both schools.

The current point of departure for budget planning is a budget of \$21,187,779, representing a 6.20% increase over the current budget. The board will meet on Thursday, January 7, 2010 to begin budget deliberations.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

JRMS: Mrs. Martin submitted a written report. Mrs. Wallin highlighted the interdisciplinary unit on immigration of the 8th grade students. She also reported that absentees the days before the holiday break were higher than usual.

RES: Mrs. Pierson Ugol provided a written report. She reported the Kindergarten registration is currently at 73, with a projected enrollment of 97. Absentee numbers prior to the holiday break were

lower than the previous year. Mrs. Pierson Ugol thanked the PTA for the visiting author presentation, the Bingo Night and the staff holiday luncheon.

Special Education: Mrs. Freeston reported on the workshops provided to staff during the conference week. Mr. Farrell added that much of the staff development opportunities are funded through grants and various free or low-cost options.

Director of Financial Operations

Mrs. Sullivan reported the following:

- Health insurance claims increased for November, but are still lower than the monthly budgeted amount.
- Budget Object Summary was distributed.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Mrs. Mas reported the Tri-State Consortium Visitation evaluation will be reviewed by the Superintendent and steering committee members. Commendations, as well as recommendations will be reviewed in preparation for the development of an ER9 Action Plan for improvement in the area of Science. The report will be shared with board members at a future meeting. Mrs. Mas reported the Easton and Redding writing and reading specialists met to review midyear assessments administered as part of the ER9 K-8 Master Assessment Plan. Transition meeting are continuing.

Superintendent: Dr. Cicchetti commented on his welcome to the District, his visitation of each school on his first day, and his plans to meet with community representatives, administration, staff, and parent groups.

FOOD SERVICE COMMITTEE

Mr. Barickman reported the ad hoc Food Service Committee is working to schedule a meeting with Chartwells to review contract requirements and progress.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Miller reported the Committee met prior to the meeting and identified some improvements/changes that should move forward with obtaining specifics on what is needed and cost estimates.

PTA LIAISON

Mr. Miller noted that the Committee is interested in hosting a meeting to introduce the new superintendent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank DeSalvo, Mountain Road: commented that the budget presentation with an increase of 6.2% is only the starting point, and not the number the community will be asked to approve. He suggested that those concerned about the state/federal funding of education attend the Brown Bag Lunch with the First Selectman on Wednesday because Congressman Jim Hines will be present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education recess to executive session for a discussion of performance of a public employee, Bernadette Filgate-Gaynor. Miller, Lewson. Approved.

Unanimous.

Dr. Cicchetti, Mrs. Mas and Mrs. Sullivan were invited to be present.
The meeting recessed at 9:23 pm.

RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened in public session at 9:53 p.m.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the request made by Bernadette Gaynor-Filgate for an unpaid leave of absence starting on or about February 1, 2010 for a period of approximately 70 days pending her placement in a student teaching position. Goldberg, Joyce-Kirk. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Recorded by Mary Maday