

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2010

This was a joint meeting with the Easton Board of Education. The minutes only reflect events pertaining to the Redding Board of Education.

Present: Barickman, Brey, Gaspar, Goldberg, Lewson, Miller
Administration: Cicchetti, Mas, Pierson Ugol, Martin, Wallin, Farrell, Freeston, McMorran
Others: 11 members community

Dr. Gaspar called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education amend the May 10, 2010 Joint Board Minutes to delete the motion following executive session. Gaspar, Lewson. Approved. 5-0-1. Mr. Miller abstained.

Motion: move to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2010 meeting as submitted. Miller, Lewson. Approved. Unanimous.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Gaspar commented that the Joint Meeting would be helpful to understand the issues facing the Easton community.

STATUS REPORT ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (SRBI)

The administrators provided an update on the status of SRBI in the schools. A power point presentation accompanied the report.

Discussion of SRBI followed the presentation. Board members discussed the identification of gifted students and how their needs were being met. Redding has a system in place for the identification and programming for gifted students. Dr. Cicchetti distributed a copy of an article entitled Meeting the Learning Needs of Gifted Students with RTI.

Mr. Farrell noted that the SRBI system is working well with students with special needs, changing the use of resources. Students are identified earlier and services can be delivered earlier.

Mr. Barickman arrived during the presentation (8:02 pm).

BULLYING SURVEY AND SCHOOL CLIMATE INITIATIVES

Dickon Pownall-Gray and Kiki Cahn of the Surviving Bullies Charity, Inc. presented an update on the School Climate Project Bullying Survey and the School Climate Initiatives. The presentation included comments by the school principals on the program. As the program continues, there will be an increased focus on school climate and learning environments, a raising of awareness including cyber bullying, a strengthening of coping skills and self-advocacy skills, a creation of small group mentoring opportunities and the establishing of the role of student governance. In addition, a student aspirations survey will be given, students' perception of teacher "fairness" will be explored,

work will be done to partner with the bus company, there will be partnering with parents, the program will be linked to the strategic planning goals and initiatives to the elementary school will be expanded.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Dr. Cicchetti reported that meetings for the Strategic Planning are scheduled for August 23-25, 2010.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2010-2011

Dr. Cicchetti proposed two changes to the school calendar for 2010-2011. The first change moves the staff professional development day from August 27, 2010 to October 8, 2010. This move provides a timely opportunity for staff to work on professional growth action plans by grade/team. This also gives students a four-day weekend. This will move the last day of school forward by one day. The second change provides a definite day for professional development in January, rather than the "floating" day as is now in the schedule. The day, January 14, 2011 also provides students with a four-day weekend. Dr. Cicchetti added that the changes were discussed with the teachers' association, the administrative council, the PTA groups and the Calendar Committee.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education amend the 2010-2011 school year calendar to (1) add a K-8 professional development day on Friday, October 8, and (2) set Friday, January 14, as a K-8 professional development day, independent of the high school's intersession day. Brey, Lewson. Approved. Unanimous.

TEXTBOOK ADOPTION: GRADE 6 SCIENCE

Mrs. Mas and Mrs. Wallin presented the recommendation for the Grade 6 Science textbook.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education adopt Glencoe Science: Earth Science, by authors Ralph M. Feather, Jr., Ph.D., Susan Leach Snyder, and Dinah Zike, published by the McGraw Hill Companies, Inc., copyright 2010 for use in grade science instruction. Brey, Goldberg. Approved. Unanimous.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

The end-of-year budget transfers were presented for approval.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the budget transfers as presented. Lewson, Brey. Approved. Unanimous.

AGENDA CHANGE

Motion: move that items G & H be moved to follow Board Member Comment. Miller, Goldberg. Approved. Unanimous.

Mr. Brey left the meeting (10:05 pm).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

RES Principal, Stephanie Pierson Ugol: provided an update on end-of-year activities at the school. Kindergarten enrollment is holding in the low 90's. She announced that student, Charlotte

Bridwell's poster was chosen for the state's recycling campaign and is featured on two billboards in the area.

JRMS Principal, Diane Martin: reported Congressman Jim Himes visited the school and was impressed with the student's questions and concerns about the environment. She also reported the New England League of Middle Schools notified the school that it was selected for a Spotlight School Award. The League provides professional development and research, all geared to middle schools.

Special Education, Brian Farrell: the Annual Performance Report on Connecticut's State Performance Plan was distributed. Mr. Farrell participated in the work on the new regulations for teacher certification with the State Board of Education.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Marie Mas: Mrs. Mas provided a written report and noted that she participated on a CSDE Team of Experts in Connecticut English Language Arts to conduct a standard comparison of the new Common Core State Standards. Connecticut will adopt the Common Core standards in August.

Superintendent Cicchetti provided a copy of the Connecticut State Board of Education position statement on Student Support Services for review. He added that the Status Report on the School Resource Officer from Police Chief Doug Fuchs was in the board member packets for review. He has schedule an administrative team retreat for June 25, 2010.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike D'Agostino, Glen Hill Road: Mr. D'Agostino commented that he would have liked to comment on the Surviving Bullies presentation while the presenters were present. While he is in support of the program, he is concerned about student intervention actions. Regarding the change in the school calendar, he questioned the four-day weekends, noting that it is difficult for teachers to get the students back in a learning mode.

SECOND READING OF POLICY #0521: NONDISCRIMINATION

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve Policy 0521(a)

Nondiscrimination as presented for a second and final reading. Gaspar, Goldberg.

Approved. Unanimous.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Barickman reported plans for repairs over the next 18 months are being finalized. The RFQ's for the work and walk-throughs with contractors are underway. The work this summer will include bathroom renovations, roof work, repointing of brick facing and flooring, including asbestos removal work at RES, flooring replacement work at JRMS, and the design work for the water, septic and HVAC systems will begin. He credited the Committee, including Don Conlon, Chris Nolan, Mike D'Agostino, Peggy Sullivan and Ken Larkin for the work they have done. Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Larkin will be the two town employees overseeing the work being done.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Gaspar commented that the joint meeting was helpful. The dialogue between board members and administrators was helpful.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education meeting be adjourned. Goldberg, Barickman. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Brey, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday