

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 11, 2010

Present: Barickman, Brey, Gaspar, Goldberg, Joyce-Kirk, Lewson, Miller  
Administration: Cicchetti, Sullivan, Mas, Pierson Ugol, Tomasello, Martin, Wallin, Farrell,  
Freeston, McMorran  
Others: 11 members of the staff & community and a representative of the Redding Pilot

Dr. Gaspar called the May 11, 2010 meeting to order at 7:42 pm in the Community Room of the John Read Middle School.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2010 meeting as submitted. Lewson, Barickman. Approved. 6-0-1. Mr. Brey abstained,**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Frank DeSalvo, member of the Board of Finance: Mr. DeSalvo questioned why the Assistant Principal position (Mrs. Wessman Huber on maternity leave) was not discussed at a meeting prior to being filled.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Dr. Gaspar announced that the June 1, 2010 meeting has been changed to June 8, 2010 and will be a joint meeting with the Easton Board of Education. This meeting will be held in the Media Center of Joel Barlow High School. The two boards have several common topics for discussion.

Board members thanked all who worked to get the budget passed, and added that the capital budget up for a vote on May 20, 2010.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE OPERATING BUDGET 2010-2011**

Dr. Cicchetti reported that enrollment numbers at RES have been revisited. He and Mrs. Pierson Ugol are recommending a reduction of one section in Kindergarten, from six sections to five sections. Current enrollment for next year is 93 and is not expected to go over 100. Five sections would retain an average class size of 18-19. This reduction will free up 1 FTE position for reallocation. Dr. Cicchetti suggested the board reconsider the decision to reduce the Woodshop and Enrichment programs.

Discussion of the Kindergarten section reduction followed. Dr. Gaspar informally polled board members regarding the reduction. All board members were in agreement with the reduction.

Discussion of reallocation of resources followed.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education restore the FTE previously cut for the Workshop and Enrichment programs. Brey, Joyce-Kirk. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **POWERSCHOOL AND ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO**

A presentation on Powerschool and its use in the schools was made by Mrs. Wallin. The data management system provides information to the administration and teachers. Data can be used to inform curriculum, instruction, management, teaching and learning. Mrs. Wallin provided samples of how the information is used in the schools. The program is being used in both Redding and Easton schools and at Joel Barlow High School. RES has been working on the electronic portfolio and that information is being uploaded into Powerschool.

## **TRI-STATE CONSORTIUM SCIENCE PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Mrs. Mas and Mr. McMorran (Head of School, Joel Barlow High School) presented a report on the October 2009 Tri-State Consortium visit of the K-12 Science curriculum. The presentation included the work done to prepare for the visit, the visitation process and the recommendations.

The steering committee reviewed the recommendations and identified and summarized the top ten recommendations that could be initiated right away. These are:

- Establish common time and resources to align curriculum and to provide professional development opportunities.
- Incorporate science textbooks/printed materials at the elementary level.
- Develop and implement an independent research program at the high school.
- Continue professional development to implement the use of science notebooks/journals K-12.
- Develop performance-based assessments and common scoring rubrics.
- Review primary grade assessment practices for report cards.
- Create a tri-district committee to develop performance-based assessments, common scoring rubrics, common practices related to inquiry-based learning, and related professional development.
- Coordinate and articulate professional development for inquiry-based learning.

A major recommendation not listed above is to establish and identify common times and resources to align curriculum. The different elementary and middle school schedules between Easton and Redding create a serious logistical barrier to planning opportunities for teachers to discuss and align curriculum, instruction, assessment, vertical alignment and to review student work.

The steering committee members, administration, teachers, and central office administration will continue to collaborate how to effectively use the information brought forward in the report at the classroom level, building level, and district level to improve the science program for the students in Easton, Redding and Region 9. The ten top recommendations will be facilitated beginning this summer when the K-12 Science Curriculum Committee meets to outline action plans for implementation beginning in the 2010-2011 school year.

## **SECOND READING, POLICY 0521 – NONDISCRIMINATION**

Dr. Cicchetti reported that Region 9 asked their attorney, Fred Dorsey, to review the policy. Both Attorney Marsha Moses and Attorney Fred Dorsey have completed their review, and the revised policy was distributed for approval. Board members had questions regarding the existing Nondiscrimination policy and how Policy 0521 replaces or supplements that policy. Dr. Cicchetti

suggested tabling the second reading until the June meeting when additional information and clarification is available.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

RES Principal, Stephanie Pierson Ugol, reported she spent three days as co-leader for a Tri-State Consortium visitation on language arts. Staff is currently working on transition planning for the fourth to fifth graders.

JRMS Principal, Diane Martin, reported she participated in the CT Association of Schools process for determination of the "middle school of the year." The Western CT Superintendent Award Ceremony was held recently and two John Read Middle School students were honored. The school play was a huge success.

Joel Barlow High School Head of School, Tom McMorrان, reported a transition dance for incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders is planned for Friday at the high school. Other school events include the Senior Prom, a production of Hamlet and Barlow Palooza.

Special Education Director, Brian Farrell, announced that the Redding school district was identified for sampling in this year's survey cycle by the CT State Department of Education. The statewide survey is the continuation of an ongoing collaborative effort between the BSE (Bureau of Special Education) and the Connecticut Parent Work Group to collect information on family satisfaction and parents' involvement in their child's special education program. A letter was sent to parents encouraging their participation and support.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Marie Mas, reported the Textbook Committee is in the process of reviewing grade 6 science textbooks. Mrs. Mas will participate in a Tri-State Consortium visitation on language arts in the Wilton schools.

Director of Finance, Peggy Sullivan, reported the Health Insurance claims for March were higher than usual. The year-to-date numbers are tracking as expected. She is in the process of projecting year end numbers.

Superintendent, Michael Cicchetti, reported the School Resource Office report would be available by the end of the month. A report on SRBI (Scientific Research Based Instruction) is planned for the June meeting. The Strategic Plan workshop is planned for August 23, 24 and 25. He distributed copies of an article on the impact of economic downturn in Connecticut's public schools by the American Association of School Administrators.

### **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Barickman noted that the capital budget for school projects (\$3,210,000) related to improving indoor air quality, health, safety and energy efficiency such as physical structure repairs, HVAC, bathroom fixtures, and flooring/ceiling replacement will go to a Special Town Meeting for approval on May 20, 2010.

Assuming approval of the capital budget, Mr. Barickman said the Facilities Management Committee will transition to an oversight committee for the planned repairs, working with Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Larkin.

He added that the town is extremely lucky to have townspeople on the Committee with the expertise and willingness to oversee the work needed to be done. Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Larkin have begun the RFQ preparation process and a critical path for repairs is in place, one that will provide for efficiency of repairs and minimize the disruption of schools.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike D'Agostino, Glen Hill Road: Mr. D'Agostino asked if the enrollment projections for grades other than Kindergarten have changed. Mrs. Pierson Ugol will review the projections and respond to Mr. D'Agostino's question following the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Brey, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday