

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING
September 8, 2009

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

Mr. Lewson called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2009 meeting as corrected. Joyce-Kirk, Gaspar. Approved. 3-0-3. Mr. Miller and Mr. Barickman abstained.

Correction: page 2, paragraph 1, change Dr. Fossbender's final date to January 1; following executive session, the meeting was reconvened in public session at 8:30; and the following motion was made and approved: **Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Redding Education Association concerning Mrs. Judy Honey. Gaspar, Brey. Approved. Unanimous;** the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank DeSalvo: question regarding enrollment increases as a result of economic conditions. Dr. Fossbender asked the administrators to respond to the question during their reports.

2009 CMT RESULTS

Mrs. Mas presented an analysis of the data from the 2009 Connecticut Mastery Tests. The District made excellent progress. Mrs. Mas will present additional information at the next meeting on how the staff will address weaknesses/deficiencies.

2010 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

The schedule of board meetings for 2010 was reviewed. The budget workshop meetings will be scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm and regular meetings will begin at 7:30 pm.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education adopt the schedule of board meetings for 2010 as presented. Gaspar, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

JRMS: Mrs. Martin reported on the hiring process and the positions filled. She added that a plan is being developed to allow up to 10 students to ride the bus after school to the Redding Community Center for activities. The Student Council will manage the process of allocating those seats as requests come in.

Enrollment, as of today, is 594, compared with 589 last year; the Bothwell Projected Enrollment was 579. Mrs. Martin noted that the new schedule is in place and is working well. Student reaction to the new lunch provider has been very enthusiastic and positive with both students and staff.

RES: Mrs. Pierson Ugol reported students were greeted the first day of school by the school's mascot, a full-size "raccoon" and students will participate in a contest to name the raccoon. One new teacher was added to the staff for 4th grade. Two student teachers are working with teachers, and one intern is on board.

Mrs. Wessman Huber added that a "recess before lunch" for the 2nd grade is being piloted.

Special Services: Mrs. Freeston reported the Extended School Year Program was attended by approximately 90 students, ranging from preschool to Grade 8. Mr. Farrell reported on two new staff members and the new Social Worker. Mr. Soderlund continues to facilitate the transition of the in-district Autism program.

Mrs. Sullivan reported on the following:

1. Health Insurance: claims for July were high, \$250,000. August figures were not available yet.
2. Fiscal year end, unexpended balance was \$37,621 and Mrs. Sullivan recommended moving that amount to the Health Insurance Reserve Fund.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education transfer the unexpended balance of \$37,621, subject to audit, to the Health Insurance Reserve Fund. Miller, Joyce-Kirk. Approved. Unanimous.

3. Year-to-date Object Summary Report was reviewed.
4. Capital Plan: Mrs. Sullivan presented an updated Five Year Capital Plan for both schools. She added the Town's Long Range Financial Planning Committee is reviewing the Town's needs, both the annual capital needs and long-range capital needs. The goal is to move some of the capital items to an "ongoing capital maintenance" category, such as flooring replacement and locker replacement.
4. Water Systems: the equipment has been ordered and the installation at both schools is planned for the fall. Work will be done over the weekend, with no disruption to the school day.
5. RES handicap ramp: a repair on the base of the ramp is needed. The condition is being evaluated and a recommendation for repair will be made.
6. Transportation: the staff is working to resolve a few problems, but things have been running smoothly.
7. Food Service: Chartwells retained the current staff (with exception of two who declined). Ann Metcalf continues to manage the food service and has undergone extensive training. Equipment has been installed at both schools and the staff has been trained on how to cook and serve the food. The Point-of-Sale system will be in place soon.

Superintendent: Dr. Fossbender reported the President's speech will be presented to students at a later date. At JRMS, the speech will be a part of the Social Studies classes. There will be no alternative educational experience offered. Dr. Fossbender noted that the speech has relevance to the mission of the school district and is compatible with the values of the school community.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Joyce-Kirk reported that four Curriculum Conversations are planned. The PTA has been invited to suggest participants and topics for discussion.

PTA LIAISON COMMITTEE

Mr. Miller reported the June 30 meeting was a discussion of the need for funding of capital items, especially the maintenance items. He will work with Mr. Barickman on the Long Range Capital Planning Committee. The group discussed the topic of ground maintenance and the fact that the school custodians are responsible for the ground maintenance. The suggestion was made to combine the ground maintenance with the Town for greater efficiencies and economies.

The group also discussed the Wellness Policy, primarily the inconsistent implementation of the policy in the schools, primarily with regard to classroom snacks/treats. The group suggested a clarification of the policy to parents.

LONG RANG FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mr. Barickman discussed the need to broaden the scope of the committee to allow for longer-term financial planning. He and Mr. Miller will present additional information at the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Dr. Gaspar reported that several good candidates are available, but no further information could be reported at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gwen Denny, Wayside Lane: comments related to the need for the items on the capital budget to be moved forward, specifically the HVAC for the RES West Wing.

Mike D'Agostino, Glen Hill Road: concern that the maintenance items on the capital budget are not being addressed now. He also recommended that the RES handicap ramp base should have footings.

Frank DeSalvo: noted that the Board of Finance meetings are open to the public, and suggested that a board member(s) should attend the meetings.

Mary Brannan, Gallows Hill Road: commented that the long-range capital plan is good, but some of these items need to be addressed now for inclusion in the next budget planning process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education recess to executive session for a discussion of 1) Agreement between the Redding Board of Education and Local 1303-003 of Council #4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO, and 2) pertaining to the employment of a municipal employee, Allen Fossbender. Gaspar, Joyce-Kirk. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Fossbender was invited to be present.

The meeting recessed at 9:47 pm.

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 10:23 pm.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the administration's recommended salary and benefits package for the Custodial Union employees as outlined in executive session. Barickman, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 10:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary