

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING  
November 10, 2009

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

Mr. Lewson called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2009 meeting as corrected. Miller, Gaspar. Approved. 4-0-2. Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Brey abstained.**

Correction: page 2, line 1, change intervening to intervention; page 2, under School Improvement Plans, bullet 1 under both RES & JRMS, change comprehensive to comprehension and correct Mrs. Pierson Ugol's name.

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2009 meeting as corrected. Joyce-Kirk, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.**

Correction: Dr. Katz's first name should be Alan.

**FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mrs. Sullivan reported the POS system has been introduced at RES. The system is similar to a credit card transaction, but also allows parents to view student accounts and what they are purchasing. Participation or number of meals served is down from last year for September and October, but is slowly increasing.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

Mrs. Sullivan reported the following:

1. Year to date report was available and reviewed.
2. Health insurance claims for September were lower than July & August.
3. Electricity: the district will participate with a consortium of other school districts for the purchase of electricity. The current contract expires in December.
4. The Redding Long Range Financial Planning Committee meets on Thursday evening at 7:30 pm in Town Hall.

**DISCUSSION OF HOURS OF INSTRUCTION: REDDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Dr. Fossbender reported the Strategic School Profile for 2008-2009 shows that RES has 937 hours of instruction compared with the average for DRG elementary schools of 996. Mrs. Pierson Ugol reviewed the methodology used for calculating the hours of instruction. She provided information she gathered from some surrounding schools regarding hours of instruction, length of day, lunch, recess, and various subject areas. Dr. Fossbender recommended the establishment of a subcommittee, composed of him, Mrs. Mas, Mrs. Pierson Ugol, Mrs. Wessman Huber and two board members to study the topic further and present recommendations to the board at the next meeting.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction: Mrs. Mas reported the Tri-State Consortium visit was successfully completed. Mrs. Mas, along with Mrs. Wessman Huber and two other teachers were presenters on the SRBI at the CRA conference. A two-day conference was recently held in Mystic on the topic of SRBI. Redding has been selected to participate in a 12-district consortium on SRBI. Transition meetings for transition from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to the high school have begun.

RES: Mrs. Pierson Ugol provided a written report and announced that the Lunchtime Music Series has begun. The first program was folk music.

JRMS: Mrs. Martin submitted a written report and she reviewed plans to celebrate Veterans Day with the students.

Special Needs: Mr. Farrell's written report was provided. Mrs. Freeston reported on staff training in preparation for the new guidelines for learning disabilities.

Superintendent: Dr. Fossbender reported on a meeting with the U.S. Secretary of Education. He and Mr. Farrell, along with others, met with the State Commissioner of Education regarding the recent CMT testing and the inclusion of the modified assessment test results for students with special needs in the scoring. There was a difference in understanding whether the scoring for the modified assessments would be included, the scores stand as they are. Going forward, the issues of inclusion of modified assessments will be clarified.

## **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Joyce-Kirk reported the first Curriculum Conversation of the year was held prior to the meeting. The topic, SRBI & assessment programs, was addressed by Mrs. Mas, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Pierson Ugol, Mrs. Wessman Huber and Mrs. Freeston. Three additional sessions are planned.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Barickman reported the committee has recommended the expansion of the committee to include three community members with expertise in the areas of facilities management.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education amends the constitution of the Facilities Management Committee to include three (3) ex officio community members with expertise in the area of facilities management, to be recommended to the Chair from the board members of the Facilities Management Committee. Miller, Barickman. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **PTA LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Dr. Gaspar reported the topics of discussion at the last meeting:

- New teacher contracts, arrival and dismissal times, length of day.
- JRMS new schedule: scheduling student sessions with teachers created complications. Mrs. Martin responded that the schedule has been tweaked since the beginning of the school year. She outlined the regularly scheduled staff/team meetings. She indicated most staff members were available on specific days and communicated that to students and parents.
- Transportation: one bus arriving late to JRMS. Board members requested an update on transportation issues for the next meeting.

- Mold concerns at RES: Health Officer Doug Hartline inspected the building following a complaint of mold issues. He found no presence of mold, but high levels of humidity in areas of the building. He recommended the use of a dehumidifier and ventilation of the areas as corrective measures.
- Tri-State Consortium Visitation: parents were happy with the process particularly as parents and students were involved in the evaluation.
- Capital plan: questions regarding how projects are put on the list and moved forward in the process.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Maday, Recording Secretary