

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION
JOINT MEETING WITH EASTON AND REGION 9 BOARDS
January 7, 2010
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Region #9 Board of Education: Lewis, Baker, Karvelis, Logie, Macchio, Neidenbach, Gombos
Redding Board of Education: Brey, Gaspar, Goldberg, Joyce-Kirk, Miller
Easton Board of Education: Dunsby
Administration: Cicchetti, Sullivan

The meeting was held in the John Read Middle School Community Room and chaired by Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis called the Region #9 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Dr. Gaspar called the Redding Board of Education meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

The Easton Board of Education did not have a quorum present.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION: CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RACE TO THE TOP GRANT (RTTT)**

Mr. Lewis introduced Dr. Cicchetti who provided an overview of the RTTT Grant being considered by the boards. Discussion followed. Concern was expressed about the costs vs. the benefits of the grant to the schools of Easton, Redding or Region #9. Specifically, Dr. Cicchetti reported that the RTTT grant could potentially award Easton \$13,179 (\$3,295 per year for 4 years), Redding \$16,375 (\$4,094 per year for 4 years), and Region #9 \$7,352 (\$1,838 per year for 4 years). There was concern about the administrative work, time and resources that would be needed for the grant application process as well as the compliance costs involved with the program. Dr. Cicchetti expressed concern regarding the level of rigor of the compliance standards in relation to the already high standards that are a part of the existing strategic plan for Easton, Redding and Region 9. Dr. Cicchetti indicated there would be another opportunity to participate in the RTTT grant in the spring.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education decline participation in the RTTT grant at this time. Gombos, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education decline participation in the RTTT grant at this time. Goldberg, Brey. Approved. Unanimous.

The Easton Board of Education did not have a quorum present.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move to adjourn the Region #9 BOE meeting, Karvelis, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.**

**Motion: move to recess the Redding BOE meeting. Goldberg, Brey. Approved. Unanimous.
The meeting was recessed at 7:20 pm.**

RECONVENE

The Redding Board of Education meeting was reconvened by the Chair at 7:45 pm.

Present: Redding Board of Education: Brey, Gaspar, Goldberg, Joyce-Kirk, Miller
Administration: Cicchetti, Sullivan, Mas, Martin, Wallin, Pierson Ugol, Wessman Huber, Farrell

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: PROPOSED 2010-2011 OPERATING BUDGET

Mrs. Sullivan provided a graphic display and itemization of the expenditures by Function and by Object codes. In addition, she provided Revenue Summary, comparing revenue to the Board and to the Town for 2008-09, anticipated for 2009-10, and projected for 2010-2011. The revenue to the Board and to the Town has declined over that period.

Discussion followed.

Board members asked about the recommendations made by NABR in their “10 IN 10” presentation of budget reductions. Some of the suggestions regarding online learning and the use of volunteers in the classroom create issues with the various contractual agreements. Board members discussed the use of online services for things like homework assignments, student illness, etc. Dr. Cicchetti commented that the use of online learning to replace direct instruction contradicts best practices and all the research about learning, including the direct connection between the teacher and student for the student to learn. He added that technology embedded in instruction is different than online instruction.

A recommendation regarding purchasing supplies from internet vendors was reviewed. Mrs. Sullivan stated that most supplies are purchased by state contract, others are purchased with another school district; both methods provide supplies at a lower than retail cost.

The additional math specialist time at RES & JRMS was discussed. Mrs. Mas reviewed the math curriculum and the strides/improvements made since the math specialist position was created. The proposed budget expands the position at RES and adds a position at JRMS.

Additional discussion of the science textbook request and the additional support for the special education area and the preparation of the Strategic Plan followed. Mrs. Mas reviewed the importance of restoring the allocation for curriculum writing and professional development.

Dr. Gaspar requested the administration prepare potential reductions in the budget to get to a 2% increase. Mr. Goldberg suggested that layered or clustered reductions be presented for review. He added that the current budget with a 2% increase was approved by a large number and that the board has an obligation to maintain quality education for the students.

Motion: move to add public comment to the agenda. Miller, Goldberg. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank DeSalvo, Mountain Road: questions regarding the amount budgeted for excess cost reimbursements.

Mike D’Agostino, Glen Hill Road: comments regarding changing from a partial-day Kindergarten program to full-day program and the savings the change could create. He urged the board to give the topic consideration for next year or the following year. He also suggested the board consider an “early retirement” incentive for teachers nearing retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Brey, Redding Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday