

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
October 5, 2010

Present: Barickman, Brey, Gaspar, Goldberg, Joyce-Kirk, Lewson, Miller
Administration: Cicchetti, Mas, Pierson Ugol, Wessman Huber, Martin, Wallin, Farrell, Freeston,
Others: nine members of the community and a representative of the Redding Pilot.

Dr. Gaspar called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education amend the September 7, 2010 minutes as corrected. Lewson, Barickman. Approved. Unanimous.

Corrections: page 2, under Summer Facilities Projects, last paragraph, Mr. Miller referred to the water treatment project; under Nutrition Study, correct spelling of Ms. Basak-Smith's name in paragraph 2; page 3, paragraph 2, Mr. D'Agostino lives on Glen Hill Road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gwen Denny, Wayside Lane: commented that the RES recess before lunch pilot has had a positive impact on cafeteria behavior, but objects to the shortening of recess from 30 to 25 minutes; comments regarding evaluation of the value of "full day Kindergarten" first as a program, then as impact on budget.

Mike D'Agostino, Glen Hill Road: commented on the need for the board to allow the public to weigh in on the "full day Kindergarten" prior to making a decision on it.

OVERVIEW OF TESTING PROGRAMS/CMT

Dr. Cicchetti and the administrators provided an overview of the CMT testing results. The presentation included performance results of students across all grade levels for 2010; longitudinal performance for 2006-2010; cohort performance comparison, as well as implications for continuous improvement, professional development plan and curriculum review.

UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ACTION TEAMS

Dr. Cicchetti reported that the implementation Action Teams are in the process of being organized. Participants will include administrators, teachers, students, community members, Board members and town officials. Dates of the scheduled meetings are October 27, November 8, November 17, and December 6, from 4:15 pm to 6:30 pm. at Joel Barlow High School.

EDUCATION JOBS FUND PROGRAM

A federal program, Education Jobs Fund, designed to save or create educational jobs for the 2010-2011 school year, has awarded the Redding School District \$28,315 to spend on salaries and benefits for essential staff to ensure that students receive vital educational and education-related services. After consultation with the building administrators and Director of Finance and Operation, Dr. Cicchetti recommended that the funds be used for additional math support in Grades 5-8 at John Read Middle School. Currently the Math Specialists is assigned 4 days at RES and 1 day at JRMS. The change will allow the Math Specialists to service RES for 5 full days. The added position, a one-year position, will provide support services in order to close instructional gaps in mathematics and promote greater vertical articulation between the two schools.

PROPOSED STIPEND FOR JOHN READ MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mrs. Martin reviewed the proposed description of the JRMS Morning Show Producer position and proposed stipend.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the stipend of \$1720 for the JRMS Morning Show Producer for the 2010-2011 school year as recommended. Miller, Lewson. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

RES: Principal Stephanie Pierson Ugol reported on staff professional development activities planned for 10/8/10. In addition to in-house sessions, the Kindergarten Study Group will have a full day of visits to area schools with full-day Kindergartens. Mr. Lewson commented on the need for providing parents with information and getting parental input on the full-day Kindergarten concept prior to making the change. Mrs. Pierson Ugol responded that the Study Group is charged with defining the components of an exemplary kindergarten program and an analysis of whether the current kindergarten program provides the time, schedule and/or structure to include those components. The Study Group is in the data collection stage of the process.

JRMS: Principal, Diane Martin reported the professional development day will be spent with department and grade level team meetings to brainstorm ideas to move toward the goals set to lead students to greater achievements.

Special Services: Brian Farrell reported on staff achievements and provided a written statistical report on department activities.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Marie Mas reported on a meeting held to continue discussion of transition between the middle school and high school in the area of math curriculum. Mrs. Mas participated in a cyberbullying webinar that included the importance of school districts reviewing their existing bullying policies. Administrators should be fluent in the latest social networking websites, including Facebook, Twitter and MySpace. School districts should consider a full range of options and alternatives to disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion which also carry constitutional implications. Mrs. Mas also reported on the work being done on the TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring) Program. The first training module session was conducted on September 29 and was attended by thirty mentors and mentees.

Director of Finance and Operation: Mrs. Sullivan reported on the following:

1. October Student Enrollment: total students for the District, 1243.
2. Health Insurance update: claims for July and August were typical for the summer months, and above the monthly budgeted amount.
3. Board of Finance meeting: Mrs. Sullivan provided the Board of Finance an update on the capital building projects at their last meeting.
4. Joint meeting with the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen: The BOF suggested a joint meeting on the date of the Board of Education December meeting. Board members discussed the need to review the preliminary budget prior to the discussion with the BOF & BOS, and suggested a joint meeting at the December 20, 2010 regular meeting of the Board of Finance or at another date for a special meeting.

Superintendent: Dr. Cicchetti reported on the following:

1. The Redding Education Foundation and the Easton Education Foundation have each provided funding to support a team of ER9 administrators to attend Change Leadership Group training at the

Harvard Graduate School of Education in November. The training will focus on systemic change for student success. Dr. Cicchetti expressed his gratitude to both REF and ELF for supporting this training.

2. Tours of RES, JRMS, and Joel Barlow High School will be provided this month for the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. Board members were invited to attend, as well.

3. The ER9 district is moving forward with a revised goal-setting format as part of the Performance Appraisal System. This new format encourages greater team collaboration with specific, measurable goals.

4. Dr. Cicchetti attended a session on safe and secure schools at the Leir Conference Center. Specific strategies and intervention methods were discussed, which he will share with the administrative council.

CAPITAL BUILDING PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Barickman reported the work competed during the summer was completed on schedule and under budget. Additional planning will be done in the next few months, and most of the remaining work will be completed next summer.

BOARD BUSINESS

Dr. Gaspar reported the board will meet on November 7, 2010 for a board member retreat. The session, to be held in executive session, is for board self-evaluation. The dates for the 2011-12 budget workshop sessions have been scheduled for January 6, 2011 and February 2, 2011.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Mrs. Joyce-Kirk reported the Kindergarten Study Steering Committee is collecting data from a variety of resources including DRG A school districts and the Connecticut State Department of Education. The Committee is charged to define the components of an exemplary kindergarten program, and then determine if the current kindergarten program provides the time, schedule and/or structure to include those components.

The Committee includes administrators, teacher and parents. She and Dr. Gaspar represent the board. The Committee plans to engage community members in the process. A survey is also being planned. The Committee plans to have recommendations completed for the December meeting, prior to the budget presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gwen Denny, Wayside Lane: commented that the cost to change to a full day kindergarten program is not drastic. She believes all programs should be discussed first without budgetary implications, and then discussed on how much can be afforded.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Brey, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday