

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 7, 2010

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

Dr. Gaspar called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm in the John Read Middle School Community Room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the minutes of the November 7, 2010 meeting as submitted. Lewson, Joyce-Kirk. Approved. 4-0-1. Mr. Goldberg abstained.**

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting as submitted. Joyce-Kirk, Lewson. Approved. 4-0-1. Mr. Goldberg abstained.**

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Dr. Gaspar asked for a moment of silence for the parent who died and the parent who was injured in a traffic accident last week.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Dr. Cicchetti and the administrative team provided a power point presentation on Continuous Improvement Plans for the schools. The presentation included Systemic Change for Student Success, Performance Appraisal System, Professional Growth Plan Format and Areas for Future Review. Discussion and questions followed the presentation.

DONATION OF WOOD SHOP EQUIPMENT

Ms. Rita Frost has offered to donate a variety of woodworking equipment to the John Read Middle School. The equipment would primarily be used to replace existing outworn and outdated equipment, and the value of the donation is approximately \$5,000

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept, with gratitude, the donation of woodshop equipment for John Read Middle School. Brey, Lewson. Approved. Unanimous.**

DONATION OF PIANO

Mr. Robert Alison has offered to donate a Wurlitzer upright piano for use in the music program at Redding Elementary School. The value of the donation is \$5,000.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept, with gratitude, the donation of a piano for the music program at Redding Elementary School. Joyce-Kirk, Goldberg. Approved. Unanimous.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEES

The Board's committee structure was revamped to three committees, with the exception of the Kindergarten Study Committee and the Facilities Maintenance Committee, both of which will

continue to exist. The three new committees are: Curriculum and Instruction, Resources, and Communications.

Dr. Gaspar reported the Curriculum and Instruction Committee members will include Mr. Lewson, Dr. Gaspar and Ms. Mas. The mission statement:

Mission and Purpose:

- The mission of the Curriculum and Instruction Committee is to advise the full Board on curriculum and instruction governance issues, ensuring a rigorous, dynamic, caring, and creative learning environment.
- The Committee's purpose is to facilitate development, implementation and articulation of instructional practices and the curriculum and to recommend action to the full Board.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the mission statement for the Curriculum and Instruction Committee as presented. Lewson, Goldberg. Approved. Unanimous.**

Dr. Gaspar reported the Resources Committee will include Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Brey, Mr. Barickman and Mrs. Sullivan. Mr. Brey read the mission statement:

Mission and Purpose:

- The mission of the Resources Committee is to assist the full Board in the stewardship of the Town's education resources ensuring a rigorous, dynamic, caring, and creative learning environment.
- The Committee's purpose is to more efficiently enable detailed assessments of relevant resource issues and recommend action to the full Board.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the mission statement for the Resources Committee as presented. Goldberg, Joyce-Kirk. Approved. Unanimous.**

Dr. Gaspar reported the Communication Committee would include Mrs. Joyce-Kirk, Mr. Miller and Dr. Cicchetti. Mrs. Joyce-Kirk read the mission statement:

Mission & Purpose:

- The mission of the Communications Committee is to assist the full Board in maintaining open, effective and reciprocal communication pathways with each of the Board's constituent groups in order to engage those constituents in the conversations that further the District's continuous improvement.
- The Committee's purpose is to ensure the development, maintenance and frequent use of clear communications pathways and to recommend relevant action and communication practices to the Board.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the mission statement for the Communications Committee as presented. Brey, Lewson. Approved. Unanimous.**

Dr. Gaspar added that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee has priorities of aligning the common core state standards with the existing state standards, Tri-State Science work

implementation, math at John Read Middle School, reading and writing at Redding Elementary School, and critical thinking and problem solving.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

John Read Middle School: Principal Martin highlighted the work being done in the area of cyber bullying. Three parent workshops were provided with School Resource Officer Chris McManus to help parents and students deal with cyber bullying.

Redding Elementary School: Principal Pierson Ugol reported that this is conference week at the school, and the book fair is in progress. In addition, two authors visited the school and discussed their books with students.

Special Services: Mr. Farrell reported on professional development. He added that the State is redeveloping certification guidelines for all areas of education and he was able to provide input for special education teachers.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Ms. Mas thanked the Redding Education Foundation for their donation that allowed Dr. Cicchetti, Ms. Mas, Mr. Farrell, Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Pierson Ugol to attend the Harvard Graduate School of Education Change Leadership three day Learning Lab. She added that this is one of the best professional development opportunities available to educators. Ms. Mas announced that Donna Farber, a Connecticut Science Center Board member from Fairfield County, donated funds to enable the Center to provide a professional development opportunity to expand teaching and learning in the content area of science. A weeklong workshop is scheduled for July and up to 15 teachers, Grades K-8, can attend the Introduction to Inquiry Workshop next summer.

Director of Finance and Operation: Mrs. Sullivan reported that Health Insurance Claims for October were good and below budget. Year-to-date expenditures are tracking as expected with one exception, unemployment compensation. The contract for transportation services being bid. Five companies attended the pre-bid meeting, and bids for the contract are due on December 15, 2010.

Superintendent: Dr. Cicchetti commented on the experiences and benefits of the Harvard Graduate School of Education Change Leadership Learning Lab opportunity. The experience highlighted the need for greater work in curriculum alignment and this will be a priority in budget planning for next year. A curriculum development steering committee K-12 has been formed to begin the work of examining the current curriculum and assessing what changes are needed to align the curriculum with current standards. Mrs. Wallin, Mrs. Wessman Huber and Mrs. Freeston will attend an April session of the Change Leadership Training. In addition, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Pierson Ugol and Mrs. Mas will be able to attend again at no charge to the district.

Dr. Cicchetti reported that Richard Mills of Shipman & Goodwin, LLC gave presentations at staff meetings on guidelines and practices related to communication with students and parents via email, texting and social network sites. Dr. Cicchetti circulated copies of a letter to Brian Farrell from Connecticut Department of Education Commissioner Mark McQuillan appointing him to serve on the Connecticut State Department of Education Review Committee for the approval of Connecticut educator preparation programs.

#### KINDERGARTEN STUDY GROUP

Mrs. Joyce-Kirk reported the group is doing further data collection and getting further information from the current Kindergarten team. Mrs. Pierson Ugol added that work is being done to align the recommendations with possible schedules and options.

#### MAGNET SCHOOL

Mr. Lewson reported he and Dr. Cicchetti attended the Magnet School board meeting. The administration's recommendation to the Danbury Board of Education is to keep the tuition rates at the same level for the next school year.

#### INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Gaspar reported that recent changes in health care coverage will result in increased costs. The estimate for increase in health costs for next year ranges from 5% to 7%.

#### SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Dr. Gaspar announced the representatives of Redding on the Superintendent Search Committee will be Mr. Barickman and Mr. Miller. Dr. Gaspar will represent Redding on the Ways of Working and Structure Committee.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike D'Agostino, Glen Hill Road: Mr. D'Agostino expressed a concern about the opportunities for parents to voice concerns and questions in the new committee structure. He also asked if the Board of Education would consider televising the board meetings as the Region 9 Board of Education plans to do. Regarding the new equipment for the woodshop, he suggested donating the old equipment to an organization in need. Mr. D'Agostino asked if the superintendent position had been posted as yet. Dr. Gaspar responded that the Superintendent Search Committee membership is not complete as yet, no meetings have been held, and the position has not been posted. Regarding the new committee structure, Dr. Gaspar stated that the plan is for the three committees to meet from 6:30 to 7:30 pm prior to board meetings. He believes there will be sufficient opportunity to hear parent comments, concerns and questions within the new structure.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Brey, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday