

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
January 3, 2012

Present:

Redding Board of Education: Ajavananda, Barickman, D'Agostino, Gaspar, Goldberg, Irwin

Administration: Josefsberg, Sullivan, McPadden

School administrators: Pierson Ugol, Martin, Wallin, Farrell, Freeston

Others: five members of the community and a representative of the Redding Pilot

Dr. Gaspar called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm in the Community Room of John Read Middle School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2011 meeting, as corrected. Goldberg, Ajavananda. Approved. 5-0-1. Mr. Barickman abstained.

Correction: page 2, under Director of Finance & Operations report, line 2, the health insurance claims budget average is \$244,000.

AGENDA CHANGE

Motion: move that the agenda be reordered, moving item VI (First Reading of policies) to before the 2012-13 Proposed Operating Budget. Barickman, Irwin. Approved. Unanimous.

SECOND READING OF POLICIES

Following a brief discussion of the policies being considered, a motion was made to accept them.

Motion: move that the following policies be accepted for a second and final reading:

1316.1 Community Relations – Conduct on School Property

4112.5 Fingerprinting

61441.321 Acceptable Use in School of the Internet, Networks, and Information and Communication Technologies.

Motion by Barickman, seconded by Irwin. Approved. Unanimous.

DONATION OF MEISEL VIOLINS, EXTRA STRINGS, METRONOME, KORG TUNER

The donation of musical equipment was received by Redding Elementary School and is currently in use by students. The family making the donation wished to remain anonymous. Board policy requires the formal acceptance of donations.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the anonymous donation of two Meisel violins, extra strings, a metronome and Korg tuner, with gratitude. D'Agostino, Irwin. Approved. Unanimous.

FIRST READING OF POLICIES

The following policies were presented for a first reading

0521 Nondiscrimination

1110.1 Community Relations – Parent Involvement

5112 Ages of Attendance

5113.2 Truancy

Motion by D'Agostino, seconded by Barickman. Approved. Unanimous.

2012-13 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

The first draft of the 2012-13 Operating Budget was presented. Dr. Josefsberg reviewed the document, highlighting significant changes. The base increase over the current year budget is 3.16%. The Board of Education will meet on Thursday in a workshop session, to review and discuss the budget document in depth.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Redding Elementary School: Principal Pierson Ugol submitted a written report, and highlighted the variety of professional development activities for the non-certified staff.

John Read Middle School: Principal Diane Martin submitted a written report, and highlighted the special session conducted by School Resource Officer McManus for the 7th and 8th graders. The topic of discussion was Internet safety. He focused on sharing the dangers of Internet cyber-bullying and the precautions they need to take. The session was well received by the students.

Special Services: Director Brian Farrell reported on his activities at the state level in education. He highlighted a newly established program, focusing on life skills and peer modeling opportunities for students who have been recently reintroduced to the district. The program has been well received by the students, staff and administration.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Ms. McPadden reported there will be no tuition increase for the Magnet School for the 2012-2013 school year. The deadline for application to the program is January 23, 2012. Currently, 15 Redding students are enrolled in the program. Margaret Rooney, JRMS teacher attended the Tri-State Introductory Training program along with teachers and administrations from Easton and Joel Barlow High School. The ER9 Curriculum Alignment Steering Committee continues to work on science curriculum. Ms. McPadden commented on the exceptional job done by students in Grade 8 on the creation of an Immigration Museum and the Grade 5 ILA students who participated in a debate competition. She added that the life skills program developed by Mr. Farrell and his staff is a good addition for students.

Director of Finance & Operations: Mrs. Sullivan reported that health insurance claims, after a couple of months of increases, are beginning to level off. The month of November, \$214,495, is below the budgeted amount. The year-to-date report is as anticipated. The price for heating oil has not been locked in, but she anticipates a decrease in usage. Business Manager Eva Colligan retired in December. Laura Ponzio (formerly administrative assistant for Ms. McPadden) has filled this position.

Superintendent: Dr. Josefsberg announced that Allen November, an international leader in educational technology, will be at Joel Barlow High School on January 5 from 4 pm to 6 pm. All staff, parents and community members are invited to attend the session to listen to and interact with Mr. November. The Easton Learning Foundation and the Redding Education Foundation are co-sponsoring the event. Dr. Josefsberg also commented on concerns regarding adherence to the current attendance policy, especially in light of this year's significant weather-related challenges. Dr. Josefsberg noted that with Laura Ponzio filling the Business Manager position, the central office staff responsibilities are being reorganized.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Communication Committee will meet at 6:30 pm on Thursday Jan.5, prior to the Budget Workshop session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gwen Denny, Wayside Lane: Mrs. Denny commented that her family planned a family vacation last August for the April break. Since the April break has been partially cancelled, and may be entirely cancelled, this will mean her children will be out of the classroom for additional days. She added that a change in vacation plans might create a financial hardship for families.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Irwin questioned the wisdom of scheduling the professional development day (Friday, January 13), so close to the holiday break. Ms. McPadden noted that the day was scheduled to wrap around the Martin Luther King Day, creating a 4-day weekend for students

Mr. Barickman asked if there were any plans moving forward to change the start times of the schools. Dr. Josefsberg responded that he would offer a proposal for a change in the school start times.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Move that the meeting be adjourned. Barickman, Goldberg. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike D'Agostino, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday