

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES
January 5, 2012

Present:

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

Administration: Josefsberg, Sullivan, McPadden

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

Others: seven members of the staff and community and a representative of the Redding Pilot

Dr. Gaspar called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm in the Community Room of John Read Middle School.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank DeSalvo, Mountain Road: commented that given the decrease in enrollment and the settlement of the teacher contract and increase of 1%, he hopes the board will settle on a budget with a zero to 1% increase.

Sara Sobel, Putnam Hill Drive: Mrs. Sobel commented that the new special education class with peer modeling is a move in a good positive direction.

2012-13 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

The first draft of the 2012-13 Operating Budget was reviewed. Dr. Josefsberg provided additional information regarding changes in special education funding. Some budget items are actually adjustments to reflect changes in the current year budget made after the budget was approved. When students were moved from out placements to in house placements, changes occurred in the transportation, tuition and staff salary accounts. The budget under consideration reflects those changes.

The enrollment decline will reduce staffing at Redding Elementary School. One section of Grade 2 will be eliminated, thus reducing one FTE position. The reduction in enrollment at John Read Middle School is smaller and will not reduce staffing. The classroom model for JRMS was reviewed by Principal Martin. The team model has been very successful and provides personalized instruction and support for students. In addition, the integration of a special education teacher on the team and in the classroom has been very beneficial.

The addition of a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) specialist, a position to be shared with the Easton schools, is the primary increase in program improvements.

Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the financial data regarding the budget changes. She noted the reductions and operating efficiencies in electricity, heating oil usage, disposal services and reductions in SpEd tuition and transportation.

Capital improvements to the facilities were reviewed. The largest item is the JRMS cafeteria dishwasher. Mrs. Sullivan noted that Chartwells is reviewing options, including replacement of the large trays, changing out a sink and purchase of a smaller dishwasher, etc. The current dishwasher and the sink are not large enough to accommodate the large trays, and the trays must be sanitized to meet the health code. Other capital improvement items at RES include gym sound system and closet door replacement. At JRMS, the items include phase 1 of locker replacement, dishwasher, sound system upgrade and emergency indicator repair, paving and curb repair, and cafeteria window replacement.

The board will continue a discussion of the budget at the next meeting on February 7, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Move that the meeting be adjourned. Barickman, D'Agostino. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike D'Agostino, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday