

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES  
October 4, 2011

Present:

Redding Board of Education: Gaspar, Goldberg, Lewson

Administration: Josefsberg, Sullivan, McPadden

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

Others: six members of the communities & a representative of the Redding Pilot

A quorum of the board was not present, and Dr. Gaspar announced that those present would discuss the agenda items, but no action would be taken.

Dr. Gaspar began the meeting at 7:42 pm in the John Read Middle School Community Room.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Melinda Irwin, Black Rock Turnpike: Ms. Irwin, a candidate for a Board of Education position, introduced herself. Dr. Gaspar welcomed Ms. Irwin and noted that candidate Mike D'Agostino was also present. Another candidate, Kimberly Ajavananda was unable to attend the meeting.

**2012 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE**

The meeting dates for 2012 were presented for review. The calendar will be approved at the next meeting.

**2011 CMT RESULTS**

Ms. McPadden & Dr. Josefsberg gave a presentation on the 2011 CMT results. The presentation included student performance across all grade levels for 2011 and longitudinal student performance for 2007-2011. The CMT scores and analysis drives the need for continuous improvement, professional development and curriculum development.

**POLICY CHANGES**

Five Board of Education policies changes were presented for a first reading. The changed policies reflect changes are required by law. The policies include:

- Equal Employment Opportunity Policy
- Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment Policy
- Student Records: Confidentiality
- Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504

The Board of Education will take action on these policies at the next meeting.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Redding Elementary School: Assistant Principal Wessman Huber announced that the Redding Elementary School students met their goal of reading over 500,000 over the summer. For meeting and exceeding the goal, she and Principal Pierson Ugol agreed to "kiss a pig" in front of the entire school population. Principal Pierson Ugol invited board members, parents and community members to attend the Celebration of Finance and Practical Arts, an event planned for October 20, 2011. She and Dr. Wessman Huber have been meeting with the Kindergarten staff to review the new Kindergarten program and begin the development of a set of metrics to measure the new program.

John Read Middle School: Principal Diane Martin announced that the school would be participating in an online reading comprehension assessment program through the University of Connecticut. Two parent programs, Executive Functioning Workshops, are planned for October 11 and October 19, 2011.

Special Services: Director Brian Farrell reported that work on PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) is ongoing and is coordinated by the two full time social workers. The integration of special education in the classroom using the co-teaching model has been very successful. He added that preschool staff is undergoing training in anticipation of the work involved with certification of the Preschool Program.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Ms. McPadden thanked the board and community for the physical changes in both schools. She reported on ER9 Curriculum Steering Committee is meeting monthly to plan and monitor curriculum mapping and input into the Atlas/Rubicon software system. Literacy, math specialists and administrators have attended several meetings under the direction of CSDE to become familiar with the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium. The CCSS will necessitate specific changes to the curriculum in math and language arts. In addition, the ER9 School Climate Steering Committee met to review the language for the bullying policy. All districts must meet mandated regulations for developing a School Climate Plan by 2012.

Director of Finance & Operations: Mrs. Sullivan reported that Health Insurance claims for July and August were high, but typical for those months. The consortium for heating oil and diesel fuel will meet on Friday to review pricing and when to “lock in” for the year. Mrs. Sullivan is accumulating expenses associated with Tropical Storm Irene for FEMA reimbursement. The Redding schools did not incur much expense associated with the storm. The new boilers for JRMS will be up and running on October 15, 2011. Transportation issues are being resolved and service has been improving. Mrs. Sullivan added that the three community members (Mr. D’Agostino, Mr. Nolan and Mr. Conlon) who served on the facility improvement committee are willing to continue and work on reviewing and assessing other facility issues at the two schools.

Superintendent: Dr. Josefsberg addressed the structure and ways of working of the three boards of education. The June report and recommendations from Dr. Evan Pitkoff addressed three main issues: K-12 curriculum alignment, Central Office workload, and the attitude and relationship of the three boards of education. Dr. Josefsberg focused on the Central Office workload suggesting the Central Office should be configured as a source of educational leadership and provider of services. While he does not believe consolidation of the three districts will be possible, he believes consolidation of certain functions can be achieved and those will lead to economies for Easton and Redding. Dr. Josefsberg suggested he work with representatives of the three boards of education, following the June 5, 2011 motion made at the Tri-board meeting, to reconstitute a committee. ***(Motion: move that the boards of education 1) reconstitute the committee under Dr. Josefsberg’s guidance, 2) examine elements involving resources by 10/31/11 to inform the budget process in a timely fashion, and 3) to conduct a full review by 1/31/2012 with items either accepted for implementation with a time line or deferred with a timeline. )*** Dr. Josefsberg will ask each of the board chairs to name two members to serve on the committee.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Sara Sobel, Putman Park Drive: Mrs. Sobel asked if the same people (Dickon Powell group) would be working with the schools on the school climate issues. Ms. McPadden stated that that relationship has ended, but other resources are available.

Dana Gray, Lamppost Drive: Mrs. Gray questioned why the CMT tests results for grades 3 & 4 over the last five years were not getting any higher than 85. Mrs. Pierson Ugol responded that the specific weakness is in comprehensive and the staff has been working on that area. The scores for the comprehension strands of the test have shown improvement and progress.

The meeting was concluded at 9:01 pm

Recorded by Mary Maday