

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES  
November 1, 2011

Present:

Redding Board of Education: Barickman, Gaspar, Goldberg, Joyce-Kirk, Lewson  
Administration: Josefsberg, Sullivan, Cram  
School administrators: Pierson Ugol, Martin, Wallin, Freeston  
Others: nine members of the staff and community

Dr. Gaspar called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm in the Central Office Conference Room.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2011 meeting, as corrected. Lewson, Joyce-Kirk. Approved. 4-0-1. Mrs. Joyce-Kirk abstained.**

Correction: page 1, under RES report, line 4, change *Finance* to *Fine*

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Lewson noted that this was his last official board meeting, and he spoke of his enjoyment of his time serving on the board of education. Mrs. Joyce-Kirk echoed Mr. Lewson's comments.

Dr. Gaspar thanked both Mr. Lewson and Mrs. Joyce-Kirk for their contributions to education and the students and parents of Redding.

PREPARATION OF 2012-2013 OPERATING BUDGET

Dr. Josefsberg stated that meetings with the building administrators and program managers are underway. Mrs. Sullivan highlighted budget drivers:

- Enrollment: Redding Elementary School projections show a decrease of 29 students and John Read Middle School projections show a decrease of 33. Updated projections should be available soon.
- Health Insurance: the consultant anticipates a 7-10% increase in insurance costs.
- Heating/diesel fuel costs: increases in both heating oil and diesel fuel are anticipated. The usage numbers are expected to decline as a result of the more efficient heating/cooling systems.
- Federal funding/Title 1: reductions are expected in federal funding for schools.
- Transportation: the transportation contract calls for a 3% increase for next year.
- Capital Plan: Mrs. Sullivan recommended updating the 5-year capital plan to maintain the school facilities. The committee of volunteers has agreed to continue working on capital improvements

Mr. Barickman questioned how the board members could provide input to the budget preparations. Dr. Josefsberg responded that he would be happy to discuss the budget with board members during the preparation stage.

WEBSITE VENDOR APPROVAL

Vicki Cram gave the Communications Committee a presentation on the review of the three website vendors and the conclusions reached by the Website Committee (webmasters, board members, staff, and PTA parent representatives). The final recommendation was a consensual agreement to engage Edline for website services. Implementation of the new website will take two months, with the District website being the first one changed.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the recommendation to engage Edline for the school website services and auxiliary services as outlined. Joyce-Kirk, Lewson. Approved. Unanimous.**

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION REGARDING BURDEN OF PROOF

Dr. Josefsberg reported there is a movement at the state level to change the state's position on burden of proof in due process hearings. In 2005, the Supreme Court determined the plaintiff parents are to bear the burden of proof, but each state is allowed to make a determination of who bears the burden of proof. In Connecticut, because of a legislative decision, the burden of proof falls to the school district. The Connecticut Board of Education is now reconsidering this position and place the burden of proof upon the party initiating the hearing. Dr. Josefsberg presented a Resolution showing support for the return of burden of proof to the plaintiff.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the following resolution: Resolved that the Redding Board of Education requests the State of Connecticut Board of Education take immediate action to repeal or revise the regulation concerning burden of proof in special education due process hearings to place the burden of proof on the moving party. Gaspar, Lewson. Approved. 3-0-2. Mr. Goldberg and Mr. Barickman abstained.**

#### **POLICY CHANGES**

Several board policies require changes or minor revisions due to changes in statute. These policies were presented for a first reading. One policy was recommended to be rescinded.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the following policies for a first reading:**

**2111 Equal Employment Opportunities**

**4118.1 Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment**

**5125 Student Records, Confidentiality**

**5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect**

**5145.4 Americans with Disabilities Act/Section 504**

**5131.21 Aggressive and Violent Behavior, Bullying**

**5141.21 Administering Medications**

**5144.1 Restraint & Seclusion**

**Motion by Lewson, seconded by Joyce-Kirk. Approved 4-0-1. Mr. Goldberg abstained.**

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education rescind policy 5131.81 Electronic Communication Devices. Barickman, Lewson. Approved. 4-0-1. Mr. Goldberg abstained.**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Redding Elementary School: Principal Pierson Ugol reported the Celebration of Fine & Practical Arts was an exciting event that highlighted their programs. The event was attended by 40-50 people. The annual Halloween Parade has been rescheduled for next week. She will be meeting with the Kindergarten teachers to continue discussion on how to measure or assess the success of the kindergarten program.

John Read Middle School: Principal Diane Martin noted that social studies teacher Steve Clapp presented his doctoral study work on SRBI. Mrs. Martin noted that parent conferences scheduled for this week are being rescheduled for the week of November 14. Mrs. Martin also commented that there is ongoing discussion on how best to teach the social studies subject. As a former social studies teacher, she stated that there are differences in methods to teaching the curriculum.

Special Services: Director Brian Farrell assisted in a training session for school psychologists at CES on the topic of SRBI (Scientific Research Based Intervention). In addition, paraprofessionals are receiving training in preparation for the accreditation process for the pre-K program. Two staff members presented a program for parents on executive functioning for a PTA program. Mr. Barickman asked that given the decline in enrollment in the elementary school and possibility of more space in the facility, would there be any potential of expanding the Pre-K program. Mr. Barickman suggested that a long-term plan for the program, including expansion and potential of opening the program to surrounding/neighborhood communities could be beneficial both from a program offering

standpoint, but also from an economic viewpoint. Mr. Farrell noted that the program has not had the waiting list for the program it had a few years ago.

Director of Finance & Operations: Mrs. Sullivan reported that health insurance claims, after a couple of months of increases, are beginning to level off. She noted that both the school buildings/facilities have held up well during the October snow event. As of today, Redding Elementary School has power, but John Read Middle School does not. Transportation is improving.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: Ms. McPadden was not present for the meeting, but provided a written report. The report included an update on the work of the ER9 Curriculum Steering Committee, the ER9 Wellness Committee, preparation for the Tri-State Consortium Follow-up Science curriculum visit, and Science transition meetings.

Superintendent: Dr. Josefsberg reported that while the Easton schools would open on Wednesday, the Redding schools and Joel Barlow High School would be closed for the remainder of the week based on recommendations from Redding Police Chief Fuchs. Joel Barlow High School is open and serving as a shelter for those without power. The rescheduling of activities is being addressed. The school closure brings the last day of school for the Redding schools to June 22, 2012, with April 16 (the first day of April break) as a school day. Any additional snow days or school closings will eliminate the remaining April vacation days. Board members suggested that the April break be cancelled at this point, but Dr. Josefsberg prefers to wait to make that decision. He will communicate to the students and parents that it is highly likely that the April break will be cancelled.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Structure and Ways of Working: Dr. Gaspar noted that the Committee will meet next week.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Broadbin, Easton: Mrs. Broadbin asked if there were discussions on the teaching of subjects, in addition to the discussions on social studies, and if there will be a better coordination of the curriculum between Easton and Redding. Dr. Josefsberg responded that there are discussions of the math and science curriculum. In general, more curriculum work is being done across the disciplines.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Goldberg commented on the loss of power in Redding and the failure of CL&P to maintain their infrastructure, provide services, and make repairs. He suggested the Board of Education issue a resolution expressing sentiments regarding the responsibilities of CL&P and the impact of the loss of service on the schools system and student education. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Barickman suggested that it is time to rehearse and test a virtual school day and to determine how a virtual school day could qualify as a legitimate school day. Mr. Barickman also asked for a report from Chartwells, the food service vendor, to review and assess whether the company is fulfilling the terms of the contract and meeting their goals.

Dr. Gaspar thanked the PTA for sponsoring the board of education candidate forum.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education recess to executive session for a) Discussion regarding contract negotiations with the paraprofessional union, and b) Discussion regarding proposed collective bargaining agreement with the Redding Education Association. Lewson, Joyce-Kirk. Approved.**

**Unanimous.**

**Dr. Josefsberg and Mrs. Sullivan were invited to be present.**

The meeting recessed at 9:09 pm

RECONVENE

Dr. Gaspar reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:44 pm

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the terms and provisions of the contract negotiations with the paraprofessional union as provided by the administration. Barickman, Goldberg. Approved. Unanimous.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Recorded by Mary Maday