

**Communications Committee of the Region 9 Board of Education
Special Meeting
Joel Barlow High School ~ Administration Conference Room
November 28, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Minutes**

Attendance: Karvelis (Chair), Rosenthal, Smith
Administration: Cram, Josefsberg, McMorran, Pin

I. Call to Order

Mr. Karvelis called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of October 17, 2011 were reviewed. Ms. Rosenthal moved for approval of the minutes and Mr. Karvelis seconded. Two voted in favor and one abstained.

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action

A. Website Update

Ms. Cram reported that both the Easton and Redding Boards of Education (and administrations of the lower and middle schools) approved purchasing the Edline website. Region 9 is expected to approve the purchase as well at an upcoming meeting. PTSA President, Jen Wastrom and Region 9 Board member, Margot Abrams were present at their respective town school presentations. There were four reasons why the Edline product was preferred over Finalsite and others:

- It is completely integrated with PowerSchool (Finalsite expects to be integrated over the next year)'.
• Has voice reach capability (important due to power outages)'.
• Teacher website pages are intuitive and very easy to learn and;
• The Edline cost is all-inclusive (Finalsite pricing included an added Phase II for teacher webpages).

B. Community-Based Learning/Internships

Dr. McMorran reported that he has reached out to the League of Women Voters to identify "assets" within a 5-10 mile radius of the high school to approach for community based learning opportunities. Assets are defined as for-profit or not-for-profit businesses and organizations that will allow students to job shadow and work with professionals on career pathways. Also of interest, is to identify sites to visit that are of value to the classroom experience, i.e. historical sites, etc. Dr.

McMorran, Ms. Pin and Ms. Kipp will work with the League moving forward. Ms. Rosenthal and Ms. Riber will identify hospital and medical-based opportunities.

C. Community Leaders/Senior Student Panel Discussions

Dr. Josefsberg discussed organizing a day for seniors devoted to panel discussions with community leaders. The purpose is to create a program to help transition JBHS seniors to the outside world, a.k.a. "The Challenge of Moving On". One suggestion was to also include a panel on transitioning to college (during senior spring semester). Dr. McMorran and Ms. Pin would like to include juniors and perhaps sophomores in these programs, to reach students earlier in their matriculation through high school. Several Black and Gold dates were suggested: April 12 and 13 and May 23 and 24. Dr. Josefsberg suggested utilizing the journalism students to create questions for the panel and to moderate. Dr. McMorran and Ms. Pin will work on creating an outline of the event and prospective community leaders.

V. Public Comment

None.

VI. Committee Member Comment

Mr. Karvelis suggested setting up another date for the next realtor breakfast. This was deferred to the January meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Smith moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Karvelis seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.