

JOINT MEETING OF
REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION &
FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 7, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Region 9 Board of Education: Abrams, Gombos, Hocker, Karvelis, Lewis, Logie

Financial Advisory Committee: DeSalvo, Hanczor & Board of Education members Gombos, Karvelis, Hocker
Administration: Cicchetti, McPadden, McMorrin, Sullivan and Barlow's leadership team: Walter Czudak, Mike Santangeli, Anne Kipp, Gina Pin, MaryAnn Sheehy, Patty Roszko, Cheri Shutt, Paula Panos, Julie McTague, and John Crowley.

Others: eight members of the community, representative of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier, and the videographer

Mr. Lewis called the Joint Meeting of the Board of Education and the Financial Advisory Committee to order at 7:13 pm in JBHS Media Center

DISCUSSION OF 2011-2012 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Lewis recapped the budget discussion of last week. Discussion centered on the reductions of the increase to the budget, taking the increase from 2.5% down to 2.0%. The staffing/enrollment report was distributed to board members the previous Friday. Enrollment information for the science/math classes was reviewed.

Board members expressed their views on the budget increase and various line items in the administration's proposed list of reductions. Mr. Logie proposed reducing the contribution to the Pension Fund, along with other reductions, to bring the budget increase to 2.3%. Mr. Logie added that the Board of Education sets a budget, but it is up to the administration to determine how best to allocate the budget for what is best for the students. Mr. Karvelis supported the recommendation to reduce the Pension Fund contribution. The Pension Fund has been doing well and he anticipates a favorable fund balance in the April report. He added that the Pension Fund is not underfunded and the suggestion to reduce the contribution reflects the current value of the Pension Fund.

Following further discussion, Mr. Logie recommended a final budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 of \$21,714,914, representing a budget increase of 2.37% over the current year budget (2010-2011), with the proviso that a reduction of \$14,000 from the Pension Fund Contribution is included, and tasked the administration to provide the Board of Education with budget scenarios of how to get to that number.

Mr. Lewis allowed members of the public to comment at this time.

Jennifer Wastrom, Redding and President of the Joel Barlow PTSA: Mrs. Wastrom read a statement in support of the operating budget, stressing the importance of professional development for staff.

Mike D'Agostino, Redding: Mr. D'Agostino asked the board to consider a budget that is based on service to the students rather than working to a specific number. He expressed concern about some of the building maintenance items that were suggested for elimination and suggested these be covered by the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Lewis responded that the building maintenance items are general operational items and cannot be funded from the Capital Reserve Fund. The Capital Plan designates the use of the Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Lewis suggested the board cancel the planned budget workshop on Wednesday, March 9, and finalize the budget deliberations at their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. At that meeting, he suggested the

board review the current budget expenditures related to snow/weather and review the staffing document and health insurance reserve.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education cancel the planned Budget Workshop scheduled for March 9, 2011. Karvelis, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn the meeting. Logie, Karvelis Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Logie, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday