Approved at the June 14, 2011 meeting

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 24, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Abrams, Gombos, Hocker, Karvelis, Lewis, Logie (8:05 pm), Macchio, Shapiro
Administration: Cicchetti, McPadden, McMorran, Sullivan, Pin, Sheehy, Kipp
Others: seven members of the community, representatives of the Redding Pilot, Weston/Redding/Easton Patch.com and the videographer
Student Representative: Erin Meskers

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm in JBHS Media Center

Presentation: The meeting began with student, Mike Giamportone, playing an original composition on the keyboard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Motion: move to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2011 regular meeting as amended. Gombos, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.
Amendment: page 2, top of page; change the sentence to read as follows: The owner plans to leave the property undeveloped and intends to legally put a 10-year moratorium on development, under Public Act 490, which entitles the owner to tax relief.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2011 meeting as submitted. Gombos, Karvelis. Approved. 2-0-5. Mrs. Gombos, Mrs. Abrams, Mr. Karvelis and Mr. Hocker abstained.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
Student Representative, Erin Meskers, reported Prom and Post Prom, the production of As You Like It, and successes in spring sports. She announced that Barlow Palooza, an exhibition of student work, was planned for Thursday.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT
Mr. Hocker commented that the production of As You Like It was very impressive.

REPORT OF THE CURRICULUM STEERING COMMITTEE
Ms. McPadden provided a presentation entitled "An Action Plan for Continuous District Improvement", A Conceptual Framework for Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, and Professional Development. ER9 Curriculum Committee Members Tom McMorran and Mary Ann Sheehy presented additional information. The goal of aligning the curriculum within and among the five schools began with curriculum audits in the core subject areas. The Committee members will be trained in Rubicon's Atlas Curriculum Mapping software during the next year as the process moves forward

PUBLIC COMMENT
John Shaban, Redding: Mr. Shaban requested that the Region 9 Board of Education consider changing the football field to an artificial turf surface. He felt the change would be beneficial for all the athletic programs at the school and that the change was a part of the Master Plan approved by the Redding Zoning Commission.

Alice Smith, Redding: Mrs. Smith commented on the good work of the Curriculum Steering Committee and the report that was presented.

Mr. Logie arrived, 8:06 pm

Mike D'Agostino, Redding: Mr. D'Agostino commented on the number of meeting/programs at the different schools that conflict with one another. He asked if the conflicts could be avoided by more careful scheduling.

FINALSITE PRESENTATION
The Central Office webmaster, Vicki Cram, introduced the subject of the improvements for the overall website and improvements to the individual school websites. The Region 9 Communications Committee began the discussion of the websites. In addition, comments from students and parents suggested the school websites could be more professional, unified and more informational. A subcommittee was established at the high school and charged with reviewing other school websites. The subcommittee found that the websites they liked were developed and hosted by Finalsite. Mrs. Cram added that the current websites are using Fuss & O'Neil and they plan to discontinue support of the ListServ software.

Anthony Tata of Finalsite presented information on the services the firm provides. Finalsite specializes in website development support for schools and educational organizations for desktop and mobile platforms. In addition to the website development, they provide listserv notification and other emergency communication services.

Mrs. Cram added that the current school websites are managed by teachers who receive an annual Webmaster stipend. None are trained in web design but have been trained to use the software used for the websites. They are solely responsible for updating their individual school websites. Mrs. Cram is responsible for the Central Office website.

The various advantages of using Finalsite were reviewed. A five year agreement with Finalsite would cost $17,500, divided by the five schools and Central Office. Mrs. Sullivan suggested that a portion of the first year could be funded from the current year budget and the remainder from the 2011-2012 budget (about equal to the amount budgeted for webmaster support). A full presentation will be made to the Easton and Redding Boards of Education at their joint meeting on June 7, 2011. If approved, Finalsite would take three to four months to finish the first phase.

Mr. Karvelis added that the Communications Committee unanimously recommended Finalsite for website development and support. Mrs. Cram reported a presentation was made to the schools' current webmasters and they support the change.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve Finalsite as a vendor for website design and support, in conjunction with the Easton and Redding schools. Karvelis, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT FROM JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JULY 14, 2011
Motion: move that Marie McPadden be appointed Interim Superintendent from July 1, 2011 through July 14, 2011, pending finalization of contract negotiations. Karvelis, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR
Dr. Cicchetti asked the Board to review and approved changes on the School Calendar regarding how snow/emergency days would be applied. The changes define how snow/emergency days will impact the last day of school and potential impact on April/February vacations. The information is intended to help families and staff plan vacations.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the 2011-2012 Easton, Redding and Region 9 School Calendar as revised. Gombos, Abrams. Approved. Unanimous.

2011-2012 SCHOOL TUITION
This item was deferred

SCHOOL LUNCH PRICE INCREASE
Mrs. Sullivan requested a 25 cent increase in lunch prices for next year due to increasing cost of food and a 25% decrease in commodities available through the federal government program. The increase raises the cost of lunch at the students from $3.00 to $3.25, and $3.25 to $3.50 for staff.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the increase in lunch prices by $0.25 for both student and staff lunches. Karvelis, Hocker. Approved. Unanimous.

HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION
Motion: move that the Region Board of Education approve the continued participating in the State Healthy Food Program for the 2011-2012 school year. Macchio, Abrams. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
Director of Finance & Operation: Mrs. Sullivan provided the Health Insurance Analysis. The average claims and administration costs are averaging $154,000 and the budgeted amount is $153,000. The Transfer Report was also reviewed. One of the transfers was made to address the condition of Field D. The grubs on the field were treated and the field was reseeded.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction:
Ms. McPadden provided a written report. She highlighted the work of the ER9 Professional Growth & Evaluation Committee. Scoring of the grade eight writing portfolios will take place May 25 and 26 at JBHS. Jonathan Budd and Jack Powers will facilitate training in scoring the portfolios prior to scoring. Ms. McPadden and Dr. Bushbaum will meet with the Joel Barlow TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring Program) Coordinator Gina Pin to collaboratively plan for continued support to teachers and mentors in ER9.

Head of School: Mr. McMorran provided a written report. He added that Rene Wasko and Harry Wheeler were recognized for their accomplishments at the Scholar-Athlete Banquet. The Weller Foundation recognized and awarded scholarships to Taylor Eden, Ryan Barney and Caroline Caglione. John Board and Jessica Kharmarji were recognized at the Western Connecticut Superintendent's Association award ceremony. Mr. McMorran shared the promotional video used for the production of As You Like It. He thanked the PTSA for the wonderful Post Prom celebration.

Mrs. Kipp reported that the staff is closely monitoring the students who may not complete the requirements for graduation. She added that in addition to the progress reports that were sent to students/parent, certified letters were sent out.

Superintendent: Dr. Cicchetti thanked the communities of Easton and Redding for their support of the education budgets. The Strategic School Profile was distributed. The Administrative Council participated in a retreat on May 6. Ms. McPadden led a discussion on exemplars of administrative summative evaluations of staff. Thomas McMorran (JBHS) led a discussion of how the worlds most improved schools keep getting better. Gina Pin(JBHS) led a discussion on student profiles, ranging from the elementary school to the high school and what could have been done differently to achieve student success. In addition, Attorney Thomas Mooney conducted an afternoon session on topics related to school law. Dr. Cicchetti added that Ms. McPadden was invited to participate on a state-wide advisory committee, the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Advisory Committee.

FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE
Mr. Hocker reported the proposed land exchange discussed at the April meeting was discussed and the recommendation of the Committee was not to move forward with the request. An access easement offer was extended, but the property owner has not responded to recommendation and offer.

PENSION COMMITTEE
Mr. Karvelis reported the Committee met and reviewed the investment portfolio and made some minor adjustments. The next meeting is scheduled for July.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Mr. Karvelis reported the Committee has begun discussions of outreach to the senior citizens of Easton and Redding and to corporations.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Mike D'Agostino, Redding: Mr. D'Agostino asked about the level of commitment/expected length of stay of the newly appointed superintendent. Mrs. Gombos responded that Dr. Josefsberg was offered, and accepted a 3-year contract. An incentive has been built into the contract to complete the three years.

Alice Smith, Redding: Mrs. Smith was favorably impressed with Finalsite and the potential for the school's website.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Logie, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday