

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

March 8, 2010
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Region 9 Board: Baker, Gombos, Hocker, Karvelis, Lewis, Logie, Macchio, Neidenbach
Administration: Cicchetti, Mas, Sullivan, McMorran, Kipp, Pin and additional JBHS staff members
Financial Oversight Committee: Gombos, Karvelis, Hocker, DeSalvo, Gold (7:06 pm), Cable (7:10 pm)

Others: three in the audience and a representative of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier
This meeting was video-taped.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm in Room B109 of the Joel Barlow High School. The Financial Oversight Committee was also in attendance. Mr. Hocker called the Financial Oversight Committee to order at 7:06 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Wasmer, Easton: urged the board to take action on the Facilities and Fields Committee recommendation for Field A asking Blades & Goven LLC to begin the permit approval process by filing their plans with Planning, Zoning and Conservation commissions in Redding.

Frank DeSalvo, Redding: commented regarding the stipends for Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Mas that were approved by the Region 9 and Redding Board of Education, but not by the Easton Board, stating that he disapproved of the manner in which it was handled. Mr. Lewis suggested this topic be explored at one of the next two board meetings when the agenda permits such discussion.

FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR FIELD A

Mr. Hocker reported the Facilities and Fields Committee is recommending that the firm of Blades & Goven LLC be authorized to proceed with the necessary approvals for work on Field A from the necessary Town of Redding agencies. The scope of work previously approved for Blades & Goven LLC includes this task. The work involved is primarily the removal of clay from the field and sand trenching on the western portion of the field. The purpose of the work is to improve the drainage of the aforementioned areas of field A. The initial estimate for the work is roughly \$40,000.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education authorize Blades & Goven LLC, on behalf of Region 9, to present its plans for the Field A work to the necessary Redding boards and commissions for their approval. Hocker, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 2001 (NON-CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES) AND THE REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Lewis read the memo of understanding from the Service Employees International Union Local 2001 agreeing to a 3% salary increase for all of the JBHS non-certified employees. This is the final year of a 4-year contract and the increase was not specified in the contract for this the 4th year.

The Financial Oversight Committee considered the topic and unanimously approved the increase in salary and recommended the same action for the Region 9 board.

Motion: the Financial Oversight Committee recommends that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the 3% salary increase for the non-certified staff as recommended by the Negotiation Committee. Gombos, Hocker. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the 3% salary increase as recommended by the FOC and the Negotiation Committee. Gombos, Logie. Approved. Unanimous.

DEBT REFINANCING

Mrs. Sullivan reported that, following a review, Standard & Poors gave Region 9 its highest possible rating, AAA. \$5,400,000 of our outstanding long term debt was refinanced on 02/12/2010 with a savings of \$351,582 over the next 12 years to the time of maturity in 2022. As a result of refinancing our outstanding debt under more favorable interest rate terms Region 9 will reduce our debt service expenditures for the fiscal year 2010-2011 by \$83,340 net of the refinancing fees of roughly \$27,000.

2010-2011 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. McMorran made a formal presentation of the 2010-2011 proposed operating budget. The slides of that presentation are available online at the Region 9 website. Mr. McMorran indicated that work on this budget proposal began in November with a 7% budget increase and with input from all department heads and others has been reduced since. The proposed budget for 2010-2011 is \$21,469,646 for an increase over the current budget of 4.01%.

Numerous line items in the Object Summary were reviewed and discussed. Contractual increases in salaries to both certified and non-certified employees were pointed out. Additions including the restoration of summer work days for curriculum development, curriculum work in the Humanities and Science subjects, PowerSchool software, a textbook management system and a virtual language lab were discussed. Mr. McMorran touched on the numerous things that are being deferred at this time.

Mr. McMorran then outlined as requested by the board a series of reductions (8 tiers in all) as a suggested path by which the proposed budget increase of 4.01% could be reduced to 2.0%. Mr. McMorran then concluded his presentation with a list of deferred requests.

Mrs. Sullivan then answered a series of questions that had been submitted to her in recent days by members of the board and others.

Discussion with board members followed. Staffing was discussed and will be studied further at the next meeting when the Staffing Report will be presented.

Mr. Lewis pointed out that further discussion of the tiered reductions will continue at the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 11th, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn the Region 9 meeting. Macchio, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move to adjourn the FOC meeting. Gombos, DeSalvo. Approved. Unanimous.

The joint meeting of the Region 9 Board of Education and Financial Oversight Committee then adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Baker, Region 9 Board of Education Secretary

Catherine W. Gombos, FOC Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday