

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 20, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Gombos, Hocker, Lewis, Logie, Neidenbach, Poltrack, Stone, Pemberton
Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, McMorran, Kipp, Pin, Panos
Student Representative: Murphy
Others: 12 in the audience, and a representative of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier

Mr. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm in the auditorium of the Joel Barlow High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2009, meeting as corrected. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Approved. 6.89 0-1.11. Mrs. Pemberton abstained.

Corrections: page 1, change **Board** Member Comments to **Public** Comments; page 1, under use of ARRA Funds, line 2, delete “excess”.

AGENDA CHANGE

Motion: move to alter the agenda to move the Annual Report on Standardized Testing to follow Board Member Comments and delete the Executive Session. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

STUDENT REPORT

Student Representative, Hailey Murphy, reported students are adjusting to the X-period being in the middle of the day. The new advisory groups are focusing on specific topics: Freshmen on adjusting to Joel Barlow High School; the sophomores on standardized testing; juniors on the college planning process; and seniors on surviving college or life after Barlow. Student Council is striving to become more prominent in the school, listening to students and developing better relationships with clubs. Students are pleased with the food service, particularly the salad bar.

ANNUAL REPORT—STANDARDIZED TESTS AND COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Mr. McMorran presented information on standardized tests and college admissions. The presentation will be posted on the district website.

SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES UPDATE

Patti Roszko, Director of Special Education, provided an update on expenditures. While the 561 account is under budget, the 563 account is over budget due to significant expenses in new outplacements. She did note that there were savings in a couple of situations. There are currently a number of cases, including a DCF placement that could present further budget challenges. Presently, approximately \$95,000 of the district’s ARRA monies will be used to offset private tuition costs. Board members requested a summary of pending legal cases that could impact the budget for discussion at the November meeting.

PROPOSED TRIP TO FRANCE

Instructional leader, Sandy VanAusdal, presented a proposal for a trip to France for 12 junior/senior students during the February break. The trip includes touring Paris and a home stay in Orleans. This is a joint trip with Fairfield Ludlow High School in Fairfield. Mrs. Gombos clarified that board approval was needed to assume coverage by the District's insurance and commented that she would prefer the trip to operate as a private trip not requiring the District's insurance coverage and cost to the taxpayer. Mrs. Gombos noted that other similar trips have been successful without the use of the district's insurance.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the proposed trip to France as presented October 20, 2009. Hocker, Poltrack. Approved. 7.11-.89. Mrs. Gombos voted against the motion.

FIRST READING OF INVESTMENT REGULATIONS

The Financial Oversight Committee completed their review of the regulations and forwarded them to the Board of Education for review. FOC will have a recommendation on the regulations at the next meeting.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the Investment Regulations for a first reading. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McMorran reported the Tri-State Consortium Review of the science curriculum will begin on Wednesday. He highlighted a number of student awards and recognitions. He added that Helen Keller Middle School is working toward adding technology courses (Project Lead the Way) to encourage both boys and girls to study engineering. The curriculum committee will be discussing this at future meetings.

Mrs. Mas reported that preparations for the Tri-State Consortium Review have been completed and ready for the visitation in the morning. She added that four students are currently enrolled part-time in the Performing Arts High School in Bridgeport.

Mrs. Sullivan reported on the following:

- Health, Tri-District plans are in place to handle problems arising from the H1N1 flu. Nurses and custodial staff have been trained on cleaning issues.
- Green Cleaning: meetings have been held regarding Tools for Schools and green cleaning (cleaning with "green" materials)
- Monthly Expenditure Reports, these will be posted on the web site. The expenditures to date are as anticipated.
- Health Insurance Claims: July and August claims were as anticipated, information for September is not yet available.

FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Logie questioned the condition of the sign at the Barlow entrance. Mr. McMorran reported that the sign was vandalized. A report has been filed with the police and insurance company. David Aldo, who did the original design and fabrication, is fabricating a replacement.

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Neidenbach reported the track work has been completed and the warranty/certificate received. The drainage work at the south end is planned for next week.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Mr. Poltrack reported the audit work is proceeding nicely. BANS of \$1.67 million were recently rolled over at a rate of 0.74%. The Committee met with Matt Spoerndle of Phoenix Advisors LLC, the District's bond advisor, regarding debt structure. Mr. Spoerndle proposed a refunding of about \$5.2 million for a potential savings of about \$100,000. The FOC concluded it would be in the best interest of the District to be prepared for such a move.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education begin the preparations needed to effectuate a refund bond sale of the 2002 bond issue of approximately \$5 million with refund savings of no less than 2 ¼%. Potential savings is approximately \$100,000. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Mr. Lewis reported the Committee made three recommendations to the Board of Education.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve an AP Physics B one-semester credit course for students taking the Preparation for the AP Physics Exam course approved last year. Lewis, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the change of the name of the course Digital Photography & Image Editing with Adobe Creative Suite to Technology and Art of Digital Photography & Imaging, which will be taken either for a Technology credit or an Art credit. Lewis, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve an Independent Study option, available to juniors and seniors called "Virtual World Language Study in Languages" to study languages not offered at Joel Barlow High School. Lewis, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn the meeting. Poltrack, Lewis. Approved. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gombos, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday