

Joint Meeting of
REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
EASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 26, 2010
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Region 9 BOE: Baker, Gombos, Hocker, Karvelis, Lewis, Logie, Neidenbach

Easton BOE: Bobroske, Dunsby, Maiorano, Treidel

Redding BOE: Brey, Gaspar, Joyce-Kirk, Lewson, Miller

Administration: Cicchetti, Mas, Sullivan, McMorrان

Media: none

Public: 3

Location: Joel Barlow High School Room 109

CALL TO ORDER

Easton Board of Education Chair Treidel called the Easton Board of Education meeting to order at 7:19 P.M.

Redding Board of Education Chair Gaspar called the Redding Board of Education meeting to order at 7:19 P.M.

Region 9 Board of Education Chair Lewis called the Region 9 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:19 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2010-2011 Central Office Budget

Dr. Cicchetti introduced Mrs. Sullivan who then presented an overview of the proposed central office budget for fiscal year 2010-2011. Mrs. Sullivan pointed to the total budget proposal of \$1,530,748. This represents an increase of \$78,393 or 4.97% over last year.

Mrs. Gombos pointed out that the health insurance premiums for the three central office administrators (Cicchetti, Mas, and Sullivan) currently are not properly reflected in the central office budget. These costs currently are reflected in the district's health insurance expenses based on their choice of health plan offered by Easton, Redding or Region 9. Currently they have all chosen the Region 9 health plan and so their premiums are accounted for in the Region 9 expenses. Since they are central office employees Mrs. Gombos pointed out that these expenses should be reflected in the central office budget and not in the Easton, Redding or Region 9 budget depending on which district's health insurance plan they choose from year to year. By moving these expenses to that of the central office the central office budget will more accurately reflect central office expenses. The three central office administrators will still retain the right and flexibility to enroll in the health plan of their choice from those offered to Easton, Redding or Region 9 employees.

The proposed budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 shows an increase of 4% over last year for Health Insurance of certified employees – Line 223 - (absent the three central office administrators) to \$82,258. Mrs. Gombos proposed that the health insurance expenses of the three central office administrators or \$33,000 be moved to this line in the central office budget. This would increase the proposed budget FY 2010-2011 for health insurance to \$115,258 and increase the total proposed budget FY 2010-2011 for central office to \$1,563,748, a 7.67% increase over last year.

Mrs. Sullivan pointed out that it was recommended by the plan's actuary that the districts increase pension funding by \$32,930 to \$111,169 for FY 2010-2011. Mr. Maiorano expressed concern over the wisdom of increasing such funding in these difficult economic times. Mr. Brey pointed out that continued underfunding of the pension fund will only serve to increase our debt burden in the years to come. He recommended we follow the advice of our paid pension consultant.

A thorough discussion and examination of each line item in the proposed central office budget for FY 2010-2011 ensued. Mr. Treidel expressed that it would be difficult to support this increase as the Easton Board is currently operating with a budget decrease for FY 09-10.

MOTION: Move to accept the central office budget as proposed for FY 2010-2011 with the addition of \$33,000, (transferred from the Region 9 health insurance line) to the total to properly reflect central office health insurance expenses, i.e. to accept a total central office budget for FY 2010-2011 of \$1,563,748.

Easton Board of Education: Dunsby, Bobroske.
Redding Board of Education: Gaspar, Brey.
Region 9 Board of Education: Karvelis, Hocker.

Discussion: The Easton, Redding and Region 9 Boards of Education then proceeded to meet separately in their own caucuses.

TRI-BOARD CAUCUSES at 8:22 P.M.

TRI-BOARD MEETING RESUMED at 8:32 P.M.

Vote:

Easton Board of Education: Opposed. Unanimous.

Redding Board of Education: Approved. Unanimous.

Region 9 Board of Education: Approved. Unanimous.

As there was not a unanimous vote across the three boards, the mechanism was invoked.

Second vote:

Easton Board of Education: Opposed. Unanimous.

Redding Board of Education: Approved. Unanimous.

Region 9 Board of Education: Approved. Unanimous.

Third vote:

Easton Board of Education: Opposed. Unanimous.

Redding Board of Education: Approved. Unanimous.

Region 9 Board of Education: Approved. Unanimous.

Motion approved. 2-1.

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF ER9 STRATEGIC PLAN

Dr. Cicchetti presented an offer by Cambridge Strategic Services to facilitate a 3-day strategic planning workshop for board members consideration. The workshop would engage teachers, administrators, board members and members of the communities of Easton and Redding to renew and refine the strategic plan for ER9 at a cost of \$10,500 for sometime in August.

Mrs. Mas reported on the experience and benefits of the strategic planning workshop led by the same group 5 years ago.

The Boards discussed the proposal. No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Gombos complemented and thanked Jeanne Wendschuh for her work on the Pension Committee with Board members Karvelis and Logie.

Board members from Easton, Redding and Region 9 briefly introduced themselves.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Treidel adjourned the Easton Board of Education meeting at 9:21 P.M.

Dr. Gaspar adjourned the Redding Board of Education meeting at 9:21 P.M.

Mr. Lewis adjourned the Region 9 Board of Education meeting at 9:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Baker, Region 9 Board of Education Secretary

This meeting was not recorded.