

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
September 22, 2009  
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Gombos, Hocker, Lewis, Logie, Neidenbach, Poltrack, Stone  
Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, McMorran, Kipp, Pin, Czudak, Santangeli  
Student Representative: Murphy  
Others: 30 in the audience, and a representative of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier

Mr. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm in the library of the Samuel Staples Elementary School.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2009 meeting as corrected. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.**

Correction: page 3, under Mr. McMorran's report, paragraph 3, the handbook is the Student-Parent Handbook.

**STUDENT REPORT**

Student Representative, Hailey Murphy, reported on Student Council activities, student reaction to the changes in X period, and the new athletic activity pass. She added that there has been little reaction to the new food service vendor. Most of the food choices are the same as last year.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Tony Caruso, Easton: thanked the board for holding a board meeting in Easton.

**USE OF AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDS (ARRA)**

Mrs. Sullivan reported on the planned use of the IDEA Part B Grant money. The purpose is to support the excess costs of providing special education and related services to students with disabilities and early childhood programs and activities. A district may use 15% of these funds to support coordinated early intervention services in regular education. The Region 9 School District will receive \$174,729 to be used over two years, the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years. She anticipates the funds will be used as follows:

- Tuition, \$95,951
- Technology, netbooks, \$8,558
- Professional Development, \$3,400
- Software to track and document student performance, \$1,000
- .4 paraprofessional for student data entry and management, salary & benefits for 2 years, \$63,390
- Instructional supplies, \$2,430

**CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL FOR FIELDS A, B AND C**

Dr. Fossbender introduced the topic as the beginning of a process to address the need to renovate Athletic Fields A, B and C. The first phase would include what work would be done or what the result would look like and the cost to do the design development work.

Barry Blades of Blades and Goven submitted a proposal to Mike Santangeli to provide the services through the design development phase. The work would take the project to the point of submission to the local regulatory agencies for the permitting process. This work would be funded through private donations, primarily from the Easton/Redding Soccer Club and the Joel Barlow Soccer Club. All decisions on the work to be done would be in accordance with the approved Master Plan and presented to the Facilities and Fields Committee and the Financial Oversight Committee.

Mr. Logie expressed his concern that a decision on this proposal would imply that the renovation work would be done and that may not be the case.

**Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education accept the donation to fund the design development plans for work on Fields A, B and C, consistent with the Master Plan adopted and approved by the board of education. Poltrack, Hocker. Approved.6-1. Mr. Logie voted against the motion.**

### **2009 CONNECTICUT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE TEST (CAPT): PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF 2009 SCORES**

Mr. McMorran presented information on the 2009 CAPT scores. The sophomore class (Class of 2011) scores were significantly lower than the scores of previous sophomore classes. Mr. McMorran outlined the steps being taken to address the possible causes and address the needs of the students.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mrs. Mas reported the ER9 Tri-State Science Steering Committee is finalizing preparations for the upcoming science curriculum visit in October. She presented CMT results for grades 3-8 to the Easton and Redding boards of education. The results were very positive and competitive with other DRG A districts. The Grade 8 ILA teachers will pilot a writing portfolio this year, aligned with the Joel Barlow's Junior Writing Portfolio program.

Mr. McMorran reported the staff response to the new food vendor, Chartwells, has been very positive. Staff members are delighted with the presentation and quality of the food served. Mr. McMorran also reported that the Integrity Club began an advertising campaign highlighting students who reflect integrity. The National Merit Association has announced two semi-finalists from Joel Barlow High School this year.

Dr. Fossbender commented that both the Redding and Easton schools piloted a modified version of CMT for some special education students, with the understanding that the scores would not be counted. The State reversed its position and included the scoring of the piloted tests and calculated those modified exams as deficient. The result was Redding not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress as defined by No Child Left Behind. Dr. Fossbender has written a letter to the State regarding the change in direction without notification.

Mrs. Sullivan reported the health insurance claims for July were low, but August claims were high. More information will be available at the next meeting.

### **CAPITAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Sullivan reported the track is almost completed. The only work remaining to be completed is the striping of the track. Invoices for the work were approved by the Capital Maintenance Committee and sent to FOC for approval and recommendation for payment.

## **FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Poltrack reported Mr. Karvelis completed work on the Investment Policy. The Board will consider the policy at the October meeting. Bans are scheduled to roll over in October, with an interest rate of less than 1%. The bond advisor, Matt Spoerndle, will be at the October meeting.

The FOC approved two invoices and recommended their payment.

**Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the invoices, as recommended by the Financial Oversight Committee, from Atlas Track & Tennis for \$76,571 and from Carmody & Torrance LLC for \$1,420.99 for work related to the track. Poltrack, Lewis. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gombos, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday