

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 24, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Gombos, Hocker, Karvelis, Lewis, Logie, Neidenbach, Poltrack, Stone  
Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, McMorrان, Kipp, Pin, Santangeli  
Student Representative: Murphy  
Others: 14 in the audience

Mr. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in Room B109.

**RECOGNITION**

The Region 9 Board presented a portrait of retiring Dr. Allen Fossbender. The portrait will be hung in the school to commemorate his tenure at Joel Barlow High School and as Superintendent of Schools for Easton, Redding and Region #9.

Julia Pemberton, Art Poltrack and Huntley Stone were recognized for leadership and contributions to the students, faculty and communities of Easton and Redding. An honorary certificate of graduation and a plaque was presented to each. The Joel Barlow Select Choir performed for the group.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2009 meeting as submitted. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. 5.78-0-2.22. Karvelis and Hocker abstained.**

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2009, meeting as corrected. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. 6.90-0-1.11. Karvelis abstained.**

**Correction: page 1, under Special Education, Ms. Roszko reported on expenditures in her department.**

**STUDENT REPORT**

Student Representative, Hailey Murphy, announced the focus of the upcoming convocations is on the theme of partnership. Teachers will hold events/activities that showcase their personal interests or hobbies. The postponed Homecoming Dance has been rescheduled and students are looking forward to the event.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Colleen Joyce, Redding: on behalf of the public, she thanked Julia Pemberton, Art Poltrack and Huntley Stone for their dedication and work on the board of education.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Poltrack recognized the successes of both soccer teams and the women's volleyball team. He encouraged attendance at the final football game of the season, on Thanksgiving Day in Weston.

He also commented that he believes the conditions of athletic fields A, B & C need to be addressed, as athletic endeavors are an integral part of a high school education.

Mr. Stone thanked members of the administration, Mr. Czudak, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Mas, Mr. McMorran and Dr. Fossbender for their efforts and contributions to the board of education. He stated his regret in having not accomplished any improvements to the athletic fields A, B and C during his tenure as chair.

## **SECOND READING OF INVESTMENT REGULATIONS**

The board members agreed with minor adjustments in the document.

**Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the Investment Regulations as amended for a second and final reading. Hocker, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Mr. McMorran presented the school improvement goals for 2009-2010. Goals included:

1. Personalized learning
2. Design and delivery of excellent curricula
3. Help students develop their character
4. Work in partnership with parents and our community, and communicate effectively
5. Allocate resources and maintain the campus in a fiscally responsible manner that promotes student achievement

## **APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES**

**Motion: move to appoint Mr. Karvelis to the Curriculum, Facilities and Fields, Financial oversight and Policy Committees until the December 2009 election of new board officers. Stone, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **REFINANCING LONG-TERM DEBT**

The board's financial advisor and the Financial Oversight Committee recommended the refinancing of long-term debt.

**Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bonds of the District in an amount not exceeding \$6,500,000 as discussed. Poltrack, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **AGENDA CHANGE**

**Motion: move to discuss item #11, 2008-2009 Operating Fund Surplus in conjunction with the FOC Committee report. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. McMorran presented his written report, Noteworthy News. Mrs. Ann Kipp presented data on the Academic Center usage. The high volume of usage has resulted in the need for additional areas/spaces for use.

Mrs. Mas reported the Tri-State Consortium visit was successfully completed. Mrs. Mas, along with Mrs. Wessman Huber and two other teachers, were presenters on SRBI at the CRA conference. A two-day conference was recently held in Mystic on the topic of SRBI. Transition meetings for transition from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to the high school have begun.

Mrs. Sullivan reported on the following:

- Monthly Expenditure Reports, these will be posted on the web page for each school. The expenditures to date are as anticipated.
- Health Insurance Claims, October claims were below the average claims and budgeted amount.
- Electricity: electricity was put out to bid and is now contracted for 1/1/10 to 1/1/13.
- Apportionment history/schedule: the apportionment for 2010-2011 will be 52.55% for Redding, a decrease of 0.85%, and 47.45% for Easton, and increase of 0.85%. Redding has 504 students, and Easton will have 455 students as of October 1, 2009.

Dr. Fossbender announced the 2009 Communications Award winners for the CAFE Excellence for Education Communications contest.

- Award Winner, Parent/Student Handbook 2009-2010; Special Project, Academic Integrity Program
- Honorable Mention, Course Selection Guide, Program of Studies and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Student/Parent Orientation.

Enrollment Projection Report: Dr. Fossbender presented the Enrollment Projection Report updated to 2019 by Peter M. Prowda, PhD. The full report is posted on the website.

Dr. Fossbender summarized Dr. Prowda's report for Easton, Redding and Region #9.

Easton: during the past 10 year, Easton experienced a lower growth rate than other DRG A school districts, but higher than statewide enrollment. He projects that enrollment will decline over the next ten years, to a total enrollment of 775 students, 30.4% below current enrollments.

Redding: during the past 10 years, Redding also experienced a lower growth rate than other DRG A school districts, but higher than statewide enrollment. He projects a decline in enrollment over the next ten years, to a total enrollment of 840, or 33.8% below current enrollment.

Joel Barlow High School: enrollment increased from 707 in 2000 to 987 in 2005 and then declined to 959 in 2009. Between 2000 and 2009, enrollment increased by 252 students or 35.6%.

Statewide, in that period, grade 9-12 enrollment increased by 15.9%. Between 1999 and 2009, enrollment at Joel Barlow High School grew at a lower rate than all similar DRG A high schools in the areas. Dr. Prowda projected that enrollment will grow for the next four years and then enter a period of decline. Next year, he anticipates that total enrollment will be about the same as this year. He expects total enrollment to peak at almost 1,030 students in 2013. By the end of the ten-year projection period, he anticipates that enrollment will be about 850 students. This is 105 students, or 10.9% below current enrollment.

Dr. Prowda added that this is a difficult time to predict future enrollment. A high unemployment rate, recession and mortgage foreclosures all make conditions today different than a couple of years ago.

## **FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Poltrack reported on the Facilities and Fields meeting with Barry Blades of Blades & Goven. Mr. Blades is moving forward on a plan to repair fields A, B & C. Field A includes removal of some clay and sand slitting. Fields B & C includes a leveling of the ground, moving existing earth around to create a level practice field. No preliminary costs have been prepared as yet. The cost will be dependent on the subsurface of Fields B & C and possible need for drainage correction. The scope of the work includes submissions to the Zoning, Conservation, and Planning Commissions in Redding.

## **CAPITAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Neidenbach reported the track work has been completed. Open invoices have been approved by the Capital Maintenance Committee and FOC. The Committee has also recommended dissolution of the committee as the work is completed.

**Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education authorize payment of the following invoices: Cape & Island, \$37,714; Gale Associates, \$8,585; US Bank, \$500; and Phoenix Advisors, \$2,500 (\$646 to be charged to capital maintenance and \$1,854 to be charged to the building project). Neidenbach, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education dissolve the Capital Maintenance Committee effective immediately. Neidenbach, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Mr. Poltrack reported the FOC recommend payment of an open invoice from Shipman & Goodman.

**Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education authorize payment of an invoice for \$5,000 to Shipman & Goodman. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.**

The FOC requested that Mrs. Sullivan create a schedule of items for bidding purposes, including energy audit, telephone/communication services, insurance.

2008-2009 operating fund surplus: At the August meeting, the Board of Education allocated a portion of the operating fund surplus to the pension fund. The State Statutes do not allow this allocation. The FOC recommended a change in the allocation, moving 80% to the health insurance reserve fund and 20% to the capital reserve fund.

**Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education rescind the motion made at the August 27,2009 meeting** *(Move that the Region #9 Board of Education allocate the unaudited unexpended balance as of June 30, 2009 as follows: 60% to the Health Insurance Reserve Fund, 20% to the Pension Fund, and 20% to the Capital Reserve Fund. Poltrack, Logie. Approved. Unanimous.)* **Poltrack, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education allocate the unaudited unexpended balance as of June 30, 2009, as follows: 80 % to the Health Insurance Reserve Fund and 20% to the Capital Reserve Fund. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **CURRICULUM COMMITTEE**

Mr. Lewis reported the committee will meet next week to review a Film Studies course.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education recess to executive session for the following:**

1. Pending litigation, Special Education: invited to be present: Roszko, Schutt, Macchio, Baker, McMorrان, Mas, Sullivan, and Fossbender.
2. Performance of municipal employees: Peggy Sullivan, Allen Fossbender: invited to be present: Fossbender, Macchio, and Baker.
3. Performance of municipal employee: Cindy Daly-Boas: invited to be present: Fossbender, McMorrان.

The meeting recessed at 9:33 pm.

At 10:10 pm, Executive Session 2 began and Fossbender, Baker and Macchio were invited to attend. Roszko, Schutt, McMorrان, Mas, Sullivan left the meeting.

At 10:40 pm, Executive Session 3 began and Fossbender and McMorrان were invited to attend. Baker and Macchio left the meeting.

## **RECONVENE**

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 10:50 pm.

**Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education authorize Dr. Fossbender to permit Region 9 non-certified employees to pool their sick days, up to a cumulative total of 50, to give to a fellow Region 9 non-certified employee. The pooling of sick days is to be monitored by Dr. Fossbender and, subsequently by Dr. Cicchetti. This motion is contingent upon the signed, written acknowledgement by the Service Employees International Union Local 2001, that this pooling of sick days does not constitute precedent for any future requests by members of the union. Poltrack, Karvelis.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gombos, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday