

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 27, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Gombos, Hocker, Lewis, Logie, Pemberton, Poltrack, Stone, Neidenbach (by phone)

Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, McMorran, Kipp, Pin, Czudak, Santangeli

Others: four in the audience, and a representative of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier

Mr. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2009, meeting as submitted. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2009, meeting as submitted. Gombos, Lewis. Approved. 5-0-3. Logie, Pemberton & Poltrack abstained.

AGENDA ADDITION

Motion: move that the August 27, 2009, agenda be amended to include an administrative report from Tom McMorran, Poltrack, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Stone commented that he has not resigned from the Region 9 Board of Education as was reported in a newspaper, but has withdrawn his name from the Democratic ticket for the board of education position election in the fall.

Mr. Stone announced the September board meeting would be conducted in Easton.

TRANSFER OF UNEXPENDED MONIES FROM 2008-2009 FISCAL YEAR

Mrs. Sullivan reported an unaudited unexpended balance as of June 30, 2009 of \$100,979. She noted the board had five options: make an additional debt payment, contribute to the Capital Reserve Fund, contribute to the Health Insurance Reserve Fund, contribute to the Pension Fund, and return the funds to the two towns.

Mr. Poltrack reported the Financial Oversight Committee met prior to the meeting and unanimously recommended the funds be split among the three funds and made the following motion.

Move that the Region #9 Board of Education allocate the 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.

STATUS OF PLAYING FIELDS FOR FALL SPORTS

Athletic Director, Mike Santangeli, reported on the status of each of the athletic fields on the Joel Barlow Campus.

- Field A, poor drainage, needs work to be useful as a practice field.
- Field B, uneven and sloped terrain, with obstacles; needs work to be useful as a practice field.

- Field C, uneven surface, rocks and poor drainage; not currently usable; additional work needed to be usable as a practice field.
- Field D, use limited due to size of field; field is used for Field Hockey; ideally lengthening the field would make it more usable.
- Field E, improved grass on the field; an additional access point from the senior parking lot is needed.
- Field F, the abandoned tennis courts should be removed and area converted to a practice field.
- Field G, field grass is good, but the facility is obsolete; outfield currently damaged due to use for football practice; field should be reconfigured and updated.
- Field H, area lacks proper drainage.
- Field I, stadium lights & bleachers are a concern, fence and gate in need of repair, facility lacks storage and team rooms. Track surface in process of being repaired. Field crown no longer present on right side causing some drainage issues.
- Field J, field in good condition; lacks storage facility.

In summary, Mr. Santangeli stated that the game fields are safe and in better condition than in the previous year. The practice fields need work, especially Field A.

Dr. Fossbender commented that the entire campus, including shrubs, parking areas, fields, look great and thanked Mr. Czudak and his crew for their work.

Mr. Logie commented that the discussion of work on Fields A, B, and C was to make them usable as practice fields, not competition fields. He spoke in support of improvements to Field A and the removal of the old tennis courts.

Mr. Neidenbach also supported the need to deal with the condition of Fields A, B and C.

BOARD OF EDUCATION CALENDAR FOR 2010

The tentative calendar of board meetings for 2010 was reviewed.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the 2010 Calendar of Board Meetings as presented 8/27/2009. Gombos, Pemberton. Approved. 7-0-1. Stone abstained.

FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Poltrack requested that Athletic Director Santangeli keep the committee informed on the conditions of the fields.

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Neidenbach and Mrs. Sullivan reported the repair work on the track has been completed. Resurfacing is scheduled to begin next week, weather permitting.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The draft of the auditor's report will be available for the October board meeting.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Gombos reported the Committee met to consider an issue with transportation of one student to the Agriculture School in Trumbull. The student and parents had been assured by the middle school counseling staff that attendance at the Agriculture School in Trumbull would include transportation at

no cost to the family. The actual cost of transport could reach an estimated \$12,700. The Transportation Committee, Mrs. Gombos and Mr. Stone, were in agreement that the Region #9 Board of Education had a moral responsibility to the student and parents to cover the transportation as promised. Mr. Stone noted that the 2009-10 budget includes sufficient funds in the transportation line for technical/agricultural school students.

Eva Colligan, Business Manager, has been working to find additional options for transportation. She is working with the parents and two other school districts on alternative less expensive transport of the student to the school and is hopeful one of the options will be acceptable.

The Transportation Committee recommended approval of a motion to include the funding of transportation for the student, and that the staff of both middle schools be updated on the correct transportation information for these situations.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education, approve up to \$12,700 for transportation of a student to the Agriculture School in Trumbull for the 2009-2010 school year, as the parents/student was assured for two years that transportation would be available at no cost to them. Gombos, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Fossbender thanked Ms. Colligan for her diligent efforts to find a solution to the issue.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT FROM TOM MCMORRAN

Mr. McMorran provided a preliminary Performance Assessment Report, including preliminary information on the AP, SAT, ACT, and CAPT testing results. A full report will be presented to the board at the September meeting.

Mr. McMorran reported the new food service contractor, Chartwells, has made significant changes in the school cafeteria environment and improvements in the way meals are prepared. The existing staff was retained and all training has been completed.

The newly revised Student Handbook was distributed. Dr. Fossbender commented on the comprehensive and impressive work done to be ready for the opening of school next week, including the facility, curriculum, and the communication with parents.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Suzanne Krivit, Redding: comments related to the fields in front of the school and adjacent to her home & property. Her primary concern is the use of those fields by groups outside of the school and special events. She requested that use by outside groups be restricted or limited.

Mike D'Agostino, Redding: question regarding "energy conservation" grant that is available to regional schools. Mrs. Sullivan responded that she is pursuing that grant, but it is not known at this time how much money is available.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Gombos questioned Mr. Santangeli on the subject of outside user groups using the Barlow fields. Mr. Santangeli responded that currently the only group using field space is the lacrosse group and that is coordinated between the Redding Park & Recreation Department and his office. They are using only a small area on the grounds. Improvements to Fields B and C would provide additional space for these

athletes. The school's use of the fields and facilities always comes first and will bump other users as necessary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education recess to executive session for a discussion of public employee, Allen Fossbender. Poltrack, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Fossbender was invited to be present.

The meeting recessed at 8:45 pm.

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 9:17 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Move to adjourn. Logie, Lewis. Approve. Unanimous.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gombos, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday