

Easton, Redding & Region 9 Boards of Education  
Tri-Board Meeting  
December 21, 2010  
Minutes

Attendance:

Easton Board of Education: Dunsby, Peskay (7:10 pm), Bobroske, Underberger (absent: Maiorano)

Redding Board of Education: Barickman, Gaspar, Miller (7:15 pm), Joyce-Kirk, Lewson. (absent: Goldberg, Brey)

Region 9 Board of Education: Abrams (8:20 pm). Gombos, Hocker, Karvelis, Lewis, Logie, Macchio (7:12 pm), Shapiro

Administration: Cicchetti, Mas

Others: eight members of the community and staff, and representative of the Redding Pilot/Easton

Chairman of the Easton Board of Education, Dan Underberger, called the meeting of the Tri-Boards to order at 7:07 in the Joel Barlow High School Media Center. All three of the boards had a quorum in attendance and each board was called to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 meeting as amended. Gombos, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 meeting as amended. Lewson, Miller. Approved. 3-0-1. Barickman abstained.**

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 meeting as amended. Dunsby, Bobroske. Approved. 2-0-1. Underberger abstained.**

Amendment/change to the minutes: page 2, motion #3, change Region 9 to Easton; page 2, motion 6, change Region to Redding; page 3, last paragraph, change Mrs. Gombos' comment to read as follows: *Mrs. Gombos suggested that the three boards first invite Ron Harris of the State Department of Education to a meeting to explain what the options are and what other regional districts are doing, and then decide if the boards want to create a tri-board committee to review structure and practices once a new superintendent has been identified.*

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CONTRACT FOR PEGGY SULLIVAN

Mr. Hocker stated that Peggy Sullivan requested two changes be made to her approved contract. Both changes would bring parity with the contracts of all other administrators of the tri-district. The first change, in section 3b, changes the number of vacation days from 20 to 25. The second change, in section 3f, provides for allowance of term life insurance equal to two times the base salary, capped at \$500. The ad hoc committee was agreeable to the changes.

**Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the following changes to the contract between Peggy Sullivan and the three boards of education: in 3b, change 20 vacation days to 25 vacation days; in 3f, allow for term life insurance equal to two times the base salary, capped at \$500. Hocker, Gombos. Approved. 5-33-.89. Dr. Shapiro cast the dissenting vote.**

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the following changes to the contract between Peggy Sullivan and the three boards of education: in 3b, change 20 vacation days to 25 vacation days; in 3f, allow for term life insurance equal to two times the base salary, capped at \$500. Lewson, Barickman. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the following changes to the contract between Peggy Sullivan and the three boards of education: in 3b, change 20 vacation days to 25 vacation days; in 3f, allow for term life insurance equal to two times the base salary, capped at \$500. Bobroske, Peskay. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### REVIEW OF REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION STRUCTURES

Attorney Ronald C. Harris of the Connecticut State Department of Education presented information on the the expansion of regional school districts. He reviewed Connecticut General Statute Section 10-47b, the regionalization process for the addition or withdrawal of grades. He also provided information on existing cooperative arrangements per Connecticut General Statute Section 10-158a.

Mr. Harris suggested other things to be considered:

1. Study Committee: once established, the study committee has a statutory time period limited to one year. He advised that preliminary work be done prior to the formal establishment of a study committee. Preliminary work should include financial implications of labor issues, ECS funding, state bonus money for school construction & transportation, comparison of test scores of schools.
2. The reason for the study committee needs to be clearly articulated and convincing to the public.
3. The support of the selectmen of the towns and other political bodies should be consulted.
4. Transparency of budget: with regionalization, the local boards of finance are not involved and have no authority in the budget process, the regional board acts as a board of finance.

Discussion, questions and answers followed. Mrs. Gombos commented that the three boards have a business arrangement to share the superintendent and services of the central office with each paying 1/3 of the cost. She asked if that was a common practice or if there were models of arrangements. Mr. Harris suggested contacting the superintendent's association to get information on compacts/agreements for the sharing of business service.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Manusky, Easton: commented that while Joel Barlow High School is an accredited school and has developed curriculum available on line, the lower schools of Easton and Redding are not accredited and do not follow the guidelines to have developed curriculum. She suggested that if this is explored, the board may find that this may be one of the reasons for declining enrollment in the schools.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Gombos thanked Mr. Harris for his informative and helpful presentation.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move to adjourn the Region 9 Board of Education meeting. Gombos, Shapiro. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move to adjourn the Redding Board of Education meeting. Lewson, Miller. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move to adjourn the Easton Board of Education meeting. Dunsby, Bobroske. Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Dunsby, Easton Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday