

Approved, April 26, 2011

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 15, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Abrams, Gombos, Hocker, Karvelis, Lewis, Logie, Macchio, Shapiro  
Administration: Cicchetti, McPadden, McMorran, Sullivan, Czudak, Santangeli, Roszko, Panos, Kipp  
Others: 14 students and members of the community, representatives of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier, The Daily Easton, Patch.com and the videographer  
Student Representative: Erin Meskers

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm in JBHS Media Center

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2010 regular meeting as submitted. Shapiro, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2011 meeting as submitted. Gombos, Macchio. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting as submitted. Karvelis, Hocker. Approved. 8-0-2. Dr. Shapiro and Mr. Macchio abstained.**

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student Representative, Erin Meskers, reported on CAPT testing and Spring sports.

BOARD APPRECIATION

In honor of Board of Education month, and on behalf of staff and students, Dr. Cicchetti thanked the board members for their service and commitment to students and presented each a sweet treat. Students read letters of appreciation to each board member. Two music students provided a musical tribute to the board members.

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION (CABE) COMMUNICATION AWARDS

CABE awards were presented for the Course Selection Guide, the Parent Student Handbook, and Video, *Day in the Life of a Freshman*.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE OPERATING BUDGET 2011-12

The proposed budget increase, at the end of the previous meeting, was 2.54%. The administration was asked to review the budget and bring the increase down to 2.37%. Mr. McMorran reported an additional senior teacher has submitted intention to retire at the end of the school year. He provided a listing of revised reductions that take the additional retirement into account, and maintain the \$14,000 contribution to the Pension Fund. The revision brings the budget increase to 2.3%.

Mr. Hocker reported the Financial Advisory Committee reviewed the revisions prior to the meeting and supports the changes bringing the increase to 2.3%.

Dr. Shapiro commented that the economic times are difficult, with raising prices, home devaluations, etc. and suggested the budget come in with a 2% increase. Mrs. Gombos was in agreement with Dr. Shapiro. Mr. Hocker commented that the previous budget passed easily in both towns, and he could support the 2.3% or even slightly more. Mr. Karvelis added that a 2.3% increase is consistent with surrounding schools, and anything below that number would change the school. Mr. Logie commented that the enrollment at the high school is increasing and

enrollment at the lower schools is decreasing. He supported the 2.3% increase, especially based on the expected increase in enrollment next year.

Dr. Shapiro commented on the budget process. She would prefer, in the future, to start with a maintenance budget, and then consider a list of items to be added, as opposed to the current process which starts with the administration's proposal and proceeds to cut items from that proposal..

#### AGENDA ADDITION

**Motion: move to allow public comment at this time. Gombos, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike D'Agostino, Redding: Mr. D'Agostino asked for clarification of the \$14,000 allocated to the pension fund. Mr. Karvelis responded that the board had considered not increasing the contribution to the pension fund this year, but upon further review and study of the fund, the increase (recommended by the actuary) is recommended.

Jen Wastrom, Redding: Mrs. Wastrom thanked the board of education for their thoughtful consideration of the budget.

**MOTION: move that the Region 9 Board of Education submit an operating budget for 2011-2012 of \$21,700,000, which represents a 2.3% increase over the current year budget. Logie, Macchio. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### REVISED COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHARGE TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Communication Committee requested the committee be increased by one person, so there will be two representatives from Easton and two from Redding.

**MOTION: move that the Region 9 Board of Education increase the membership of the Communication Committee by one person, resulting in two from Easton and two from Redding. Karvelis, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.**

Mrs. Abrams was appointed to the committee.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

##### Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction:

Ms. McPadden provided a written report. She highlighted the Tri-State Consortium Science Curriculum. Follow-up will be scheduled for 2010-2011 to review the progress made following the 2009-2010 visitation. The ER9 Curriculum Alignment Steering Committee is working on a curriculum audit, K-12.

Head of School: Mr. McMorran provided a written report. He noted that the Boys' Tennis coach, Tom Cable was named the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Boys Tennis Coach of the Year. And the Boys' Basketball team received a Officials Award for sportsmanship.

Mrs. Panos reported on the college application process. As of now, 218 seniors (81% of the class) had submitted college applications. The department processed over 1,400 applications.

Mrs. Kipp reported on students qualifying for graduation. As of now, two students will not receive diplomas with the class. One student will complete the work at the end of summer school, and the other at the end of the fall 2011 semester. A total of 25 other students are working to qualify to graduate with the senior class in June. Mrs. Kipp reported that all of these students (and their parents) have been made aware of the graduation requirements and numerous contacts/meetings with parents & students have occurred. The administration is confident that most, if not all, of these students will be able to qualify for graduation.

Director of Finance & Operation: . Mrs. Sullivan provided the Transfers Report. The transfers were necessary to cover the costs of snow removal.

Superintendent: Superintendent Cicchetti thanked the administration, teachers, support staff, the Joel Barlow Education Association, and the Joel Barlow Service Employees Association for their work in conjunction with the cancellation of the February break. Dr. Cicchetti also commended the students and staff members who participated in the March 11 Film Festival.

#### SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mr. Karvelis reported the consultant, Eliza Holcomb of CABA, has indicated a good level of interest in the position, both in quality and quantity. The Committee will begin to screen applicants March 26, 2011.

#### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Karvelis reported the Committee is hosting a Realtors' breakfast at the high school on April 11. The Committee is also reviewing the school website, along with the lower schools and Central Office website, with a goal of making them more user friendly.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Logie thanked Dr. Cicchetti, the school and administrators for their work on the budget, with special thanks to the work by Mrs. Sullivan.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move to adjourn the meeting. Shapiro, Karvelis Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Logie, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday