

Easton, Redding & Region 9 Boards of Education
Tri-Board Special Meeting
March 22, 2011
Minutes

Attendance:

Easton Board of Education: Allan, Dunsby, Peskay (by phone), Underberger. Absent: Bobroske, Maiorano

Redding Board of Education: Barickman(7:55) pm, Gaspar, Goldberg, Joyce-Kirk, Lewson. Absent: Brey, Miller

Region 9 Board of Education: Abrams, Gombos, Hocker, Lewis, Logie, Shapiro (absent: Karvelis, Macchio)

Administration: Cicchetti, Sullivan

Others: two members of the community and staff, and representatives of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier, Patch.com & The Daily Easton

Chairman of the Region 9 Board of Education, Mark Lewis, opened the meeting of the Tri-board meeting in the Community Room of the John Read Middle School

Mr. Lewis called the Region 9 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:40 pm

Dr. Gaspar called the Redding Board of Education meeting to order at 7:40 pm

Dr. Underberger called the Easton Board of Education to order at 7:40 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the minutes of the January 25, 2011 meeting as submitted. Lewson, Joyce-Kirk. Approved 3-0-1. Mr. Goldberg abstained.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the January 25, 2011 meeting as submitted. Allan, Dunsby. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the minutes of the January 25, 2011 meeting as submitted. Gombos, Abrams. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the minutes of the February 7, 2011 meeting as submitted. Joyce-Kirk, Lewson. Approved. Unanimous

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the February 7, 2011 meeting as submitted. Allan, Dunsby. Approved. 3-0-1. Dr. Underberger abstained.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the minutes of the February 7, 2011 meeting as submitted. Hocker, Gombos. Approved. 5-0-1. Dr. Shapiro abstained.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CONSULTANT FOR STRUCTURE AND WAYS OF WORKING COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Structure and Ways of Working Committee, Dr. Gaspar, reported the Committee is focusing on the Ways of Working portion of the charge. The Committee determined a consultant would be helpful for the interview process (to interview past and present administrators from central office and principals of the five schools in ER9) and the committee interviewed consultants to serve in that capacity. The Committee's recommendation is to hire Dr. Evan Pitkoff of CES (Cooperative Education Services) at a cost of \$4,860.

Mr. Barickman arrived (7:55 pm)

Discussion of the recommendation followed. Mr. Logie asked for further details on what the consultant would do, the specifics of the contract and the timeline for completion of the task. Dr. Gaspar responded that the scope of the work included: a) governance, including roles, expectations, authority and accountability for board

members and administrators; b) Tri-board relationships and interactions, including collective management of Central Office and town resources; c) Central Office structure, operations and resourcing. The Task was to interview current and past superintendents and building administrators. A final report to the committee is to include options for possible changes to governance, tri-board relationships and Central Office function.

Board members each expressed their views on the Committee recommendation and request for funding. Mr. Lewis stated he was opposed to the recommendation and request based on the timing and cost. He believes the process should not proceed at the same time as the group is interviewing superintendent candidates. He also feels that the hiring of a consultant is not an appropriate use of public funds. Mr. Lewis added that Mr. Karvelis and Mr. Macchio (who were not available to attend the meeting) had let him know that they would prefer a delay in this project (at a minimum). Mrs. Gombos and Dr. Shapiro agreed with Mr. Lewis. Mr. Logie said that he would not support the immediate approval of the project as he preferred that the consultant's interview process be moved to a later date (so as not to interfere over the next 3-5 weeks with the sensitive search process for hiring a new superintendent).

Other board members were in agreement to hire the consultant and move the process forward. Debate on the issue followed.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the expenditure of \$4,860 from the current year Central Office budget for consultant fees for Dr. Evan Pitkoff, and retain the May 31, 2011 deadline for completion of a report. Gaspar, Lewson. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the expenditure of \$4,860 from the current year Central Office budget for consultant fees for Dr. Evan Pitkoff, and retain the May 31, 2011 deadline for completion of a report. Allan, Underberger. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the expenditure of \$4,860 from the current year Central Office budget for consultant fees for Dr. Evan Pitkoff, and retain the May 31, 2011 deadline for completion of a report. Abrams, Hocker. Motion Defeated 2-4. Mrs. Abrams and Mr. Hocker voted for the motion; Dr. Shapiro, Mrs. Gombos, Mr. Logie and Mr. Lewis voted against the motion.

As the vote was not unanimous, the "mechanism for approval" was invoked. Further discussion followed and the matter was voted a second and third time to see if a unanimous approval could be achieved.

A second vote on the motion was taken.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the expenditure of \$4,860 from the current year Central Office budget for consultant fees for Dr. Evan Pitkoff, and retain the May 31, 2011 deadline for completion of a report. Gaspar, Lewson. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the expenditure of \$4,860 from the current year Central Office budget for consultant fees for Dr. Evan Pitkoff, and retain the May 31, 2011 deadline for completion of a report. Allan, Underberger. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the expenditure of \$4,860 from the current year Central Office budget for consultant fees for Dr. Evan Pitkoff, and retain the May 31, 2011 deadline for completion of a report. Abrams, Hocker. Motion Defeated 2-4. Mrs. Abrams and Mr. Hocker voted for the motion; Dr. Shapiro, Mrs. Gombos, Mr. Logie and Mr. Lewis voted against the motion.

A third vote on the motion was taken.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the expenditure of \$4,860 from the current year Central Office budget for consultant fees for Dr. Evan Pitkoff, and retain the May 31, 2011 deadline for completion of a report. Gaspar, Lewson. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the expenditure of \$4,860 from the current year Central Office budget for consultant fees for Dr. Evan Pitkoff, and retain the May 31, 2011 deadline for completion of a report. Allan, Underberger. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the expenditure of \$4,860 from the current year Central Office budget for consultant fees for Dr. Evan Pitkoff, and retain the May 31, 2011 deadline for completion of a report. Abrams, Hocker. Motion Defeated 2-4. Mrs. Abrams and Mr. Hocker voted for the motion; Dr. Shapiro, Mrs. Gombos, Mr. Logie and Mr. Lewis voted against the motion.

The motion was approved by the boards of education 2-1.

DISCUSSION ON UPDATE ON SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

The Search subcommittee will interview candidates for the superintendent position on Saturday, March 26, 2011. Board members are welcome to attend the interviews as observers (since all board members are members of the search committee). April 2, 2011 has been set for individual boards to interview the candidates moving forward in the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike D'Agostino, Redding: Mr. D'Agostino commented on the need for the three boards to work more cooperatively together.

Jeanne Wendschuh, Redding: Mrs. Wendschuh thanked the board for their participation, and commented that the role of the superintendent is to lead at the direction of the boards. The board members are the leaders elected to hire a CEO to manage the schools of Easton & Redding.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Hocker commented that although there was disagreement at the meeting, the boards do manage to work together cooperatively.

Mr. Logie commented that while there are many differing opinions and ideas (within and between each of the three boards), a respectful discussion of these disparate points of view helps the process move forward, with the common goal of serving the best interests of our students and schools.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Goldberg, Barickman. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Dunsby, Allen. Approved. Unanimous

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Logie, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Logie, Region 9 Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday