

Approved, August 23, 2011

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 14, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Abrams (7:16 pm), Gombos, Hocker, Karvelis, Lewis, Logie, Macchio, Shapiro
Administration: Cicchetti, McPadden, McMorrان, Sullivan, Sheehy, Kipp, Santangeli
Others: seven members of the community, representatives of the Redding Pilot, Weston/Redding/Easton Patch.com and the videographer

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in JBHS Media Center

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2011 regular meeting as submitted. Gombos, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. McMorrان presented a report on the Joel Barlow Continuous Improvement Plan. Discussion, questions and answers followed. This discussion highlighted the importance of using PowerSchool to track student performance K-12, and expectations for using the Atlas/Rubicon architecture to facilitate curriculum improvement and alignment.

DISCUSSION OF WRITING CENTER REPORT

Jonathan Budd and Jack Powers presented their annual update to the Board on the Writing Center. The report included the current usage of the Writing Center and 2011-2012 Junior Writing Portfolio. They also reported on the Grade 8 Writing Portfolio initiative which included all 278 of the Helen Keller Middle School and John Read Middle School eighth graders this year. Discussion, questions and answers followed. This discussion noted the richness of student writing in the 8th grade portfolio versus the past use of short timed writings in response to a standard prompt. The board expressed its appreciation for the leadership of the JBHS team in their efforts to help coordinate student preparation from grades 6-8 with the knowledge and skills required at Joel Barlow High School.

YEAR-END EXPENDITURES REPORT

Mrs. Sullivan reported that some expenditure accounts are under budget. These included the Cleaning (431) account and Heating Oil (624). Savings in these accounts were accomplished as a result of a new maintenance person on staff who has been able to troubleshoot and correct heating/cooling problems. In addition, he is effectively managing the BMS (Building Management System) for the school. The Substitute Account (121) is above budget, but is somewhat offset by the Salary-Certified account (111). Substitutes brought in to cover long-term staff are included in the Substitute (not the Salary-Certified) account. She added that the Health Insurance Reserve account is sufficiently funded at this time.

While a final year-end balance will not be known until the end of June, Mrs. Sullivan anticipates an unexpended amount of a little more than \$100,000. She recommended any unexpended monies be divided between the Pension Fund and the Capital Reserve Account.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education, pending finalization of end-of year unexpended balance, allocate \$50,000 to the Pension Reserve Fund and the remaining balance to the Capital Reserve Account. Logie, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.

The Transfer Report was reviewed. Mrs. Sullivan will provide a report on the equipment purchase by email to the board members.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Head of School: Mr. McMorran provided copies of a letter from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, a Pre-Self Study Report. The NEASC visitation is planned for 2014 and planning process for the visitation is well underway. Mr. McMorran reported on the 5th Barlow Palooza, a combination of art show, musical performance, emergency medical services crisis simulation, CAPstone presentation, and more.

Mr. McMorran reported on the process for filling the assistant principal position which led to the appointment of Maryann Sheehy, the current Dean of Students. He recognized current Assistant Principal Ann Kipp for her long time service to the school. Mr. Lewis, on behalf of the Board of Education, presented Mrs. Kipp with flowers and a book on Joel Barlow in recognition of her service to the school, students and parents of Easton and Redding.

Barlow held a Science Symposium, organized by Dr. Katherine Nuzzo, in May. This was an opportunity for students to share their research with the community. A 50-year reunion picnic for graduates of Joel Barlow High School was held on June 11. The event, attended by over 500 people was very successful, and raised \$10,000 for a scholarship fund.

Mrs. Panos reported that she will have a complete report on college acceptances in the fall. Eighty-six percent (86%) of the decisions have been reported and more are expected over the next few weeks.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction:

Ms. McPadden provided a written report. She thanked Jonathan Budd and Jack Powers for their work on the Eighth Grade Writing Portfolio review. The portfolio writing samples will be reviewed by the secondary English teachers to guide instruction decisions for the incoming ninth graders. The ER9 Curriculum Alignment Steering Committee will continue audit work in the content areas of science, music and art. Dr. Michael Hibbard will facilitate a training session on June 29 for social studies and science teachers in writing K-12 curriculum specific discipline questions. The ER9 Science Notebook/Journal Committee is continuing their work in the development of a template for implementation across all grades.

Director of Finance & Operation: Mrs. Sullivan reported the transition of transportation services to DATTCO is going smoothly. Most of the current drivers have been rehired and a new dispatcher is on board. Bus routes are in place and are being reviewed.

Superintendent: Dr. Cicchetti announced that Mr. McMorran has been invited to be a group leader for The Improvement of Schools, the Art of Leadership Institute, at Harvard's Graduate School of Education. Dr. Cicchetti attended and enjoyed several school events, including the Spring Concert, Speakouts, Barlow Palooza, girls' and boys' lacrosse games, and Awards Night. He recognized Ann Kipp for her years of service and thanked the entire Barlow Leadership Team for their work this year and for including him as a member of the team in supporting individual students. He thanked the board members, staff, students, and the members of the Easton and Redding communities for their support during his tenure as superintendent.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Mr. Lewis thanked Dr. Cicchetti for his leadership and service to the board and communities, and presented him with a token of appreciation (a gift certificate for purchasing Boston Red Sox baseball tickets).

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Gombos reported the Committee has met with the Joel Barlow Education Association on the Certified Staff Contract, and will continue negotiation meetings during the summer. The contract for the Non-Certificated staff has been completed. The contract is expected to be ratified by the staff within the next week. Since that contract

begins July 1, the Board may need to schedule a special meeting for the board to ratify the contract. [Note that following the 6/14/11 board meeting this contract was not signed and further discussion will continue.]

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Karvelis noted that the Region 9 Board of Education approved moving to Finalsite for web design and hosting for the school's website, contingent upon agreement of the Easton and Redding boards of education. The Easton and Redding boards did not approve the change, but the subject is open to discussion. He recommended the change move forward, that the Easton and Redding boards receive the information collected by the administration and Region 9 Communications Committee over the past months. He added that there is a lead time of 4 months to get a new web site designed, and hopes the boards can reach agreement to move forward with a decision quickly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike D'Agostino, Redding: Mr. D'Agostino thanked Dr. Cicchetti for his service to the District, especially for his attendance and enjoyment of the many school activities and events. Mr. D'Agostino asked if the Board planned to address the comments made during the last Tri-Board meeting regarding the AP History curriculum. Mr. Logie responded that the topic will be revisited this fall as part of the curriculum review (and steps needed to maximize personalized learning, while coordinating the curriculum sequence from grades 6-12). Referring to the minutes of the March 28, 2011 Curriculum Committee meeting which reviewed the mid-year status of the Joel Barlow AP program, he noted that there had been a discussion between committee members and Dr. Saul Cornell during the public comment period at the end of the formal committee meeting. Mr. Logie noted that AP U.S. History is a detail-oriented survey course that is offered as an option in all Connecticut DRG A high schools. While currently offered to Barlow juniors, this (and several other humanities department AP courses) may be opened in the future to juniors and seniors. Mr. Logie offered to speak with Mr. D'Agostino after the formal meeting to discuss Barlow's AP program in greater detail.

[Formal Region 9 meetings offer a limited opportunity for public input, and are not structured to facilitate a discussion with the board. As a result, members of the public are encouraged to contact the Region 9 chairman or individual board members directly by phone or email, or meet one-on-one before or after formal month board meetings or irregularly scheduled committee meetings. The ER9 web site lists contact information for all board members and the time, place, and agenda for all Region 9 board and committee meetings (and minutes of past meetings.)

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Logie, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday