

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 21, 2010
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Abrams, Gombos, Hocker, Karvelis, Lewis, Logie, Macchio, Shapiro
Administration: Cicchetti, Mas, McMorran,
Others: one member of the community, and representatives of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier and Patch.com

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:40 pm in JBHS Media Center

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 Special Meeting as corrected. Karvelis, Hocker. Approved. Unanimous.

Correction: page 2, last paragraph, typo in line 1, change **is** to **if**

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2010 regular meeting as corrected. Shapiro, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

Correction: page 1, under Board Member Comments, change Dr. Shapiro's comment to read: Dr. Shapiro asked that the approved corrected minutes be posted on the website as they are the official minutes.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Student Representative, Erin Meskers, was present, but left prior to the start of the Board of Education meeting to study for exams. Mr. McMorran will report for her.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alice Smith, Redding: Mrs. Smith applauded the Communications Committee for their recommendation to have the Region 9 Board of Education meetings videotaped for viewing on Cablevision's channel 79. She feels this will allow more people to be aware of what is happening and adds greater transparency.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Shapiro voiced her objections to the way the contract for the Director of Finance was handled. The process of approving the contract without complete review of the benefits and a review by the Financial Advisory Committee is not acceptable and violates the board's responsibilities.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS

The Continuous Improvement Plans for Joel Barlow High School was presented by Mr. McMorran, Dr. Cicchetti, and Mrs. Mas. The presentation included Systemic Change for Student Success, Performance Appraisal System, Professional Growth Plan Format and Areas for Future Review.

IMPLEMENTATION OF iPad TECHNOLOGY

Mr. McMorran and Mr. John Crowley presented information on the use of iPad technology in the classroom. Mr. Crowley reported that an end-of-year surplus in the technology account allowed the purchase of iPads for use in one classroom. The expenditure was approximately \$18,000. The new equipment is in use in the Physics and Math classes of Ms. Katie Morosky. Mr. Crowley demonstrated how the iPads are used in the classroom. He added that with the increase in the number of student-owned iPads, the next budget will include a proposal for a parallel wireless access system to allow personal iPads and other technology to be used in the school.

Mr. Karvelis commented that while he supports the use of the most current technology, he questions the financial implication. The purchase, which was not included in the current budget, was done without advising the Financial Advisory Committee or the Board of Education. Mr. McMorran responded that when the

decision was made, it was a way to experiment with this type of technology, and he would take responsibility for making the decision.

Mrs. Gombos suggested a presentation on the Technology Plan, the financial layout and where we are with regard to technology, what currently exists and what is planned, and a timeline at the next meeting and prior to the next budget season. Dr. Cicchetti indicated that this and an update on special education are scheduled for the January meeting

BUDGET TRANSFER POLICY, SECOND READING

The revised Budget Transfer Policy #3160 was reviewed. Board members discussed the transfer previously discussed and how it applied within the policy. Since the transfer of funds was an “intra-category” transfer, review and approval was not needed. Board members were in agreement to move the policy forward and make adjustments to the policy in the future should the need arise.

Motion: move that Policy 3150, Transfer of Funds Between Categories, as presented December 21, 2010 be accepted for a second and final reading. Hocker, Shapiro. Approved. Unanimous.

RECOGNITION OF GIFT

Mr. McMorran reported the fourth and final artwork panel restoration for the auditorium was completed and is in place. The funding for the work is the result of fundraising efforts of the drama families, the students, parents and attendees of the various drama/stage events.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Head of School: Mr. McMorran provided copies of his report for review. Mr. McMorran noted that Student Representative Erin Meskers would have reported on the very successful “Give Back” program. The Student Council partnered with students at Helen Keller Middle School to purchase and wrap gifts for a school in Bridgeport. Falcon Nation assisted in the efforts contributing \$1,000 from the proceeds of a dance. Many, many students assisted with contributions of gifts, money, wrapping paper, and the wrapping of gifts. A group of students delivered the gifts and found the experience to be beyond words.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction:

Mrs. Mas provided a written report. She added that ER9 Curriculum Steering Committee would begin meeting in January. Joel Barlow High School teacher Jonathan Budd and Redding Elementary School’s Toni D’Agostino have been invited to be on a teacher committee to combine the existing State Standards with the newly adopted Common Core State Standards. They will be working with a group of select teachers in this effort.

Superintendent: Superintendent Cicchetti reported that Richard Mills of Shipman & Goodwin, LLC gave presentations at staff meetings on guidelines and practices related to student use and to communication with students and parents via email, texting and social network sites. Dr. Cicchetti attended the Barlow War and Remembrance program and was impressed with student questions and how they engaged those veterans sharing their stories.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. Lewis reported that Mrs. Sullivan would provide additional information on the health insurance account at the next meeting. The reports for November for both the Region and Central Office indicated a higher level of claims than the previous months.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Karvelis reported on a meeting with Jodie Orzechowski of CES (Cooperative Educational Services) to discuss communication and the consulting services offered by CES. Mr. Karvelis said the committee’s major focus at the next meeting will be to isolate what the committee will concentrate efforts on.

FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Hocker reported the owner of an abutting property has proposed a property swap with the school. Further information will be provided at the next meeting. He also reported that Mr. McMorran and Mr. Czudak will meet with the Facilities and Fields Committee to discuss the facilities usage fee and cost structure. A review of the structure will provide information as to whether adjustments in fees need to be made. The final report on renovations to Field A was received from Barry Blades of Blades & Goven. While not perfect, Mr. Blades believes the field will function well. He provided some suggestions for in-house improvements. Mr. Santangeli reported that this is the first year in six or seven years that because of the use of an additional field that no offsite transportation was needed for practice during the fall season.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike D'Agostino, Redding: suggested that the budget drivers be provided to the public prior to the start of the budget season.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Lewis noted that the final printed copies of the audit were available. The Management Letter has not been finalized as yet. Regarding budget drivers, Mr. Lewis added that he, along with Mr. Karvelis and Mr. Hocker, were at the Redding joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. Mr. Lewis reported that if there was no change (a 0% increase) in next year's budget, due to the on-going tilt in enrollment there would be an increase of 1.475% for Easton and a decrease of 1.332% for Redding. He itemized budget drivers as teacher salary, health insurance, loss of one-time state/federal funding, a planned increase in the non-certified pension contribution, and additional workman's compensation costs. The transportation contract has not been finalized, so that is an unknown. He estimates the increase in budget related to these drivers would be about 2.7%, without special education increases. In special education, nine students are aging out and three students are entering the school.

Mr. Karvelis reported the Superintendent Search Steering Committee has scheduled a meeting for January 5, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Logie, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday