

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
August 23, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Abrams, Gombos, Hocker, Karvelis, Lewis, Logie, Macchio, Shapiro
Administration: Josefsberg, McMorran, Sullivan, Sheehy, Pin, Santangeli, Czudak, Higgins
Others: seven members of the community, representative of the Daily Easton

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm in JBHS Media Center

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2011 regular meeting as submitted. Karvelis, Shapiro Approved. Unanimous.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Logie welcomed Dr. Josefsberg to the District and his first Region 9 board meeting.

STATUS OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE OPENING OF SCHOOL

Building and Fields: Mr. McMorran reported the building and fields are in good shape and ready for students. Walter Czudak, Building and Grounds Director, reported on the work accomplished over the summer months, including:

- Exterior and interior painting and repair
- New awning for cafeteria windows
- Replacement of a section of the boiler and adjustments to the system that should result in fuel savings
- Upgrade of efficiency of A/C system to add cooling to the cafeteria, kitchen and main lobby
- Grounds: cutting, pruning, weeding, painting of speed bumps, work on basins in driveway
- Lighting: replacement of more fixtures with more efficient units
- Improvements in the air quality in the building
- Tennis courts prepped and ready for coating process when the weather permits
- Field A work continuation to improve the drainage
- Electrical power maintenance was performed over the summer. A report on the condition of electrical power is expected soon. No cause for power problems in the computer labs was found
- Roof, some leaks were identified, with the majority of them being warranty issues. Corrective work is being done.

New Hires and Staff Changes: Mr. McMorran reviewed the staffing changes and new hires. New faculty members include Paige Classey, English; Mavi Gilmore, Spanish; Joseph Gong, Science; Patrick Higgins, Dean of Students and Director of Student Activities; Scott Lee, Physics and Mathematics; Barbie Powell, Social Studies; Thomas Roberts, Special Education. Gail Persico is the Data Processing Manager.

Net savings of this staff changes is estimated to be approximately \$67,000.

Student Enrollment by Grade/Town: Enrollment for the 2011-2012 = 1016 (472 Easton, 544 Redding).

Grade 9, 268 (120 Easton, 148 Redding) 8th graders going to priv. school v. JBHS (22 Easton, 6 Redding)

Grade 10, 253

Grade 11, 249

Grade 12, 246

New Bus Company: Mrs. Sullivan reported the new bus vendor, DATTCO, has moved the operation into the Bethel facility previously used by First Student. About 2/3 of the First Student drivers have been hired by

DATTCO. Work is currently being done to refine, correct and finalize the bus routes. The lease for the 5-year vehicle purchase/lease back agreement has been signed.

AGENDA ADDITION

Motion: move to add an item to the agenda, Discussion and action on admission of an exchange student. Gombos, Karvelis. Approved.Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ADMISSION OF AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

Dr. Josefsberg recommended the admission and placement of an exchange student through the Ayusa Global Youth Exchange Program for the 2011-2012 school year. This is a cultural exchange program, with no expectation of a diploma and the students carry their own medical and accident insurance. The student being considered is from Germany and will be living with a family in Redding.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the exchange student from the Ayusa Global Youth Exchange Program for the 2011-2012 school year as recommended. Gombos, Abrams. Approved.Unanimous.

Heating and Diesel Fuel Contracts: Mrs. Sullivan reported that fuel prices through the consortium should be locked in during September. At this point, she anticipates diesel fuel costs to be higher than budgeted.

REVIEW OF THE 2010-2011 OPERATING BUDGET

Mrs. Sullivan reported the unaudited unexpended balance in the 2010-2011 budget is \$153,613. This balance reflects the \$50,000 approved transfer to the Pension Fund. Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the area of savings and the accounts that came in over budget.

At the Region 9 June meeting, the Board approved the transfer of \$50,000 to the Pension Fund, with the remainder of the unexpended budget be transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund. At that time, the unexpended balance was estimated to be about \$100,000.

The Financial Advisory Committee, in their meeting earlier this evening, reviewed the information and recommended that of the unexpended balance of \$153,613, \$53,613 be transferred to the Capital Reserve Account, and the remainder, \$100,000 be returned to the member towns, subject to final audit. Board members discussion followed.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Financial Advisory Committee, that for the unexpended budget for the 2010-2012 fiscal year, that \$53,613 be transferred to the Capital Reserve Account, and the remainder, \$100,000 subject to final audit, be allocated to the member towns (Easton & Redding) in the appropriate proportion. Gombos, Karvelis. Approved.Unanimous.

BOARD MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2012

The proposed calendar of meetings for 2012 was reviewed. Suggestions for changes were made by board members. A revised schedule of meetings will be prepared for review at the next meeting. The schedule of meetings must be posted with the town clerk of Easton and Redding 30 days prior to the first meeting of the year.

Mr. Logie asked if any of the meetings were planned to be joint meetings with the Easton and Redding boards to minimize the number of night meetings for the three central office administrators.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Head of School: Mr. McMorran reported on curriculum alignment and design work accomplished over the summer. New state legislation requires a school climate plan to deal with bullying and that plan is being

developed to meet the January 1, 2012 deadline. Mr. McMorran also reviewed the report on AP scores for 2005-2011 and the 2011 CAPT Test scores.

Director of Finance & Operation: Mrs. Sullivan reported the District's financial advisor has recommended the refinancing of one of the debt packages. The estimated savings over the length of the debt (through 2026) is \$618,000, with savings for fiscal 2011-2012 of \$189,000. The Financial Advisory Committee requested that this refinancing opportunity be pursued. Region 9 board members were in agreement with the recommendation. Mrs. Sullivan will have additional information for the next meeting.

Mrs. Sullivan also reported that the current premium amount for Worker's Compensation has come in higher than the budgeted amount (estimated additional expense of approximately \$18,000). She added that the Refuse account will be lower than budget as the result of joining with the Town of Redding to hire a new vendor, with an estimated \$10,000 in savings. In addition, there will be a savings in the Transportation account of about \$25,000 as a result of the vehicle lease agreement. The net savings is likely to be absorbed by higher diesel and heating oil costs during the 2011/12 school year.

Superintendent: Dr. Josefsberg reviewed his activities since beginning his work in Easton/Redding. He has had meetings with members of the community, community leaders, parents and board members. In addition to interviews with the local newspapers, he has participated in meetings on contract negotiations, project updates, interview & hiring of new staff, and numerous staff meetings.

The staff convocation planned for Tuesday, August 30, 2011, at 8 am and board members are welcome to attend.

Dr. Shapiro asked about the status of the website change. Dr. Josefsberg reported that the information requested by the Easton and Redding boards will be sent out soon for discussion at their September meetings. Additional information is being gathered and he is hopeful the work on the website change will move forward quickly.

PENSION COMMITTEE

Mr. Karvelis reported the Pension Committee did not meet during the summer months, but will meet in September. Mr. Logie added that the monies just allocated to the pension fund are in the Region 9 account waiting to be transferred to fund administrator for investment. The Committee made the decision in early July, based on economic conditions (assuming a summer retreat from equities), to wait until September to make a determination on how best to allocate fund assets and agree upon specific pension fund investments.

NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Gombos reported the Committee continues to meet with the Joel Barlow Education Association on the certified staff contract, and are nearing completion of the negotiations. The contract for the non-certificated staff has been completed, but not ratified by the staff as yet. Discussions are ongoing.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Karvelis reported a meeting will be scheduled for September.

FACILITIES AND FIELDS

Mr. Hocker noted that a report on the condition of the stadium facility is expected to be complete soon. There is interest in the community for stadium improvements. He added that the Committee will review the Capital Plan that is currently in place.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike D'Agostino, Redding: Mr. D'Agostino, on behalf of parents and community, welcomed Dr. Josefsberg. He questioned the need for changes in bus routes each year, commented that Mrs. Sullivan continually tracks medical

insurance costs over the year and he is confident the amount budgeted is appropriate, and questioned how the money returned to the towns would be used. He also urged follow-up on the building project reimbursement from the state.

Alice Smith, Redding: Mrs. Smith welcomed Dr. Josefsberg to the District.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Logie asked if future meetings would be videotaped. Mr. Lewis stated that this meeting was considered a summer meeting, and that the videographer would be back for the September meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Logie, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday