

Easton, Redding & Region 9 Boards of Education  
Tri-Board Special Meeting  
January 24, 2012  
Minutes

Attendance:

Easton Board of Education: Bobroske, Dunsby, Parker, Peskay, Underberger. Absent: Maiorano

Redding Board of Education: Ajavananda, D'Agostino, Gaspar, Goldberg, Irwin. Absent: Barickman, Miller

Region 9 Board of Education: Colangelo, Gombos, Hancock, Hocker, Johnston, Karvelis, Lewis, Macchio

Administration: Josefsberg, Sullivan, McPadden

Others: nine members of the community and staff, and representative of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier

Chairman of the Redding Board of Education, Jess Gaspar, opened the meeting of the Tri-board meeting in the Media Center of the Joel Barlow High School.

Mrs. Gombos 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 Easton Board of Education accept the minutes of the June 6, 2011 meeting as submitted. Dunsby, Bobroske. Approved. 3-0-2. Bobroske and Parker abstained.**

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the minutes of the June 6, 2011 meeting as submitted. Irwin, D'Agostino. Approved. 1-0-4. Ajavananda, D'Agostino, Goldberg and Irwin abstained.**

**Motion; move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the minutes of the June 6, 2011 meeting as submitted. Macchio, Lewis. Approved. 2-0-6. Colangelo, Hancock, Hocker, Johnston, Karvelis and Macchio abstained.**

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Each of the board members introduced themselves.

SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE PLAN

As required by State Statute, each school in Connecticut is required to have a Safe School Climate Plan in place. The draft of the plan for the Easton, Redding and Region 9 schools was submitted to the State as required on December 15, 2011, subject to review and further edits by the boards of education. A Safe School Climate Committee, headed by Gina Pin (ER9 Safe School Climate Coordinator), was formed to prepare the plan. Members of the committee include the Safe School Specialist at each of the schools and Central Office. These are: Kathy Burke (Helen Keller Middle School), Cheryl Mammen (Samuel Staples Elementary School), Darlene Wallin (John Read Middle School), Carrie Wessman Huber (Redding Elementary School), Patrick Higgins (Joel Barlow High School), and Laura Ponzio (Central Office).

Ms. Pin provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Safe School Climate Plan. Members of the Committee were present and contributed to the presentation. Discussion followed the presentation. No formal action was taken on the approval of the Plan at this time. Board members were asked to review the document for further discussion at their individual board meetings.

CENTRAL OFFICE 2012-2013 BUDGET

The proposed Central Office budget for 2012-2013, with a 1.58% increase over the current year budget, was presented for discussion. Dr. Josefsberg noted that he was recommending a salary increase for staff of 1% with two exceptions. He recommended a 5% total compensation increase for the Director of Finance and a 6%

increase for the Human Resources Coordinator; both increases are based on the amount of work involved and take into consideration compensation for similar positions in the DRG.

Mrs. Sullivan noted that Health Insurance Claims for Central Office have been \$7,000/month, just below the budget, so there is no increase in that budget line item. The Pension Fund is currently funded at 89.9% and the budget includes the recommended pension contribution.

Discussion of various components of the budget followed.

**Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education amend the agenda to allow a public comment at this point. Gombos, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education amend the agenda to allow a public comment at this point. Goldberg, Ajavananda. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education amend the agenda to allow a public comment at this point. Peskay, Parker. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Manusky, Easton: Mrs. Manusky expressed her concern about the need for improvement in curriculum. She specifically noted the need for a better math curriculum in the lower grades, as well as improvements needed in other areas. She was hopeful the boards of education would consider curriculum improvement in the future.

Jeanne Wendschuh, Redding: Mrs. Wendschuh encouraged support for the full funding of the pension program.

Vote on Budget:

**Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the Central Office budget for fiscal 2012-2013 as proposed. Macchio, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion; move that the Redding Board of Education accept the Central Office budget for fiscal 2012-2013 as proposed. Ajavananda, Goldberg. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the Central Office budget for fiscal 2012-2013 as proposed. Parker, Peskay. Approved. Unanimous.**

**The 2012-2013 Central Office budget was approved.**

#### DISCUSSION OF POLICY 5112(a) AGES OF ATTENDANCE

This policy, reflecting statutory changes, was presented to the boards for a first reading. Since the policy covers children from ages 5 to 17, the policy is an ER9 policy and was brought to the Tri-Board meeting for discussion and approval. Each board will approve the policy for a second and final reading at their regular meetings.

One modification to the policy was suggested. Mr. Karvelis asked that ER9 be shown as Easton Redding Region 9, and that references to "district" be changed to "districts".

**Move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept Policy 5112(a) Ages of Attendance for a first reading. Karvelis, Macchio. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Move that the Redding Board of Education accept Policy 5112(a) Ages of Attendance for a first reading. Goldberg, Ajavananda. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Move that the Easton Board of Education accept Policy 5112(a) Ages of Attendance for a first reading. Peskay, Parker. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE REPORT FROM THE STRUCTURE AND WAYS OF WORKING COMMITTEE

Dr. Gaspar summarized the work of the Structure and Ways of Working Committee and presented recommendations endorsed by the Committee. Committee members reviewed the various recommendations. It was noted that recommendations of the Pitkoff report not endorsed by the committee does not necessarily mean rejection, but may mean that the recommendations were determined not to be valuable or applicable at this time.

Recommendations included:

- Coordination of schedules of K-8 schools in Easton and Redding by the start of 2012-2013 school year. Dr. Josefsberg indicated he intended to discuss a change in school scheduling at the Redding Board of Education meeting next month.
- Coordination of schedules for K-12 professional development initiatives.
- Creation of K-12 Board Committee for Curriculum, with twice-yearly joint meetings
- Creation of a shared board Technology Committee
- Restructuring of Special Education administrator positions to allow for a K-12 Special Education administrator.
- Use of technology for teleconferencing of some meetings (already being implemented)
- Conduct board retreats
- Development of protocols for joint meetings
- 11 pm curfew for board and committee meetings
- Monthly meetings of Superintendent and three board chairs
- Streamline flow of substantive requests from board members to staff

Discussion followed.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education encourage the administration to pursue the recommendations of Structure and Ways of Working Committee, and bring recommendations back to the boards for discussion and approval. Gaspar, Goldberg. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education encourage the administration to pursue the recommendations of Structure and Ways of Working Committee, and bring recommendations back to the boards for discussion and approval. Peskay, Underberger. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education encourage the administration to pursue the recommendations of Structure and Ways of Working Committee, and bring recommendations back to the boards for discussion and approval. Hancock, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeanne Wendschuh, Redding: Mrs. Wendschuh thanked the boards for their thorough and serious conversation around the Safe School Plan.

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Underberger asked if the future Tri-Board meetings for discussion and approval of the Central Office budget could be moved out a month to allow the member boards additional time to review and finalize their individual budgets. Mr. Goldberg responded that the Central Office budget is a separate part of the individual board budgets. Setting the Central Office budget prior to finalizing the individual budget proposals assures that adjustments to the budget cannot be made by individual boards. Mrs. Gombos added that if all three districts do not pass their budgets on the first try, the boards could jointly revisit the Central Office budget. Mrs. Sullivan noted that the budgets are required to be submitted to the towns of Easton and Redding in mid-February.

Dr. Gaspar asked that board chairs appoint a member to the Calendar Committee for consideration of the school calendar for the 2012-2013 school year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

**Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Lewis, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mike D'Agostino, Redding Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday