

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 19, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Colangelo, Gombos, Hancock, Hocker, Johnston, Karvelis, Lewis, Macchio

Administration: Josefsberg, McMorran, McPadden, Sullivan, Sheehy, Pin, Santangeli, Roszko

Student Representative: None.

Others: eight members of the community and staff, a representative of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier, and the videographer

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in JBHS Media Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2011 meeting as submitted. Karvelis, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

STUDENT COMMENT

Student representative was not present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Bonfanti, Umpawaug Road, Redding – As this is Mark Lewis' last night as Chair of the Board of Education, congratulated Mr. Lewis on his outstanding term in that position. Also wished him continued success in his next two years as a member of the Board.

James Lang, Barlow Drive, Redding – Also congratulated Mark Lewis on his term as Chairperson of the Board and stated that he has been extremely impressed with Mark's organizational and communication skills.

Mr. Logie, Hickory Knoll Drive, Easton – Also congratulated Mark Lewis on his outstanding job as Chair of the Board of Education.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

The written ballots are available for review for 48 hours.

Motion: move to nominate Cathy Gombos as Chairperson of the Board. Lewis, Colangelo. Approved. Unanimous. Vote: all 8 in favor.

At this point in the meeting, Mrs. Gombos assumed her role as newly elected Chairperson.

Motion: move to nominate Mark Lewis as Vice Chairperson of the Board. Karvelis, Macchio. Approved. Unanimous. Vote: all 8 in favor.

Motion: move to nominate Todd Johnston as Secretary of the Board. Colangelo, Hancock. Approved. Unanimous. Vote: all 8 in favor.

Motion: move to nominate Chris Hocker as Treasurer. Macchio, Karvelis. Approved. Unanimous. Vote: all 8 in favor.

REPORT ON PROFESSIONAL TEAMWORK AND BUILDING GOALS

Dr. Tom McMorran gave this presentation which included the JBHS Value Statement developed November 1, 2011 as follows: *We, the community of Joel Barlow High School, believe in a rigorous, dynamic education that respects the diversity of student aspirations. Through an open and active exchange of ideas, we seek to promote values, knowledge, and skills that foster meaningful inquiry, personal integrity, individual well-being, global citizenship and continuous independent learning.*

Goals relative to students and teaching, support staff and the leadership team were presented. Four integrated professional development strands were also presented and discussed: inquiry-based teaching and learning, literacy across the disciplines, scientific research-based intervention, and technology applications.

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Dr. Josefsberg distributed Peter Prowda's enrollment report, *Joel Barlow High School Enrollment Projected to 2021*. Dr. Prowda states in his report *this is an incredibly difficult time to predict future enrollment. A high unemployment rate, economic doldrums and mortgage foreclosures all make conditions today different than a few years ago.* The report projects that enrollment will peak at 1,050 students in 2013 and predicts a 24% decline in enrollment by the year 2021.

SECOND READING OF POLICIES

Motion: move to table to next meeting the second reading of policy 5125 Student Records, Confidentiality. Karvelis, Colangelo. Unanimous.

Suggested changes will be sent to Mr. Macchio who chairs the Board's Policy Committee. Mr. Hancock commented that the definition of "student records" should be clarified.

Motion: move to accept second reading of policy 5131.21 – Aggression and Violent Behavior with amendment to reference only Region 9 Board of Education. Karvelis, Colangelo. Unanimous.

Mr. Karvelis stated that he felt it was inappropriate to vote on something that incorporates language referring to the other two districts; that this Board does not have the authority to approve something that names the other two Boards. Mrs. Gombos agreed. Mr. Hocker stated that in policies where the language is common for all three districts, he felt it was fine to keep it as is – referencing ER9 rather than the individual boards. He said that it is a good idea to present the three boards as unified where possible. Mrs. Gombos stated that if the policy language is exactly the same for all three Boards, then the Boards are listed separately at the bottom of each policy along with each Boards policy approval date.

Motion: move to accept second reading of policy 5144.1 – Restraint and Seclusion with amendment to reference only Region 9 Board of Education. Karvelis, Hancock. 7 approved, 1 opposed (Hocker). Mr. Hocker stated that he has no problem with the policy but is opposing to indicate that he actually prefers the joint reference to all three Boards.

FIRST READING OF POLICIES:

- A. 1316.1 Community Relations
- B. 4112.5 Fingerprinting
- C. 6141.321 Acceptable Use in School of the Internet, Other Networks and Information and Communication Technologies

Motion: Accept all policies for first reading subject to review with suggested changes emailed to Mr. Macchio: Policy 1316.1 – Community Relations; policy 4112.5, Fingerprinting; Policy 6141.321 – Acceptable Use in School of the Internet, Other Networks and Information and Communication Technologies. Karvelis, Colangelo. Unanimous.

Suggested changes will be sent to Mr. Macchio who chairs the Board's Policy Committee.

Mr. Lewis questioned the fingerprinting policy. Dr. Josefsberg responded that it is expanded to include that all volunteers other than parents who currently have children enrolled in the school will have to be fingerprinted.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Head of School: Dr. McMorran invited everyone to the Holiday Sing Along Wednesday. He also provided a written report on the National Honor Society and Career Day. He also commented that the Barlow administrators have logged in excess of 2,000 minutes of classroom observations in ten-minute increments over the last month.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Ms. McPadden reported on the ER9 Curriculum Alignment Steering Committee's work. She noted that JBHS teachers, Katherine Nuzzo and Beth Sugden attended a professional development opportunity in science in December along with teachers from Easton and Redding and herself. Mary Ann Sheehy attended a conference by Dr. Robert Marzano in December focused on research related to teacher evaluation systems. Scott Gang, Paula Panos and Gina Pin were trained to participate in future curriculum evaluation visits at other member districts of the Tri-State Consortium. Ms. McPadden reported that she has been visiting Barlow classrooms.

Director of Finance and Operations: Peggy Sullivan reported that health insurance claims were double what was anticipated. All other expenses were as expected.

Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Josefsberg discussed the concept of what we do to inspire students to work harder. He commended Gina Pin and her committee for their hard work in developing a first-rate ER9 Safe School Climate Plan which was state mandated. The draft of the report was submitted to the Board members. Dr. Josefsberg thanked Mr. Lewis for his leadership of the Board and his assistance in his induction. He also stated that he looked forward to continued guidance from the new Chair.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Hocker reported that the committee met briefly just prior to the regular Board meeting. Reviewed same information already reported by Peggy Sullivan. Next meeting will include a pre-budgetary summary especially for the benefit of the new Board members.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Mr. Lewis reported that there are three requests from administration for courses to be added to the Program of Studies:

**Motion: move to add to the Program of Studies a Freshman Year Humanities Course.
Lewis, Hocker. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move to add to the Program of Studies an un-weighted junior American literature and U.S. history course called American Studies.
Lewis, Hocker. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move to add to the Program of Studies, Principles and Applications of Electronics course for all grades.
Lewis, Hocker. Unanimous.**

The committee will also be reviewing three textbook requests: a new Honors Biology book, a new AP Statistics book, and a new Honors/Advanced Algebra II book.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Karvelis reported that the committee's December meeting was canceled.

PENSION COMMITTEE

Mr. Karvelis reported that the committee would meet in January.

POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Macchio reported that the committee has met and has many policies to review and bring forward for approval.

Mrs. Gombos distributed the current committee list and asked Board members to let her know what their interests are in serving on the committees by January 5th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike D'Agostino, Glen Hill Road, Redding: Also acknowledged the hard work of Mr. Lewis as Chairperson of the Board. He further commented on the enrollment report and its impact on future staffing.

Jennifer Broadbin, Staples Road, Easton: Commented on the curriculum report. Would like to know the timeline for the curriculum work and assessment of when the work is done. She also commented on the discrepancy in the class sizes for Easton schools and the Redding schools. She asked about expanding the World Languages program to begin in kindergarten.

Mrs. Gombos recommended that Mrs. Broadbin spend time with Dr. McMorran and/or Ms. McPadden to talk about what happens to students as they enter Barlow and move through the grades and how we can't tell the difference between the students from Easton and Redding as they meld here at the high school.

BOARD COMMENT:

Mr. Lewis congratulated Mrs. Gombos on becoming the new Chair.

Mrs. Gombos introduced and welcomed the three new Board members to the Region 9 Board: Carolyn Colangelo, Vance Hancock and Todd Johnston.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: move to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Macchio, Karvelis. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd Johnston, Board Secretary

Recorded by Vicki Cram.