

ER9 STRUCTURE AND WAYS OF WORKING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2011—7:30 pm

ER9 Offices, 654 Morehouse Road, Easton

Attendance: Dr. Josefsberg, Jess Gaspar (Redding), Kimberly Ajavananda (Redding), Cathy Gombos (Region 9), Vida Peskay (Easton), Chris Hocker (Region 9), Adam Dunsby (Easton); three members of the public.

1. Call to Order:

Dr. Josefsberg called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

2. Committee Member Comments:

None

3. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the November 7, 2011 were approved unanimously (Dunsby, Peskay).

4. Review of Recommendations of Dr. Evan Pitkoff's Report:

In his 2011 report on ER9 structure, Dr. Pitkoff had made several specific recommendations. These were reviewed and discussed by the committee, with consensus recommendations, as follows:

K-12 Alignment:

- Coordinate schedules of K-8 schools in Easton and Redding by start of the 2012-13 school year – APPROVE
- Coordinate schedules for K-12 professional development initiatives – APPROVE
- Create K-12 Board Committee for Curriculum – APPROVE as modified, to hold twice-yearly joint meetings of all three district board Curriculum Committees
- Create a shared board Technology Committee – APPROVE
- Modify job responsibilities of 9-12 subject chairs to include grades 7-8: DEFER to discussion at a June 2012 Tri-Board meeting, as this concept is currently evolving
- Hire an Easton Literacy Specialist: REJECT as not applicable given current staffing
- Restructure Special Ed administrator positions to allow for a K-12 Special Ed administrator – APPROVE

Central Office Workload:

- Create positions of HR Administrator and HR Coordinator – REJECT as overly prescriptive
- Consolidate unions across three districts – REJECT as not feasible

- Consolidate health plans via collective bargaining – REJECT as more properly an HR issue rather than a labor issue
- Develop a “Joint Board” Policy Manual – REJECT as not valuable
- Maintain log of board requests for information from Central Office – REJECT as not valuable
- Review specific recommendations of 2005 and 2006 reports relating to streamlining workload – DEFER discussion to the next SWW Committee meeting in January, 2012
- Use technology for teleconferencing for some meetings – APPROVE as already being implemented

#### Relationships Among Boards:

- Conduct board retreats – APPROVE in concept with timeline to be developed
- Develop protocols for joint meetings – APPROVE in concept with timeline to be developed

The next meeting of the committee was set for January 9, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

#### 5. Public Comments:

- Tom Logie (Easton) noted the desirability of jointly considering curriculum and technology issues in light of impending state “high school reform” requirements
- Anne Manusky (Easton) favors the creation of a board Curriculum Committee in Easton and would like to see improvement in this area as a tri-district “system”.

#### 6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

*Minutes prepared by Chris Hocker*