

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 3, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Gombos, Hocker, Lewis, Logie, Neidenbach, Pemberton, Poltrack, Stone
Administration: Fossbender, Sullivan, McMorran, Haig
Members of FOC: DeSalvo, Gold, Karvelis, Lewis, Gombos, Poltrack
Others: seven members of the community
Media: Redding Pilot

Mr. Stone called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maureen Brozdowski, Easton: addressed the board with concerns about scheduling conflicts for seniors with requests for AP English and AP Calculus.

Doug Bilinski: also expressed a concern about the scheduling conflicts with AP courses.

Pat Bilinski: concerned that her child will not be able to take as many AP courses as she would like because of scheduling.

Mr. McMorran and Dr. Fossbender responded to the concerns that the administration is working toward a resolution of the scheduling issues.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION: SURVEY OF NINTH GRADE STUDENTS PERTAINING TO LIBRARY RESEARCH SKILLS

Dr. Fossbender has reviewed the survey and recommended approval of a survey of ninth grade students by a graduate student, under the supervision of Mr. McMorran.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education allow a survey of ninth grade students pertaining to library research skills under the supervision of Mr. McMorran. Gombos, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL BUDGET

Mrs. Sullivan reported that fuel prices will be higher than the \$2.75 per gallon used to formulate the budget. The consortium (made up of many CT schools and municipalities) has not locked in a price and will not do so until after August. The administration is working toward finding cost savings in the budget to cover the higher fuel costs.

The following are under consideration:

1. Reduction of one bus route for each school.
2. Potential of reduction of contribution to the pension fund for non-certified staff
3. Reduction or elimination of transfer of \$20,000 to the capital reserve fund.
4. Special Education bus transportation savings by using an alternate vendor.

5. Savings as a result of retirements and resignations.

The administration provided a listing of potential reductions that would reduce the total budget by \$50,000. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made to increase the cost of student parking.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education keep the student parking fee at \$150.00 for the next fiscal year. Logie, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

Mrs. Gombos questioned whether reductions in athletic programs were considered by the administration. There was further discussion on the amount of the budget reduction. It was noted that as both the Easton and Redding budgets were approved, and those budgets included the defeated Barlow budget. Any reduction in the Barlow budget for the third referendum will not impact the mill rate or amount of taxes the residents of the towns will pay.

The Financial Oversight Committee took action during the meeting to recommend to the Board of Education a budget reduction of \$50,000.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education reduce the 2008-2009 operating budget by \$50,000, bring the total budget to \$20,230,046. Poltrack, Logie.

Discussion of the motion followed. Mr. Lewis felt the budget reduction should only be \$35,000.

Amendment to the Motion: that the reduction be \$35,000. Lewis, Gombos.

Discussion followed. **The amendment to the motion was withdrawn.**

Vote on the motion: Motion failed, 2.89 to 5.11. Voting for: Poltrack, Stone, Logie. Voting against: Gombos, Neidenbach, Lewis, Pemberton, Hocker.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education reduce the 2008-2009 operating budget by \$35,000, bring the budget to \$20,245,046. Poltrack, Lewis. Approved. 5.11 to 2.89. Voting for: Gombos, Neidenbach, Lewis, Pemberton, Hocker; voting against: Poltrack, Logie, Stone.

Dr. Fossbender and Mrs. Sullivan left the meeting at 7:30 pm to go the Redding Board of Education meeting.

Motion: Direct the administration to report to the Board the list of identified reductions of \$35,000 to the 2008-09 budget within one week. Pemberton, Gombos. Approved. 5.11 to 2.89. Voting for: Gombos, Neidenbach, Lewis, Pemberton, Hocker; voting against: Poltrack, Logie, Stone.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DATE FOR REFERENDUM

Motion: Propose the referendum date of June 17, 2008. Logie, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Grant Montserrat, Easton: Questioned the percentage increase for the newly proposed budget. Mr. Poltrack responded: Overall increase is 4.37%, Easton's increase is 7.86%, Redding's increase is 2.16%.

Eric Andrews: commented on the funding for the boys' swim team.

Laura Gibney: commented on the funding for the boys' swim team.

Mary Pat Cieri: asked question regarding line item transfers, particularly between different athletic teams.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn. Neidenbach, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gombos, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday