

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 14, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Gombos, Hocker, Lewis, Logie, Neidenbach, Poltrack, Stone
Administration: Fossbender, Mas, McMorran,

Mr. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion: move to recess to executive session for personnel issue. Poltrack, Gombos.
Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting recessed at 7:11 pm. Dr. Fossbender, Mrs. Mas and Mr. McMorran and a candidate for assistant principal were invited to be present.

The candidate for assistant principal left the meeting at 8:04pm.

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:18 pm

A short break was taken from 8:18 pm to 8:30 pm.

Mr. Stone called the meeting back to order at 8:30 pm.

Mr. Poltrack called the Financial Oversight Committee meeting to order at 8:30 pm.

Present: In addition to those listed above, Mrs. Sullivan and Mrs. Haig were present.

FOC members: Cable, DeSalvo, Karvelis, Gombos, Poltrack

Others: six members of the community

Media: Easton Courier/Redding Pilot

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Gibney, Redding: requested continual support for the Boys' Swim team. He noted the participation has grown from 12 to 24, and allows participation by girls.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL BUDGET

Following the defeat of the budget referendum, the Town of Redding requested reductions in the Region #9 operating budget of approximately 1%. The administration presented a series of reductions totaling \$201,224. The reductions included:

Paraprofessional for Academic Lab, \$36,178

Technology upgrade, \$24,000

Savings from Social Studies Hires, \$23,091

PowerSchool software, \$21,500

Savings in Interest Expense, \$52,440

Indoor Track, \$11,250

Boys' Swim Team, \$10,522

Savings from One-Year Leave of Absence, \$8,587
Reduction in Central Office, \$6,693
Property & Liability Insurance, \$4,963
Reductions in Building & Grounds, \$2,000

Each of the items were reviewed and discussed. The reduction represents a budget increase for Easton of 8.05% and for Redding, 2.33%.

The FOC made a recommendation to the Region #9 Board of Education to accept the revised proposed budget of \$20,280,046.

Board members discussed approval of the budget with the understanding that the reductions, specifically the reduction in the paraprofessional for the Academic Lab, the Swim Team, and Indoor Track Team, be reviewed and alternative reductions sought.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education adopt a revised operating budget for fiscal 2008-2009 of \$20,280,046, with Easton's share being \$9,409,948 and Redding's share \$10,870,098. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE MASTER PLAN

Mr. Poltrack suggested that, in light of the overwhelming defeat of the funding request, that action on the athletic fields be deferred to a later date. Board members discussed the safety aspects of the stadium stands, and requested an assessment of their condition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Grant Montserrat, Easton: questioned when the information on the savings on the interest expense, Leave of Absence, reduction in Central Office expenses and reduction in Property & Liability insurance became known. Mrs. Sullivan reported that the information on interest expense became known on the date of the note sale, which was after the budget, and question for the referendum on May 6, 2008, was set and the central office reductions and insurance reductions were achieved following the defeat of the budget on May 6, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Move to adjourn: Logie. Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gombos, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday