

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 22, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Gombos, Hocker, Lewis, Logie, Neidenbach, Pemberton, Poltrack, Stone

Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, McMorrان, Craw, Haig

Student Council Representative: Glynn

Others: three members of the community

Media: Redding Pilot/Easton Courier

Mr. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2008 meeting as submitted.

Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2008 meeting as submitted.

Pemberton, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2008 meeting as corrected. Poltrack, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

Correction, page 1, paragraph 1, line 2, delete word "so".

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2008 Public Hearing as submitted.

Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2008 Special Public Hearing as submitted. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2008 meeting as submitted.

Gombos, Hocker. Approved. Unanimous.

STUDENT REPORT

Student Council Representative, Cary Glynn, reported on the planned Student Council panel discussion. The forum will provide students with an opportunity to have a variety of questions answered and discussed. Cary, along with the Student Council President and Vice President attended a Student Council Summit at Wilton High School.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Stone thanked Mr. McMorrان for responding to the parents of members of the Lacrosse team and resolving issues.

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

The referendum vote on the Region #9 Joel Barlow High School will be held on May 6, 2008. A second question will also be on the ballot; the request for funding of up to \$375,000, which includes a 25% contingency, for the purpose of obtaining design, engineering, permits, cost estimations and preparation of construction bid documents for athletic fields improvements.

FIRST READING OF POLICIES

The following policies were accepted for a first reading:

- 1411 Law Enforcement Agencies
- 3524.1 Hazardous Material in Schools
- 4152.6 Family and Medical Leave of Absence
- 5114 Student Discipline and Due Process

The policies have been reviewed by the Policy Committee and are currently being reviewed by board counsel.

PTSA REQUEST

The Joel Barlow PTSA submitted a request for financial assistance with custodial costs for the Post Prom party. The Board of Education has supported the event in this way for many years.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the request for financial assistance for custodial costs in connection with the Post Prom party on May 16 & 17, 2008. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

RECONFIGURATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Mr. McMorran presented a reconfiguration of the administrative positions for the school. The June retirement of Sue Haig, Assistant Principal of Operations and Student Personnel, prompted a review and restructuring of duties of the administrative team.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Fossbender reported on the following:

- Position paper of the Southern Fairfield County Superintendents' Association on Educational Issues and Concerns Surrounding Special Education, March 2008.
- Report on contract settlement updates from CAFE
- Participation in the search process for the Executive Director of the Tri-State Consortium
- Participation on the Connecticut Association of Superintendents' preliminary draft on high school reform

Mrs. Mas reported the Wellness Committee will participate in the Family University night on May 19, providing copies of the Wellness Policy and healthy snacks. She, along with Stephanie Pierson (RES Principal) and Mr. McMorran attended a Leadership Conference.

Mrs. Sullivan distributed copies of the Food Service flyer and noted the increase in the healthier type A meals being served in the school. Short-term notes were recently rolled over at a 1.65% rate. The Health Insurance claims for March were \$130,000, and the reserve fund is at a comfortable level. A review of the current expenses, particularly those related to electric, oil, gas, showed an increase over what is budgeted. Mrs. Sullivan directed all staff curtail discretionary spending at the high school.

Mr. McMorran provided a listing of schools, as of April 22, 2008, that Barlow graduates will be attending in the fall. In Noteworthy News, he highlighted the achievement of 47 students who demonstrated outstanding writing ability, scoring a 5 or better on the Junior Writing Portfolio. The boys' Ice Hockey team won the South-West Conference Sportsmanship Award for Ice Hockey. The Barlow Palooza is planned for May 29. This event showcases and celebrates students and what they have accomplished both inside and outside the classroom.

CAPITAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Neidenbach reported the roofing consultant would have a draft report ready by May 2, and the preliminary date for the beginning of work on the roof is June 17, 2008.

AGENDA ADDITION

Motion: move to add to the agenda a discussion of pending litigation for executive session. Gombos. Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to recess to executive session for discussion of pending litigation and personnel issue re request for extended leave of absence and modified teaching assignment. Hocker, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Fossbender, Mr. McMorran, Mrs. Mas and Mrs. Haig were invited to be present.

The meeting recessed at 8:17 pm

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:39 pm.

Motion: move to permit Beth Bailey to continue part time employment at Joel Barlow High School for the 2008-2009 school year. Gombos. Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move to approve the request for extended unpaid leave of absence for Carrie Benedetto for the 2008-2009 school year. Gombos. Neidenbach. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn. Lewis. Hocker. Approved. Unanimous.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gombos, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday