

REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 27, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Gombos, Hocker, Lewis, Logie, Neidenbach, Pemberton, Poltrack, Stone
Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, McMorran, Craw
Student Council Representative: Glynn
Others: eight members of the community
Media: Redding Pilot

Mr. Stone called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting as submitted. Gombos, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2008 meeting as submitted. Pemberton, Lewis. Approved. 3.88 – 0- 4.22. Pemberton, Poltrack, Hocker & Logie abstained.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2008 as submitted. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous. Pemberton abstained.

STUDENT REPORT

Student Council Representative, Cary Glynn, reported on the upcoming Barlow Palooza and invited board members to attend. He thanked the faculty members who participated in the Student Council panel discussion. This was Mr. Glynn's last meeting and he introduced the Student Council representative for the next year, Hailey Murphy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hans van Oostendorp, Redding: question regarding status of the field issues. Mr. Stone responded that the consensus of the board was to get the operating budget approved, and review the fields issue at a later date.

AGENDA ADDITION

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

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Gombos thanked Mr. McMorran and Guidance Counselor Paula Panos for their assistance in helping Easton students following the death of one of their classmates.

Mr. Stone congratulated Mr. Craw on his new position as Principal of the Weston Middle School.

Mr. Poltrack asked for a moment of silence in memory of Robert Letkowski who died recently.

FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE: MODIFICATION OF CHARGE

Dr. Fossbender recommended the charge for the Facilities and Fields Committee be expanded to include issues of use and maintenance of the playing fields, by in-district and outside groups.

Mrs. Gombos noted that some policies would also need to be changed to reflect any changes made. He suggested the school administration prepare a draft revision of the charge and related policies, meet with the Facilities and Fields Committee and the Policy committee to discuss the revisions which would then be sent to the full board for review, discussion, and vote.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION: HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under their jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education will meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all items and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored. Lewis, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

FIRST READING OF POLICY

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education accept the Policy 1332, Program Accessibility in Schools/Facilities for a first reading. Pemberton, Neidenbach. Approved. Unanimous.

SECOND READING OF POLICIES

Policy 1411 Law Enforcement Agencies was deferred pending further review and editing.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education accept Policy 3524.1 Hazardous Material in Schools, as modified, for a second and final reading. Hocker, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education accept 4152.6 Family and Medical Leave of Absence for a second and final reading. Gombos, Neidenbach. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education accept 5114 Student Discipline and Due Process for a second and final reading. Neidenbach, Pemberton. Approved. 6-2. Poltrack and Gombos opposed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. Fossbender provided a copy of a letter from the Commissioner of Education on high school design, an update on contract settlement, and an article on the importance of improving science education in the United States. He added that the administration has not identified specific items for reduction, but would have a recommendation at the next meeting.

Mrs. Mas reported the Wellness Committee participated in the Family University night on May 19, providing copies of the Wellness Policy and healthy snacks. She also reported on Tri-State Consortium visitations.

Mr. McMorrان announced the CIAC officially awarded the JBHS ice hockey team a good sportsmanship award in recognition of not receiving any major penalties during the past three seasons. French teacher, Peggy Nocturne, was honored for her excellence in teaching of French language and culture, and for promoting harmonious relationships between the French and American people. His report also included student achievements and awards.

Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the Object Summary and noted that most accounts are tracking as expected. The health insurance claims for the month of April were lower than the March claims, and are averaging \$130,000/month for the year.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Mr. Poltrack reported the FOC recommended approval of an invoice for work on the bid specifications by the roofing consultant and the reappointment of the auditor firm.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the invoice from Bruce P. Darling, for \$9,501.18 for work on the bid specifications for the roof repair as recommended by the FOC. Poltrack, Neidenbach. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education reappoint the firm of Bloom Shapiro & Co. for the year ending June 30, 2008, with the expectation that the audit will be completed by September 30, 2008, as recommended by the FOC. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

Mr. Poltrack reported that the FOC also discussed the cost of oil and the projected amount of \$2.75 per gallon that was used to formulate the proposed budget. Mrs. Gombos added that the FOC members were asked to review the current certified teachers' contract and provide financial input to the Negotiation Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to recess to executive session for discussion of negotiation. Gombos, Hocker. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Fossbender, Mr. McMorrان, Mrs. Mas, Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Craw were invited to be present.

The meeting recessed at 8:20 pm

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:29 pm

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Gombos, Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday