

Joint Meeting of the Financial Oversight Committee  
and Region 9 Board of Education  
May 14, 2008

*Filed subject to approval*

Attendance: Poltrack, Lewis, Karvelis, Gombos, DeSalvo, Cable

Also in attendance: Fossbender, Sullivan, McMorran

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

Mr. Karvelis motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Lewis seconded this motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment – Mr. Gibney expressed his concern about the administration's support for the Joel Barlow swim team.

2008-2008 School Budget – Mr. Poltrack handed out a sheet that listed the budget cuts agreed upon with the administration and Dr. Fossbender. Mr. DeSalvo expressed concern that the proposed budget cuts will increase future flexibility and risk. Mr. Karvelis questioned if the administration has identified any contingencies if the second referendum fails. Dr. Fossbender said there has been considerable dialogue, but at this point the further cuts beyond \$200,000 or approximately 1% of the budget would be a sensitive issue.

Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. McMorran discussed the budget cuts. The paraprofessional (\$36,178) for the academic lab was a restoration that was cut several years ago. Faculty will continue their duties in the lab. Some computers (\$24,000) will not be replaced. There will be savings from the social studies hires (\$23,091), and the purchase of PowerSchool (\$21,500) has been cut from the budget. Mrs. Gombos said that this software has been taken out of the budget for the past ten years and that the District should reconsider its position on this improvement. Dr. Fossbender said that it is possible that the Redding School System will be purchasing PowerSchool this year. If they do, it can be used as a pilot program. There were savings on interest expense (\$52,440). Mr. McMorran discussed the cuts in support of Indoor Track (\$11,250) and the Boys Swim Team (\$10,522). Mr. Lewis suggested that capital items such as the treadmill and the cross trainer could be cut or purchased through the Capital Reserve Fund instead of the proposed operating budget. Money from this cut could be used to increase the funding of the sports teams. Mr. McMorran will contact Mrs. Goodpaster for input before a decision is made. There were savings from the one year leave of absence because a less costly replacement was found (\$8,587). Miscellaneous cuts were made in the Central Office expenditures (\$6,693). Aggressive negotiations lowered the insurance premiums (\$4,963). A prudent adjustment (\$2,000) was made in the Building and Grounds account. The total proposed reductions totaled \$201,224 which made the budget increase 4.91%. This makes the Easton proportion of the increase 8.05% versus 9.12%, and the Redding

proportion 2.33% versus 3.35%. Mr. Karvelis motioned to put the new budget forth to a second referendum. Mr. DeSalvo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Master Plan – Mr. Poltrack said that based on the last referendum vote, action on the facilities and field has been deferred to a later date. Dr. Fossbender suggested that conversations begin again in the fall on the facilities and fields.

Public Comment – Mr. Monsarrat asked when the cuts for the proposed second budget referendum were discovered. He also asked if there was a separate line item for the insurance reserve.

Board Member Comment – Mr. Karvelis was concerned about safety liabilities relating to the current stadium. Mrs. Sullivan stated that both the inspector and the insurance carriers were onsite in the fall 2006 and the stadium was considered safe. Mr. Karvelis suggested that the safety inspector revisit the stadium in the near future.

Mr. Lewis moved to adjourn the FOC at 9:43 pm. Mr. DeSalvo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Cable, Secretary