

Financial Oversight Committee of the Region 9 Board of Education
May 27, 2008

Filed subject to approval

Attendance: Poltrack, Gold, Gombos, DeSalvo, Lewis and Cable
Also in attendance: Fossbender and Sullivan

Mr. Poltrack called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Mrs. Gombos motioned to approve the May 14, 2008 minutes. Mr. DeSalvo seconded this motion. Mrs. Sullivan said that the budget year should read, 2008 – 2009. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

Building Project Invoices and Capital Maintenance Plan – Mrs. Sullivan asked the Committee to approve one invoice from BPD Roof Consulting for \$9,501.18. The bid requests for the roof are out and bid responses are due on Thursday, May 29. Mr. DeSalvo moved to approve this invoice. Mrs. Gombos seconded this motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Sullivan presented the Health Insurance Analysis. So far, Region 9 is on track with estimates.

Mr. DeSalvo expressed his concern about the flexibility of the proposed 2008 – 2009 operating budget, given the potential costs of heating oil and electricity. Mrs. Sullivan said the proposed 2008 – 2009 operating budget uses \$2.75 per gallon for oil, but the actual number will not be “locked down” until possibly November. The FOC wanted the administration to reconsider the \$2.75 number if the Region 9 operating budget is not passed by voters in the May 28 referendum.

2007 – 2008 Operating Budget – Mrs. Sullivan said that some of the operating accounts for the 2007 -2008 operating budget, such as supplies, textbooks and software, have been frozen. Mrs. Gombos asked about the overage in substitute costs. Mrs. Sullivan mentioned that there were corresponding savings in the full time account. Dr. Gold suggested that the Region consider using university student interns as substitutes. Although the substitute need typically is subject specific, it was suggested that the administration take Dr. Gold’s suggestion into consideration. Mrs. Gombos asked about the overage in the Other Professional Services account. Mrs. Sullivan said much of this relates to legal expenses for special education. The Region will get back some of this spent money. Dr. Cable asked about the excess in Cleaning and Repair Services account. Mrs. Sullivan said she expects this money will be spent by the end of the school year.

Appointment of Blum, Shapiro & Co. as auditors for the June 30, 2008 year end audit – Mrs. Sullivan said that the firm does a good job and it is the same firm used by the towns of Easton and Redding. The FOC expressed concerns about the lateness of last year’s audit draft. Mrs. Gombos moved to appoint Blum, Shapiro & Co. as the Region’s auditor. Mr. DeSalvo seconded. He also moved that the FOC receives the audit draft by September 30, 2008. Motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comment – Mrs. Wendschuh asked how much the audit will cost. Mrs. Sullivan responded that it will cost \$35,000, up \$1,000 from the prior year.

Dr. Gold moved to adjourn the FOC at 6:53 pm. Mr. DeSalvo seconded. Motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Cable, Secretary