

Region #9 Board of Education
Regular Meeting
March 11, 2004
Minutes

Present: Bonfanti, Coppinger, Eichhorn, Gmelin, Gombos, Harris, Pemberton (7:30 pm), Shapiro
Administrators: Fossbender, Jokubaitis, McLiverty, Voss
Others: 20 members of the staff and ten members of the public
Media: Redding Pilot

Dr. Shapiro called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Kubick, Redding: asked if the public had the assurance of the Board of Education that the building project would be completed within the approved budget and that they would not be going back to the public for more funding.

Diane Eaker letter, read by Julie Gorman, Redding; encouraged board members not to make budget decisions regarding staffing that would increase class size at Joel Barlow.

Julie Gorman, Redding: offered her support for maintaining the current class sizes at Barlow.

Susan Green, Redding: support for the Guidance budget and for items the administration has requested in the budget.

APPOINTMENT OF JOEL BARLOW PRINCIPAL

Motion: To table this agenda item to allow the process to be completed. Gombos, Gmelin. Approved. Unanimous.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Building Committee Chairman, Joe Macaluso, requested further discussion on contract negotiations in executive session.

Motion: That the Region #9 Board of Education recess to executive session for a discussion of contract negotiations. Coppinger, Eichhorn. Approved. Unanimous.

Mr. Macaluso, Mr. Pritchard, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Jokubaitis, Dr. Fossbender, Dr. Voss, Mr. McLiverty, and Mr. Calabro were invited to be present.

The meeting recessed at 7:20 pm.

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 7:58 pm.

Motion: That the Region #9 Board of Education authorizes the Chair to enter into contractual agreements with Banton Construction, Kaestle Boos Architects, and van Zelm as discussed in executive session and in accordance with recommendations by legal counsel. Eichhorn, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE 2004-2005 BUDGET

Mr. McLiverty introduced Matt Spoerndle of the Municipal Banking and Finance Department of People's Bank. Mr. Spoerndle presented a credit overview and proposed debt analysis. Discussion followed. The discussion centered on the use of the accrued interest to pay down the debt in the next year, and continue in a similar manner for the next two years.

Amendment: to use \$464,000 of accrued interest to pay down the debt for the 2004-2005 budget year and to accept the recommendation of People's Bank for the handing of the debt service. Coppinger, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous

Dr. Shapiro summarized the budget discussion of the previous week.

The following recaps the motion and amendments made at the March 3, 2004 meeting.

Motion: That the Region #9 Board of Education adopt a budget for 2004-2005 of \$15,776,576. Gombos, Gmelin.

- Amendment: to accept the reduction in the 1100 account of \$79,542. Gombos, Eichhorn. Approved. Unanimous.
- Amendment: to accept the reduction in the 2600 account of \$28,650. Coppinger, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.
- Amendment: to accept the reduction in the 1114 account of \$7,455. Gmelin, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous.
- Amendment: to accept the reduction in the 1115 account of \$5,900. Gombos, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.
- Amendment: to accept the reduction in the 1119 account of \$13,442. Gmelin, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.
- Amendment: to accept the reduction to the 2220 account of \$1,210. Eichhorn, Pemberton. Approved. 6.890-1.11. Mrs. Gmelin abstained.
- Amendment: to accept the reduction to the 2225 account of \$5,000. Eichhorn, Gmelin. Approved. Unanimous.
- Amendment: to accept the reduction to the 1121 account of \$8,300. Gombos, Bonfanti. Approved. 6.89-0-1.11. Mrs. Pemberton abstained.
- Amendment: to accept the reduction to the 1125 account of \$22,825. Coppinger, Pemberton. Approved. 6.89-0-1.11. Mr. Bonfanti abstained.
- Amendment: to accept the reduction to the 2120 account of \$5,200. Coppinger, Eichhorn. Approved. Unanimous.

The Board of Education continued their review of the draft budget.

Account 1200, Special Education: Mrs. Haig presented an overview of the Special Education budget, along with the current and projected enrollment. She recommended a reduction of \$1,000 in the textbook account.

Amendment: to accept the reduction in the 1200 account of \$1,000. Gombos, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous.

Account 1211, Special Education Intensive: no recommendation for reduction

Account 1116, Curriculum: A technical edit resulted in a reduction of \$2,833 in this account.

Account 2410, School Administration: recommendation for an increase of \$10,000 for strategic planning with the Easton and Redding Boards of Education. This item mistakenly omitted from the budget during preparation. Board members added a stipulation that if the funds were not used for this purpose, they would not be spent for any other purpose.

Amendment: to add \$10,000 to Account 2410, School Administration for Other Professional Services as a placeholder, with the understanding that the funds are to be used only for a possible strategic planning initiative and will not be used for any other purpose. Coppinger, Eichhorn. Approved. Unanimous.

Account 1117, Industrial Technology: no recommendation for reduction

Account 2600, Operation/Maintenance Physical Plant: Mr. McLiverty reported an analysis of liability insurance resulted in a recommendation for a reduction of \$33,000.

Amendment: to reduce Account 2600 by \$33,000 as recommended. Coppinger, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous

Medical Insurance Reserve Fund: Mr. McLiverty recommended a reduction in the reserve account based on a historical review of expenditures and calculations based on individual premium requirements for all employees. This recommendation will be considered after the remaining accounts have been reviewed.

Account 2700, Student Transportation: no adjustment was recommended.

Account 2150, Speech: no adjustment was recommended.

Account 3100, Food Service: no adjustment was recommended.

Account 2310, Board of Education: no adjustment was recommended.

Account 1100, General Instruction: board members, administrators and staff discussed the addition of a math position.

Amendment: to add \$56,000 to the operating budget for 2004-2005 for a math teacher position with benefits. Eichhorn, Gmelin. Approved. Unanimous.

Medical Insurance Reserve Fund: board members and administration discussed the reduction in the medical reserve fund.

Amendment: to reduce the Medical Insurance Reserve Fund by \$120,000. Gombos, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: to adopt the 2004-2005 budget as amended at \$15,444,218 representing an increase of 6.92% over the current budget. Eichhorn, Gmelin. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christina Kearney, Redding: requested that the % of the budget for each of the two towns be accurate when presented to the two boards of finance; suggested the board consider legal counsel on a retainer basis; suggested that if the board plans executive session at the beginning of the meeting, the public be noticed of the time when that session is likely to conclude; suggested that Mrs. Harris' positive comments regarding the budget process and the final budget be reported in the Easton Courier.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: That meeting of the Region 9 Board of Education adjourns. Bonfanti, Coppinger.
Approved. Unanimous.**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Eichhorn, Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday