

Region #9 Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2004

Present: Bonfanti, Coppinger, Eichhorn, Gombos, Harris, Pemberton, Shapiro
Administrators: Fossbender, Jokubaitis, McLiverty
Others: 10 members of the public
Media: Redding Pilot

Dr. Shapiro called the March 23, 2004, regular meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in Music Room of the Joel Barlow High School.

DISCUSSION OF BUILDING PROJECT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Motion: move to recess to executive session for a discussion of contract negotiations.

Gombos, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous. Administrators, Mr. Macaluso and Mr. Pritchard of the Building Committee were invited to be present.

The meeting recessed at 7:35 pm

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:07 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of February 24, 2004, Regular Meeting, as corrected.

Move to approve. Harris, Pemberton. Approved. Unanimous.

Correction: page 1, motion to approve agenda addition was unanimously approved.

2. Minutes of March 3, 2004, Regular Meeting

Move to approve. Bonfanti, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.

3. Minutes of March 11, 2004, Special Meeting.

Move to approve: Gombos, Eichhorn. Approved. 5.78-0-1.11. Pemberton abstained.

4. Minutes of March 11, 2004, Regular Meeting

Move to approve: Gombos, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous.

BOARD SECRETARY REPORT

Mrs. Eichhorn reported two open items: tabled discussion of Bylaw 9120 and financial review of building product.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Dr. Shapiro circulated a calendar of dates for budget related meetings of groups, Boards & Commission, etc. for Easton and Redding. Mr. Coppinger will update the calendar as dates are added or changed.

Mrs. Gombos will provide a listing of items for discussion/review/further information that came out of the budget discussions. The board will consider the list and how to deal with them at the next meeting.

Mrs. Eichhorn provided a copy of an article on Strategic Planning from a recent CABA publication.

Dr. Shapiro shared a letter from Mr. Jokubaitis to Jonathan Budd congratulating him for completing work which resulted in his achievement of National Teacher Certification

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Green, Redding: spoke in support of the proposal the senior students would make to the Board.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF SENIOR CLASS TRIP

The Senior Class officers presented a request to Board for a weekend trip in June to Orlando. The details of the trip and costs were presented. This was followed by questions from board members. The primary concern regarded level of participation of class members. At the conclusion of the discussion, the sense of the board members was agreement on the concept of the trip if the participation was greater than 25-30%. The students will move forward with the planning and commitment from students. This will be on the agenda for the April 8th Public Hearing of the Board of Education meeting for further discussion.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Macaluso reported the following:

1. Choral Room: ceiling inspection has been completed, carpet is being installed. When completed, work will begin in the Music Room.
2. Entry Doors in the main area near the LGI have been replaced and ceiling grid has been installed in the entry corridor.
3. Area C, Cisco area: completion and turnover of the area is expected by the end of the week.
4. Area B, commons/servery area: completion and turnover expected next week, with exception of the servery equipment
5. Women's locker room: demolition work is being done in this area.
6. Lower level locker rooms are near completion.
7. Second shift work: most of the demolition work is being done during a second shift, at regular wage rate. Demolition is after the regular school day has been completed.
8. Electrical work: the remaining electrical package has been put out to bid, with bid opening scheduled for April 1, 2004.
9. Wastewater treatment facility: a meeting of key people, including a representative of Xenon and US Filter, Banton and KBA.
10. Schedule: Banton Construction reports the project is on schedule for completion of the building work by September 1, 2004. The schedule is tight, but "doable."

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Gombos reported that the Financial Oversight has not met due to the delay of the financial review of the building project. The completion of the review is dependent upon the finalization of 35 vendor documents, subcontractors of Francini. A meeting of representatives from the

architect, Building Committee, auditor and Banton Construction is scheduled for Friday to work on the finalization of these documents so the financial review can be completed.

Mrs. Harris asked the Financial Oversight Committee to request a written explanation from the auditor of the Central Office health insurance reserve fund deficit. Mrs. Gombos will request this documentation. Mr. McLiverty added that he would request a letter as well as a chain of events that will be factual and complete.

Mrs. Harris asked what role Jay Hubelbank (former Director of Finance) still plays with regard to the building project. Mr. McLiverty responded that Mr. Hubelbank continues to work with the Building Committee on an hourly basis as needed, primarily with regard to the work done under the Francini contract. To date, he has billed less than \$2,000. In addition, Mr. Hubelbank is available on a professional courtesy basis (no cost) when asked to answer questions regarding Region 9 business.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Eichhorn reported on the first meeting of the Committee. The Committee will consider all methods of communication currently being used, how effective these are, what information the community would like, and also how information can be gathered from the community. The committee is committed to both gathering and disseminating information.

REDDING LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Pemberton represents the Board of Education on this Committee. She reported the last meeting was primarily a discussion of long-term planning for the Highway Department. Dr. Fossbender reported that Mr. Calabro is completing work on a five-year facility plan for Joel Barlow High School.

RECESS

A five minutes break was taken at 10:25 pm

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mr. Jokubaitis presented an overview of strategic planning. He presented a model for use by Easton/Redding/Region #9. A long discussion of strategic planning followed.

Motion: that Region #9 Board of Education agrees to participate together with the Easton and Redding Boards of Education in a strategic planning process as presented. Eichhorn. Coppinger. Approved. 6.00-.89. Mrs. Harris voted against the motion.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mr. Jokubaitis announced this would be his last meeting. He thanked the board members for the experience. Dr. Shapiro, on behalf of the board, thanked him for his assistance, guidance and leadership.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Dr. Fossbender provided a written report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ali Farsun, Redding Pilot: question of when the financial review of the building project was authorized and whether the \$8,000 authorized had been expended. Mrs. Eichhorn responded that the authorization was approved at the January 20, 2004 meeting. Mrs. Gombos reported the \$8,000 had not yet been expended.

Motion: That meeting of the Region 9 Board of Education moves to executive session for a discussion of Personnel. Gombos, Bonfanti Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting moved into executive session at 12:15 am (3/24/04).

Meeting returned into public session at 12:34 am

Motion: Move to approve an addendum to the salary agreement letter with Walter Czudak, Jr., supervisor of building and grounds for Region 9, due to increased responsibility in the amount of a \$5,000 stipend for both the '03-04 and '04-05 budget years with a yearly review thereafter. Eichhorn, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous

Motion: Move to adjourn Eichhorn, Coppinger Approved. Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 12:36 am

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Eichhorn, Secretary

Reported by Mary Maday