

Region #9 Board of Education
Regular Meeting
May 25, 2004
Minutes

Present: Bonfanti, Coppinger (7:38 pm), Eichhorn, Gombos, Harris, Pemberton, Shapiro
Administrators: Fossbender, Calabro, McLiverty
Others: 8 members of the public / 4 staff
Media: Redding Pilot, Easton Courier

Dr. Shapiro called the May 25, 2004, regular meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. in Room B107 of the Joel Barlow High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of April 27, 2004, regular Meeting, as corrected.

Move to approve. (Pemberton, Eichhorn) Approved. Unanimous.

Correction: page 1, under Board Comments, Mrs. Harris questioned why the budget flyer did not include the complete expense side of the budget; Dr. Shapiro responded that the headings were not presented as a cost savings, but as prudent financial transfers.

2. Minutes of May 3, 2004, Special Meeting

Move to approve (Bonfanti, Coppinger). Approved. 3.11-0-4.89. Abstaining: Shapiro, Harris, Gombos, Gmelin, Pemberton

3. Minutes of Mar3, 2004, District Meeting.

Move to approve: (Eichhorn, Bonfanti) Approved. 4-0-4. Abstaining: Pemberton, Gmelin, Harris, Gombos.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Gmelin thanked the PTSA for their efforts on the Post Prom celebration. The event was a huge success. Mrs. Eichhorn echoed Mrs. Gmelin's sentiments. Dr. Shapiro extended the Board of Education's appreciation.

Mrs. Harris reported that Dr. Michael Brienza, a former board member, was chosen Teacher of the Year by students at Fairfield University.

Mr. Coppinger suggested clarification of the Board of Education's practice for board member attendance for Special Hearings. State Statute specifies three members should be present, the Region 9 Board were in agreement with legal counsel advice, that four members should be present in the event one cannot be present or would need to recuse themselves.

Motion: That the Board of Education add discussion of personnel to the executive session. (Gmelin, Gombos) Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shirley Melnyk, Redding: questions regarding the proposal for stadium improvements, including use and responsibility of the facility, noise and traffic issues, parking issues, etc. Dr. Shapiro suggested responding to the questions at the appropriate point on the agenda.

Phil Giliano, Redding: question regarding the number of Release and Ratification of Contracts that had been completed. Dr. Shapiro responded that five have been signed by both parties, and approximately 24 are in the pipeline waiting for signature of the subcontractors.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Bonfanti reported that construction is generally on schedule. Work is behind in some of the areas due to the unresolved contracts with subcontractors. August 31, 2004 is the target for completion. Any changes to fields/site work will require review and approval by the Zoning & Conservation Commissions.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. Gombos reported the Committee will meet on Friday, June 4, 2004, to review the District #9 completed financial audit for fiscal 2002-2003. This group will also begin work on the construction project state re-imbusement process. They will also review the expenses on a bi-weekly basis as work continues.

Dr. Shapiro reported that she has delegated Mrs. Gombos to serve in her absence (June 1-13, 2004) for financial matters.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Eichhorn reported the Committee will begin work after recommendations from the Strategic Planning process.

REPORT ON STADIUM FIELD PROPOSAL

Mrs. Cori Distler provided information on the stadium field proposal. The group is receiving a positive response regarding the solicitation of funds for field improvements. The group is in the process of preparing a business proposal for both corporate and community donations and will be looking for a loan to secure balance of funds needed to complete the proposed work. The field/stadium plan includes replacement of lighting with more efficient lighting (illuminates closer to field and more directly) and replacement of the bleachers that will be safer and meet ADA requirements. Mrs. Melnyk's concern about lighting will be addressed by the more efficient lighting planned. Mr. Calabro addressed Mrs. Melnyk's concerns about parking and traffic. The school administration is working with the Redding Police Department to control the parking and "no parking" signs have been erected along Turney Road as this is a public road, not the property of Joel Barlow High school.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

Mr. Calabro presented a plan to offer an Alternative Educational Experience to those students who are not ready to graduate. Mrs. Gombos suggested the Financial Oversight Committee be allowed to review the proposal.

Motion: Motion to approve the proposal for continuing studies by the administrative team with the following considerations:

- **Continuing studies will only be available to students for one additional year**
- **The financial oversight committee will review the fee structure and make a proposal to the board for consideration**
- **Students must be from Easton or Redding or covered by existing policy.**

(Eichhorn, Gmelin) Approved. Unanimous

UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

Dr. Fossbender reported the Strategic Planning session was scheduled for August 16, 17 & 18. Mr. Coppinger and Mrs. Eichhorn will represent Region #9, Ann Marie McCarthy will represent the Redding BOE and Alan Katz will represent the Easton BOE.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Fossbender reported on the following:

1. Schoolhouse News, CAFE publication, featured the Joel Barlow High School writing program.
2. Western Connecticut Association of Superintendents ceremony recognized two Barlow students for their achievements.
3. The screening process for the Director of Curriculum and Instruction is underway.
4. Dr. Fossbender commended students for an exceptional Spring Concert. He added his compliments to students attending the prom and the post prom party for their good behavior.
5. Regarding the upcoming budget referendum, Dr. Fossbender expressed his concern that with the proposed enrollment with the proposed budget is 25-30 students in more than 30 classes.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Mr. McLiverty reported on the following;

1. Monthly financial reports were available for review.
2. Work is being done to close out the fiscal year.
3. The single food service bid was received today, and this was from Sodexo/Marriot
4. Bob Bulinski, Central Office accountant has announced his intent to retire in September.
5. The District's audit report has been sent to the Financial Oversight Committee for review. Presentation and formal acceptance will be scheduled for the June meeting. The representative of the audit firm, Kostin, Ruffkess & Co. will be present at that meeting.
6. Mr. McLiverty suggested Region #9 perform a review of policies and procedures with regard to financial business.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Dr. Fossbender reported in Dr. Voss' absence. Dr. Voss requested each board member review the Evaluation Procedure for Administrators, as distributed. Discussion and approval will be scheduled for the June meeting.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Mr. Calabro presented a written report of student and staff achievements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: That the Region #9 Board of Education recess to executive session for a discussion of contract negotiations and personnel matters. (Eichhorn, Bonfanti) Approved. Unanimous.

Invited to attend: Calabro, Fossbender, McLiverty

The meeting recessed at 9:45 pm

Mr. McLiverty leaves the meeting at 10:07 pm

RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened in public session at 10:43 pm

Action as a result of executive session discussion:

Motion: Move to approve the carryover of the following earned vacation days:

- **Assistant Principal: 16 days**
- **Athletic Director: 9.5 days**
- **Director of Guidance: 9 days**
- **Asst, Superintendent/Head of School: 3 days**

to be used before June 30, 2005 and there will be no extension of unused vacation days after June 30, 2005 (Eichhorn, Gombos) Approved. Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: That meeting of the Region 9 Board of Education adjourns. (Eichhorn, Bonfanti) Approved. Unanimous.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Eichhorn, Secretary

Reported by Mary Maday