

Region 9 Board of Education  
June 21, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Filed subject to approval

Attendance: Bonfanti, Coppinger (leaves at 11:13 pm) Eichhorn (arrives 8:55 PM), Gmelin, Gombos, Shapiro

Administration: Fossbender, Calabro, Haig, Mas, McLiverty, Czudak

Media: Redding Pilot

Others: 26 members of the public and staff

Dr. Shapiro calls the meeting to order at 7:40 pm

#### AGENDA CHANGES

**Motion:** move to add Report from Pension Committee to the agenda. Gmelin, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

**Motion:** move to add Discussion of the Task Force Report (safety issues) in executive session. Gombos, Gmelin. Approved. Unanimous.

**Motion:** move to add discussion of Building Project related litigation to executive session. Gombos, Gmelin. Approved. Unanimous.

**Motion:** move to scramble agenda, moving Discussion of Building Project related litigation in executive session to the next item on the agenda. Coppinger, Gmelin. Approved. Unanimous.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Motion:** move to executive session for Discussion of Building Project related litigation. Attorney Johnson, Dr. Fossbender, Mr. Calabro, Mr. Czudak and members of the Financial Oversight Committee present were included in the executive session. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting recessed at 7:45 pm

#### RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:14 pm.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion:** move to approve the minutes of May 20, 2005 as submitted. Gombos, Gmelin. Approved. Gmelin, Harris Coppinger abstained.

**Motion:** move to approve the minutes of May 24, 2005 as submitted. Coppinger, Gmelin. Approved. Harris abstained.

**Motion:** move to approve the minutes of May 30, 2005 as submitted. Gmelin, Bonfanti. Approved. Coppinger, Harris, Gombos, & Shapiro abstained.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Nicyper, Redding: read a statement with questions regarding the current involvement/fulfillment of contract of Kaestle Boos Architects and their engineers, van Zelm, in the building project completion, and the contract with Navigant. Dr. Shapiro responded that Navigant is working on litigation issues, and she anticipates that design issues may be involved.

Mary Pat Cieri, Redding: speaking on behalf of the JBPTSA, Mrs. Cieri stated that many parents wanted to attend the meeting to hear the athletic report scheduled for presentation, but were involved in the John Read Middle School graduation ceremony. She also asked if the teaching staff would be impacted by increased responsibility related to security and other reductions in the operating budget.

## BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Harris reminded the board members and audience that the meeting is a working meeting of the board. Public comment is an opportunity for the public to express themselves, but is not a time to engage members of the board in discussions.

Mr. Coppinger added that board members need to listen to comments from the public, but need not respond to the comments.

## STUDENT REPORT

Kara Mazzucco, reported for Student Council Representative Tim Lewis, on end-of-year activities and goals for next year. Student Council goals will involve schedules, x-period and the mentoring program.

## JUNIOR PORTFOLIO WRITING RESULTS

Jonathan Budd and Jack Powers presented a report that included the writing center usage, individual writing appointments with the writing center staff, statistics and information on the Public Act 01-166 Writing Competency.

Dr. Fossbender arrived during the report (8:35 pm)

Mrs. Eichhorn arrived during the report after attending JRMS ceremony (8:55 pm)

## REPORT ON ATHLETICS PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES, 2005-2005 SCHOOL YEAR

Ms. Goodpaster presented an overview of the athletic program for the current year. She also included historical information on the athletic program over the past three years. She included information on Title IX and its impact on the athletic program. Joel Barlow High School is and has been in full compliance with the requirements of Title IX. Ms. Goodpaster will present the financial picture of the athletic program in the fall and will also address questions from board members in her fall report

## REPORT OF EASTON, REDDING & REGION 9 TASK FORCE

Dr. Fossbender reviewed the need for creating a task force to address the issues of an increased

number of drug and alcohol related incidents at the high school and in the two communities. The Task Force made specific recommendations for the consideration. Discussion of the recommendations followed.

The Board concluded that the work for the summer should include a meeting of the three Boards of Education that will include Easton & Redding Town officials and the public to gather input, a review of Region #9 policy related to possession issues, and Region #9 deliberations/discussions of security issues (in executive session).

**CHANGE DATE OF DECEMBER MEETING**

**Motion:** move to change the December 20, 2005 meeting to December 19, 2005. Coppinger, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous.

**HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT**

Mr. Calabro provided a report on the NEASC recommendations and plans to address them. Dr. Fossbender presented the Connecticut Association Boards of Education an award for Excellence in Communication to Joel Barlow High School for the Student-Parent Handbook and an award for the Course Selection Guide.

**C3 REPORT ON BUILDING PROJECT**

Mr. Poltrack reported that a number of invoices were presented to the FOC and Board for approval. He reported that outside work is near completion. DEP was on site, and their three minor issues have or are being addressed. On the inside of the building, the electrician is completing their work and O&G will complete the casework and be offsite by the end of the week. The fire suppression system is still an open issue in the kitchen area. The C3 Committee is finalizing the contract with Tucker Mechanical who will complete the HVAC work in the building and address open issues in the new wing.

**FOC REPORT.**

**Motion:** Move to approve the following invoices and closeouts as recommended by the CCC & the FOC, with the Carmody & Torrence invoices paid after review by Board Chair and Dr. Fossbender (Coppinger, Gombos) Approved. Unanimous

Black Dog Ent.	#265	5/31/05	\$30,080.00
Carmody & Torrence	#152374	3/10/05	\$8,568.62
	#154586	4/22/05	\$16,358.67
	#155449	5/17/05	\$33,305.13
EdMor	#20	5/6/05	\$36,569.98
		Tool & equipment	<u>-\$7,566.54</u>
			\$29,003.44
Jim's Tree Service	#18596	5/1/05	\$1,575.00

	#185597	5/1/05	\$1,500.00
Navigant		4/15/05	\$10,752.50
		4/22/05	\$16,330.00
		4/29/05	\$9,920.00
		5/6/05	\$2,525.00
Servicemaster of Stamford		5/2/05	\$265.00
Van Zelm	#25730	3/11/05	\$11,054.87
	#25735	3/11/05	\$17,282.87
John Watts	#64726	7/7/04	\$400.00

Closeouts:

Aqua Lawn			\$2,925.00
Mariana Cardillo & Sons Inc.			\$15,000.00
Central Connecticut Acoustics			\$27,668.86
Dalton Contracting			\$2,990.00
Intelligent Signage			\$14,280.00
Ram Woodworks			\$6,503.00
United Blackboard			\$20,703.70

The FOC heard a recommendation from Mr. Czudak regarding grounds maintenance. The current vendor discontinued his service several weeks ago. Mr. Czudak was able to borrow equipment from the Redding Boys' & Girls' Club to care for the grounds during this period. The vendor doing the work is liquidating his company and made his equipment available for purchase. Equipment includes a ride-on mower, trimmer, aerator, trailer, and other various pieces of equipment. Mr. Czudak recommended that this equipment be purchased and the work be done in-house.

**Motion:** Approve the transfer of \$7,000 and the ability to spend up to \$7,000 from the 330 line item to the #2600-731 line item for the purchase of field equipment (Coppinger, Gombos)  
Approved. Unanimous

Mr. Crowley presented information to the FOC Committee regarding the Technology Plan. Mr. Crowley will convene the Technology Committee to discuss the Technology Plan and the financing in anticipation of a discussion with FOC and BOE. Mr. Bonfanti will represent the BOE on the Technology Committee.

#### POLICY COMMITTEE

Policy 5131.81 was discussed. The consensus of the board was to eliminate the reference to pagers as they have been replaced with cell phones and to prohibit the possession of laser pointer devices by students. Mrs. Harris will rewrite the policy for consideration at the next meeting.

#### PENSION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Gmelin reported the Committee decided on a fund manager and were close to a decision on new actuarial services.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Fossbender provided two articles related to No Child Left Behind. He also reported that the State Department of Education announced that there is a shortage of teachers for grades 7-12 in the English area.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. McLiverty reported that negotiations on insurance (property, liability & workman's compensation) have been completed with a \$32,000 savings. Mr. McLiverty added that the end of year balance is potentially \$52,000.

#### DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Ms. Mas reported that the Easton & Redding schools will have a common staff development day on January 23, 2005. The new math materials for the Growing in Math K-4 program have arrived. Summer curriculum is planned. The strategic school planning action teams have completed their work and will present to the original team. A presentation to a Tri-Board meeting is planned for the fall.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeannie Wenschuh, Redding: she thanked Mr. McLiverty for his service to the communities, the boards of education and students of the schools. With regard to the Task Force, Mrs. Wenschuh agreed that the parents have a responsibility. She agreed with Mrs. Eichhorn's comments regarding a Code of Conduct for all students and asked that the code be consistent so that students get the same answers from all regarding the drug and alcohol abuse.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The executive session discussion regarding the performance of a public employee (Head of School) was removed from the agenda.

**Motion:** move to recess to executive session to discuss Task Force recommendations regarding

security in the school. Dr. Fossbender was invited to be present. ( Eichhorn, Bonfanti)  
Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting recessed at 11:21 pm

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 11:45 pm

**Motion:** to direct the Chairman of the Board to accept the agreement with Northeast Interiors as discussed in executive session (Gombos, Bonfanti) Approved. Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion:** To adjourn ( 11:46 pm ) Approved. Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Eichhorn  
Region 9 BOE Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday