

Region 9 Board of Education  
April 26, 2005 Meeting Minutes  
*Filed subject to approval*

Attendance: Bonfanti, Coppinger, Eichhorn, Gmelin, Gombos, Harris, Pemberton, Shapiro  
Administration: Calabro, Fossbender, Haig, Mas, McLiverty Staff: 2  
Media: Redding Pilot  
Others: FOC members Cable, DeSalvo, Heller, Poltrack CCC: Beem

Dr. Shapiro calls the meeting to order at 7:38 pm

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion: To enter executive session (Gombos, Gmelin) Approved. Unanimous  
Invited to executive session Corcoran, Johnson (Carmody & Torrance), Fossbender,  
Calabro, Mas, McLiverty, Rosenblatt (O&G)**

**RECONVENE**

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:25 pm

**PRESENT:** in addition to the above, there were 12 members of the public and the Redding Pilot present.

**AGENDA CHANGE**

**Motion: To scramble agenda to move public comment to next on the agenda (Coppinger, Gmelin) Approved. Unanimous**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Oppenheimer, Redding: Mr. Oppenheimer presented a letter directed to Chairman of the Region #9 Board of Education, Chairman of the C3 Committee and the Director of Finance & Operations with his FOI (Freedom of Information) request for the punchlist for the Wastewater Treatment Facility, site work, engineering specification for WWTF hatch, and "as built" drawings for the WWTF and fields A, B, C & D.

Han VanOostendorp, Redding: asked where a copy of the budget was available and asked why it was not available on the web site. Response from Chair: copies are available in Central Office and in the Mark Twain Library. The document is too large to put on the web site, but she asked Mr. McLiverty to put a summary of the budget on the web site.

Kay Oppenheimer, Redding: stated she hopes the Board of Education will receive (during the meeting) an update on the building project, what remains to be completed and what the financial positions is now.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion: To approve minutes of 3/14/05 (Pemberton, Gmelin) Approved. Unanimous, with Bonfanti abstaining**

**Motion: To approve minutes of 3/22/05 (Pemberton, Coppinger) Motion tabled**

**Motion: To approve minutes of 3/31/05 (Gmelin, Gombos) Approved. Unanimous, with Bonfanti, Harris and Pemberton abstaining**

**Motion: To approve minutes of 4/4/05 (Gombos, Pemberton) Approved. Unanimous, with Bonfanti and Gmelin abstaining**

#### **BOARD SECRETARY REPORT**

Mrs. Eichhorn reported she provided electronically a listing of all the BOE motions made since January 1, 2005 in an excel file for board member reference.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Eichhorn expressed her disappointment upon hearing of Mr. McLiverty's resignation, but thanked him for his work here on behalf of Region 9 and wished him the best in his new position, which will enable him to spend time with his family. Dr. Shapiro echoed those sentiments for the other board members.

#### **STUDENT REPORT**

The new student representative is Zack Slavin.

#### **REAUTHORIZATION OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION: THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT**

Mrs. Haig presented information, in a PowerPoint presentation on the new IDEIA standards.

#### **AGENDA CHANGE**

**Motion: To scramble agenda so item 9B follows 10B (Gombos, Harris) Approved. Unanimous.**

#### **BOARD SUPPORT FOR POST PROM CUSTODIAL EXPENSE**

The PTSA requested financial support for custodial expenses for the Post Prom Party. Mr. Calabro reported that this is a budgeted item. The Board members were in agreement with the support for this event.

#### **CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION COMMITTEE (C3)**

Mr. Poltrack provided an update on the finances of the project, budget vs. actual. Mr. Poltrack states that in his mind we are on schedule with finances. A comprehensive list of items to be completed for life safety & health is being prepared. O & G and/or other appropriate personnel will remain on the site until all the life safety & health items are addressed. The kitchen is 80-90% complete. The parking lot paving and striping is near completion. The fan for the wastewater treatment plant is on site and the hatch will be picked up next week, and both will be installed. Mr. Bonfanti asked when the hatch installation would be complete. Mr. Poltrack responded that installation should be complete within two weeks.

Mrs. Gmelin asked if the punch lists requested earlier via a FOI request actually existed. Mr. Poltrack responded that if the punch lists exist, they would be made available. Punch lists have not been completed for all of the areas.

#### **FOC REPORT**

Mrs. Gombos reported a FOC meeting was held prior to the board meeting and four recommendations are being presented for approval. Mrs. Gmelin asked if the board members could have sufficient time to review the recommendations and vote on them at the next meeting. She opposed being presented with something and asked to vote on it immediately. Mrs. Gombos acknowledged that the FOC had agreed to provide board members with information in advance of meetings but explained the need to take action on these items tonight.

**Motion: That the Region 9 BOE accept the recommendation of the FOC and accept the guidelines for the Capital Reserve Plan as submitted April 26, 2005 (Gombos, Coppinger) Approved. Unanimous**

**Motion: That the region 9 BOE accept the recommendation of the FOC that the Capital Plan as presented and dated April 26, 2005, for the following items: irrigation pump system, new well, outdoor storage building, backflow preventors for the domestic water system, new spectator stands, stadium track resurfacing, fencing of track and field and building areas, maintenance shop renovations and equipment, presentation equipment, computers, video production lighting, improved theatre lighting, treadmills, Concept II Rower, Fractional Plate, wrestling mat, base pads in gymnasium, classroom furniture and fixtures. (Gombos, Coppinger) Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: That the Region 9 BOE accepts the recommendation of the FOC to use the surplus funds from the 2003-2004 budget to reduce the net expenditures in the 2004-2005 budget as set forth in Connecticut State Statute #10-51 (Gombos, Pemberton) Approved. Unanimous**

**Motion: That the Region 9 BOE accepts the recommendation of the FOC to appropriate surplus funds, up to 1% of the total budget, from the 2004-2005 year as determined by the Region 9 Board of Education, to the Capital Reserve Fund (Gombos, Eichhorn) Approved. Unanimous**

Mrs. Gombos presented a series of invoices that had been reviewed by C3 and the FOC and recommended to the Board of Education for payment.

**Motion: To accept the recommendation of the CCC & the FOC to pay the following invoices for the JBHS building project:**

O&G Ind., Inc.	263,701.67
EdMor Invoice 16	32,201.52
EdMor Invoice 18	24,662.00
ADT	16,508.00
Jim's Tree Service	1,237.50
Jim's Tree Service	900.00

Jim's Tree Service	2,175.00
Jim's Tree Service	1,800.00
Danbury News Times	132.62
Town of Redding	1,220.50
CT Post	113.60
Crystal Rock	7.11

344,659.52
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**(Coppinger, Gombos) Approved. Unanimous**

**2005-2006 BUDGET REFERENDUM**

**Motion: To move the board proposed budget for the '05-'06 school year to a referendum on May 2, 2005 (Gombos, Coppinger) Approved. Unanimous**

**COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Eichhorn reported the flyer explaining the budget was sent out to all households in Easton and Redding. The cost was \$972.46 for printing and \$701.48 for postage.

**REVIEW OF POLICIES**

**Motion: To adopt for a first reading policy 4118.233 and policy 5141.231 as amended (Eichhorn, Harris) Approved. Unanimous**

**Motion: To adopt for a first reading policy 5131.81 as amended (Harris, Gombos) Approved. Unanimous**

**PENSION COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Gmelin reported the Pension Committee would meet to discuss distribution of the Anthem stock. She also reported a subcommittee reviewed and interviewed financial consultants. A recommendation will be presented at the next meeting.

**DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Mrs. Mas reported the Strategic Planning action teams have been working well. The Personal Learning and Curriculum teams are near completion.

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**

Mr. McLiverty provided the financial documents for review. End of year expenditures are being processed in anticipation of the close of the fiscal year. He added that he is working with the FOC on the policies for financial procedures. At this time, Mr. McLiverty estimates the unspent balance for the '04-'05 end of year will be approximately \$200,000.

## **HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Mr. Calabro reported on the reasons for the decision to hold the graduation ceremony off site at the O'Neill Center in Danbury. The main factor in the decision was the inability to accommodate the number of guests wishing to see the graduation ceremony.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Fossbender provided articles and information for the board members review.

Dr. Fossbender announced two retirements: Heidi Godleski, after 25 years of teaching, and Camille Nischal, an art teacher, due to a move.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Frank DeSalvo, Redding: stated that it was sad that the school could not somehow accommodate the graduation ceremony.

Kay Oppenheimer, Redding: questioned the FOC approval of invoices when the item was not listed on their agenda. Mrs. Gombos noted that the item was added to the agenda. Mrs. Oppenheimer also stated that she believes the punch lists requested do exist.

Bill Oppenheimer, Redding: stated that he has statements of the architect Rusty Malik that the punch lists do exist, and if they do, they are public documents. He added that the "as built" are a requirement for the contractors to submit. He also questioned why the roof survey that Mr. Rosenblatt requested was being turned over to the administration and suggested that this was a responsibility of the building committee.

## **AGENDA ADDITION**

**Motion: To add to executive session a discussion on superintendent evaluation (Gombos, Bonfanti) Approved. Unanimous.**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion: To enter executive session (Eichhorn, Gmelin) Approved. Unanimous**

**Invited to attend: Calabro, Fossbender**

The meeting recessed at 11:33 pm

## **RECONVENE**

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 12:22 am, 4/27/05

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: To adjourn (Eichhorn, Gmelin) Approved. Unanimous**

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 am on 4/27/05

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Eichhorn  
Region 9 BOE Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday