

Region 9 Board of Education
April 3, 2006
PUBLIC HEARING
Minutes

Filed subject to approval

Attendance: Coppinger, Gombos, Lewis, Pemberton, Poltrack, Shapiro, Stone
Administration: Fossbender, Calabro, Haig, Craw, Mas, Sullivan
Media: Redding Pilot, Easton Courier
Others: 10 members of the public and staff

Mrs. Pemberton called the Public Hearing to order at 7:32 pm in the JBHS auditorium.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Kubick, Redding: asked if her emailed comments to board members regarding the legality or illegality of a public meeting to approve additional funding would be answered.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED 2006-2007 OPERATING BUDGET

Chair Pemberton presented the proposed operating budget for 2006-2007.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION PERTAINING TO THE JOEL BARLOW BUILDING PROJECT

Information regarding the need for up to \$2,000,000 in Bond Anticipation Notes was reviewed by Mr. Poltrack. The additional monies are needed to pay outstanding invoices of approximately \$1,200,000. The remaining money is to cover pending lawsuits.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy Zamore, Redding: question regarding the additional \$2,000,000, how much is expected to be spent. Mr. Poltrack referred to the money as a "line of credit", to provide funds to pay outstanding invoices. He estimates that, after reimbursement by the state, about \$400,000 to \$500,000 would actually be spent. He would not comment on what portion of the funds for lawsuits would be spent, due to legal issues.

Bud Jennings, Easton: asked how much money was spent on litigation for the resolved lawsuits. Mr. Poltrack offered to get that information for him. Mr. Jennings also asked for total legal costs for the entire project. He added that he did not believe that Easton would support the request for additional funding.

Mary Kubick, Redding; asked if a Certificate of Occupancy had been issued. Mr. Poltrack responded that there is a partial Certificate of Occupancy. The remaining open issues that need to be resolved to obtain a full Certificate of Occupancy include various sign-offs from boards and commissions, engineers and architects. He is working to gather all of this information. Dr. Fossbender added that the original architect, Rusty Malik, is no longer with KBA. Another member of the firm is working on the review.

Mrs. Pemberton reported that Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-56 requires the Board of Education to take the request for additional funding to a machine vote. A District Meeting will be scheduled soon. The vote would take place 30 days after the District Meeting meets and sets the referendum date. It is anticipated that the referendum would occur in mid-May.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Huntley Stone
Region 9 BOE Secretary
Recorded by Mary Maday