

Filed subject to approval

SPECIAL MEETING
REGION #9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
JUNE 14, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bonfanti, Coppinger, Gombos, Lewis, Pemberton, Poltrack, Shapiro, Stone
Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, Calabro, Haig, Craw, Czudak, Preis
Media: Redding Pilot
Others: 11 members of the public

The Chair, Mrs. Pemberton, called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm following a reception honoring Head of School Ross Calabro and other retiring staff members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the minutes of the May 29, 2007 meeting be accepted as corrected. Coppinger, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous.

Correction: page 4, under Director of Finance, the Director of Finance will recommend that the end of year balance....

Motion: move that the minutes of the June 5, 2007 meeting be accepted as presented. Stone, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Bonfanti, on behalf of the entire board of education, presented Mr. Calabro with a plaque and thanked him for his service to the board. Mrs. Pemberton also acknowledged Mr. Calabro's retirement and presented him with a token of appreciation. Mr. Calabro extended his appreciation and presented roses to the members of the board and administration.

Mr. Stone provided an update on the Central Office relocation. The Easton Board of Selectmen has verbally accepted the terms presented by the Relocation Committee and the paperwork will be signed shortly. July 2008 has been set for occupancy. This will allow sufficient time for the fit out of the area. The Director of Finance is renegotiating the lease with the current landlord for a one-year extension.

Mr. Poltrack recognized the girls' and boys' Lacrosse teams for their successes, and individual students for achievement in track and tennis.

PROPOSED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLAN

A bill is under consideration in the state legislature for a mandatory employee health plan for municipal employees. Earlier in the week, CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities) met with legislators and modifications to the original bill were made. The bill continues to take local control out of the program and costs of the program are

not yet know. Both the Easton and Redding Boards of Education have sent letters to the legislators opposing the bill.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education authorize the chair, Julia Pemberton, to sign the reviewed letter in opposition to the bill. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR CAPITAL MAINTENANCE PLAN: PROPOSED CHARGE AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

Board members reviewed and discussed the proposed charge for the Special Committee, the process and make up of committee.

The Director of Finance requested the Chair to authorize the purchase of HVAC equipment based on a detailed estimate of what is required from the current HVAV service provider. The equipment is a direct replacement of what exists. Based on all the information, the equipment was ordered. In the further, the Chair will not make such a decision without the knowledge and approval of the Board of Education.

Following modification of the Charge, a motion was put on the table for consideration.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education accept the Charge for the Special Committee for the Capital Maintenance Plan as proposed and modified. Bonfanti, Shapiro. Approved. Unanimous.

Mrs. Pemberton appointed Mr. Poltrack, Mr. Stone and Mr. Lewis to the Special Committee for Capital Maintenance Plan. In addition, she appointed Colin Board as the representative from Redding and will appoint an Easton resident soon.

SECOND AND FINAL READING OF POLICIES

1. Violent and Aggressive Behavior, Bullying, Policy 5131.21a, b, c & d: changes are modifications to the current policy. Additional modifications were suggested.

Motion: Move to accept the policy on Violent and Aggressive Behavior, Bullying, as modified, for a second and final reading. Gombos, Stone. Approved. Unanimous.

2. Acceptable Use in School of Internet and Other Networks, Policy 6141.321a & b: the change is an update of the policy to reflect new forms of technology.

Motion: Move to accept the policy on Acceptable Use in School of Internet and Other Networks for a second and final reading. Coppinger, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

3. Policy 5118.2, Children of Non-Resident Teachers:

Motion: Move to accept the Policy 5118.2 for a second and final reading. Lewis, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

The policy on controversial issues was tabled at the previous meeting. The Policy Committee will review the policy.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent: Dr. Fossbender reported on a legislative bill related to the student suspensions. Discussion followed. He also reported the state budget has not been completed, but promises more funding for public education and includes bonding to fully fund the Teacher Pension Fund. The Tuesday school evacuation resulted from a notification sent from the New Fairfield Schools regarding New Fairfield High School. Only a portion of the text was received and as a precaution the school was evacuated. The evacuation procedure was good and students were returned to the building quickly. In this event, the notification system used did not work as it should. The administration is taking steps to be sure that the Region #9 notification system will work correctly.

Head of School: Mr. Calabro submitted his written Noteworthy News. He also recognized Cori Distler, Girls' Lacrosse coach, and congratulated her on being name the Connecticut Post Coach of the Year.

Mr. Calabro also noted an increased concern for the speed of student vehicles existing the school property on Barlow Drive. After discussions with Police Chief Fuchs, it was decided to add an additional speed hump along the drive. Chief Fuchs will work with Highway Superintendent Sanford on the placement and installation of the additional hump. The school's crew will handle the painting. Repairs and service to Barlow Drive are the responsibility of Region #9; repairs and service to Turney Road are the responsibility of the Town of Redding.

Director of Curriculum: Mrs. Mas provided a written report highlighting curriculum work and professional development activities.

Director of Finance: Mrs. Sullivan provided an updated object summary for review. Expenses are tracking as anticipated. Health Insurance claims for the month of May were higher than usual.

FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Poltrack, Mr. Stone, Mr. Czudak, Mr. Craw and Ms. Goodpaster met with Clough Harbour to establish parameters for contract negotiations. The firm is to come back with the cost estimates to schematic design and development design. Mrs. Gombos objected to the lack of notification of other members of the Fields and Facilities Committee.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Mr. Bonfanti is attempting to set a date for a meeting prior to Mr. Calabro's departure. If a formal meeting cannot be arranged, he will plan an informal discussion with Mr. Calabro.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Stauffer, Redding: comments and questions regarding the progress of the master plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to executive session to discuss consideration of action:

- a) Pending Litigation: consideration of action to enforce or implement legal relief or right pertaining to the JBHS Building Project;**
- b) School Security**
- c) New Agreement between Non-Certified Employees and the Region 9 Board of Education.**

Coppinger, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Fossbender, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Haig, Mr. Calabro and Mr. Czudak were invited to be present.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm. Mr. Czudak left the meeting at 10:38 pm.

RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened in public session at 10:51 pm.

Motion: Move that the Chair be authorized to enter into the contract with the non-certified Staff Association Local 2001 for the years 2007-2011 as discussed in Executive Session. Gombos, Shapiro. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move to adjourn. Coppinger, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Huntley Stone
Region #9 BOE Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday