

Region 9 Board of Education
March 16, 2006
Budget Meeting Minutes

Filed subject to approval

Attendance: Coppinger, Gombos, Lewis, Pemberton, Poltrack, Shapiro, Stone
Administration: Fossbender, Calabro, Haig, Craw, Mas, Sullivan, Preis
Media: Redding Pilot, WICC
Others: 28 members of the public and staff

Mrs. Pemberton called the March 16, 2006 meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of March 9, 2006 as submitted. Gombos, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Hickok, Redding: Mrs. Hickok, on behalf of Lacrosse Club, read a letter from the Lacrosse Booster Club. The club, due to very aggressive fund raising, will fund the spring season of freshmen & JV Lacrosse. The club will wait another year for funding assistance for those programs and urged the board to fund them next year.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

A statement from Mr. Bonfanti was read. He suggested 7% as a target number for the budget increase.

DISCUSSION ON MEDICAL RESERVE FUND

Dr. Fossbender explained the long standing arrangement between the three boards of education regarding the medical reserve trust. The plan in place allows the boards to borrow from one another should the need arise. Dr. Fossbender recommended that the agreement be reviewed and re-affirmed, to prevent any misunderstanding among the parties in regard to the use of the Trust. The agreement would not be changed and the use would be consistent with the past use. He added that the Easton Board of Education will present a formal request to borrow funds from the Trust at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION OF 2006-2007 OPERATING BUDGET

The board continued the discussion of the operating budget. The starting point at this time includes the adding back of the English and Science positions, removal of the Pay for Play proposal and reduces the contribution to the pension fund. The budget is \$17,913,153 representing a 9.97% increase.

The administration presented an adjusted staffing proposal with the addition back of the English & Science positions.

Motion: move to accept the administration's proposed budget of \$17,913,153, or a 9.97% increase over the current budget. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

The board continued the discussion of the budget, making amendments to the budget.

The administration recommended moving the high school operations from a 12-month schedule to a 10-month schedule, eliminating the traditional summer curriculum work. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Gombos raised the issue of field trips and which trips should be funded by parents and which should be considered in the operating budget. The administration responded with an explanation of field trips that are an integral part of the curriculum.

The Anthem stock liquidation was explained by Mrs. Sullivan. The current estimate of revenue to Region #9 is \$60,000. This adjustment was made to the budget.

Motion: move to amend the motion to accept reductions in scenario #2, \$78,174. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Scenario #3 reductions were discussed.

Motion: move to amend the motion to accept reductions in scenario #4 of \$25,000. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

This adjustment brought the budget to \$17,749,979, or 8.97%

Scenario #4 reductions were discussed.

Motion: move to amend the motion to accept reductions in scenario #4 of \$12,670. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

This adjustment brought the budget to \$17,737,309, or 8.89%.

Mrs. Gombos noted a technical edit, \$750 still in the proposed budget for the eliminated Capstone program.

This adjustment would bring the budget to \$17,736,559.

Mr. Poltrack recommended adding back \$15,000 to fund the JV and freshmen Lacrosse programs. No action was taken.

The motion under consideration was tabled to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank DeSalvo, Redding: suggested the board discuss Mr. Poltrack's previous proposal to increase parking fees, and suggested further discussion of the legal fees for the additional funding needed to complete the building project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to Executive Session for discussion of a pending litigation: consideration of action to enforce or implement legal relief or right pertaining to the Joel Barlow Building project. Invited to attend Executive Session – administrators and members of FOC. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting recessed at 11:20 pm

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 11:58pm.

No action taken in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn. Coppinger, Stone. Approved. Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Huntley Stone
Region 9 BOE Secretary
Recorded by Mary Maday