

Region 9 Board of Education
June 19, 2006
Meeting Minutes

Filed subject to approval

Attendance: Bonfanti, Coppinger, Lewis, Pemberton, Poltrack, Shapiro, Gombos
Administration: Fossbender, Calabro, Haig, Mas, Sullivan, Craw
Media: Redding Pilot
Student Representative: Tim Lewis
Others: five members of the public

Mrs. Pemberton called the June 19, 2006 meeting to order at 7:30 pm

AGENDA CHANGE

Motion: move to change the agenda to move Curriculum, textbook approval to immediately before New Business, and with a brief executive session to the agenda following. Lewis, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of May 23, 2006 as amended. Lewis, Bonfanti. Approved. 6-0-1. Gombos abstained.

Amendment: the attachment provided by Dr. Shapiro regarding the Charles Haus text was not attached to the board member's minutes nor is it on the website. Copies of the minutes distributed at the meeting contained the attachment.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of May 30, 2006 Special Meeting as submitted. Coppinger, Bonfanti. Approved. 6-0-1. Shapiro abstained.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2006 Public Hearing as submitted. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. 4-0-3. Shapiro, Bonfanti, Coppinger abstained.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Shapiro asked if the Drug and Alcohol policy would be presented at this meeting. Mrs. Pemberton responded that the Policy Committee has not reviewed the policy as yet. Dr. Fossbender added that a presentation on the policy is planned for the July meeting.

STUDENT REPORT

Tim Lewis reported on recent student activities, including the Awards Assembly, Prom & Post Prom and Student Council elections.

**CURRICULUM: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON TEXT FOR AP
COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

Maureen Kilbourn introduced Jennifer Desmarais who will be the teacher for the AP Comparative Government and Politics course. Ms. Desmarais described her vision for

the course, provided written information on supplemental readings and texts that will be used in the book, and addressed the concerns expressed at the previous meeting.

Discussion of the recommended text, Comparative Politics, Domestic Resources to Global Challenges by Charles Hauss followed. Dr. Shapiro urged consideration of another text, Countries & Concepts by Michael Roskin. Further discussion of the text selection followed.

Discussion continued on the process of course and text approval. Mrs. Gombos recommended that when a course is presented to the board for approval, the text should be included.

Motion: Move to approve the text, Comparative Politics by Charles Hauss for use in the AP Comparative Government and Politics course in the fall. Coppinger, Bonfanti. Approved. 5.33-1.78. Voting for: Bonfanti, Coppinger, Poltrack, Pemberton, Lewis. Voting against: Shapiro, Gombos.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to executive session for a discussion of pending litigation: consideration of action to enforce or implement legal relief or right pertaining to the Joel Barlow Building Project. Bonfanti, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting recessed at 8:15 pm

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:45 pm.

Motion: move that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Financial Oversight Committee to approve the settlement negotiated with P. Francini and Co., Lumberman's and Kennedy electric as discussed in Executive Session. Poltrack, Lewis. Approved. Unanimous.

JUNIOR WRITING PORTFOLIO REPORT

Jack Powers and Jonathan Budd provided a written report and reviewed the information with the board. The information included the use of the Writing Center and Academic Lab, and the assessment of the portfolios.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL PROPOSED TRIP FOR STUDENTS TO FRANCE

French teacher, Sandi VanAusdal, proposed a 10-day trip to France during the 2007 February break for about 12 students. The students will be housed with families in St. Charles and attend a high school in Orleans. Two-day trips to Paris are planned. As this is an "overseas" trip, by policy the Board of Education must approve of the trip. Mrs. VanAusdal presented additional details of the proposed trip.

Mrs. Gombos asked if the trip could be done "outside" of the school, without the liability/insurance/health issues and board of education approval. She would support the trip without board of education sanction. Discussion followed.

Dr. Fossbender asked if the concept of the trip could be approved. Because of the differing opinions on the trip, Dr. Fossbender suggested additional discussion at the July meeting, with information from the board attorney and a review of the minutes from the last overseas trip.

REDDING EDUCATION FOUNDATION UPDATE

Kate Ebbott of the Redding Education Foundation provided an update on the work the Foundation funded during the past year. In addition, the Foundation requested approval of a new program, C.O.R.E. This program provides an alternative for students and parents to honor educations, individual student achievements and special events. Contributions to the Redding Foundation can be made by parents, guardians, relatives and friends in the name of an educator or staff member. This is similar to the program in Easton sponsored by the Easton Learning Foundation. The program is an alternative to gift giving at holiday time and at the end of the school year.

Following further discussion, a motion was offered.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the Redding Education Foundation C.O.R.E program. Coppinger, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

POLICY APPROVAL

The Wellness Policy, 6142.101, was presented for a second reading. Members of the Wellness Committee present included Julie Gorman (Redding BOE), Mike BonTempo (JRMS staff) and Ann Metcalf (Sodexo Manager). Mr. Coppinger also served on the committee. The Redding and Easton boards of education have approved the policy.

Ann Metcalf, Sodexo Food Service, provided board members and administrators with samples of the healthy foods the schools are currently or will be serving for lunches. The veggie plate and yogurt parfait are being served in the high school and will be made available in the middle & elementary schools. Mrs. Metcalf is working with the food service staff to develop healthy menu choices for the fall. A presentation will be made to the board in the fall.

Some minor adjustments were made in the wording of the policy.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education accept the Wellness Policy, 6142.101 as amended for a second and final reading. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

The Food Allergy Policy, 5141.25, was also presented for a second reading.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education accept the Food Allergy Policy, 5141.25 for a second and final reading. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Fossbender provided copies of Commissioner of Education Betty Sternberg's letter highlighting the 2006 legislative highlights. The Special Education excess grant money will be increased, Public Act 06-63 concerns offering health foods and beverages in school, the start time for testing has been repealed, and bullying in schools was addressed. He also provided copies of two articles, one on AP courses, and the other on the challenges related to the Wellness Policy.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Mrs. Sullivan reported on the following:

1. Year-to-date: Mrs. Sullivan reported the budget is near a break even point and may end the year with a small expended amount of funding.
2. Insurance: the premium increase for the next year is 3.23% due to additional negotiations. Mrs. Sullivan provided a written report from the Insurance Committee that included the areas the Committee reviewed for possible savings. The Committee recommended an increase in the Stop Loss Limit for individual claims from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve Insurance Committee report and increase the Stop Loss Limit for individual claims from \$100,000 to \$150,000 as recommended. Gombos, Lewis. Approved. Unanimous.

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM

Mrs. Mas reported the 8th grade ILA and Social Studies staff of Easton and Redding met with the writing staff at Joel Barlow High School in the language lab. They reviewed & discussed the scoring of 8th grade writing samples. This exercise will be helpful in preparation for the student transition from 8th grade to high school.

The Technology Plan has been submitted to the State as required.

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mr. Calabro reported on the following:

1. Noteworthy News: Mr. Calabro highlighted the success of the athletic teams.
 2. Discipline Policy: data on discipline was circulated to board members for review.
- Mr. Calabro added that the Prom was very successful, the facility was wonderful and the student's behavior was good. He received many comments about the good behavior from the facility personnel.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Poltrack reported that a member of the Committee, Frank DeSalvo, requested that it be on the record that he, as a member of the Committee, was not asked to attend a Freedom of Information work session. This relates to a recent letter from Mary Kubick to the editor in the Redding Pilot. The FOI training session request was directed to board members.

PENSION COMMITTEE

Mr. Coppinger reported the committee is working on an investment policy statement and the next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2006.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeanne Wendschuh, Redding: thanked the board members for presenting democracy in action, especially in the evaluation of the course and textbook early in the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to executive session for a discussion of performance of a public employee, and for a discussion of collective bargaining, health benefits. Poltrack, Lewis. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Fossbender and Mr. Calabro were asked to be present

The meeting recessed at 11:45 pm

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 12:10 am

Motion: move to enter into a new 3-year contract July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2009, with Ross Calabro, Assistant Superintendent/Head of School with a total salary of \$146,000. The Board of Education will make elective contribution designated by the Assistant Superintendent/Head of School in accordance with sec. 403(b) of the IRS code. Gombos, Shapiro. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move to authorize the board chair in coordination with the board chairs of the Easton and Redding Boards of Education to negotiate a new contract with Peggy Sullivan, Director Finance and Operations consistent with discussions held in executive session. Bonfanti, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Recorded by Mary Maday