

Region 9 Board of Education  
March 20, 2007  
Minutes

*Filed subject to approval*

Attendance: Bonfanti, Coppinger, Gombos, Lewis, Pemberton, Poltrack, Shapiro, Stone  
Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, Calabro, Haig, Craw, Goodpaster  
Student Council Rep: Cary Glynn  
Financial Oversight Committee: DeSalvo  
Media: Redding Pilot  
Others: more than 18 members of the public

Mrs. Pemberton called the March 20, 2007 meeting to order at 7:42 pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion: move to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2007 meeting as corrected. Poltrack, Stone. Approved. Mrs. Pemberton and Mr. Bonfanti abstained.**

Corrections: page 1, Burdin Hickok; page 2, Mr. Poltrack congratulated the Boys' Basketball team and Coach Pardalis, and Coach Tynan was recognized by the Southwestern Conference.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Bardani, Redding: statement that he intends to survey other area high schools regarding the number of athletic fields, their amenities and use. He will provide the information he gathers to the local newspapers.

Lauren Ashton, Redding: requested that the public be allowed to address the board following their discussion of the budget but prior to taking action.

Frank DeSalvo, Redding: expressed his concern that the FOC did not have the opportunity to discuss the budget following the adjustments made by the administration at last week's meeting; offered support for the purchase of technology now but financed over a period of time.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Stone noted that the three boards of education approved the Central Office budget with a \$10,000 reduction in the facilities line and requested the administration report back to the boards with the details of that reduction. Mrs. Sullivan confirmed that the facilities line in the budgets of all three boards reflect that change.

Dr. Shapiro, reacting to Mr. DeSalvo's comments, suggested the members of the FOC participate in the budget discussion.

Mrs. Gombos suggested that the board could hold dual meetings of the board with the FOC, as was done in the past.

## **STUDENT REPORT**

Student representative, Cary Glynn, reported that the students are concerned about the condition of the track. The Student Council blood drive had to be postponed due to the snow day, but will be rescheduled. Members of the Student Council are planning for the convocation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING NONRENEWALS**

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Superintendent of Schools must recommend to the Board of Education teacher nonrenewals. These are nonrenewals of long-term substitutes and do not reflect on the quality of their work.

**Motion: Move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Region 9 Board of Education nonrenew the teacher contract of Leann Skalkos at the end of the 2006-2007 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Stone, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: Move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Region 9 Board of Education nonrenew the teacher contract of Danielle Andrews at the end of the 2006-2007 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Stone, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: Move that, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, the Region 9 Board of Education nonrenew the teacher contract of Matt Stragazzi at the end of the 2006-2007 school year as recommended by the Superintendent. Stone, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: that the Superintendent be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to these three individuals and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board to any requests for a hearing, if required by law, or for other data which may be forthcoming from the teacher and/or his/her representative pursuant to applicable provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151; and that the Superintendent be directed that any response to a request for a hearing, if a hearing is required by law, indicate that such hearing is to be before the Board of Education. Stone, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Bardani, Redding: commented that he did not agree with the purchase of laptops for the teachers, that the teachers were not traveling and could have access to PCs.

Robert Cieri, Redding: reported that the newly formed booster club for the track & field team supports the resurfacing of the track.

## **SEARCH PROCESS: HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Dr. Fossbender reported that the position has been advertised in a number of newspapers with an April 13 deadline. He recommended that focus groups, including parents, students & staff, be scheduled with Jonathan Costa as a moderator. Dr. Fossbender, Mrs. Haig and Mrs. Mas will do the initial screening of candidates. The Search Committee will be composed of Mrs. Gombos, Mr. Stone, Mr. Lewis and Mrs. Pemberton. Additional members will be added.

### **2007-2008 OPERATING BUDGET**

The proposed operating budget was discussed. Discussion included revisions to the reductions proposed at the previous meeting. The dollar amount of the adjustment due to personnel changes was reduced as the changes have not been finalized.

Mr. Bonfanti endorsed a target number of 9%, the purchase of technology, and retaining the Chinese program.

The current budget increase, after the adjustments, was 8.99%

The technology purchase was discussed. John Crowley was present and participated in the discussion. He would like to hold off on the purchase of some of the technology plan until the 2008-2009. The necessary purchase for the budget would include network upgrade, staff laptops and curriculum-driven lab, for a total for \$175,000. Board members were in agreement with the purchase of the equipment, and funding over 3-5 years.

Field maintenance was also discussed. Mr. Craw provided information on this year's field maintenance schedule and associated costs. The track resurfacing was also discussed. Ms. Goodpaster reported that the track should be resurfaced every 5-7 years and is in need of resurfacing. The current condition is not safe for practice. She added that the track team, other athletic teams, physical education classes, and the public use the track. She also said that the last time the track was resurfaced was 1988.

Board members discussed adding a second question to the referendum regarding coming forward with a request to separately fund capital improvement items. Mr. Poltrack recommended that the capital items should include the roof repair/replacement and rooftop units, theatre lights & curtain, track resurfacing, and the master plan.

**Motion: move to allow an additional Public Comment. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Cieri, Redding: commented that the FOC should be a part of the budget discussions, the track resurfacing is a maintenance item, and asked if the board had explored grants for the master plan.

Susanne Krivit, Redding: commented about the drive to get below 9% increase and urged the board to propose what is needed for the school to operate.

Gowan Dacey, Easton: question regarding the increase for each of the towns. Mrs. Sullivan responded that, going forward with an 8.99% increase would mean an increase for Easton of 11.98% and an increase for Redding of 6.67%

## **RECESS**

A brief recess was taken, 10:15 pm

**RECONVENE**, 10:30 pm

## **BUDGET DISCUSSION**, continued

**Motion: move to discuss the inclusion of a second question for a referendum to address capital costs and maintenance. Poltrack, Coppinger.**

Discussion of the motion followed. Board members discussed what specific items would be included in the amount to be funded by the separate request.

**Amended Motion: move to include a second question in the May referendum to address the items such as track resurfacing, roof replacement and/or repair, theatre lights replacement, theatre curtain replacement, rooftop unit replacement, master plan development, and contingency, in aggregate not to exceed \$1,000,000. Poltrack, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move to adopt a proposed operating budget for 2007-2008 for Joel Barlow High School of \$19,331,090, representing an increase of 8.99% over the current budget. The Town of Easton share will be \$8,708,656 and the Town of Redding share will be \$10,622,434. The increase to Easton is 11.97% and the increase to Redding is 6.66%. Coppinger, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Superintendent: no additional information.

Head of School: Mr. Calabro circulated a written report.

Director of Curriculum: no additional information.

Director of Finance: no additional information

## **FACILITIES & FIELDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Stone reported on conversations with Mr. Contessa of Falcon Pride and the fact that the assumption that prefaced his motion made on 2/27/07 (**For purposes of this Motion it is assumed that there is a Falcon Pride revised proposal and that it consists of an offer to attempt to raise funds for and to do the following...**) is erroneous.

Mr. Poltrack noted that the F & F Committee would continue to meet and proceed as directed by their charge. The FRQ deadline for submittals is 3/31 and the committee will review the submittals.

## **CENTRAL OFFICE RELOCATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Stone reported the Committee met last week for a tour of the facilities under consideration. A meeting is scheduled with First Selectman Kupinse to discuss the details of the lease/rental and fit-out. He recommended the administration discuss an extension of the lease on the current facility, on a month-to-month basis, as he doubts that the new facility could be ready for June 1, 2007.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Cieri, Redding: suggested a separate section in the local papers to highlight the school and showcase students, their work & activities.

#### **AGENDA ADDITION**

**Motion: move to add a discussion of security issues in executive session. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.**

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion: move to executive session to discuss security issues and consideration of action to enforce or implement legal relief or right pertaining to the JBHS Building Project and collective bargaining, JBEA contract. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.**

**Dr. Fossbender, Mr. Calabro and Mrs. Sullivan were invited to be present. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 pm. Mrs. Sullivan left at 11:59 pm.**

#### **RECONVENE**

**The meeting was reconvened in public session at 12:03 am No action was taken in executive session.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion: move to adjourn. Coppinger, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous**

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 am

Respectfully submitted,

Huntley Stone  
Region #9 BOE Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday