

Region 9 Board of Education
April 24, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bonfanti, Coppinger, Gombos, Lewis, Pemberton, Poltrack, Stone
Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, Calabro, Haig, Craw, Goodpaster
Student Council Rep: Cary Glynn
Financial Oversight Committee: DeSalvo, Karvelis, Cable, Hermann
Media: Redding Pilot, Easton Courier
Others: more than 200 members of the public

Mrs. Pemberton called the April 24, 2007 meeting to order at 7:30 pm, immediately following the Special Meeting.

AGENDA CHANGE

Motion: move to scramble the agenda, moving New Fields and Facilities Proposal to the next item on the agenda. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

NEW FIELDS AND FACILITIES PROPOSAL: FALCON PRIDE/BARLOW NEIGHBORS

Public comment regarding the proposal presented at the earlier special meeting was allowed.

Keith Raiff, Redding: Mr. Raiff, on behalf of the Joel Barlow Baseball team, coaches and Booster Club, read a letter of support for improvements for the baseball facility.

Ron Bellenot, Redding: commented that the athletics are a very important part of education and supports the proposal for improvements to the athletic facilities.

Jennifer Bodurtha, Redding: stated that participation in sports is important for development of well rounded individuals.

Paul Stauffer, Redding: thanked all those who participated in the planning, and asked the board of education to vote for and validate the conceptual direction proposed.

Joe Dolan, Redding: noted that Harvard University must consider athletics important because there are 41 athletic teams, they must see the linkage between academics and sports.

Sue Dorenbosch, Redding: urged the board of education to take necessary steps to provide safe athletics facilities for the children, current and future.

George Colby, Easton: thanked Falcon Pride and the Barlow Neighbors for coming together to work out a good proposal.

Public comment concluded and board member discussion followed.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education adopt the plan presented tonight, March 24, 2007, to serve as primary input to the master plan if funds are approved and that the Region #9 Board of Education supports the conceptual framework of the plan. Bonfanti, Stone. Approved. Unanimous.

A brief recess followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 20, 2007 were deferred, pending clarification of a statement.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2007 District Meeting as corrected. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. 6-0-1.11. Mr. Bonfanti abstained.

STUDENT REPORT

Student representative, Cary Glynn, reported that the topic of the recent convocation was the new Head of School and what characteristics the students value most. He also commented all facets of the school are important, including academics, athletics, arts, performances, etc., and should be supported by the community, especially in terms of the budget referendum.

PTSA ARTS FOUNDATION; FUNDRAISING TO SUPPORT THEATER AND ARTS PROGRAM

Phyllis Wasko and Carol Emmanuel have revitalized the PTSA Arts Foundation working with the Barlow students to raise funds for the theater and arts. They requested permission for a fundraiser that would sell name plaques for the auditorium seats with the donors name or in memory of someone.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the PTSA Arts Foundation auditorium seat fundraiser proposal as presented. Poltrack, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR THE JUNE 30, 2007 FISCAL YEAR

The appointment of new auditors was reviewed and recommended for approval by the FOC.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education appoint the firm of Blum Shapiro LLC as auditors for the June 30, 2007 fiscal year. Poltrack, Coppinger. Approved. Unanimous.

UPDATE ON RELOCATION OF CENTRAL OFFICE

Mr. Stone reported negotiations are continuing with the Town of Easton on the rental of office space in the old Samuel Staples Elementary School. Mrs. Sullivan is proceeding with negotiations for the Central Office's current landlord for an extension of the current lease.

UPDATE ON SEARCH PROCESS: HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dr. Fossbender reported the initial screening and the first round of interviews with six candidates was completed. The Search Committee has been expanded for interviews with three of the candidates. He anticipates that the Committee will be prepared to make

a recommendation to the Board of Education next week. A special meeting may be called for that purpose.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent: Dr. Fossbender reported on Governor Rell's recommendations on the budget as it relates to education.

Director of Curriculum: Mrs. Mas reported on the successful first ER9 Teacher Job Recruitment Fair held in March at JBHS. Approximately 300 teachers attended the fair. All administrators were in attendance. Mrs. Mas also reported that Samuel Staples Elementary School hosted a Diversity Day at the school. Mrs. Gombos assisted at one of the booths. Mrs. Mas and teacher Sandy VanAusdal will attend a Symposium on China Partnerships at CREC. The symposium is for districts interested in starting a Chinese language program.

Head of School: Mr. Calabro circulated a written report. He announced Rian Rooney, a junior was a finalist in the Connecticut Association of Schools competition. The competition recognizes academically talented high school students in high schools throughout the state. The Captain's Council completed their project on the lower gym, with painting and hanging of championship banners. The work was completed during spring break with assistance from parents and staff. An exhibit of student work, Barlow-Palooza, is scheduled for May 31. The exhibit will include a variety of student creations, including art, photography, singing, dancing, etc.

Director of Finance: The object summary was distributed for review. The health insurance claims are running a bit lower than the previous year and Mrs. Sullivan anticipates an end of year surplus in the insurance reserve account.

AGENDA ADDITION

Motion: move to add Report from PTSA Representative to the agenda. Gombos, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Poltrack reported the Committee will meet to review the eight RFQ/P received for the Master Plan. The Committee will then schedule interviews for the selected firms.

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The FOC recommended approval of invoices for payment.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education accept the recommendation of the FOC and approve the following invoices:

Navigant, March invoices totaling \$430.00;

Carmody & Torrance, March invoices, \$3713.87;

US Bank, note, \$50000;

SRT Fire Sprinkler, pressure test, \$3090.00

For a total of \$7733.87. Karvelis, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

PTSA

Mrs. Pemberton reported the BOE received a formal request from the PTSA for support of the annual Post Prom Party in the form of payment of custodial services for the event.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the request from the PTSA for custodial services for the PTSA sponsored Post Prom event. Poltrack, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Scarth, Redding: Mr. Scarth reported on a successful season for the Boys' Swim Team. He would like to see the growth and expansion for the sport. Mrs. Gombos noted that the board has requested written documentation of how a sport can grow from a club or parent sponsored sport to a full school sponsored sport.

Jeanne Wendschuh, Redding: Mrs. Wendschuh thanked the board of approving the recent AP English trip the England. As one of the chaperons, she reported the experience was fantastic and the students were very well behaved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to executive session to discuss consideration of action to enforce or implement legal relief or right pertaining to the JBHS Building Project and collective bargaining, Certified and Non-Certified Staff. Poltrack, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened in public session at 10:12 pm No action was taken in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Huntley Stone
Region #9 BOE Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday