

Region 9 Board of Education
May 29, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Bonfanti, Coppinger, Gombos, Lewis, Pemberton, Poltrack, Shapiro, Stone
Administration: Fossbender, Mas, Sullivan, Calabro, Haig, Craw
Student Council Rep: Cary Glynn
Media: Redding Pilot
Others: four members of the public

Mrs. Pemberton called the May 29, 2007 meeting to order at 7:43 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move to approve the minutes of March 20, 2007 as corrected. Coppinger, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Correction: page 3, paragraph on Field Maintenance, delete the following sentence “The current condition is not safe for practice.”, this statement was not made during the meeting.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the joint meeting of April 24, 2007 as corrected. Poltrack, Stone. Approved. 7.11 – 0- .89. Dr. Shapiro abstained.

Correction: page 1, under Financial Oversight Committee, the US Bank note was for \$500.00, and correct the name of SRI Fire Sprinkler.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 24, 2007 as corrected. Poltrack, Coppinger. Approved. 7.11 – 0- .89. Dr. Shapiro abstained.

Corrections: page 3, Mr. Calabro report included the announcement **that graduation was set for June 19, 2007**; under Facilities & Fields Committee, there were **seven** RFQ/P received; under Financial Oversight Committee, the US Bank note was for **\$500.00** and correct the name of **SRI** Fire Sprinkler.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2007 meeting as submitted. Gombos, Bonfanti. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2007 meeting as submitted. Gombos, Stone. Approved. 6.22 – 0 – 1.78. Shapiro and Coppinger abstained.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Shapiro asked if the Policy Committee had reviewed the policies on the agenda, and asked if the Policy Committee should continue to be a standing committee. Dr. Fossbender responded that the policies for consideration were sent to the members of the Policy Committee in advance, but they did not meet to discuss them.

Ms. Pemberton reported the board received correspondence from parents of students who participated on the field trip abroad, thanking the Board of Education for allowing the trip.

STUDENT REPORT

Student representative, Cary Glynn, reported on Spring Weekend activities, student awards, the successful student trips and Band competition trip. He also described the upcoming arts festival, Barlow-Palooza, which will offer student performances and show students' work. The event is on May 31, 2007 and the public is invited to attend.

CONNECTICUT NUTRITION STANDARDS

The Board of Education was asked to reaffirm the school's participation in the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. Discussion of participation followed. Mrs. Gombos asked for financial data regarding participation. Mr. Coppinger spoke in favor of not continuing in the program. There was agreement to continue to participate in the program for the coming year. Mrs. Sullivan will gather financial data regarding participation in the program and the topic will be reviewed during a board meeting in the next year.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education certify that all food items sold to students separately from a reimbursable lunch during the 2007-08 school year will meeting the Connecticut Nutrition Standards. Coppinger, Gombos. Approved, 6.89 – 1.11. Poltrack voted against the motion.

SCHOOL LUNCH PRICE INCREASE

Mrs. Metcalf, Food Service Director recommended an increase in the school lunch program of 25 cents across the board. If approved, the lunch price for students at Joel Barlow High School will be \$2.75 and the price for adults will be \$3.00.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve a 25 cent increase in the price of school lunches for the school year 2007-08. Coppinger, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

COORDINATION AND COMPLETION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS DURING THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

The draft charge for the Committee to be established for the coordination and completion of capital improvements was presented for review. The charge will be approved at the next meeting. An update of the items to be completed was also presented for review.

FIRST READING OF POLICIES

- a. Violent and Aggressive Behavior, Bullying: updating of existing policy;
 - b. Acceptable Use in School of the Internet and Other Networks: technical edit to include new technology;
 - c. Enrollment of Children of Non-Resident Teachers in the ER9 Schools: new policy.
- The policies were review and discussed. These policies were accepted for a first reading.

A new policy on Controversial Issues was introduced. This policy was referred to the Policy Committee for review and further discussion at a meeting in the fall.

REQUEST FOR USE OF JOEL BARLOW PARKING LOT

The school administration recommended approval of a request to use the front parking lot for a private event on June 10, 2007. The required paperwork and fee are in order, and the Redding Police will be present.

Motion: move that the Region #9 Board of Education approve the request for the use of the Joel Barlow High School front parking lot for a private event on June 10, 2007 as described. Coppinger, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

UPDATE ON RELOCATION OF CENTRAL OFFICE

Mr. Stone reported on a committee meeting held last week and the offer presented to Easton's First Selectman for consideration. To date there has been no response from the First Selectmen or the Board of Selectmen. The landlord of the current location has requested that the office be vacated by November 1, 2007, and if not possible, not until after March 1, 2008. The committee and the administration will contact the current landlord regarding the extension of the lease. The conversion of the space at the old Samuel Staples Elementary School would take several months after all the permits are in place.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Susanne Krivit, Redding: Regarding the request for use of the parking lot, she would have preferred that the larger back parking lot be used. This would prevent the need for cars to park along Barlow Drive and on private property.

Gail von Dwingelo, Redding: expressed concern about the use of the parking lot, especially the potential of 95 cars exiting through the residential neighborhood at midnight.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent: Dr. Fossbender attended a session with U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and Congressman Christopher Shays for a discussion of the NCLB legislation. Dr. Fossbender also reported that the potential to hold a referendum for additional funding on the same day as the general election in November is being explored with Easton Town Clerk Buckley.

Head of School: Mr. Calabro reported plans for graduation June 19 are in place. He also reported on grants received from the Easton Learning Foundation and the Redding Education Foundation, Pam Goodpaster was awarded the Outstanding Service Award by the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD), and a successful Family University program held at Joel Barlow on May 21. A Connecticut State Department of Education grant has been received for the use of the computer assisted writing program, My Access.

Director of Curriculum: Mrs. Mas reported the Wellness Committee met to discuss concerns and issues regarding implementation of the Wellness Policy. She, Helen Keller Principal Joan Parker and Ken Craw participated in a Tri-State Consortium visitation to the Weston Schools for a review of the science curriculum. Mrs. Mas reported that she was notified that her proposal to the Connecticut Reading Association was accepted and she will present that proposal at their conference.

Director of Finance: The object summary was distributed for review. Mrs. Sullivan reported health insurance claims are averaging \$100,000/month; the current reserve is \$227,000. She anticipates an end-of-year balance of \$160,000 in the reserve. She is projecting a small end-of-year balance in the operating budget, with some going to the health insurance reserve and some to the capital reserve fund.

FACILITIES AND FIELDS COMMITTEE

Mr. Poltrack reported the Committee heard presentations from firms for the master plan work and will meet within the next two weeks to make a recommendation to the board of education.

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:

Carmody & Torrance LLC, April services, \$9,987.99

Navigant, April invoices totaling \$5,880.00

O & G attorney services, \$2,148.75

For a total of \$18,016.74. Gombos, Lewis. Approved. Unanimous.

PENSION COMMITTEE

Mr. Coppinger reported the committee met recently to review the quarterly report. Dr. Shapiro asked that the board be provided with the quarterly report.

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) Performance of public employees, Supervisor of Special Education and Head of School;

c) Pertaining to a matter which will result in the disclosure of student records. Coppinger, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm

RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened in public session at 11:01 pm.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 board of Education amend the period of expulsion with respect to a student identified in Executive Session. Coppinger, Poltrack. In favor: Bonfanti, Coppinger, Lewis, Pemberton, Poltrack, Stone. Opposed: Gombos, Shapiro. Motion Approved.

Motion: Move to add item to the Agenda: Approval of hiring of new Head of School, Thomas McMorrان, and approval of his contract. Stone, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: Move to approve the hiring of new Head of School, Thomas McMorrان and approve his contract. Stone, Poltrack. Approved. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Huntley Stone
Region #9 BOE Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday