

Filed subject to approval

Easton, Redding & Region 9 Boards of Education
Joint Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2015

Attendance:

Easton Board of Education: Bobroske, Parker Peskay (7:33 pm), Underberger
Redding Board of Education: Ajavananda (8:08 pm), Florkowski, Gaspar, Irwin, Miller (7:43 pm), Sobel, Witt
Region 9 Board of Education: Colangelo, D'Agostino, Gombos, Hancock, Hocker, King
Administration: Josefsberg, Sullivan and additional school administrators
Others: two members of the public and staff, videographer, and representative of the Easton Courier/Redding Pilot

Vice Chairman of the Redding Board of Education, Sara Sobel, opened the joint meeting of Boards in the Media Center of the Joel Barlow High School.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Sobel called the Redding Board of Education meeting to order at 7:30 pm
Mr. Hocker called the Region 9 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
The Easton Board of Education did not have a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 31, 2015 Tri-Board meeting as submitted. D'Agostino, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 31, 2015 Tri-Board meeting as submitted. Florkowski, Irwin. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Peskay arrived, 7:33 pm.

The Easton Board of Education was called to order at 7:33 pm

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 31, 2015 Tri-Board meeting as submitted. Underberger, Peskay. Approved. 2-0-2. Mrs. Bobroske and Dr. Peskay abstained.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION AND BEVERAGE EXEMPTION ANNUAL RENEWAL

Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the purpose of participating in the program.

Motion: to approve the Healthy Food Certification and Beverage Exemption renewal: For the 2015-16 fiscal year, the ER9 Boards of Education will continue to certify to the Connecticut State Department of Education that all food items offered for sale to students separately from a reimbursable lunch will meet Connecticut Nutrition Standards. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students at all times, in all schools, and from all sources including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on

school premises whether or not school sponsored; and **FURTHER Moved** that the Boards of Education continue to exempt from the above certification, sale of food items that do not meet Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages that do not meet the requirements of state statute (Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes, provided (1) such sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food and/or beverage is not sold from a vending machine or school store.

Region 9 Board of Education: motion by Mr. D'Agostino, seconded by Mr. Hancock. Approved 5-0-1. Mrs. Gombos abstained.

Redding Board of Education: motion by Dr. Gaspar, seconded by Dr. Irwin. Approved. Unanimous.

Easton Board of Education: motion by Mrs. Bobroske, seconded by Dr. Underberger. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CHANGE IN AUTHORIZED SIGNER OF CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM AGREEMENT

This change is a requirement with the change in superintendents.

Motion: As of July 1, 2015, the Tri-District (ER9) will change the authorized signer of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program to Dr. Thomas McMorran, Superintendent of Schools.

Region 9 Board of Education: motion by Mrs. Colangelo, seconded by Mr. Hancock. Approved. Unanimous.

Redding Board of Education: motion by Dr. Gaspar, seconded by Dr. Irwin. Approved. Unanimous.

Easton Board of Education: motion by Dr. Underberger, seconded by Mrs. Bobroske. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CENTRAL OFFICE CONTRACTS & COMPENSATION

Dr. Josefsberg provided his recommendations for the 2015-16 salaries for the contracts of the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Finance.

- Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, recommended salary \$184,317 plus \$3,000 for doctorate degree.
- Director of Finance, recommended salary \$166,427.

Both salary increases are 2% over current salary.

Mr. Miller arrived at 7:43 pm, during the discussion below.

Discussion followed. The primary discussion related to the stipend for completing the doctorate degree. Mrs. Gombos expressed her thoughts that the stipend was not appropriate given the amount of funding provided for the educational costs to attain that degree. Dr. Josefsberg indicated the stipend would continue in future years unless negotiated otherwise. While some Board members felt the stipend was recognition for the individual's achievement, others were concerned that it was setting a precedent.

Vote #1

Motion: move that the Redding Board approve the 2015-16 contracts and salaries for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Finance as recommended by Dr. Josefsberg. Miller, Gaspar. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the 2015-16 contracts and salaries for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Finance as recommended by Dr. Josefsberg. Colangelo, Hancock. Motion failed, 3-3. Voting For: Hancock, Hocker, Colangelo. Voting against: King, D'Agostino, Gombos.

Motion: move that the Easton Board approve the 2015-16 contracts and salaries for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Finance as recommended by Dr. Josefsberg. Underberger, Bobroske. Approved. 4-1. Dr. Peskay voted against the motion.

Since the motion was not approved by all three Boards, the mechanism for resolution was put into place. Further discussion of the recommendations followed, to allow members of the Boards to reconsider their views on the motion. If, after the third vote, the motion is not approved by all three boards, the motion is considered approved or failed by majority vote.

Further discussion followed.

Mrs. Ajavananda arrived at 8:08 pm, during the discussion

Vote #2:

Motion: move that the Redding Board approve the 2015-16 contracts and salaries for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Finance as recommended by Dr. Josefsberg. Miller, Gaspar. Approved. 6-0-1. Mrs. Ajavananda abstained.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the 2015-16 contracts and salaries for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Finance as recommended by Dr. Josefsberg. Colangelo, Hancock. Motion failed, 3-3. Voting For: Hancock, Hocker, Colangelo. Voting against: King, D'Agostino, Gombos.

Motion: move that the Easton Board approve the 2015-16 contracts and salaries for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Finance as recommended by Dr. Josefsberg. Underberger, Bobroske. Approved. 4-1. Dr. Peskay voted against the motion.

Discussion followed.

Vote #3:

Motion: move that the Redding Board approve the 2015-16 contracts and salaries for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Finance as recommended by Dr. Josefsberg. Miller, Gaspar. Approved. 6-0-1. Mrs. Ajavananda abstained.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the 2015-16 contracts and salaries for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Finance as recommended by Dr. Josefsberg. Colangelo, Hancock. Motion failed, 3-3. Voting For: Hancock, Hocker, Colangelo. Voting against: King, D'Agostino, Gombos.

Motion: move that the Easton Board approve the 2015-16 contracts and salaries for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the Director of Finance as recommended by Dr. Josefsberg. Underberger, Bobroske. Approved. 4-1. Dr. Peskay voted against the motion.

The motion PASSED: the Redding and Easton Boards of Education approved, Region 9 Board of Education did not.

DISCUSSION OF ENROLLMENT DECLINE AND LONG RANGE PLANNING

Both the Easton and Redding Boards of Education have established committees to explore and discuss options and alternatives to address the decline in enrollment and a long range plan for their schools.

Mrs. Bobroske reviewed a report which included work undertaken by the Easton Long Range Planning Committee to date. The report, presented to the Easton Board of Education at their meeting last week, included the Long Range Planning Committee's objectives, enrollment data, an overview of work completed in Phase 1, options to explore, and recommended next steps. (Copies of the report will be available on the ER9 website).

Mrs. Ajavananda noted that Redding has \$6,000 in grant money from Education Connection, the regional educational service center in western Connecticut, for use in exploring cooperative or regional agreements. The Board approved using the funds to engage Education Connection (Jonathan Costa) to assist the Long Range Planning Committee with a study of school transportation and related issues. When the two-tier bus proposal was made, Redding and Easton parents biggest concerns were about mixed-aged busing and the amount of time students would be spending on the bus each way. The Education Connection proposal would include reviewing the current busing strategy and making recommendations related to long range planning. Since Easton and Redding have common issues, the goal is to work collaboratively and problem solve these similar topics. The two Long Range Committees have met to discuss these common issues and plan to meet with Mr. Costa prior to their June 2 meeting of the two Boards.

Mrs. Gombos commented that the Region 9 Board has not engaged in Long Range planning at this point. She questioned the role of Region 9 in the discussions. Mrs. Bobroske responded that the decline in enrollment and the actions of the Easton and Redding Boards will eventually impact the Region 9 Board in some way, and they welcome the Region 9 Board members to attend and participate in the meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brenda Phelps, Redding: Mrs. Phelps questioned the salary increase for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and the comparable salary information provided. She noted that with regard to the bus issues, Redding was concerned about the mixed ages on the buses, but also the length of the bus rides, logistics of start times, and use of the time of the bus drivers, teachers and staff. She suggested alternatives, such as locating the bus depot in Redding. She also commented that the Redding Board's plan for where they will make the final budget reductions has not been announced.

Chris Parkin, Redding: Mr. Parkin asked about the discrepancy in Board meetings being videotaped, why some are and some are not. Also, why the agendas for the meetings are no longer provided via listserv, and if the Easton presentation on Long Range planning was available. He noted that the discussion of the \$3,000 stipend was 40 minutes long, longer than discussions on more costly & important issues. He commented that the voters in Redding approved a budget not knowing the specifics of the reduction. Mr. Parkin also stated that the discussion and analysis by Jonathan Costs seems to be specifically geared toward 2-tier busing.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mrs. Ajavananda commented that the contract for the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction is a renewal of her contract and the stipend is for completion of her doctorate work. She added that the reductions in the Redding education budget would be discussed at the June Board meeting. Decisions on the reduction are related to the Kindergarten enrollment data.

SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Josefsberg addressed the Boards with his reflection on his time serving as Superintendent of Schools over the past four years.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education adjourn the meeting. D'Agostino, King
Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Underberger, Bobroske
Approved. Unanimous.**

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Irwin, Florkowski
Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm

Submitted by Allyson Florkowski, Redding Board of Education Secretary
Recorded by Mary Maday