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EASTON, REDDING AND REGION 9 BOARDS OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

Joel Barlow High School - Library Learning Commons

On Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRtQ6dze5a8x5XT5LzBnDHA>

May 24, 2022 – 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Easton: Stinson, Parker, Chieda, deJesus, Wible

Redding: Parkin, Hoffman, Sadana, Gibbons (remote)

Region 9: D'Agostino, Johnston, Denny, O'Brien, Thompson

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Scrofani

Others: the recording secretary

CALL TO ORDER

J. Stinson called the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

C. Parkin called the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

M. D'Agostino called the Region 9 Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

J. deJesus asked everyone to observe a moment of silence for the tragedy that day in Texas.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SELECTION OF FOOD SERVICE PROVIDER

J. Parker explained that the Food Service Committee had met on May 18 with Charwells, that they had a good discussion, and then met in Executive Session to discuss the proposed contract from Chartwells. K. O'Brien reported that their presentation was very well put together and that Charwells had expressed future food plans that included more vegetarian options and a way to shorten the food lines. J. Parker said that the contract is for one year, with four more years of an optional renewal. Board members expressed that Chartwells has done a good job for the Districts over the years and has been more of a partner, than a vendor.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education select Chartwells as the food service provider for ER9 and authorize the administration to enter into a contract with Chartwells, pending legal counsel approval. (Parker, Wible). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education select Chartwells as the food service provider for ER9 and authorize the administration to enter into a contract with Chartwells, pending legal counsel approval. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. 4-0.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education select Chartwells as the food service provider for ER9 and authorize the administration to enter into a contract with Chartwells, pending legal counsel approval. (O'Brien, Denny). Approved. Unanimous.

At 7:51 p.m. J. Stinson said that the meeting would take a short break in order to arrange the screens for the projection of reports for the rest of the meeting. The meeting resumed at 7:56 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION

T. Johnston asked Dave Kennedy, the representative from Chartwells, if a dietician was still available to the Districts. D. Kennedy replied that in the past ER9 shared a dietician with the districts of Wilton, Westport and Ridgefield, but that that partnership has been discontinued. He said ER9 and the Wellness Committee have access to the regional dietician and that she is able to support us.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve: Pursuant to C.G.S Section 10-215f, the Easton Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the school under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. (Parker, Wible). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve: Pursuant to C.G.S Section 10-215f, the Redding Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the school under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. 4-0.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve: Pursuant to C.G.S Section 10-215f, the Region 9 Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the school under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. (O'Brien, Denny). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve: the Easton Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes

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provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. (Parker, Chieda). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve: the Redding Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. 4-0.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve: the Region 9 Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: (1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; (2) the sale is at the location of the event; and (3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. (O’Brien, Thompson). Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jason McKinnon, first thanked the BOE for the moment of silence and said that he will be sending out an email to the ER9 community. He then presented a Strategic Plan and District/School Goals for 2022/2023, saying that in order for teaching and learning to take hold in a school, there needs to be clear alignment between district, school and teacher goals. Dr. McKinnon explained that the development of a strategic plan begins with a mission and vision, that leads to a theory of action and to priorities and measurable goals and then to initiatives, and finally, to action steps. He said this work has started with the recent focus groups and his conversations with the staff at the schools. Dr. McKinnon said the measurable goals for 2022-2023 are: 1) High Impact Instructional Strategies; 2) Part A: Student Achievement (standardized measures AP and SAT); 3) Part B: Student Achievement (formative assessments or writing portfolio; and, 4) Learning Environment. He said a timeline for this

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plan includes: April-June for input gathering from faculty, community and students; June through the summer for a steering committee to analyze the input for trends; summer to the fall for development and identification of priorities; summer into the fall for analyzing school and district data; and summer into the fall for developing a district improvement plan and a school improvement plan. Boards members had questions concerning: the amount of strategies required of teachers; how school walk-throughs are being utilized; results being measured qualitatively or quantitatively; definition of theory of action; what the Boards can do to support the leadership teams; and, the time commitment for this work. Dr. McKinnon replied: teachers are already using these strategies and the plan is to just turn up the dial on them; the Districts have been using school walk-through for many years; qualitatively or quantitatively depends on what is being measured; theory of action is an "if, then" consideration; the Boards can support the leaderships teams by being involved with the steering committee or focus groups and by identifying and providing direction for priorities; and the timeline for this work would be six-eight months.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CENTRAL OFFICE ORGANIZATION

Dr. McKinnon said that while Central Office is average in size considering the number of schools, it is below average in size considering the three-district organization; that there are three sets of everything: budgets, paperwork, school personnel and contract negotiation. He said that the position of Director of Finance and Operations requires a digital upgrade and outlined other changes that included the elimination, addition and modification of Central Office positions. Board members asked for a full organizational chart before making any recommendations on the Central Office positions.

AGENDA CHANGE

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education table Item IV. E. of the meeting Agenda. (Parker, Wible). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education table Item IV. E. of the meeting Agenda. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education table Item IV. E. of the meeting Agenda. (O'Brien, Denny). Approved. Unanimous.

JOINT BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint DEI Task Force: D. Wible reported that they are having a meeting on June 6, at 7:00 p.m. at JBHS.

Easton Curriculum: J. Stinson said that Dr. Pierson Ugol is looking to schedule a Joint Curriculum Committee meeting between Easton and Redding. He reported that two new members – Claire Duane and Julia Vassey – had been appointed to the Easton Curriculum Committee.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education move Item IV. E. of the meeting Agenda off the table. (Wible, Parker). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education move Item IV. E. of the meeting Agenda off the table. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education move Item IV. E. of the meeting Agenda off the table. (O'Brien, Denny). Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CENTRAL OFFICE CONTRACTS

Dr. McKinnon explained that during budget planning the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Finance & Operations, Director of Technology & Digital Learning and office support staff were budgeted at a 2.5% salary increase 2020 to 2023. He further said that the Human Resources Manager was budgeted at a 4.5% increase for a total of \$3,850, and that those numbers are approved in the 2020-2023 budgets.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education move to Executive Session to discuss Central Office contracts, and invite Dr. McKinnon to attend. (Wible, Chieda). Approved. unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education move to Executive Session to discuss Central Office contracts, and invite Dr. McKinnon to attend. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. 4-0.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education move to Executive Session to discuss Central Office contracts, and invite Dr. McKinnon to attend. (O'Brien, Denny). Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:16 p.m.

The meeting returned to Regular Session at 9:57 p.m.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education move to Executive Session to discuss Assistant Superintendent compensation, and invite Dr. McKinnon to attend. (Wible, Chieda). Approved. unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education move to Executive Session to discuss Assistant Superintendent compensation, and invite Dr. McKinnon to attend. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. 4-0.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education move to Executive Session to discuss Assistant Superintendent compensation, and invite Dr. McKinnon to attend. (O'Brien, Denny). Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:58 p.m.

The meeting returned to Regular Session at 10:28p.m.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education accept the budget as presented by the Superintendent with one revision to change Superintendent's salary increase from 2.0% to 2.5%. (Wible, deJesus). Approved. 4-0.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept the budget as presented by the Superintendent with one revision to change Superintendent's salary increase from 2.0% to 2.5%. (Hoffman, Sadana). Failed. 1-3.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the budget as presented by the Superintendent with one revision to change Superintendent's salary increase from 2.0% to 2.5%. (Johnston, Denny). Failed. 0-5.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education increase the Superintendent salary increase to 2.5%, drop the Assistant Superintendent's salary increase to 2.0% and take the shortfall difference from the \$3,850 designated for the Human Resources Manager. (Parker, Wible). Approved. 3-1

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education increase the Superintendent salary increase to 2.5%, drop the Assistant Superintendent's salary increase to 2.0% and take the shortfall difference from the \$3,850 designated for the Human Resources Manager. (Hoffman, Sandana). Failed. 2-2.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education increase the Superintendent salary increase to 2.5%, drop the Assistant Superintendent's salary increase to 2.0% and take the shortfall difference from the \$3,850 designated for the Human Resources Manager. (O'Brien, Denny). Approved. 3-2.

After much discussion, Easton and Region 9 asked Redding to vote again on the motion.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education increase the Superintendent salary increase to 2.5%, drop the Assistant Superintendent's salary increase to 2.0% and take the shortfall difference from the \$3,850 designated for the Human Resources Manager. (Sandana, Hoffman). Approved. 4-0.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Jon Stinson; thanked Jenny Chieda for her hard work on the BOE

Jenny Chieda: encouraged the 3 boards to create a "circle of protection" around both the CO and building administrators and after 7 years see the same lack of "generosity of spirit" toward our employees. She hopes that will change

Mike Hoffman: thanked Jenny for her service

Chris Parkin thanked Jenny and Dr. McKinnon for their work style and grace.

Kathy Thompson: thanked Jenny for her work and that her "heart" was always in the right place.

Thanked Dr. McKinnon for being a strategic thinker

Mike D'Agostino thanked both Jenny for her work and all the board members for their active participation.

Todd Johnston: thanked Jenny for her dedication.

Karen O'Brien: thanked Jenny and Dr. McKinnon for his presentation.

Dr. McKinnon thanked Jenny for her comment concerning the "circle of support" for administrators in our schools.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting be adjourned. (Wible, deJesus). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting be adjourned. Hoffman, Parkin). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education Regular meeting be adjourned. (O'Brien, Denny). Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 p.m.

Submitted by Jeff Parker
Secretary, Easton Board of Education

Recorded by,
Sarah Ota