

Filed subject to approval

EASTON, REDDING, REGION 9 JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Joel Barlow High School - Library Learning Commons

On YouTube:

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

January 31, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members:

Easton: Hicks, Parker, Wible, de Jesus, Stinson, Young

Redding: Parkin, Hoffman, Oulton, Belfatto, Sadana, Shanahan, Gibbons (7:34 p.m.)

Region 9: D'Agostino, Johnston, O'Brien, Denny, Lehberger, Pampel, Thompson, Graziano (7:36 p.m.)

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Almeida, Scrofani

Others: 2 members of the staff and public, and the recording secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

C. Parkin called the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

R. Hicks called the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

M. D'Agostino called the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C. Parkin asked if there were any comments or concerns with the Minutes of the ER9 Joint Boards of Education Regular meeting of October 25, 2022; hearing none, he deemed these minutes approved by unanimous consent.

R. Hicks asked if there were any comments or concerns with the Minutes of the ER9 Joint Boards of Education Regular meeting of October 25, 2022; hearing none, he deemed these minutes approved by unanimous consent.

M. D'Agostino asked if there were any comments or concerns with the Minutes of the ER9 Joint Boards of Education Regular meeting of October 25, 2022; it was noted that on page 1, a Barlow student's last name was needed.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approved the minutes of the ER9 Joint Boards of Education Regular Meeting of October 25, 2022, as corrected. Correction: insert last name Lila Voytek (Pampel, O'Brien) Approved unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anne Manusky, Morning Glory Drive, Easton, said that she is concerned with the current state of public education, that kids are not reading well and need to be taught the ABC's and 1,2,3's instead of CRT and sexualized education. A. Manusky said she is pleading with the BOEs to make changes for all children.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

C. Parkin read an extended prepared statement about technology and governance. In sum, he said: while the Districts have been intentional about introducing new technology to students and programming, we need to leave bad habits behind. He asked if a student's school life of technology – submitting work on-line, constantly checking email to view grades, receiving feedback from teachers on-line, – is really what we want for our students. C. Parkin said let's be intentional about feedback and let's let educators be educators. He also said that while he has complete faith in the administration, he's concerned about our structure and the constant demand from the state. With every mandate requiring three times the work for Central Office, he said, he thinks it's time for a real discussion about regionalization and requested that it be an agenda item at the May meeting.

C. Graziano thanked C. Parkin for putting this issue on the table.

Region 9 Curriculum Committee Chair, M. Pampel, said that she needed to bring up a Motion for Region 9 only.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the calendar for the Curriculum Committee as presented. (Pampel, Denny). Approved. 5-2-1. (O'Brien, Thompson opposed; Graziano abstained).

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGET

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jason McKinnon, shared his Proposed Central Office 2023-2024 Budget presentation and said that it contains three sections: 1) Functions of Central Office; 2) Central Office Organization; and, 3) Budget Overview. He then explained that Central Office functions are divided into two types, macro and micro, and went on to explain the differences. He defined macro functions as those including: strategic planning, overview of planning, professional development and development of budgets. He defined micro functions as those including: contract negotiating, reports, BOE, committees, residencies and RFPs. Dr. McKinnon said these two areas should be in balance, but that the myriad of micro tasks can overtake the macro tasks and be disruptive to Central Office efficiency and time management. Dr. McKinnon provided an overview of a proposed Central Office reorganization that includes the recommendation of a new position, Facilities & Operations Manager, that combines business and facilities/operations responsibilities. He also said a replacement will need to be hired for the retiring Human Resources Manager, but that this would not affect the budget. Dr. McKinnon said the main drivers of the Central Office budget are medical insurance, salaries, a transfer of funds, utilities and the Central Office lease. He proposed a budget of \$2,197,425, which represents a 6.878% increase; this will be shared equally between the three districts at \$732,475.

BOE members had clarifying questions concerning: the \$17,300 per district for the Facilities & Operations Manager position; increasing curricular support; who completes the reports for the State and the Federal Governments; possibility of having a staff member desiccated to completing reports; the prioritization of resources that directly impact students; who will report to the new facilities/operations position; specific amounts for stipends for the Human Resources Manager position; and, a request for a list of all the reports Central Office must complete.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Central Office budget of \$2,197,425 which represents a share in the amount of \$732,475. (Wible, Stinson) Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Central Office budget of \$2,197,425 which represents a share in the amount of \$732,475. (Sadano, Shanahan). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the 2023-2024 Central Office budget of \$2,197,425 which represents a share in the amount of \$732,475. (Graziano, O'Brien). Approved. 6-1-1. (Johnston opposed; Pampel abstained).

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CONSIDERATION OF 2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDARS
M. D'Agostino said the Calendar Committee had recently met to form the school calendars and focused on the 2023-2024 school calendar. He said that the Committee recommends that the February weeklong break be returned based on survey results from parents from all three districts. M. D'Agostino said that if the 2023-2024 calendar is approved, then the committee will move forward with the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 calendars and bring them to a vote at the May meeting. C. Parkin added that there were a few additional changes including moving the PD day from the Friday before MLK Day to the day after Winter break ends.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the calendar for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. (Stinson, Young). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the calendar for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. (Hoffman, Shanahan). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the calendar for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. (Pampel, Lehberger). Approved. 7-1. (Thompson opposed).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

D. Wible thanked the Central Office staff for their continued hard work and especially their work on the budget and said that she looks forward to working on Step 3 of the outline as you have set the stage for it.

C. Graziano thanked everyone for all of their work.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Belfatto and J. Shanahan made a Motion to adjourn, and hearing no objections C. Parkin deemed the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

J. Stinson and J. Parker made a Motion to adjourn, and hearing no objections R. Hicks deemed the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

C. Graziano and K. O'Brien made a Motion to adjourn, and hearing no objections M. D'Agostino deemed the Region 9 Board of Education Regular meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Submitted by Mike D'Agostino
Region 9 Board of Education

Recorded by,
Sarah Ota