

Filed subject to approval

EASTON, REDDING AND REGION 9 JOINT BOARDS OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

October 27, 2020 - 7:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members:

Easton: Stinson, Goldstein, Chieda, Wible

Redding: Parkin, Whaley, Pilato, Hoffman, Reilly, Oulton, Hocker

Region 9: Johnston, Graziano, Berry, D'Agostino, Denny, Williams, O'Brien, Pampel

Administration: Harrison, Pierson Ugol, Del Conte, Reiss

Others: 40 members of the staff and public, and the recording secretary

CALL TO ORDER

C. Parkin called the Redding Board of Education meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

J. Stinson called the Easton Board of Education meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

T. Johnston called the Region 9 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shari Williams, Reilly Rd. Easton - Thanked the board for their role in creating Cohort D and providing students the opportunity to attend school in person 5 days each week. She reports that going back in person has been a positive experience for her children and is hopeful that it will continue.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

C. Pilato spoke about how she appreciates the challenges the teachers face as they concurrently teach students in-class and at home and she expressed her thanks to them.

C. Parkin thanked S. Reiss on behalf of the Redding Board of Education for his excellent service and for his level of integrity and professionalism.

K. O'Brien expressed her support for a full-day schedule with alternating weeks as a way to get more students in school for more time. She said it is important to balance the needs of Professional Development with the needs of the students to add a full week.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: AMENDMENT TO TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT
Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order 7R, S. Reiss distributed his draft of the "Memorandum of Understanding" that is an agreement between Eaton, Redding and Region 9 Boards of Education and First Student Transportation. The memorandum includes negotiated payments for transportation costs to the district if transportation needs are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The payment is scheduled and modified as First Student still has operating costs even if transportation does not occur on certain days due to school closures or hybrid schedules. Discussion followed.

MOTION: move that the Easton Board of Education approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Boards and First Student, Inc. and authorize the chair to execute the Memorandum of Understanding. (Goldstein), (Wible). Approved 4-0.

MOTION: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Boards and First Student, Inc. and authorize the chair to execute the Memorandum of Understanding. (Hoffman), (Reilly). Approved 7-0.

MOTION: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Boards and First Student, Inc. and authorize the chair to execute the Memorandum of Understanding. (O'Brien), (Graziano). Approved 8-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: DEI TASK FORCE UPDATE
H. Whaley said the application process is open until Nov 3. Dr. Harrison said he will follow-up with the Administration Council Meeting to make sure the staff know they can apply.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: UPDATE ON POLICY COMMITTEE WORK
J. Stinson said the policy committee has been meeting every Friday and has started to catalog each duty highlighted in the policies. M. Williams spoke about the amount of work that is being done by the policy committee and they are working hard.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CENTRAL OFFICE BUDGET 2021-2022
Dr. Harrison presented the status of his 90-day entry plan. He said there will be virtual family forum on Nov. 2nd, 5th, 9th, and 12th to discuss his entry plan questions that will help him learn more about the district and the community. Dr. Harrison reviewed the future forecast of the strategic plan, coherence and operational alignment and Central Office budget priorities. S. Reiss provided the Central Office Budget 2021-2022 presentation. The current estimated increase in the budget is approximated to be 1.2% at a steady-state, but with assumed estimated salary increases. The actual amount will be decided after discussions in the next couple of months.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CHANGE IN AUTHORIZED SIGNER OF THE ED-099 AGREEMENT FOR THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

S. Reiss said that the district is required to update signatures on the agreement the Child Nutrition Program by the State of Connecticut.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education approve to change the authorized signer of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program to Dr. Rydell Harrison, Superintendent, effective immediately. (Chieda, Goldstein). Approved, 4-0.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve to change the authorized signer of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program to Dr. Rydell Harrison, Superintendent, effective immediately. (Hoffman, Reilly). Approved, 7-0.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve to change the authorized signer of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Program to Dr. Rydell Harrison, Superintendent, effective immediately. (Denny, Williams). Approved, 8-0.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education add new item VI to the Joint Boards of Education Regular Meeting agenda: Executive Session: Appointment of new Director of Finance and Operations. (Goldstein, Chieda). Approved, 4-0.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education add new item VI to the Joint Boards of Education Regular Meeting agenda: Executive Session: Appointment of new Director of Finance and Operation. (Hoffman), Reilly). Approved, 7-0.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education add new item VI to the Joint Boards of Education Regular Meeting agenda: Executive Session: Appointment of new Director of Finance and Operations and add VI B Possible Action following Executive Session. (Graziano, O'Brien). Failed, 2-6. (Johnston, Berry, D'Agostino, Denny, Williams, Pampel opposed.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VI. Appointment of Director of Finance and Operations

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education enter Executive Session to discuss the appointment of a Director of Finance and Operation and invite Dr. Harrison, S. Reiss, V. Cram, and the Region 9 Board to attend. (Goldstein, Chieda). Approved, 4-0.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education enter Executive Session to discuss the appointment of a Director of Finance and Operation and invite Dr. Harrison, S. Reiss, V. Cram, and the Region 9 Board to attend. (Hoffman), Reilly). Approved, 7-0.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

The Redding and Easton Boards of Education went to Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. They were joined by R. Harrison, V. Cram, S. Reiss, and C. Graziano. S. Reiss departed at 8:52.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION TO DISCUSS ITEM IN EXECUTIVE SESSION
Easton and Redding Boards of Education returned to Public Session at 10:27 p.m.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

C. Pilato stated her intentions as a board member is to advocate for students, collaborate with fellow board members and keep open lines of communication.

H. Whaley said to continue the way we are where meetings routinely go off track and last hours longer than necessary is untenable.

J. Reilly echoed Pilato's and Whaley's comments.

C. Graziano said she hopes her board does not feel like she left them by joining the Executive Session, and her loyalty is with the students and town. She did get more clarity, and she encourages her fellow board members to seek the same because we need a Director of Finance and Operations and hiring one will be in direct service of our students.

T. Johnston said he is always open to talk and there are things we have to do together and things we have to do as separate boards.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education meeting be adjourned. Stinson by unanimous consent.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education meeting be adjourned. (Hoffman, Whaley). Approved by unanimous consent.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education meeting be adjourned. (O'Brien, Williams). Approved, 8-0.

The Easton, Redding and Region 9 Joint Boards of Education regular meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Submitted by
Juliette Berry, Secretary, Region 9 Board of Education

Recorded by
Deborah DeLorenzo