

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION ~~REGULAR~~ MEETING
WITH BUDGET WORKSHOP

Joel Barlow High School - Library Learning Commons

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpOKinELAtzbYQcJ5NA3-hg>

March 16, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: D'Agostino, Johnston, Graziano, Denny, Thompson

Remote: O'Brien (7:10), Pampel (at 7:24 pm)

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Almeida, Scrofani, Schemm, Kellogg

Others: 1 members of the public, the recording secretary and the videographer

CALL TO ORDER

M. D'Agostino called the Region 9 Board of Education Special Meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

M. D'Agostino congratulated Dr. McKinnon on being selected CT PTA Superintendent of the Year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of February 23, 2023, Regular Meeting. (Pampel, Graziano). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of March 2, 2023, Joint Boards of Education Special Meeting. (Graziano, Thompson). Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Goodacre, 5 Cricklewood Rd. Redding. Spoke on behalf of Cricklewood residents. They are disappointed with the lack of communication. There are many issues that they would like clarification on. The residents met and have many concerns, one being potential septic issues for residents/lighting from fields are turned off and not glaring into people's homes. The residents oppose the new field.

Jackson Bennett, 24 Gallows Rd and Griffen Ellis, High Ridge Rd: Jackson thanked M. D'Agostino for supporting "The Nest" a grant for Video Equipment that will be used on the NEST

Shirley Melnick, Cricklewood Rd, Would like the Board to finish a 20 year old project before they start a new one. The neighborhood is still waiting for the buffering evergreen trees. We need environmental updates. The noise is terrible on our street. Water supply in homes is already a problem.

Todd White, Cricklewood Rd, Please clean up the sign pollution.

Seana Bedard, 16 Winding Brook Lane, I would like to congratulate Dr. McKinnon on his award. Redding Elementary and John Read Middle School PTA would like to invite everyone to a banquet on April 26 to honor Dr. McKinnon

Scott Romano, Stars Ridge Rd. Redding, thank you for considering the Nest Program so that other programs can use the fields

Suzanne Romano, Stars Ridge Rd. Redding fully supports the Nest project. We need to be considerate to the Cricklewood neighborhood, but we need to remember that there are over 700 families at Barlow and we need to think of the greater good.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: DONATION/RECYCLING OF OUTDATED TECHNOLOGY

MOTION: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education donate obsolete computer equipment to the Kennedy Center (Lehberger, O'Brien) Approved. Unanimous

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2023-2024 OPERATING BUDGET

Dr. McKinnon, Superintendent opened budget discussions by introducing a few technical edits bringing the proposed budget increase down from .79% to .42%. We are reducing the 18 to 22 teacher from a masters step eight to a masters step six which is a reduction of \$12,416. The program with Quinnipiac will need to be postponed a year.

Dr. McKinnon shared that he would like to review and establish a new process for Student Activities so that funds from parking fees can be used for different purposes. He asked S. Scrofani to speak about the transportation

S. Scrofani, Director of Finance, Operations and Technology, spoke to the \$4,200 increase in the RCA bus. We do not have rideshare options at this time.

Pay to Participate (Fund 06) has a balance of \$30,122.50 and \$8,447.50 from use of fields and facilities. We offset that with coaches/trainers salaries and non cert payments by \$49,285. The Fund 05 (Student Activity Fees) We pulled \$63,825 from our operating budget and put it into this account. We put money from our operating budget after we've used the gate receipts to pay officials etc. The 2nd part of the Fund 05 is student parking. There is \$33,900 in that account. The offsets (approx. \$30,000) plowing and maintenance contracts.

M. Almeida, Head of School, Joel Barlow High School, spoke about Academic Centers and that there is help for everyone. It will provide help during study halls. The high school is figuring out how to staff this for next year. The goal is to have multiple centers that can focus on different topics, but they need to be staffed. Board members are concerned with how the students will be selected to come in. Dr. McKinnon feels it's an opportunity with high potential impact. We can hopefully utilize the counselors to help identify students that may need some help.

Transitioning 8th grade to 9th grade. Is there a way to spend relatively a small amount to make this transition smoother. Videos of the school could be made/ Small group meetings. Will discuss further in May.

Bringing in a consultant to help with scheduling and staffing. Board would like to see a plan once academic centers are included. Decided to circle back around in May about this topic.

S. Pierson Ugol, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction, is working with Department Chairs on Text replenishment cycle. Add detail for online books in different departments.

Supervisor of building and grounds. 1-year contract. Try to keep the amount the same and admin can look at the contract and revise the contract, keep in the range of 80k - 90k.

MOTION: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve a proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 of: \$24,811,367 which is an overall year-to-year increase of \$55,848, or .23%. Easton's share is: \$13,256,733 – an increase of \$540,279 or 4.25%; and Redding's share is: \$11,554,634 – a decrease of \$484,431, or -4.02%. The apportionment percentages for the two towns are as follows: Easton 53.43%; and Redding 46.57% (Denny, Graziano) Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: JBHS NEST BUILDING AND FIELDS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A thorough presentation was given by Mike D'Agostino regarding timing, project scope and projected cost.

M. D'Agostino stated that it needs to be on the town's presentation. In alignment with bond counsel's recommendation. Will need a budget hearing for the capital project. Public hearing beginning of April. District meeting the day before the referendum. Procedural meetings. Send everything to town votes/referendum. Public notice put in paper, transparent with all communications. Discussion of neighbor concerns

MOTION: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education authorize the Chairperson to present the capital request for the Nest Building and Fields Improvement Project at the Board of Finance Public Hearings in Redding and Easton. (Graziano, Denny) Approved (7-0-1) Thompson abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT

Residents are not opposed to the location, transparency should be better. Board Emails have not been received by residents.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None

MOTION: Move to adjourn the Region 9 Budget Workshop. (O'Brien, Pampel) Adjourned absent objection.

Hearing no objections, M. D'Agostino adjourned the meeting at 11:45 p.m.

Submitted by Karen O'Brien
Secretary, Region 9 Board of Education