

Filed subject to approval

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86398504142>

Meeting ID: 863 9850 4142

August 22, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Graziano, Johnston, O'Brien, Lehberger, Pampel, Thompson
Administration: McKinnon, Almeida, Scrofani, D'Agostino

CALL TO ORDER

C. Graziano called the Region 9 Board of Education Special meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 Regular meeting with the following revisions: on page 2, Martin Kalamarus should read Marin Kalamaras. (Pampel, O'Brien). Approved. 6-0.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the July 26, 2023 Special meeting with the following revisions: Johnston moved, O'Brien seconded the motion regarding election of Chair; the Motion for "Turf Co invoice" should read, "Fieldturf USA Inc. invoice." (Johnston, Lehberger). Approved. 5-0-1.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Seana Bedard, Winding Brook Lane, Redding, expressed her support for the full scope of the NEST project.

Alexis Bennett, Gallows Hill Road, Redding, expressed her support for the full scope of the NEST project.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

S. Lehberger said she will give a quick presentation at the next BOE meeting to assist with fundraising for scoreboard, lights, etc.

M. Pampel said that she was able to observe the girls' lacrosse team on the field and that the new turf looks fantastic.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jason McKinnon, invited BOE members to Convocation.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy: C. Graziano said clean-up work will be done on the policy website in conjunction with the District website update.

Pension: T. Johnston said that the Committee did meet recently, but that they do not have any updates yet.

Curriculum: M. Pampel said that the committee recently met but no board action at this time.

Facilities: C. Graziano said that the Fields & Facilities Committee met on August 8, 2023 during which members made several motions for the BOE to consider today.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FINANCIAL YEAR END

C. Graziano reported that at the June BOE meeting, the Board approved moving \$495,110 from unexpended funds F23 to the Capital Reserve, \$100,000 to the Defined Benefits Account (Pension Plan) and all remaining unexpended and unencumbered funds FY23 to the Health Benefits Account. C. Graziano asked Director of Finance, Operations & Technology, Sara Scrofani, to report the final amount that was transferred to the health benefits account.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: JOEL BARLOW NEST AND FIELDS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

M. D'Agostino reported that the fields look good and are currently closed for use by students. He said that there is a worldwide shortage for amperage for lights based on the Eversource specs, but they will have the lights up and mounted with a slight delay. S. Lehberger asked about the deadline for the funds – \$289K – for paving the Junior Lot; Facilities & Operations Manager, Mike D'Agostino, confirmed that this deadline was today.

Town of Redding First Selectwoman, Julia Pemberton, provided an update on the funding approved by the Redding Board of Selectmen. She reported that the \$250,000 amount was approved contingent upon a matching grant from a third party source, which could include private donations, the Town of Easton or another source. J. Pemberton said that if the third party source would not provide the matching funds, the Town could consider placing an item for referendum vote to remove the contingency.

Discussion continued on: the bond proceeds, fundraising amounts and the NEST building and restroom drainage/sewage required by the State of Connecticut and the Town of Redding. M. D'Agostino confirmed that the holding tank for sewage is only acceptable for an existing system and that permission to use a holding tank for a new system is typically not granted or an optimal option. J. Pemberton agreed to assist in any follow up related to such approvals.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL OF INVOICES

C. Graziano referred the Board to the meeting materials related to invoices that require the Board's approval and said that the first invoice pertains to the Fields Improvement Project.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept Fieldturf USA Inc. invoice # 703086, in the amount of \$461,225.25 for progress payment on the Joel Barlow NEST and Fields Improvement Project, and authorize the Director of Finance to pay the invoice using the proceeds from the bond sale. (Pampel, Lehberger). Approved. 6-0.

C. Graziano said that the second invoice is related to a matter previously communicated by Dr. McKinnon to the BOE. As communicated: one of the Trane chillers failed over the summer leaving the JBHS

building with insufficient HVAC to meet requirements when school starts; the District is in receipt of a proposal from Trane, the equipment manufacturer, who will investigate the cause of the failure in order to determine if insurance will cover the cost of repairs. M. D'Agostino said that the investigation by Trane would determine the cause of the chiller failure and whether the repair work would be eligible for insurance reimbursement. He said that the investigation would be separate from the repair work, but could occur simultaneously with the repair work. A discussion took place as to whether the district would need to make payment prior to receipt of insurance reimbursement, if determined eligible.

Motion: Move that, if such amount is not directly payable by insurer or warranty, the Region 9 Board of Education approve Trane Proposal #7411746, up to the amount of \$26,956.52 and authorize the Director of Finance to pay this amount out of operating funds if necessary. (Johnston, Lehberger). Approved. 6-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: DESIGN SERVICES RFP FOR NEST PROJECT

A discussion took place regarding the design work RFP and the motion approved by the Fields and Facilities Committee. Board members asked about a timeline for an RFP, including a review of the responses and options, to be presented at a future board meeting. J. McKinnon explained that an RFP preparation and response could vary depending on the scope; he said that based on the current discussion, the District estimates the RFP would be started after the beginning of the school year and could be completed mid-September for response by various vendors.

Motion: Move to authorize the Director of Finance to prepare a Request For Proposal on the design and engineering work for the NEST Project. (Johnston, Pampel). Approved. 6-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CAPITAL PLAN

C. Graziano said that the Region 9 Capital Plan as of 1-17-23 was updated to reflect the additional amount the Board approved at the June BOE meeting. The Board discussed various edits to the plan and agreed that such edits will be made by the administration once the fiscal year is closed; the edited plan will also be reviewed by the Fields and Facilities Committee to recommend appropriate Board action. The Board discussed paving the Junior Lot, relative to the scope of the project, and the various alternatives discussed by the Fields and Facilities Committee. One alternative discussed was obtaining pricing for the work to be completed at a future time; M. D'Agostino said that he will speak to the paving vendor about this option.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: UPPER GYM PROGRESS

M. D'Agostino reported on the continuing work on the upper gym in the building. He said: the old roof top units have been removed, new duct work is in place and completion of the project is expected in approximately two to three weeks.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION AND BOARD OF EDUCATION REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #9, 7-1-2023 THROUGH 6-30-2027

C. Graziano said that this Agenda item needed to be tabled at this time. She said that a Special Region 9 Board of Education meeting will be scheduled for this agenda item.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: NON-RESIDENT STUDENT ENROLLMENT (EXECUTIVE SESSION)

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Non-resident student enrollment as it relates to a student matter and invited Dr. McKinnon to attend. (Johnston, Pampel). Approved. 6-0.

The Board recessed to Executive Session at 9:02 p.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 9:41 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

S. Lehberger provided a positive review of the Jump Start program that welcomed incoming freshmen to Barlow.

T. Johnston recommended that the pros and cons of the program be placed on the agenda for future Board discussion, which will help the Board determine if the costs for the program should be included in next year's budget.

K. O'Brien thanked M. D'Agostino for his service to the Region 9 Board of Education and his work on our facilities.

Dr. McKinnon highlighted the facilities work at Central Office and said that it would be shared with the BOE at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education Special meeting be adjourned. (O'Brien, Lehberger). Approved. 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

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

Recorded by,
Sarah Ota