

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 20, 2015
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes

Attendance: Region 9 Board of Education members: Colangelo, D'Agostino, Gombos, Hancock, Hocker, Lewis
Administration: Josefsberg, McMorran, Sullivan, Pierson Ugol, Czudak, Geraghty, Pin, Sheehy
Others: five members of the community and staff, a representative of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier and videographer

Mr. Hocker called the meeting of the Region 9 Board of Education to order at 7:05 pm in the Joel Barlow Media Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the December 20, 2014 meeting as corrected. Gombos, Hancock. Approved. 5-0-1. Mrs. Colangelo abstained.

Correction: Mrs. Sullivan was present for the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Gray, Redding: Mrs. Gray asked Mrs. Pierson Ugol to comment on her statement during the Redding Budget Workshop regarding the remediation issues in Math for the current freshman class and whether resources were being taken from students to meet remediation needs.

DISCUSSION OF 2015-16 BUDGET PARAMETERS

Board members were given the opportunity to express their thoughts regarding the 2015-16 budget.

Mr. Lewis stated that the trend of declining enrollment needs to be addressed; he would see a zero % increase in the budget to be acceptable to the voters. He commented that when enrollment goes down, the costs should go down with no negative impact on the quality of education for the students.

Mr. Hocker urged a complete explanation of what is included in the budget.

Mrs. Gombos asked for a zero-based budget to be presented along with the administration's budget request to be able to assess impact of a no increase budget on programs and services. She asked for the class sizes for the current year in addition to the projections for next year. The Board will need to discuss a reduction in staffing without impacting the quality of education.

Mr. D'Agostino echoed the previous comments and asked for strategic planning work to address the decline in enrollment.

Mr. Hancock agreed with the previous comments and noted that the voters have been asked to approve capital expenditures this year, and they are watching the budget process. The decline in enrollment is a known factor and needs to be addressed.

Mrs. Colangelo asked about the current and the projected enrollment. Dr. McMorran noted that the current enrollment is 1050 (the number reported to the State on October 1, 2014) with an additional 15 outplaced students. The outplaced students are not included in the number reported to the State. The projected enrollment for next year is 1024.

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION OF ENROLLMENT AND PROGRAM GROWTH: 2011-2015

Dr. McMorran presented information and statistics on the enrollment and program growth over the past five years. The presentation included the relationship of enrollment and teaching position, showing the reduction in teaching staff over that period. He noted that when the enrollment was increasing, there was not an increase in teaching positions. The presentation included information on the improvements in the facilities and grounds, the increase in participation in athletic activities, clubs and organizations, and the increase in dedication of the teaching staff to the students.

Dr. McMorran commented on the improvement in technology, including Naviance, Edline, automated report cards, etc. that provides significant data to parents and teachers. He noted the increase in student owner computing devices and suggested that if each student has a computer device, fewer computer labs will be needed. He commented on faculty initiatives, including Barlow Palooza, Academy Day, extra help before/after school, etc. that has positively impacted the Barlow community of learners. The Guidance Department has strengthened the relationships with college and post-high school opportunities.

Dr. McMorran stated that the administration has been addressing the projected decline in enrollment with strategic planning over the past five years. And the administration is doing long-range planning for a more personalized high school with two-and-five-year NEASC goals, implementing the 2014 NEASC recommendations.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON BOARD POLICIES

Mr. D'Agostino reported the Policy Committee proposed adoption of two policies: Policy 6142.101: School Nutrition and Physical Activity and Policy 3542.33: Food Sales Other than National School Lunch Program. The policies had been revised by the Wellness Committee and reviewed/revised by the Tri-Board Policy Committee.

Mrs. Gombos asked that the board address the issue of continued participation in the National School Lunch Program prior to review and approval of the two policies. Mr. Hocker suggested acceptance of the two policies for a first reading, but further exploration and discussion prior to final approval of the policies. Mrs. Gombos requested information and data on the consequences of not participating in the National School Lunch Program as was discussed at the last meeting of the three boards.\.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept Policy 6142.101: School Nutrition and Physical Activity and Policy 3542.33: Food Sales Other than National School Lunch Program, for a first reading. Hancock, Colangelo. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Mrs. Pierson Ugol submitted a written report for review. She described the vertical alignment work in Math. Revisions to the Math curriculum have been significant in the K-8 grades. The teaching staff has adjusted to the changes, made changes in the assessments, created baselines, and modified accordingly. Adjustments have been made to the pacing, depending on the students, especially with foundation gaps. The gaps have been identified and are being addressed and support is provided where needed. Students at the high school level with remediation needs in math are being given that help, often before school. Mrs. Gombos requested a full presentation on the topic at a future board meeting.

Director of Finance and Operation: Mrs. Sullivan reported that December health claims were high, but within the budget. Overall claims for the entire pool are lower than projected. The transfer report was presented. The transfers were for the allocations for the athletic coaches, between certificated and non-certificated staff. The Roof Project has been put out to bid with the bids due in early February. A walk-thru was held and nine contractors were in attendance. The Board will need to authorize the funding

request for approval by voters at the May referendum. The transportation fleet tax issue with Bethel is moving along. The transcripts of the trial have been received and the attorneys have until February 2 to file post trial briefs. After that time, the judge will be making a decision.

Mr. Lewis asked if a project manager would be engaged for the Roof Project. Mrs. Sullivan reported the architect would have weekly meetings, but the issue could be discussed further at the FAC meeting when the bids are reviewed.

Mrs. Sullivan requested an approval of an invoice for \$240.09 for the architect for the printing cost of the plans and specifications for the bid process. This will be funded from the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Lewis reported the FAC members present (a quorum was not present) reviewed the invoice and were in agreement that it should be paid.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the invoice for \$240.09 for the architect's printing service as discussed, to be funded from the Capital Reserve Fund. Hancock, Colangelo. Approved. Unanimous.

Superintendent: Dr. Josefsberg provided copies of articles for review. He asked that all the questions and comments regarding the food/wellness policies be directed to him. Dr. Josefsberg also reminded all that the Tri-Board meeting is Tuesday, January 27, 2015. An update on the Superintendent Search will be presented at that meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. D'Agostino asked that the Central Office proposed budget be distributed prior to the January 27, 2015 meeting. He commented that this would be helpful since the budget must be approved at that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the meeting be adjourned. D'Agostino, Colangelo Approved. Unanimous.

The meetings were adjourned at 9:13 pm

Submitted by Catherine Gombos, Board Secretary
Recorded by Mary Maday