

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 24, 2015
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes

Attendance: Region 9 Board of Education members: Colangelo, D'Agostino, Gombos, Hocker, Johnston (7:30 pm), Lewis
Administration: Josefsberg, McMorran, Sullivan, Pierson Ugol, Czudak, Geraghty, Pin, Sheehy, and department heads
Others: four members of the community, 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 7:04 pm in the Joel Barlow Media Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting as submitted. Lewis, D'Agostino. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. D'Agostino requested that the board members be added to the email notification list so that they received the same notifications that parents receive. Mr. Hocker was in agreement with the request.

AGENDA CHANGE

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education delete item 6C, Policy Review, Second Reading, from the agenda. Colangelo, D'Agostino. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CAPITAL REQUEST (BOILER REPLACEMENT)

A recommendation from the Facilities and Fields Committee for replacement of a boiler was brought forth for consideration. Mrs. Gombos questioned whether this item was on the approved Capital Plan. Mr. Czudak explained the condition of the boilers, the need for replacement and the energy savings to be derived from replacement with a more energy efficient unit. Following discussion, a motion was offered.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the expenditure of \$73,418 from the Capital Reserve Fund for replacement of a boiler, pending review of approved Capital Plan by the Director of Finance, and if the item is not on the approved Capital Plan, the request would need to be reconsidered by the Board of Education. Gombos, Colangelo. Approved. Unanimous.

Mr. Johnston arrived, 7:30 pm, during the discussion below.

2015-16 PRESENTATION

Dr. Josefsberg introduced the 2015-16 budget. He noted that with the exception of two major items, Special Education and negotiated staff salaries, the budget is essentially flat. The proposed increase is 3.16%.

Dr. McMorran reviewed the budget in detail. The first significant increase reflects the contractual agreements for the JBEA and the support staff association. The second increase is for special education costs. The special education increase is due, in part, to the transfer of students with special needs from the

middle schools to the high school. Only one student with complex special needs will be exiting the program this year. Together, these increases total 3.5% of the budget. The administration made significant reductions in other areas to bring the total budget increase in at 3.16%.

Dr. McMorran will have additional information and the staffing document for the Budget Workshop on March 4, 2015. Board members were asked to get their questions to Mrs. Sullivan prior to the workshop meeting. Mrs. Gombos again requested information on the current year anticipated class sizes presented during the last budget review versus the actual class sizes for the 2014-15 school year. Mr. Lewis commented that he is concerned about the 3.16% increase and could not support that level of increase. Mr. Lewis noted that voters will question an increase in the budget with the decrease in student population.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON BORROWING AUTHORIZATION FOR PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT

Mrs. Sullivan reported the bid process for the Partial Roof Replacement Project was completed and she is in the process of checking references on the bidders. She requested additional time for review prior to the board taking action on this item.

This item will be placed on the agenda for the meeting on March 4, 2015. The Facilities & Fields Committee will meet prior to the meeting to discuss the project and potentially make a recommendation.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Assistant Superintendent, Head of School: Dr. McMorran highlighted student and staff recognitions.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Mrs. Pierson Ugol submitted a written report for review. She highlighted the work in the area of math education. The K-12 Math Leadership Team is planning presentations for parents of students grade 6-9 which will explain the sequence of math and the program in Easton & Redding. Work is also progressing on the professional evaluation plan which is due mid-May.

Director of Finance and Operation: Mrs. Sullivan reported that December health claims were higher than usual and she is monitoring the account closely. The transfer report was presented for review. Standard & Poor's recently reviewed and updated the rating for Easton and Redding. The AAA rating has been retained. Mrs. Sullivan completed a submission of documentation regarding the old Building Project to the state for review. She anticipates there will be questions regarding the submission and will retain a consultant to assist in closing out the project. The transportation fleet tax issue with the Town of Bethel is ongoing. The attorneys are in the process of completing their responses to the opponent briefs. When that process is complete, the judge will have 120 days to make a decision.

Superintendent: Dr. Josefsberg commented that the State budget is under discussion in the legislature. The Governor has requested flat funding for education. He also noted that the Spring Sports meeting was held, so spring is just around the corner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities & Fields Committee: Mr. D'Agostino reported the committee is working to update the Capital Plan. Mrs. Gombos noted that the Capital Plan should be discussed by the Financial Advisory Committee prior to board discussion and action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None