

Filed subject to approval

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting
Joel Barlow High School Library Learning Center
January 30, 2020 – 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Johnston, Graziano, D'Agostino, Berry, Denny, Pampel, Williams

Administration: McMorran, Pierson Ugol

Staff: Pin, McTague, Desmarais, Santangeli, Roszko, DeAngelo, Schemm, Staron, Panos, Angell

Student Representative: Monson

Others: Eight members of the public, Recording Secretary and the Videographer

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Johnston reminded the audience tonight is discussion on the program rightsizing and no budget presentation.

Joann Grey, 15 Lonetown Road, Redding mentioned how much her daughters love the Latin program and hopes it won't be cut.

Virginia Grey, 15 Lonetown Road, Redding mentioned her love and passion for learning Latin and her hope that she can continue her Latin studies at JBHS.

Elizabeth Grey, 15 Lonetown Road, Redding mentioned her love of Latin and the advantage of college acceptance with 4 years of high school Latin study.

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE:

None

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: RIGHTSIZING VISIBLE THINKING COSTS/ANALYSIS PROJECTIONS

Dr. Pin outlined the timeline, school values, and school wide learning captured in murals throughout the school as part of her opening remarks.

Dr. Pin showed the decision making framework to include: Safety, Legal, Mission/Vision of graduate, Consequences, and Financial Impact. Mr. D'Agostino asked for clarification on graduation requirements being met by new CT state changes. Dr. Pin said current course offerings will meet the CT State requirements.

Ms. Roszko presented the Special Education plan and the expected number of special needs students not significantly changing. Mrs. Graziano asked about students entering and exiting the program. Dr. McMorran answered questions about the change in IEP/504 numbers.

Mr. Santangeli discussed possible team and coach reductions and various options. Mr. Johnston asked for clarification about which coaches would be removed. Discussion followed on the need for Assistant Athletic Director position.

Dr. McMorran commented that the Administration hesitates to make definitive cuts in projected years because changes in choice and enrollment may occur. Classroom changes were presented in the form of timelines versus programmatic changes. Reductions in staff are due to changes in enrollment and course offerings. Mr. D'Agostino commented on the number of electives offered. Mrs. Graziano commented on balancing class size and selection of offerings.

Ms. McTague, Mr. Schemm, Ms. Staron, and Mr. Angell discussed STEM and Humanities Departments with reductions in the language department, virtual language programs, and number of students in dual enrollment and online classes. Dr. McMorran suggested a presentation on options for high achieving students to be presented at a later date. Mrs. Desmarais presented no reductions to the Music Department at this time.

Ms. Panos presented an overview of counseling department duties and resources and outlined projected changes. Mr. D'Agostino asked for district comparison for students per case load. Mrs. Graziano commented on possible inclusion of counseling and wellness programs.

Mr. Johnston asked the Board members to share their thoughts on the Rightsizing presentation and any guidance the Board wanted to provide the Administration for the budget. Mrs. Berry said the Board wants what is best for students when rightsizing. Mrs. Graziano complemented the Administration and Staff on the 3-year planning and she would like to see equity in sports. Mr. D'Agostino commented that a 0% increase is expected by some members of the public. He wants what is best for students. He questioned math enrollment and what is the high water mark for enrollment versus student performance. Mrs. Pampel thanked the Administration and Staff for the thoughtful proposal. Mrs. Denny thanked the Administration and Staff for the presentation. Mrs. Williams thanked the Administration and Staff for the presentation.

Mr. Johnston thanked the Administration and Staff for the presentation. He also mentioned that the public in Easton is expecting a 0% or less budget increase with the split for Easton being higher this year. Dr. McMorran recognized the Administration and staff for their many hours preparing the presentation and thanked them for the hard work.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Reid Grey 15 Lonetown Road, Redding posed questions about removing the Latin program. He commented that colleges require 3-4 years of the same language. He commented that the 13 Latin students were a projection of current students enrolled because incoming freshman would not have the option to take Latin.

Jeff Fligelman, Pocahontas Road, Redding commented on why the budget numbers should not be a 0% increase. He also commented how removing the Latin program would not allow students in the program to finish their course of studies.

Ava Pucil, 21 Sunnyview Drive, Redding commented on her experience with the Latin program and how that would not be the same by using a virtual language program.

Carol Murray, Sport Hill Road, Redding commented on CT language requirements. She commented on how students learn better in the classroom versus a virtual experience. She commented on opening AP classes to 10th graders to increase enrollment. She questioned why it was that we expected a 0% increase in the budget.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT:

Mrs. Graziano commented that Latin was only offered in Redding, not Easton. Mr. D'Agostino commented that 0% budget was expected by some members of the community. He committed to support AP classes and thanked the public for their comments. Mrs. Denny asked people to explain the budget to neighbors. Mrs. Williams commented that we don't predetermine anything and the budget does not represent the Board's personal feelings and that voters should turn out for the budget vote. Mr. Johnston thanked the administration and staff for their time again this week presenting to the Board and the public should turn out to vote on the Budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education meeting be adjourned (D'Agostino, Graziano). Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Johnston at 10:26 p.m.

Submitted by,

Juliette Berry, Region 9 Board of Education Secretary