

Filed subject to approval

Easton, Redding & Region 9 Boards of Education
Joint Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 16, 2017
7:30 pm

Attendance:

Easton Board of Education: Bindleglass, Bobroske, Chieda, Hicks, Parker
Redding Board of Education: Denny, Florkowski, Hoffman, Irwin, Miller, Whaley
Region 9 Board of Education: Coppinger, D'Agostino, Gombos, Hancock, Hocker, King
Administration: Lagas, McMorran, Pierson-Ugol
Others: three members of the public

Chairman of the Region 9 Board of Education, Vance Hancock, opened the meeting of Tri-board in the Media Center of the Joel Barlow High School at 7:36 pm.

Mr. Hancock called the Region 9 Board of Education meeting to order at 7:36 pm.
Mr. Parker called the Easton Board of Education meeting to order at 7:36 pm.
Ms. Irwin called the Redding Board of Education meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education enter into Executive Session inviting Dr. McMorran and Dr. Lagas. Gombos, Coppinger. Unanimous.

Easton: Move that the Easton Board of Education enter into Executive Session inviting Dr. McMorran and Dr. Lagas . Unanimous.

Hicks, Bobroske. Unanimous.

Redding: Move that the Redding Board of Education enter into Executive Session inviting Dr. McMorran and Dr. Lagas . Unanimous.

Hoffman, Miller. Unanimous.

The public meeting reconvened at 8:09 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No members of the public commented.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Parker thanked Superintendent McMorran for the information regarding the upcoming CABE meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. Recommendation from the ER9 Interview Panel Committee on Director of Finance & Operations

Mr. Parker recommended the appointment of Scott Reiss as Director of Finance. Dr. McMorran will take the action necessary to implement the hiring of his selection for Director of Finance and Operations.

Discussion Ensued

B. Review of Policies- Shipman & Goodwin

Dr. McMorran presented a proposal from Shipman and Goodwin to review all policies for all three districts. The fee is \$3,500 for the initial review and \$1,000 for each year following the initial review.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education hire Shipman and Goodman. D'Agostino, Gombos. Unanimous

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education hire Shipman and Goodman. Parker, Bindleglass. Unanimous.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education hire Shipman and Goodman. Hoffman, Denny. Unanimous.

C. Status of Search for Special Education Administrators

Dr. McMorran reviewed the status of leadership in Special Education in the district. Three of four leadership positions are currently open. The current structure may need adjustment. He initially recommends a central director and three supervisors: Pre-K to 5, Middle school and High School. Board members commented on the proposal. Mrs. Gombos suggests that interim appointments be made to allow time to study and recommend a new structure. Dr. Pierson-Ugol reported that a search is on going for the Supervisor of Special Education. Jeff Parker commented that Easton could come up with \$40,000 and is confident that he could speak with the Easton Board of Finance. He commented that Special Education Directors should not spend as much time in PPT/IEP meetings. Dr. McMorran commented that the Board of Education could make line item adjustments to cover the expense. Mr. D'Agostino commented that the interim position may be a solution and a committee should be assembled to study a best solution. Mr. Hoffman suggests that the boards find the \$40,000 to move forward with the central office director. Dr. McMorran suggested that Easton and Redding hire an interim director due to time constraints.

D. Extension of Contract for Food Service Vendor

Jeff Parker reviewed the committee's work on the food service contract. The committee recommends using Chartwells for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education renew a one-year contract with Chartwells. D'Agostino, Coppinger. Unanimous

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education renew a one-year contract with Chartwells. Bobroske, Bindleglass. Unanimous

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education renew a one-year contract with Chartwells. Florkowski, Whatley. Unanimous

Mr. Parker reported that there is an overage in funds from monies collected for lunches. These funds are re-invested in the district food service.

A discussion of the use of these funds occurred and Mrs. Gombos requested that the expenditures from the fund for the last 5 years be reported to the three boards, noting the Easton schools and the high school have had kitchen upgrades included in the building projects that have been bonded.

E. Healthy Food Certification and Beverage Exemption

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education continue to certify to the Connecticut State Department of Education that all food items offered for sale to students separately from a reimbursable lunch will meet Connecticut Nutrition Standards. Gombos, King. Approved. Unanimous

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education continue to certify to the Connecticut State Department of Education that all food items offered for sale to students separately from a reimbursable lunch will meet Connecticut Nutrition Standards. Chieda, Hicks, Approved. Unanimous

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education continue to certify to the Connecticut State Department of Education that all food items offered for sale to students separately from a reimbursable lunch will meet Connecticut Nutrition Standards. Florkowski, Denny, Approved. Unanimous

Discussion ensued.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education add agenda item F, Discussion of Central Office practices and procedures related to expenditures, transfers and the end-of-year surplus. Coppinger, D'Agostino. 3-3-0 Fails. Hancock, Hocker, King vote against.

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education add agenda item F Discussion of practices and procedures of the Director of Finance. No motion

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education add agenda item F Discussion of Central Office practices and procedures related to expenditures, transfers and end-of-year surplus. Hoffman, Denny. 2-3-0. Irwin, Florkowski, Whaley vote against. Miller exits the meeting, no vote.

Public Comment

Board Member Comment

Ms. Gombos notes that she was disappointed that an item was not added to the evening's agenda regarding the Finance practices and procedures in the District.

Mr. Coppinger thanked Dr. McMorran for the interim report, but voices disappointment that an item was not added to the agenda for this meeting of the three Boards.

Mr. D'Agostino noted that the interim report suggests that best- practices were not in-place.

Dr. McMorran states that no agenda item was intentionally left off.

Mr. Hancock states that a discussion of the practices and procedures of Central Office Finance is in order, but not tonight.

Mr. Parker states that no judgment should be placed on the Easton BoE and that Dr. McMorran was capable of overseeing his own audit.

Ms. Bobroske asked that the Boards take time to think of ways to prevent teen traffic accidents in the future.

Dr. Bindleglass noted that he is open to the discussion of further audit at the appropriate time and that any shortcuts that were taken were necessitated by a lack of resources.

Ms. Chieda asked that the Boards work together to move forward.

Mr. King gave a brief overview of how the Audit Committee is working to move to implement best practices in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education adjourn the meeting. D'Agostio, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Easton Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Bobroske, Hicks, Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education adjourn the meeting. Florkowski, Denny. Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 pm

Submitted by Catherine Gombos, Region 9 Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Elise Cavanaugh