

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION &
REGION 9 FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 9, 2015

MEETING

Minutes

Attendance: Region 9 Board of Education members: Colangelo, D'Agostino, Gombos, Hancock, Hocker, Johnston (8:44 pm), King, Lewis
Financial Advisory Committee members: Coppinger & Krivit
Administration: Josefsberg, McMorran, Sullivan, Pierson Ugol, Czudak, Geraghty, Pin, Sheehy, and department heads
Others: five 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 7:07 pm in the Joel Barlow Media Center. The Financial Advisory Committee did not have a quorum.

AGENDA ADDITION

Motion: move to add to the agenda, Discussion and action on an issue with a specific student and an issue with a contract employee, with discussion in executive session and any action in public session. Gombos, D'Agostino. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF THE EDUCATIONAL SPECS FOR PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT

Approval of the Education Specs for the Partial Roof Replacement Project is required for application for state reimbursement for the costs. The anticipated reimbursement rate is 36% of eligible costs.

RESOLVED, that the Region 9 Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the Partial Roof Replacement Project at Joel Barlow High School. Colangelo, King. Approved 6-0-1. Mrs. Gombos abstained.

Board member discussed the status of the existing building committee charged with oversight of the stadium and roof projects. The Committee consists of Mr. Lewis, Mr. Hancock, Mr. Johnston, Ms. Krivit and Mr. Coppinger. There was agreement that this committee would provide oversight of the Partial Roof Replacement Project.

RESOLVED, that the Building Committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the Partial Roof Replacement Project at Joel Barlow High School. Lewis, King. Approved. Unanimous.

RESOLVED, that the Region 9 Board of Education hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Partial Roof Replacement Project at Joel Barlow High School. Hancock, King. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING AUTHORIZATION FOR PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT

Mr. D'Agostino reported the Facilities and Fields Committee met with the architect for the Partial Roof Replacement Project, reviewed the bid responses, and recommended acceptance of the lowest qualified bidder.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Facilities and Fields Committee for the acceptance of Imperial Roofing Inc. for the work on the Partial Roof Replacement Project at Joel Barlow High School, with a base cost of \$886,497, plus Alternate 1, for replacement of metal panels as recommended by the architect, for \$45,000, for a total project cost of \$931,497. D'Agostino, Hancock. Approved. Unanimous.

The addition of a 10% contingency (\$93,150), Bond Counsel (\$10,000, and the financing fees (\$6,000), bring the total project cost to \$1,040,647. Mrs. Sullivan noted that Tremco and the architect will provide the necessary oversight, along with Mr. Czudak, of the work.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education present the Region 9 voters at the May referendum, with a request for approval of authority to borrow \$1,040,647 for the purpose of the Partial Roof Replacement Project. Lewis, King. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education schedule a Special District Meeting to hold a public hearing, to present the Partial Roof Replacement Project, on March 17, 2015, at 6:45 pm. Colangelo, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PLAN

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON 2015-16 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

The technical edits to the proposed 2015-16 operating budget were presented. These edits reduced the increase in the budget request from 3.16% to 2.78%.

Discussion of Special Education costs followed. Ms. Roszko explained the impact of additional outplacements on the current and proposed budget. In the current year, outplacement costs were budgeted for 13 students, but the actual number is 20 students. Discussion of how the current year costs are being covered followed.

The proposed budget includes an allocation of \$100,000 to the Capital Fund, compared with \$125,000 in the current year budget. Discussion followed on the potential of reducing that amount in the proposed budget.

Additional information provided and discussed included Debt Service data, the Staffing Report, and a report on current year staffing projection versus actual. Copies of the questions/answers submitted were provided for review.

Mr. Johnston arrived during the discussion, 8:44 pm.

Board members presented and discussed their view on where the budget proposal should be adjusted. Mr. Lewis requested the administration present scenarios with reductions to bring the budget to a 2% and 1% increase. Mrs. Gombos also asked to see what reductions between 1% and 2.5% would look like. She asked that the administration revisit the mechanics of the facility and the athletic area for further reductions. She also questioned the addition of athletic programs, specifically the Dance program, which she could not remember being added.

Mr. D'Agostino commented on the need to planning with regard to staff, to accommodate the decline in enrollment. Mr. Hancock asked for reductions that would result in a 1.5% to 2% range, and commented on the need to have a serious discussion of the need to reduce the teaching staff and athletics to meet the decline in enrollment.

Mr. King agreed with the previous comments, that it would be helpful to see the impact of reductions. Mrs. Colangelo commented on the need for a multi-year plan for reductions to match the decline in enrollment. Mr. Johnston was in agreement with the other comments, and expressed concern about the need for long term staffing reductions. Mr. Coppinger stated he would prefer to see a 2% increase, but wanted to see what a 1 & 1.5% increase would look like.

Mrs. Krivit stated that she did not think this was the time for staffing reductions. When Barlow enrollment increased several years ago, staffing did not increase, the teachers accepted the greater load. She also believes the parents will not accept a reduction in staffing. Mr. Hocker suggested consideration of a reduction in the Capital Fund, to bring it down to \$50,000.

Mrs. Gombos commented that a 2.25% budget would mean a 4% increase for the Easton taxpayers, due to an increase in the Easton enrollment. She does not believe that this is acceptable, and would prefer to see a 2% increase for the Easton taxpayers.

The administration will prepare reductions with a variety of scenarios for the next meeting. The budget discussion will continue at the March 17, 2015 regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Gray, Redding: Mrs. Gray expressed her agreement with Mr. D'Agostino, Mrs. Gombos and Mrs. Coppinger regarding the special education costs. She commented that there should be a monthly report to the board on the activity, the population and the costs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: move to recess to executive session to discuss an issue with a specific student and an issue with a contract employee. Colangelo, Hancock. Approved. Unanimous.

Dr. Josefsberg, Dr. McMorran and Ms. Roszko were invited to be present.

The meeting recessed at 9:28 pm

Mrs. Roszko and Dr. McMorran left the meeting at 10:10PM.

RECONVENE

The Chair reconvened the meeting in public session at 10:30pm

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meetings were adjourned at 10:31pm

Submitted by Catherine Gombos, Board Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday