

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 21, 2015
REGULAR MEETING
Minutes

Attendance: Region 9 Board of Education members: Colangelo, D'Agostino, Gombos, Hancock, Hocker, Johnston (7:55 pm), King, Lewis

Administration: Josefsberg, McMorran, Sullivan, Pierson Ugol, Pin, Sheehy

Others: two members of the community and a representative of the Redding Pilot/Easton Courier

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

STUDENT COMMENT

Ellery Capshaw reported on student activities, including the upcoming Prom, school play production and Barlow Palooza. Graduation has been scheduled for June 17, 2015, and she is looking forward to that. She introduced the Student Representative for next year, Sarah Fergusen.

AGENDA ADDITION

Motion: move to add to the agenda, the approval of minutes for the District Hearing on March 26, 2015 and the minutes of the meeting on March 26, 2015. Gombos, Colangelo. Approved. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the Tri-Board meeting on May 15, 2014 as submitted. King, Hancock. Approved. 6-0-1. Mrs. Colangelo abstained.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the Tri-Board meeting on October 30, 2014 as submitted. Colangelo, D'Agostino. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 special meeting as submitted. Gombos, Colangelo Approved. 6-0-1. Mr. King abstained.

The minutes for the March 17, 2015 were deferred to the next meeting.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approved the minutes of the District Meeting on March 26, 2015 as corrected. D'Agostino, King. Approved. 5-0-2. Mrs. Gombos and Mr. Hocker abstained.

Correction: the minutes were submitted by Mr. Hancock.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 26, 2015 meeting as submitted. Colangelo, Hancock. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 31, 2015 special meeting as corrected. D'Agostino, Colangelo. Approved. Unanimous.

Correction: the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the District Hearing on April 6, 2015 as submitted. King, Hancock. Approved. 4-0-3. Mrs. Colangelo, Mrs. Gombos and Mr. Lewis abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

None

AGENDA REORDER

Motion: move that the agenda be reordered to move the proposed field trip to the next item for discussion and action. Hancock, Lewis. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON FEBRUARY 2016 FIELD TRIP TO FRANCE PROPOSAL

French teachers Ms. Sandra VanAusdal and Mr. Edouard Smith provided information for a trip to France for French class students. The trip is planned for February 11-20, 2016, and includes the February break and three regular school days.

Mrs. Gombos expressed her concern that these types of trips introduce possible risk to the communities and suggested that trips of this nature be planned outside of the school. This would also avoid the cost of hiring substitute teachers and be less of an impact on the students who do not participate in the trip.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the proposed trip to France for February 2016 as presented. Hancock, D'Agostino. Approved 6-1. Mrs. Gombos voted against the motion.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON 2015-16 OPERATING BUDGET

Proposed budget changes for the 2015-16 budget were reviewed. Mrs. Sullivan highlighted the changes, which included additional tuition for three additional students at the Trumbull AgriScience program and transportation, transportation increase for an aide (Special Education area), and a reduction in the Central Office budget as a result of the change in superintendent compensation. The budget adjustments were discussed, and the administration will finalize them. Mrs. Gombos suggested the Central Office budget be reviewed for what is planned for tuition reimbursement. Mr. Hocker suggested a brief meeting prior to the May 4, 2015 District Meeting to review the final list of changes.

Mr. Johnston arrived, 7:55 pm

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Mrs. Sullivan provided information on the Connecticut Statute regarding food, the Connecticut Healthy Food Certification Program and the National School Lunch Program. She explained the benefits of each and the funding provided through participation in the programs. It was noted that if Region 9 withdraws from the CT Healthy Food Programs, Easton & Redding would not be able to stay in the program. The National School Lunch Program withdrawal would result in loss of revenue and additional costs to the district. No action was taken.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RECOMMENDATION OF SUPERINTENDENT CONCERNING TEACHER NON-RENEWALS

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept with regret the recommendation that the contract of employment of Maria Loughlin and Guy Pratt not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2014-15 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such persons in writing of this action. D'Agostino, King. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PTSA POST-PROM REQUEST

The PTSA post-prom party will be held at Sky Zone in Bethel from 11:00 pm to 2 am. The event is open to all Juniors and Seniors with no charge to the student. The Easton Redding Community Coalition is contributing \$1,500 to the event. A Redding police officer and a Bethel police officer will be assigned to the event. The PTSA requested financial assistance, as they have in the past, to cover transportation, custodial and security costs. The Board of Education provided an amount not to exceed \$1,000 last year.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education authorize an expenditure of up to \$1,000 for the Post-Prom event expenses. King, Colangelo. Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Assistant Superintendent, Head of School: Dr. McMorran submitted a written report and highlighted some of the student events. Students will take the Smarter Balance tests in English on April 30 and May 1, and the tests in Math later in May. A parent/student program is planned for April 23 on the subject of first year of college.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Mrs. Pierson Ugol reported on the work being done to refine the 2015-16 teacher and administrator evaluation plans. She is also coordinating the work to develop a frame work for World Language, K-12.

Director of Finance and Operation: Mrs. Sullivan reported that health insurance claims are below the monthly average and that claims for the entire pool are lower than projected. The Year-to-Date report shows an overage in heating oil, primarily due to the cold winter. The rollover of notes was accomplished at a good rate. The Transfer Report was reviewed.

Superintendent: Dr. Josefsberg announced that Governor Malloy has appointed Dianna Wentzell as the new Commissioner of the State Department of Education. Dr. Wentzell has been serving in the interim position.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Hocker reminded all that the budget referendum is May 5, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the meeting be adjourned. Colangelo, King. Approved. Unanimous.

The meetings were adjourned at 8:50 pm

Submitted by Catherine Gombos, Region 9 Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday