

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 26, 2015

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Attendance: Region 9 Board of Education members: D'Agostino, Gombos, Hancock, Hocker, Johnston (7:22 pm), Lewis

Administration: Josefsberg, McMorran, Sullivan, Pin, Sheehy, and school staff members

Others: one member of the community and 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 7:15 pm in the Joel Barlow Media Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015 regular meeting as submitted. Lewis, Hancock. Approved. 3-0-2. Mrs. Gombos and Mr. Hocker abstained.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015 regular meeting as submitted. D'Agostino, Lewis. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the April 30, 2015 special meeting as submitted. Hancock, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approved the minutes of the District Meeting on May 4, 2015 as submitted. Gombos, Hancock. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the May 4, 2015 special meeting as submitted. Gombos, D'Agostino. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Gray, Redding: Mrs. Gray offered congratulations to the school staff, the Parent Teacher Student Association, and the students on a very successful and enjoyable Prom and Post Prom party. She has had good feedback from students on the event. She also commented that the monthly report from the Special Services Department is not available. The board previously discussed the importance of keeping up to date on that information.

Mr. Johnston arrived, 7:22 pm, during the following discussion.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The annual renewal of the auditors was presented for approval. The Region 9 portion of the cost is \$38,000, with the total of the contract (including the three school districts and towns of Redding and Easton) is \$130,000 for the year. This is for the second year of a three year contract.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the annual appointment of McGladrey LLP for the year ending June 30, 2015 with an annual fee of \$38,000. Gombos, Hancock. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Mr. Hocker commented that the board would appoint an interim Head of School to allow for a deliberative and complete process for filling that position and to fully engage all stakeholders.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education appoint Gina Pin as the interim Assistant Superintendent and Head of School of Regional School District #9, effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, pending resolution of contract negotiations. Gombos, Lewis. Approved. Unanimous.

Mrs. Pin thanked the board for the appointment and their confidence in her ability to fill the position.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARGE

The final draft of the Audit Committee draft was presented. Further discussion was tabled.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education table approval of the Audit Committee Charge. Lewis, Johnston. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON DIRECTOR & OFFICER LIABILITY

Mrs. Sullivan reviewed the coverage provided for members of the board. Board members had several questions regarding the coverage and amount of coverage. Mrs. Sullivan will get that information for the next meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON LONG RANGE PLANNING

The Easton and Redding Boards of Education discussed long range planning at the recent meeting of the three boards. Both of these boards are dealing with the impact of declining enrollment, and have committees in place to study the issues and provide alternate solutions to deal with the decline. Region 9 has not yet been effected by the decline to date, but will see a decline in the next few years.

Board members discussed long range planning and strategic planning. A strategic plan was developed and that is still in effect. Board members discussed the importance of looking at enrollment trends and resource allocation. Dr. McMorran noted that the final NEASC report will be available soon, and may provide some direction for strategic planning.

Dr. Josefsberg will provide members with copies of the charge for the Easton and Redding Long Range Planning Committees.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Assistant Superintendent, Head of School: Dr. McMorran submitted a written report which highlighted student achievement and recognitions. The Awards Ceremony is planned for June 4, 2015. Paula Panos provided an update on the college application and admissions process. She noted that all students have a plan, and data on college acceptances is being collected. Mrs. Gombos requested a presentation for a future meeting on the Counseling Department's outreach efforts and impact over the past 3-4 years.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction: Dr. Pierson Ugol was not present, but provided a written report.

Director of Finance and Operation: Mrs. Sullivan reported that health insurance claims are averaging on target. The Health Insurance increase has come in at 2.7%. The Transfer Report and Year-to-date reports

were reviewed. Mrs. Gombos expressed concern about the overage in the Tuition Reimbursement Account and requested further review. The Roof Project is moving forward. The Building committee will oversee the project, and the work is scheduled to be completed over the summer vacation and completed by the first day of school in late August.

Superintendent: Dr. Josefsberg congratulated Mrs. Pin on her appointment as Interim Assistant Superintendent and Head of School.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee: Mr. Johnston reported the Audit Committee met on May 5, 2015, and concluded with several recommendations. The recommendations will be finalized and presented for approval at the June meeting. Some of the recommendations involve changes in board policies. The Policy Committee will be consulted on those.

Negotiations: Mrs. Gombos reported that negotiations with the non-certified staff is going well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dana Gray, Redding: Mrs. Gray applauded the decision to appoint Gina Pin as Interim Head of School. She also thanked Paula Panos and the counseling staff for the presentations for Juniors and parents over the past year. She found the presentations to be especially helpful.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. D'Agostino commented on the great Barlow Palooza, and encouraged all to attend the drama production of "Our Town".

Mr. Hocker also complimented the students on the Barlow Palooza. He also served as a judge for the Senior Speakout and was impressed with the quality of the work presented.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meetings were adjourned at 8:29 pm

Submitted by Catherine Gombos, Region 9 Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Mary Maday