

REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION &

March 26, 2015
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes

Attendance: Region 9 Board of Education members: Colangelo, D'Agostino, Gombos, Hancock, Hocker, Johnston, King, Lewis
Financial Advisory Committee members: Coppinger, Krivit, DeSalvo
Administration: Josefsberg, McMorran, Sullivan, Pierson Ugol, Czudak, and staff members
Others six 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 Special Meeting to order at 7:25 pm in the Joel Barlow Media Center. Members of the Financial Advisory Committee were invited to participate in the discussions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rose Giannicchi, Easton: Ms. Giannicchi, a Joel Barlow student, addressed the board on behalf of the Dance Team. She reviewed how and why the team was established, what costs were carried by the students and what the students have done to raise fund. She asked that the funding for the Dance Team remain in the operating budget for 2015-16.

Heidi Armster, Easton: Mrs. Armster stated that it is good to invest in education and diversity in education. She noted that too many reductions will reduce that diversity.

Phyllis Rhodes, Redding: Mrs. Rhodes spoke in support of funding for the high school. She expressed concern that declining enrollment and decreasing budgets will not attract families to Easton and Redding.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF AN APPROPRIATION AND BORROWING
AUTHORIZATION FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT
AT JOEL BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL.

Motion: move to approve the following Resolution. D'Agostino, Gombos. Approved. Unanimous.

*RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$1,040,647 (EASTON'S SHARE CURRENTLY
EQUAL TO 45.9% OR \$477,657; AND REDDING'S SHARE CURRENTLY
EQUAL TO 54.1% OR \$562,990) FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT AT JOEL
BARLOW HIGH SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZE BONDS AND TEMPORARY
NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT*

RESOLVED,

1. That Regional School District Number 9 of the State of Connecticut appropriate ONE MILLION FORTY THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$1,040,647) (Easton's share currently equal to 45.9% or \$477,657; and Redding's share currently equal to 54.1% or \$562,990) for roof replacement at Joel Barlow High School in the area of the auditorium and consisting of the removal of existing roof systems to the existing deck and the installation of a new 20-year modified built-up roof system of approximately 31,600 square feet. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, materials, architects' fees,

engineering fees, construction management costs and fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings, other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project. The Board of Education is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the project. The Board of Education may reduce or modify the scope of the project, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified.

2. *That the District issue its bonds and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed ONE MILLION FORTY THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$1,040,647) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the District for the project. The bonds and temporary notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds and notes shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns, secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the District and its member towns. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds and notes. The Chairperson and the Treasurer of the Board of Education, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates the authority to make such determinations, are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds and notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for keeping a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the District in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.*

3. *That the District hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Chairperson and the Treasurer of the Board of Education, or such other officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates such authority, are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the District pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.*

4. *That the Chairperson of the Board of Education and the Treasurer, or such other officer or body to whom the Board delegates such authority, are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.*

5. *That the Building Committee established for the project is authorized, subject to the Board of Education's authority to determine the scope and particulars of the project, is*

authorized to approve the expenditure of said appropriation and such other matters as it deems desirable or necessary to complete the project.

6. *That the authorization of bonds and temporary notes shall be subject to approval by a referendum vote to be held in the Towns of Easton and Redding, being all of the towns comprising said District.*

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS SETTING THE DATE FOR A REFERENDUM REGARDING PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT AND AUTHORIZING DISTRICT OFFICIALS TO TAKE ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH OBTAINING GRANTS FOR THE COSTS OF FINANCING THE PROJECT REFERENCED IN SAID RESOLUTION

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education set May 5, 2015 for a referendum regarding partial roof replacement and authorizing district officials to take actions in connection with obtaining grants for the costs of financing the project referenced in the Resolution just approved. Colangelo, King. Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE 2015-16 OPERATING BUDGET

Responding to the Board's request to provide a listing of potential budget reductions, Dr. McMorran presented a revised list of budget adjustments. The reductions, starting with the initial budget presentation with a 3.16% increase, take the budget down to a 1.99% increase. The reductions were in a variety of accounts, reducing the requested amount, but not eliminating the entire funding.

Mrs. Gombos questioned the process used when a "club" becomes an official "team". Athletic Director, Mike Santangeli, responded that the Dance Team is an anomaly since it is not a recognized sport. The process is that a club is presented to the Board of Education for acceptance and recognition as a team. There is no funding for two years, partial funding for the third year, and full funding in the fourth year. This process was not followed with the Dance Team.

Discussion of the amount of funds for the Capital Reserve Account followed. The current proposal reduces the \$100,000 to \$55,000. The current balance in the Capital Reserve Account is just over \$200,000. There are future capital projects planned, but the Capital List has not yet been approved by the board. Mr. Lewis suggested taking the contribution down to \$1.00, since there was a balance in the account that could take care of emergencies if needed.

Mrs. Sullivan estimates an end-of-year balance, as of now, to be \$50,000. That amount could be put into the Capital Reserve Fund, the Health Insurance Reserve Fund, or returned to the two towns.

Discussion continued.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve a budget for 2015-16 of \$23,148,685, representing an increase of 1.99% over the current year budget. Gombos, King.

Discussion of the motion followed.

Amendment to the Motion: Amend the motion on the table to provide a reduction in the Capital Reserve budget line of \$99,999, and a reallocation of funds to the other items on the list at the discretion of the administration. Colangelo, Hancock. Amendment FAILED, 4-4 vote. Voting for: Gombos, Hancock, Colangelo, Hocker. Voting against: D'Agostino, Lewis, King, Johnston.

Discussion of the budget followed.

Amendment to the Motion: amend the motion on the table to reduce the budget to #23,116,892, a 1.85% increase over current year. Lewis, Johnston. Amendment FAILED, 4-4. Voting for: Lewis, Johnston, Gombos, D'Agostino. Voting against: Hocker, Hancock, Colangelo, King.

After further discussion, the main motion on the table was withdrawn by Mrs. Gombos and Mr. King.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve a budget for 2015-16 of \$23,148,685, representing a 1.99% increase over the current year budget, reduce the Capital Reserve Fund amount by \$54,999, and ask the administration to make adjustments to the items on the proposed reduction list. Hancock, Colangelo. Motion FAILED. Voting for: Colangelo, Hancock, Hocker. Voting against: Gombos, King, D'Agostino, Johnston, Lewis.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve a budget for 2015-16 of \$23,143,685, representing a 1.97% increase over the current year budget, with the Capital Reserve Fund line item reduced to \$1.00, deletion of the subwoofer listed in the budget, retain the staff position on page 2 of the reduction list, with the remainders of the reduction list adjusted by the administration. D'Agostino. Motion FAILED due to a lack of a second.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approved a budget for 2015-16 of \$23,143,685, representing an increase of 1.97% over the current year budget, with the Capital Reserve Fund line item reduced to \$1.00, with adjustments to the list of reductions by the administration, and that the administration report back to the Board of Education with detail of those reductions at the next regular meeting. Colangelo, Hancock. Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education authorize the Board Secretary to prepare explanatory text about the budget to be distributed to the voters of Easton and Redding. Lewis, King. Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phyllis Rhodes, Redding: Mrs. Rhodes expressed concern for the reduction of the Capital Reserve Fund item. She believes it is irresponsible that the board is not funding the capital projects that are needed to maintain the facilities. Mrs. Gombos responded that the Capital Reserve Fund of just over \$200,000 should be sufficient to handle emergencies. The Capital Plan for the facility has not been approved since 2012, and no projects are currently pending.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meetings were adjourned at 9:43 pm

Submitted by Catherine Gombos, Board Secretary
Recorded by Mary Maday