

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

John Read Middle School - Community Room

On YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSJhKa9oQfe3lydov_I-EvA

October 6, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Parkin, Hoffman, Gibbons, Oulton, Sadana, Belfatto, Shanahan

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Scrofani

Others: 7 members of the staff and public

CALL TO ORDER

C. Parkin called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the September 6, 2022 Special Meeting are not available for approval.

Minutes from Regular Board of Education Meeting September 6, 2022. Ballot rounds were discussed as follows: 1st round, 2 votes for Nelson (Belfatto, Hoffman) 2 votes for Guarniere (Oulton, Sadana), 1 vote for Shanahan (Gibbons), 1 vote for Bendish (Parkin). There were 4 subsequent rounds of voting. 3 rounds remained the same: Nelson (Belfatto, Hoffman, Parkin) and Shanahan (Gibbons, Oulton, Sadana). Final round the only vote that changed was Parkin from Nelson to Shanahan.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the minutes of September 6, 2022, Regular Meeting. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Laura Gibbons welcomed Jon Shanahan.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Redding Elementary School Principal, Melissa Labrosciano, spoke about highlights of the month. International Peace Day was celebrated on September 29th with “Pinwheels for Peace”, an RES tradition. Pictures were taken by a parent with a drone offering time and equipment. RES is introducing a Student Council, open to Grade 4 students who are interested in leadership opportunities. Assistant Principal, Kim Roy, spoke to students and all 4th grade teachers were given applications for students. The first Open House since 2019 was held on September 15th.

John Read Middle School Principal, Jennifer Desmarais, commented on the school clubs and activities taking place. The new Spanish teacher started. The first social was held last week by the PTA and the first in-person Open House in 2 years. Attendees want to hear from the school leadership and a bi-monthly event is being drafted to accommodate that. The Art Fellowship with Mrs. Spies' class has Mexican artists zooming in to art classes, and the CyberPatriot season, with Bryan Holmes, were highlighted. Question was raised about testing that was completed and when reports will be available, which should be next week.

Jennifer Del Conte, Director of Special Services, spoke about the new State IEP format. Staff meets regularly to address the changes, but the new parent portal is up and running. Workshops are ongoing to assist with the change in format and new portal. All necessary certified Staff are in place with the exception of one paraprofessional who is close to being hired. We did fill a vacancy for Assisted Technology (AT), which is considered a 'high needs' field, and she is doing well. The AT position is shared with Easton and ER9. Chris Parkin asked about the Junior Bridges Program and its capacity. 2 classes are at capacity at 10-12 per class. Are we running the new IEP system side by side with the former system? IEP Direct is still used in conjunction with the new system. Parents see the promise of the new system, the parent portal and the real time feedback/transparency.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Pierson Ugol will co-report on the student achievement, but also commented on the opening a portal for school climate, place to find policies and forms as well as goals and information. It will be available to families.

The Director of Finance, Operations and Technology presented the Financial report. Healthcare analysis report for July and August. It does not reflect the deposit from last year or ~\$800k which will be reconciled for September at next months' meeting. Small credit of \$175.00 looks like a debit but is misleading. Average claims were discussed but at only 2 months into the year an average claim amount is not yet established. Sara is happy to review documents and reports with new board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

Project C.O.O.L.

Outdoor pavilion for a new learning environment. Ribbon cutting is approved and planned, teachers/students may sign up to use it and it is already being enjoyed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Jon Shanahan joining the board will replace Julie Hardridge on the Tri-District Food Services Committee. There is a vacancy on the Curriculum Committee amongst parents and Chris Parkin is appointing Amanda Guarniere to that committee.

REVIEW OF STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Dr. McKinnon reviewed Student Achievement as follows in 3 parts: Testing Data (types of assessments, SBAC results, formative assessments), District Improvement Plan (high impact instructional strategies, focus areas), and School Improvement Plans (actions steps).

Data reviewed last year, from testing post pandemic, showed our literacy scores dropped by ~5% and our math scores by ~10%. Reflective of where we were during the pandemic and as we look at the data, there is a gap because we did not test during the 2019-2020 school year. To clarify, 1 point(percent) is equal to 3-4 weeks of instruction so a 5% drop in literacy is anywhere from 15 weeks to 5 months of lost learning time. A decline of 10% in math is a loss of learning time of anywhere from 30 weeks to 10 months. We are not alone in this as the loss of learning time, it was a trend across the country and across our local districts.

Student assessment is sorted into 2 categories: Formative assessment and Summative assessment. Formative takes place during the student learning. Summative assessment takes place after the learning has taken place and is intended to summarize how the student did. Research shows that formative assessment has the highest impact. Summative assessments are usually standardized and may be used to compare achievement within or across districts. More effort should be put into formative assessments.

Smart Balanced Assessment Results – Spring State Assessments:

English Language Arts (ELA) Claims, Grades 3-8

Tests measure reading, writing, speaking & listening, research & inquiry

Mathematics Claims, Grades 3-8

Tests measure concepts & procedures, problem solving, communicating reasoning, modeling & data analysis

Each claim measures a certain area of student achievement.

SBAC scores for ELA 2015-2022 were reviewed for Easton, Redding and DRGA overall. Easton is ~1% away from DRG average of 78.9% and Redding is ~ 6% away. We refer to DRG average with caution as comparing to other schools within the district it must be noted that different schools have different resources.

Scores for Math 2015-2022 were reviewed for Easton, Redding and DRGA overall. Easton is ~5% away from DRG average of 75.3% and Redding is ~ 4% away.

Dr. Pierson-Ugol reviewed the ELA Cohort charts/data. Grade 3 in Redding performed well below where we would expect. Mr. Sadana asked if that was the cohort we were concerned about during the budget planning. It was that cohort as well as the 2nd grade. Focus on K-3 will be reading as this graduates into comprehension in later grades.

Grade 4 had an improvement as did Grades 5 and 7. New resources have been purchased for our literacy specialists. Nothing in particular can explain the drop in the other grades. Mr. Parkin noted that the bump from 5th to 6th grade has always caused an issue for student testing. Easton chart viewed.

Math cohort data reviewed. Grades 3 through 7 saw improvements. Only grade 8 saw a decline, however grades 5 and 6 are not on par with what we would expect. We need to be certain that we are measuring what we are teaching to accurately assess achievement. Grade 8 was particularly low and JRMS will work with the high school so teams may be prepared for this incoming class's needs. In the future we may hear about a joint Easton-Redding textbook review to support a curriculum update.

NGSS Science in Grades 5&8 were reviewed. We use a cross-domain approach and focus on formative assessment. Improvements since 2018 were noted. Year over year improvement is on par.

Performance of High-Needs Students for Math and ELA in Redding was discussed. Improvement is needed.

Targets were reviewed for reading goals to improve skills.

Metrics and Action Steps were reviewed with regards to High Impact Instructional Strategies with the idea that a few key goals are better than having too many goals. District goals: High Impact Instructional Strategies, Student Achievement (Summative) Student Achievement (Formative), and Family Engagement & Climate.

Background was presented on measuring impact.

Redding Goals (Summative) Grades 3-8 by June 2023 77.5% will meet or exceed goal Reading; 75% will meet or exceed goal Math; Middle School Grade 5, 77% and Grade 8, 75% will meet goal.

Redding Goals (Formative) Elementary by June 2023 80% will meet or exceed goal Reading; 80% will meet or exceed goal Math; Grade 6-8 80% will meet or exceed goal Reading , and 80% Grade 6-8 in Math.

Family Engagement & Climate Goals, by Spring 2023 90% of students will be able to identify a trusted adult in their school, with a heavy emphasis on kindness.

Mr. Parkin asked about the appearance of too many assessments, and Dr. McKinnon clarified that the assessments are a part of instruction and how using only summative instruction is trying to catch issues too late.

Plan documents were reviewed.

Melissa Labroschiano and Kim Roy reviewed the School Improvement Plan with an emphasis on Student Council and the focus on student leadership. Kept to ~ 20 students while encouraging them to have a voice. All Standardized Measures are looking for a 5-8% increase in student performance.

Jennifer Desmarais and Kyla Dunn presented with an emphasis on Family & Student Engagement, particularly the “Evenings with Administrators” which will be by sign up and relating topics requested.

Dr. McKinnon summarized to say we are not satisfied with where we are but do believe we can advance each year.

Questions were raised about the a) how the High School is doing. Tri-Board meeting upcoming and data is not ready for review. 2) the time delay in getting test results, but it was noted that the State controls the release and that not all students test at the same time. Although some testing in May, some are still testing through mid-June. Teachers are not prepared to review data thoroughly until September.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education meeting be adjourned (Gibbons, Hoffman).
Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Oulton
Redding Board of Education Secretary

Recorded by Stephanie Oulton