

*Filed subject to approval*  
**RECEIVED November 7, 2022 8:30 AM**  
**Kimberly Keil, Assistant Redding Town Clerk**

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
John Read Middle School Community Room  
On YouTube:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSJhKa9oOfe31ydov\\_I-EvA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSJhKa9oOfe31ydov_I-EvA)  
November 1, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.  
Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Parkin, Hoffman, Oulton, Belfatto, Gibbons, Sadana, Shanahan  
Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Scrofani, Del Conte  
Others: 4 members of the staff and public, and the recording secretary.

CALL TO ORDER

C. Parkin called the Redding Board of Education Regular to order at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hearing no questions or comments, C. Parkin deemed the Minutes of the October 6, 2022 Regular Board of Education meeting and the October 25, 2022 Regular ER9 Joint Boards of Education meeting approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Redding Elementary School Principal, Melissa Labrosciano, read from her report to the BOE, highlights included: National School Lunch Week, Fire Prevention Week, 4th Grade Mile Run, School Climate Committee, Spirit Week and Halloween festivities.

Director of Special Services, Jennifer Del Conte, reported that the new IEP system has had its challenges and that parents have been very understanding about it. She said that there are good conversations occurring at the elementary level and that this strengthens their ability to be transparent with PPTs and decisions made at PPTs. She was asked if PPT meetings are in person or in a virtual format. J. Del Conte replied that the format of the meeting is split between these two formats, with parents preferring the virtual option.

John Read Middle School Principal, Jennifer Desmarais, read from her report to the BOE, highlights included: the CyberPatriot competition and the 8th grade history field trip to Fairfield. She said that she is holding parent talks about what is going on in the building on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol, reported on the recent decision by the CT State Department of Education that mandates that all public school districts use only state-approved curricula programs in grades K-3, beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, in an effort to stress the importance of the science of reading. She said she had recently attended a two-day event about the six programs identified by the State as meeting criteria for the new curriculum, and that there is one program that she liked and that is aligned with District beliefs. Dr. Pierson Ugol said the next step is to meet with the Easton and Redding Curriculum Committees and that the options for the District are to select from the six programs, submit a waiver or request to defer a decision. BOE members asked about the reaction to this mandate from other districts in DRG A. Dr. Pierson Ugol and Dr. McKinnon replied that they, and all DRG A districts, fully support the science of reading and also collaborating with the State, but that they question the notion of “one size fits all,” especially for higher performing districts where there may not be a need for this.

Director of Finance, Operations & Technology, Sara Scrofani, shared a report with the BOE that included: transfers over \$10K require BOE approval; hiring for certified and administrators is complete; there is a plan to replace the Cisco Meraki wifi access point during Winter break; and there has been a concerted effort to put all software in one place in the Budget Object Summary. She said that now is the time to reflect on what is actual and what was planned. S. Scrofani reported that healthcare fees for July are low and the District is doing fine overall. She was asked if the free lunch program is coming to an end; she replied that it is coming to an end at the end of the calendar year and that there will be a price increase for the lunch. Consideration was given to having a Joint BOE Special Meeting to decide upon the lunch price increase.

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education authorize the transfer of funds as reported by the Director of Finance, Operations and Technology and to adjust budget entries for the 2022-2023 school year as indicated in the November 1, 2022 Budget Transfers memo. (Gibbons, Sadana). Approved. Unanimous.**

#### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2023 REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING CALENDAR

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education accept the 2023 schedule of board meetings as presented. (Gibbons, Sadana). Approved. Unanimous.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: BOILER REPAIR AT RES

Dr. McKinnon explained the situation with the one boiler at RES and said that the plan will enable the District to get to the point of replacing both boilers at the same time in the future. He referred BOE members to a memorandum that outlines the scope of repair work, the cost and how the cost will be funded. BOE members had questions about the cost of a new boiler and any emergencies that occur while repairing the boiler. Dr. McKinnon replied that a new boiler will cost \$250K and that parts have been saved from other boilers that can be used.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CAPITAL PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE

C. Parkin said that the Facilities & Planning Committee had recently met and had a lengthy discussion which resulted in some structural changes to the report and additional changes to the priorities on the Capital Plan. He said that there are two pieces to the Capital Plan, one being maintenance type items and the other being capital improvements, as well as the additional Ed Specs Design piece. The Capital Plan was distributed to BOE members and a discussion followed that included: RES elevator, JRMS roof, RES roof, the lifetime of a roof and grouping the roofs together.

Dr. McKinnon explained that the first half of the Capital Plan is concerned with keeping the buildings running, but that care also needs to be given to the design and content inside the building as it relates to learning. He said that furniture areas that impact student learning need to be upgraded and changed too. Dr. McKinnon explained that Ed Specs is part of a process where you identify the building envelope and then have conversations with architects, administrators, teachers and the community about how they want the school to look on the inside. C. Parkin added that it was the recommendation of the Facilities & Planning Committee to go forward with the retention of a design firm to begin this process, with an RFP, and to request funding this school year to begin work on the initial phase. He said the funding request will be brought to the town and would take place through an ARPA grant or through traditional capital financing.

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education adopt the current Capital Plan. (Belfatto, Shanahan). Approved. Unanimous.**

Dr. McKinnon explained the contents of the RFP as containing: a history of both buildings, description of conditions of both buildings, the BOE's commitment to providing an inspirational learning environment, the envisionment of architects working with educators to design spaces, examples of spaces needing enhancement and the requirement of renderings and drawings of the spaces. He said that he would like to post the RFP this Friday with a pre-bid building tour date of November 16 and a deadline for proposals of December 6. A lengthy discussion about the RFP took place involving: scope of services; whether or not to include specifically named spaces; the timeline; the amount of funding to be requested for phase 1; whether or not to have a fixed price on design work; and for how long to request the bid amount remain active.

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education direct the administration to issue the RFP as the Board discussed tonight, and subject to counsel. (Belfatto, Hoffman). Approved. Unanimous.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CONTRACT WITH ASSOCIATION OF REDDING ADMINISTRATORS FOR 2023-2026

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education recess to non-meeting. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting recessed to a non-meeting at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting came out of recess at 8:50 p.m.

**Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education ratify the contract with the Association of Redding Administrators for 2023-2026. (Hoffman, Gibbons). Approved. Unanimous.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Oulton  
Secretary, Redding Board of Education

Recorded by,  
Sarah Ota