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Kathleen R. Miserendino, Redding Deputy Town Clerk
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REGION 9 BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Joel Barlow High School - Library Learning Commons

On YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpOKinELAtzbYQcJ5NA3-hg>

June 21, 2022 - 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: D’Agostino, Johnston, O’Brien, Graziano, Lehberger, Pampel, Thompson

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Almeida, Scrofani

Others: 5 members of the staff and public, the recording secretary and the videographer

CALL TO ORDER

M. D’Agostino called the Region 9 Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 Regular meeting, with the following revisions: on page 6, “Gaziano,” should read “Graziano;” on page 6, M. D’Agostino said the “regular audit cannot be *finalized* until the forensic audit is complete;” and, on page 2, “new system,” should read “new format.” (Pampel, O’Brien). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022 Joint Boards of Education Regular meeting as submitted. (O’Brien, Johnston). Approved. 4-0-3. (Graziano, Lehberger, Pampel abstained).

STUDENT COMMENT

Joel Barlow High School Student Government Representative, Griffin Ellis, read a lengthy Noteworthy News, which highlights the Barlow community’s accomplishments in athletics, academics and the arts. Highlights included: senior Matt Scott won Gatorade Player of the Year for baseball for the State of Connecticut, the Barlow baseball team won the State Championship and the Barlow Honors Medical/EMT students finished first and second in the All-Around Competition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

C. Graziano said that graduation was great and congratulations to the graduates.

M. D'Agostino said congratulations to our 2021-22 Barlow graduates, and thank you to Karen Bender, Jackie Garvey and the entire Barlow staff. He said he is grateful to Dr. McKinnon, Dr. Almeida and the entire administration for weathering the storm, righting the ship, and guiding our students back to the shore, and that they did an amazing job to help students transition back to in-person learning, to regain the confidence they need to pursue their dreams, and the wisdom to forge lasting friendships along the way.

K. O'Brien said thank you to Jen Desmarais for all of her hard work this year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jason McKinnon, said that the previous night's graduation ceremony was impressive and that as he's been visiting the other schools in the District, he hears that students are really excited about where they're headed. He thanked the teachers and thanked the BOE members for attending the graduation ceremony.

Joel Barlow High School Director of Special Education Services, Tracy Hussey, said that she has enjoyed getting to know many families and Barlow in the last eight weeks. She reported on the new system for completing IEPs and 504 plans, called CT SEDS, which will launch on July 1. She said: CT SEDS will have a parent portal; technical training for five staff members will take place in July and August; Tri-District training for rest of staff will take place on August 29; and, there will be a parent workshop in July. T. Hussey said that the IDEA grant continues to support in-services, tutoring, instructional salaries, supplies, technology hardware, professional services and collaboration with Easton Country Day School. She said that the ESSER/APR grant continues to support tutoring for students for specific learning disabilities and mental health concerns, summer evaluations, neuropsychologicals, psychiatrists, social emotional consultation services, and a makeover for the 3E Kitchen. T. Hussey said that her department is considering revision to some grant lines to allow the .6 FTE SpEd teacher position to become a 1 FTE, with an emphasis on math instruction. She also reported that Region 9 currently meets all indicators on the State Performance Plan, except the "Decrease Placements in Separate Schools, Residential or Other Settings" category.

BOE members had questions about: CT SED interacting with Powerschool; CT SEDS forms moving with the classification of students; why Easton Country Day School is receiving District grant money; specifics of moving grant money for the increase of a .6 FTE SpEd teacher; will increased position be able to be maintained; what is driving the need for the increased position; and projections for 2022-2023 school year.

T. Hussey replied: CT SED does interact with Powerschool; CT SED is easily accessible to SpEd teachers and service providers; private schools in our District who provide special services to students have always been allowed a percentage of grant money and there is a specific formula for arriving at this amount; ESY salary lines are not what is needed + COVID grant money for psych evaluations is not what is needed + some services will not be needed because of CT SED; the driving need for the increased position is math support and co-taught math classes; and, projections for 2022-2023 can be provided.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol, shared an outline of the Summer Professional Learning and Curriculum Work Plans and said that this is the first time in two years that the District has had the ability to conduct this type of work. Dr. Pierson Ugol said that some of the work will be done with consultants – such as the Fusion 360 training being done at Sacred Heart

University – and other work will take place amongst teachers from throughout the three Districts at the schools.

Joel Barlow High School Head of School, Dr. Mario Almeida, said that he echoes all the comments about graduation. He said that Open Campus had been going on for the last couple of months of school and that it went very well; there were no problems with any students or any students understanding how it worked. Dr. Almeida thanked the professional staff of JBHS and said that he had an amazing year.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: JBHS ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Personnel Search Steering Committee and appoint Jason Schemm as an Assistant Principal of Joel Barlow High School. (Pampel, Johnston). Approved. Unanimous.

Jason Schemm was present at the meeting and spoke after the vote of the Motion, saying that he was honored and humbled to now serve in the Assistant Principal role at JBHS.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: JBHS FIELD TRIP TO DISNEY

Joel Barlow High School music teachers, Chris Breault and Gwynne Wittmann, presented the plan for performing arts students to visit Disney World in March, 2023.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the request from the JBHS Music Department for a trip to Walt Disney World March 2nd - March 6th, 2023. Students will attend a Disney Teaching Artist Workshop session to work with a Disney Audio Engineer and gain insight on life as a working musician with Disney professionals. (Lehberger, O'Brien). Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: JBHS SECURITY CAMERA REPAIR

M. D'Agostino said that there is a camera at JBHS that needs repair, and that the district had received an estimate from the District's vendor, United Alarm, to complete this repair and perform other needed modifications to the camera system.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept the proposal from United Alarm in the amount of \$12,068.51 for proprietary repairs and modifications to the security system at Joel Barlow High School. (Graziano, O'Brien). Approved. Unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: SCHOOL SECURITY

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education recess to Executive Session to discuss school security and invite Dr. Jason McKinnon. (O'Brien, Graziano). Approved. Unanimous.

The Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

The Meeting returned to Public Session at 9:38 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SCHOOL SECURITY

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to approve building modifications related to school security as presented to the Region 9 Board of Education in Executive Session not to exceed \$36,000. (O'Brien, Lehberger). Approved. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR UNSPENT FUNDS

M. D'Agostino said that in advance of the unspent funds discussion, he wanted to thank Dr. McKinnon and Mrs. Scrofani for their time, dedication, and commitment to attempt to decipher the budgets of all three districts within a few weeks. He said that he would like to schedule a Region 9 BOE Special Meeting for Monday, June 27 at 7:30pm to consider encumbered salaries and outstanding health claims. S. Scrofani explained that there were several transfers that needed to be made to correct budget entries for F2021-2022; she said that there was no impact on unspent funds, but because of the amounts, BOE approval was needed.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education approve the transfer of funds as reported by the Superintendent to correct budget entries to accounts for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. (Johnston, Graziano). Approved. Unanimous.

M. D'Agostino said that he wanted to wait until Monday's meeting to discuss possible contributions to the Pension and Capital Reserve Funds. He said the District needs to purchase the hydraulic lift that had previously been considered by the BOE during budget season as the lift is now broken and cannot be repaired.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education accept proposal #55144 from Clover Lift Equipment/DBA Lifts4Less in the amount of \$18,250 for a Genie 2632 Hydraulic Scissor Lift to be funded using 2021-2022 fiscal year unspent funds. (O'Brien, Lehberger). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to transfer \$100,000 from 2021-2022 fiscal year unspent funds to the Defined Benefit Non-Certified Employee Pension Fund. (Johnston, O'Brien). Approved. Unanimous.

It was decided to save the discussion on the Health Insurance Reserve Fund for Monday's meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: POLICY REVIEW

M. D'Agostino asked BOE members to refer to the Minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting for the list of policies under consideration for a 2nd reading. He said that he had some questions about wording in some of the policies, and was wondering about administrative time being involved in the process.

K. Thompson explained the process of the Policy Committee and presented their work on the policies. She said that there were four policies that are actually regulations, and therefore, do not need to be voted upon by the BOE; the policies are numbers: 7, 9, 27, and 47 from the list. K. Thompson said that after input from administration, policies had been withdrawn from the list to be further considered; the policies are numbers: 29, 45, 59, 60, 65, 67, and 69 from the list. A lengthy discussion on the use of pronouns in the policies took place; it was decided that the Policy Committee will confer with Shipman & Goodwin about the practice of using "he/she/they," and/or terms such as "student and administrator" within the language of the policies. It was decided to strike two policies from the list; the policies are numbers 57 and 64 from the list. The discussion continued about: process going forward for approval of the policies; status of other policies not considered tonight; and, the meeting schedule for the Policy Committee. It

was decided to attempt to receive further information and feedback from Shipman & Goodwin for Monday's meeting, and the vote for the policies was tabled.

AGENDA CHANGE

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board adjust the Agenda making Item X: Executive Session the new Item XIII, in order to move the remaining Agenda items before the Executive Session. (Johnston, O'Brien). Approved. Unanimous.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee: T. Johnston said that the Committee had recently met and discussed what needs to be done. He said that the financial auditor needs the final forensic audit before completing their audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

K. O'Brien thanked the Policy Committee members for all of their hard work.

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education recess to Executive Session for the Superintendent Evaluation and invite Dr. McKinnon. (Thompson, O'Brien). Approved. Unanimous.

The Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 11:23 p.m.

The Meeting returned to Public Session at 12:05 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Region 9 Board of Education adjourn the Regular meeting. (Pampel, O'Brien). Approved. Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 a.m.

Submitted by Karen O'Brien
Secretary, Region 9 Board of Education

Recorded by,
Sarah Ota