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Kimberly Keil, Assistant Redding Town Clerk  
4 pages*

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
John Read Middle School Community Room  
June 6, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

On YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSJhKa9oQfe3lydov\\_I-EvA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSJhKa9oQfe3lydov_I-EvA)

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Parkin, Hoffman, Oulton, Belfatto, Gibbons, Sadana; Remote: Shanahan  
Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Scrofani  
Others: 6 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 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023 meeting as submitted, with the following revisions: on page 2, it should read “Justin Hopkins; and Fire Marshal.” (Belfatto, Sadana). Approved. 6-0.**

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education approve the minutes of the May 23, 2023 Easton, Redding, Region 9 Joint Board meeting as submitted, with the following revisions: on page 4, it should read “interview panel;” on page 6, the Motion should read “exercise option to renew contract;” and, on page 6 it should read “C. Parkin said.” (Belfatto, Sadana). Approved. 6-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jason McKinnon, welcomed everyone and introduced the administration.

Redding Elementary School Principal, Melissa Labroschiano, read from her prepared report to the BOE, highlights included: class visits to the newly refurbished Lonetown March Sanctuary trails; 3rd grade multi-day field trip around Redding; Spring orchestra, band and chorus concerts; author Helen Lester visit; kindergarten orientation day; the Rocky Rally; the RES Art Show; the 12 Days Until Summer Countdown; and Staff Members of the Year recipients Rachel Saluzi and Erica Ambrosia. M.

Labroschiano also said that kindergarten enrollment is at 94 students and that the outside murals are almost complete.

John Read Middle School Principal, Jennifer Desmarais, read from her prepared report to the BOE, highlights included: 7th grade social studies visit from Mr. Rwabukamba, a Redding resident and genocide survivor; JBHS administration hosted a coffee for current 8th grade students; 6th grade social studies visit from Mr. Sarkany, a Holocaust survivor and inspirational speaker; the High Notes Music Festival for Chamber Choir, Chamber Strings and Jazz Band at Lake Compounce; 5th grade social studies field trip to Putnam Park; and, Staff Members of the Year recipients Mary Irving and Danielle Longo.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol, presented a written report to the BOE, highlights included: next school year the JRMS 8th graders will be piloting a program called Personal Interest Project (PIP), which will be one-semester of their Fine and practical Arts rotation. The project will allow students to follow their passions to complete a project with which they can learn, solve, make and do, while mastering high-leverage skills necessary for school and beyond; the District is still waiting to hear whether or not the State of Connecticut has approved the waiver for the reading program requirement; K-4 teachers will pilot the CKLA by Amplify reading program; and, the District's professional Development & Evaluation Committee worked with a consultant during the past school year to develop recommendations for a revised District evaluation plan, and these recommendations will now inform an evaluation plan pilot for the upcoming school year. BOE members had questions about: the math professional development; the alignment of State guidelines for evaluations and the District's evaluation plan; a plan for ensuring that the PIP program will be successful; and, whether or not the Desmos math program is on-line only. Dr. Pierson Ugol replied that: the Desmos orientation took place in May; the District's evaluation plan does align with State guidelines, but it will eventually need to be changed; students in the PIP program will meet every other day, they will have a staff mentor and there will be a great deal of oversight; and, there is a student workbook for Desmos which will be purchased.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: EDUCATIONAL SPACES MODERNIZATION UPDATE**  
C. Parkin reported that an ARPA grant of \$14,000 had been awarded to the JRMS portion of this project. Dr. McKinnon, gave a recap of the project so far, which is that plans were completed for enhancements of the kindergarten and 1st & 2nd grade wings at RES, and for the LLC and Community Room at JRMS. He said an RFP had gone out on May 23 for the construction part of the project, but that the District received no bidders. Dr. McKinnon explained that the next step was to contact a contractor from the State approved Easy IQC list of vendors, which they did, and talks had begun with BMP Construction; BMP Construction has yet to supply an estimated cost or timeline for the project. A discussion took place regarding: impressions of BMP's possible timeline; possibility of going beyond the District's Easy IQC zone; possibility of reopening the RFP; and, timeline of furniture order.

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education authorize the administration to solicit quotes through the Easy IQC process and contract with a qualified vendor for completion of the RES modernization project during the summer, within the confines of the allocated budget. (Gibbons, Sadana). Approved. 6-0.**

A discussion continued about possibly rethinking the scope of the JRMS project. Ideas included: not ordering furniture for the Community Room; not doing the construction portion of the LLC plan; and, only ordering furniture for the LLC. The conversation was tabled until the June 27 meeting, at which time a decision will be made about the JRMS portion of the modernization project.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: JOHN READ MIDDLE SCHOOL COURTYARD

C. Parkin explained that a committee had been meeting and discussing ways to remember JRMS 6th grade student Brien Karlson. He said that the school's inner courtyard will be revitalized into a memorial for Brien since he loved the outdoors and also the school's courtyard. M. Hoffman went over a detailed plan for the renovations of the courtyard, which included: space for 1-2 whole classrooms to fit; ease of maintenance; longevity; artificial materials; natural materials; elements that reflect Brien's hobbies & interests; interactive & educational murals; wheelchair accessibility; and ability for multi-uses. J. Desmarais said she thinks the project is a great idea. C. Parkin said the purpose of the presentation was to inform the public and the BOE, and that soon a fundraising effort will commence for the project.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: FINANCIAL YEAR END UPDATE

Dr. McKinnon said that the BOE has decisions to make regarding the end of year financials, and that all of the items to consider are organized into the budget dashboard. He said that after some outstanding invoices are paid, the unexpended budget line will be at \$835K. Dr. McKinnon presented choices for the BOE to consider as: health insurance reserve fund; chrome books; furniture for the JRMS LLC; interactive whiteboards for RES; seed money for JRMS courtyard; RES playground painting; JRMS modernization project; and, VERIP payment. A lengthy discussion took place about the philosophy and practice of using unexpended funds vs. returning unexpended funds to the town, as well as, what becomes of the fund if they are returned to the town.

L. Gibbons made a Motion, which was seconded by C. Sadana, to: "approve the execution of the JRMS education modernization project in the amount of \$161K to be funded by funds in the unspent budget of FY2023." After more discussion, L. Gibbons removed her Motion from the floor. C. Parkin said that they need to be in a position to decide this topic at the meeting on June 27. He also said that more clarification was needed from the Redding Board of Selectmen.

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education allow C. Parkin to discuss with the Redding Board of Finance a request to allow the Redding Board of Education to establish a non-lapsing account. (Sadana, Gibbons). Approved. 6-0.**

#### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

#### SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education move to Executive Session to discuss Superintendent evaluation and invite Dr. McKinnon to attend. (Hoffman, Sadana) Approved. 6-0.**

The meeting moved to Executive Session at 9:20 p.m.

The meeting returned to Regular Session at 9:39 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting be adjourned. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. 6-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Oulton  
Secretary, Redding Board of Education

Recorded by,  
Sarah Ota