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Kimberly Keil, Assistant Redding Town Clerk
3 pages*

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

November 7, 2023

7:00 p.m.

John Read Middle School Community Room

On YouTube:

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

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

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

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Scrofani

Others: 8 members of the staff and public, and the Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

C. Parkin called the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education approve the Minutes of the October 3, 2023 Regular meeting with the following revisions: on page 1, it should read, “C. Parkin called the Redding Board of Education Regular Meeting to order...;” and on page 3, on line 38, it should read, “dip in scores...” (Worosz, Belfatto). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education approve the Minutes of the October 24, 2023 Special meeting with the following revisions: the first Motion should read, “Move that the Redding Board of Education enter Executive Session for the purpose of hearing a grievance of a member of the REA related to personnel items and to invite the Superintendent of Schools, the Director of Finance & Operations and Board Council to attend;” further down, “The meeting exited Executive Session at 7:03 and recessed...;” and the second Motion should read, “Move that the Redding Board of Education enter Executive Session for the purpose of hearing a grievance of a member of the REA related to personnel items and to invite the Superintendent of Schools, the Director of Finance & Operations and Board Council to attend.” (Hoffman, Worosz). Approved. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jason McKinnon, said that there would be two brief administrative reports tonight, starting with Dr. Pierson Ugol.

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol, gave an update on the State of Connecticut reading legislation and the activities taking place at RES. She said that she and Dr. McKinnon had recently participated in a small group discussion with the State about what was in the District's waiver request, which was submitted in February. Dr. Pierson Ugol said that the State confirmed to them that if the waiver is granted, then the District will be provided with indefinite flexibility, which will allow: continuation of the reading program that has been used in years' past, OR selection from the core programs from the State, OR refer to Districts that have already been granted a waiver. She said that notification on the waiver decision will be received by December 1 and that the deadline for additional grant funding is December 15. Dr. Pierson Ugol said that this will be a tight turn-around and that the funding is only for the reading programs approved by the State. She added: the District has until the 2025-2026 school year to have a reading program in place; they are still following standards and best practice; they will be sharing a survey with teachers soon to gather feedback; and, they are moving carefully to ensure that all other programs will be aligned.

Dr. McKinnon asked that the meeting be recessed from Administrative Reports as the Director of Finance & Operations had to leave the meeting room for several minutes, and she had the only other report to give.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

C. Parkin asked for unanimous consent for the Agenda Items VII. A. and VII. B. to be switched with one another. Hearing no objections from BOE members, the Agenda Items were switched.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CAPITAL PLAN

Dr. McKinnon reported on the Facilities Committee Meeting that took place prior to the BOE meeting and explained the Committee's four recommendations: 1) boiler repairs at JRMS in the amount of \$22,000; 2) finishing the RES Modernization Project by purchasing furniture for the 1st and 2nd grade wing in the amount of \$24,000; 3) finishing the window wall in the JRMS LLC in the amount of \$27,800 - with \$14K in ARPA funding; and, 4) an alarm for the JRMS water storage tank in the amount of \$5,000 and a new well at JRMS in the amount of \$150K. It was decided to take action on the JRMS boiler, the RES furniture and the JRMS water tank alarm immediately, wait until April 2024 for the JRMS LLC window/wall and the new JRMS well to be placed on the District capital plan.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education authorize the administration to take immediate steps to repair the boiler at JRMS. (Worosz, Hoffman). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education authorize the administration to fund the purchase of additional furniture at RES to complete the RES modernization project, at an amount not to exceed \$25,000. (Worosz, Hoffman). Approved. Unanimous.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education adopt the Capital Plan as recommended by the Facilities Planning Committee. (Worosz, Hoffman). Approved. Unanimous.

C. Parkin said the Capital Plan will now be presented to the Town of Redding Long-Range Planning Committee.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: REDDING SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION CONTRACT

C. Parkin recommended that the BOE recess to a different room instead of clearing the BOE meeting room.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education recess the meeting for the purpose of having a non-meeting to discuss the Redding Support Staff collective bargaining unit contract. (Hoffman, Worosz). Approved. Unanimous.

The BOE members recessed at 7:28 p.m.

The BOE members returned and the meeting resumed at 7:38 p.m.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education ratify the tentative agreement between the Redding Support Staff Association and the Redding Board of Education for the four-year period beginning July 1, 2023, and authorize the Chair to sign those terms. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS CONTINUED

Director of Finance & Operations, Sara Scrofani, reported the health insurance claims were a little higher this past month; she is waiting for salaries to be encumbered next month for the Budget Object Summary report; and, that generally everything is in good shape for the beginning of the year.

BOARD COMMENT

L. Worosz said a big thank you to C. Parkin, M. Hoffman, S. Oulton and J. Shanahan for their service to the BOE.

Dr. McKinnon presented C. Parkin, M. Hoffman, S. Oulton and J. Shanahan with gifts and plaques to thank them for their service to the Redding BOE. Group photographs of the BOE were taken.

M. Hoffman said that it has been an honor to serve on the BOE and for the voters of Redding and that he has learned a lot from this experience. He said he has seen many positive changes while serving on the BOE.

C. Parkin said that he echoes much of what M. Hoffman said, and spoke about serving on the BOE and his many experiences. He said that he feels that there is some peace here now.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made for Adjournment by M. Hoffman and seconded by L. Worosz. Absent any objections, C. Parkin deemed the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Oulton
Secretary, Redding Board of Education

Recorded by,
Sarah Ota