

*RECEIVED February 12, 2024 @10:25AM  
Kimberly Keil, Assistant Redding Town Clerk  
4 pages*

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

February 6, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

John Read Middle School Community Room

On YouTube:

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

ATTENDANCE

Board members: Belfatto (arrived 7:06pm), Bendish, Fine, Guarniere, Pepe, Sadana, Worosz

Administration: D'Agostino, McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Scrofani

Others: 7 members of the staff and public

CALL TO ORDER

L. Worosz called the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:01pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consent Agenda:

January 18, 2024 Redding Board of Education Regular Meeting

January 30, 2024 Easton, Redding, Region 9 Joint Boards of Education Regular Meeting

Worosz proposed that the January 30th meeting minutes be edited to reflect that Gwen Denny from Region 9 did not abstain from votes, rather she was absent.

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education approve edits as above to the January 30, 2024 Easton, Redding, Region 9 Joint Boards of Education Regular Meeting. (Bendish, Sadana). Approved 6-0 (Belfatto not yet arrived).**

Worosz proposed that the meeting agenda be amended such that item VII.A., Discussion and Possible Action: Health Insurance Presentation by Brown & Brown & Fiscal Year 2025 Health Claims Allocation, be moved to the next item in advance of public comment.

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education amend agenda as proposed. (Sadana, Fine). Approved 6-0 (Belfatto not yet arrived).**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: HEALTH INSURANCE PRESENTATION BY BROWN & BROWN & FISCAL YEAR 2025 HEALTH CLAIMS ALLOCATION

Jay and Sidney from Brown & Brown present via Zoom to provide a presentation regarding FY 2025 Health Claims Allocation. An overview was provided of Brown & Brown and the role they play in providing analysis and recommendations in regards to the Redding Board of Education's

health care budget and expenditures. An overview of the three health care insurance purchasing options was given, with focus on the current Redding Board of Education's healthcare insurance option - partially self insured. Brown & Brown representative explained that under this plan, the employer pays the majority of health claims up to a \$175,000 stop loss amount per insured. This plan option has consistently shown savings compared to other purchasing options since at least 2018. Sadana asked questions regarding how often the stop loss is triggered, as well as whether \$175,000 is the best amount for it. Brown & Brown representative explained that in Redding, the stop loss is triggered 2-3 times annually on average. The \$175,000 amount lowers the risk while also keeping the cost low compared to other amounts and continues to be the recommended amount. Brown & Brown representative reviewed a depersonalized list of high claimants. In regards to the budget, Brown & Brown's projection for health care expenditures for 2024-2025 is \$3,507,851.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

B. Pepe shared that she recently attended the newly formed Redding Prevention Council, which was moderated by the Western Connecticut Coalition, an organization with a goal of promoting mental health. She looks forward to sharing more about how this Council will be offering services and programming to the school communities in Redding.

C. Sadana shared that he recently attended the C.E.S council meeting. C.E.S. is one of CT's six Regional Educational Service Centers, as well as a school district. L. Worosz encouraged board members to sign up for a tour of the facility.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Dr. McKinnon stated he will defer his administrative report until later in the agenda.

Redding Elementary School Principal, Melissa Lobrosciano, read from her prepared report, highlights included: implementation of new PAWS initiative, the establishment of a community/professional Connections database, and that Kindergarten is now 1:1 with chromebooks, meaning that all RES students now have a dedicated chromebook.

John Read Middle School Principal, Jennifer Desmarais, read from her prepared report, highlights included: personal interest projects are underway; there will be a career day on April 1; students will be voting to name the new school mascot. J Desmarais also noted that Mrs. Sue Dorenbosch retired at the end of January.

ER9 Business Manager, Michael D'Agostino gave a facilities update, which included a brief visual presentation showing recent updates to building and maintenance projects. Such projects included: dead tree removal at JRMS, repair to boilers, rug and furniture installation at RES, and a new John Deere gator with snow plow on its inaugural voyage during a recent snowfall.

#### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Worosz stated that the facilities committee update would be discussed during a later agenda item.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2024-2025 BUDGET

Dr. McKinnon presented the first few slides of his budget presentation, and gave a reminder that nearby districts are proposing a 6% budget increase on average. The original budget presentation proposed a 4.65% increase, however some edits were made for the board's consideration.

Dr. McKinnon explained that the edits included reducing the transportation budget from 10% to 9%, and reducing the software budget \$25,000. He noted that at the recent Easton, Redding, Region 9 Joint Boards of Education Regular Meeting, the boards voted to reduce the central office budget by \$19,772.50. An additional edit was made to increase the special education outplacement budget by \$50,000.

Dr. McKinnon explained that there will likely be a surplus of funds this year to contribute to the healthcare reserve. If the 2024-25 healthcare budget plans a 5% increase over 2023-24, Dr. McKinnon demonstrated that this should be a sufficient budgetary amount for the projected health care expenditures, as well as allow for a reserve covering three months of healthcare expenditures.

With edits as noted, the newly proposed operating budget for 24-25 is a total of \$25,453,662, which represents a 3.6%, \$884,093.87, increase over the 23-24 budget.

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education adopt the 2024-2025 operating budget of \$25,453,622 which amounts to a 3.6% increase over the prior year. (Sadana, Guarniere).  
Approved. Unanimous.**

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

Worosz explained that the facilities committee met earlier in the evening and recommended an updated capital plan. Newly added items included an internet improvement project at RES/JRMS

for 2023-24 to improve access and speed, as well as additional phases of the modernization project at both schools.

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education adopt the revised 2024-2025 capital plan. (Sadana, Bendish). Approved. Unanimous.**

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: JOINT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

L.Worosz announced the following changes to the joint committee assignments. Sadana and Bendish are assigned to the ER9 Joint Operating Committee. Pepe is assigned to the ER9 Joint Policy Committee. Guarniere is assigned to the ER9 Joint Negotiating Committee. Stephen Siefert is removed from the Redding Facilities Committee.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting be adjourned. (Sadana, Pepe). Approved. Unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by Amanda Guarniere  
Secretary, Redding Board of Education

Recorded by,  
Amanda Guarniere