

Regular Meeting
EASTON, REDDING, REGION 9 JOINT BOARDS OF EDUCATION MEETING
Joel Barlow High School - Library Learning Commons
On YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpOKinELAtzbYOcJ5NA3-hg>

May 28th, 2024 – 7:00PM

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Easton: Hicks, deJesus, Parker, Wible, Young, (Absent: Natt)

Redding: Worosz, Bendish, Fine, Guarniere, Pepe (Absent: Sadana, Belfatto)

Region 9: Johnston, O'Brien, Pampel, Parkin, Stinson, (Absent: Graziano, Denny, Thompson)

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

Others: the Recording Secretary and the Videographer

CALL TO ORDER

L. Worosz called the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

T. Johnston called the Region 9 Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

R. Hicks called the Easton Board of Education Regular meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION

Facilities Manager Mike D'Agostino set forward the motions for the Healthy Food Certification, saying that these two motions are typically considered each year.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Region 9 Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. (Parkin/Stinson). Approved. 5-0, 3 abstentions due to absence.

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and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. (Pepe/Bendish). Approved. 5-0, 2 abstentions due to absence.

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Region 9 Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. (Wible/Parker). Approved. 5-0, 1 abstention due to absence.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. (Parkin/Stinson). Approved. 5-0, 3 abstentions due to absence.

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Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. (Wible/Parker). Approved. 5-0, 1 abstention due to absence.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 DISTRICT CALENDARS

L. Worosz explained that Easton's board had already adopted the calendars, so it was Redding and the Region 9 Boards' turn.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education adopt the calendars provided for the Redding and Region 9 school districts as presented to the boards by the administration. (Parkin/O'Brien). Approved. 5-0, 3 abstentions due to absence.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education adopt the calendars provided for the Redding and Region 9 school districts as presented to the boards by the administration. (Bendish/Pepe). Approved. 5-0, 2 abstentions due to absence.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: ADOPT POLICIES CONTAINED IN SHIPMAN POLICY MANUAL AND REPEAL EXISTING POLICIES

C. Parkin explained that the boards should have received a memo from him in which the process for the policies were explained with the wholesale adoption of the Shipman and Goodwin policies.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jason McKinnon explained that most of the policies have a general applicability to the schools, but in the case of 6146: graduation requirements and 6146.1: weighted grades, they exist only for region 9.

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education accept for a first reading the repeal of all existing policies except: 5131.911 - Positive School Climate and Response to Bullying, 2141 - Recruitment of Superintendent, 6146 - Graduation Requirements, and 6146.1 - Weighted Grades. (Parker/Wible). Approved. 5-0.

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C. Parkin explained that this is a first step repeal, and that there is a subsequent tri-board review with a second reading, with the intent to make finalizations of adding and dropping policy so they can be applicable for August 1st. If need be, there would be time to fix for the start of the school year.

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education accept for a first reading, the adoption of the 84 Shipman and Goodwin policies, set forth in the table below, 1000 - COMMUNITY/BOARD OPERATIONS: Automatic External Defibrillators, Deadly Weapons or Firearms, Green Cleaning Programs, Non-Discrimination (Community), Pesticide Application on School Property, Pool Safety Plan, Security and Safety Plan, Sexual Offenders on School Property (Regulation Only), Smoking, Use of School Facilities, Visitors, and Volunteers; 2000 - ADMINISTRATION: Hold on Destruction of Records (Litigation), Retention of Electronic Records and Information, and Uniform Treatment of Recruiters; 3000 - BUSINESS: New Policy Named: Budget Procedures, Code of Conduct Child Nutrition Program, Disposal of Obsolete or Surplus Equipment/Material, IDEA Fiscal Compliance, Gifts, Grants and Bequests, School Activity Funds, and New Policy Named: Purchasing; 4000 -

PERSONNEL: Abuse or Neglect of Disabled Adults, Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug-Free Workplace, Athletic Coaches (Evaluation and Termination), Bloodborne Pathogens (Regulation Only), Child Abuse or Neglect Reporting, Code of Ethics, Concussion Training for Athletic Coaches (Regulation Only), New Policy Named: Emergency Action Plan for Athletic Events, Employee Use of District Computer Systems, Employment and Student Teacher Checks, New Policy Names: Exertional Heat Illness Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletics, FMLA, New Policy: Hiring of Certified Staff, New Policy: Hiring of Non-Certified Staff, New Policy: Increasing Educator Diversity Plan, Non-discrimination (Personnel), Psychotropic Drugs, Section 504/ADA (Personnel), Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness, Social Media, and Title IX Sex Discrimination (Personnel); 5000 - STUDENTS: New Policy: Admission to the Public Schools at or before Age of Five, Administration of Medications, Attendance, Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism, Chemical Health for Student Athletes, Child Sex Abuse or Assault Response and Reporting, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students, Education Stability Procedures, Field Trips, Food Allergies and/or Glycogen Storage Disease, New Policy: Fundraising Activities, Health Assessments/Screenings, Homeless Students, Immunizations (regulation only), New Policy: Improve Completion Rates of FAFSA, New Policy Named: Meal Charging, Non-discrimination (Students), Non-resident Admission, Pledge of Allegiance, Recess and Play-Base Learning, Restraint and Seclusion, Search and Seizure, Section 504/ADA (Students), Student Discipline, New Policy: Student Privacy (PPRA), New Policy: Student Records (FERPA), Student Use of the District Computer Systems, Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Sunscreen Application in School, Title IX Sex Discrimination and Harassment, Transportation, and Use of Private Technology Devices by Students; and lastly 6000 - INSTRUCTION: Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum, Credit for Online Courses (Optional and Remote Learning), Curricular Exemptions, Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students, Homework, IDEA - Alternative Assessments, Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Title I), Parental Access to Instructional Materials, Parent-Teacher Communication, and Promotion and Retention. (Parker/Young). Approved. 5-0.

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(regulation only), New Policy: Improve Completion Rates of FAFSA, New Policy Named: Meal Charging, Non-discrimination (Students), Non-resident Admission, Pledge of Allegiance, Recess and Play-Base Learning, Restraint and Seclusion, Search and Seizure, Section 504/ADA (Students), Student Discipline, New Policy: Student Privacy (PPRA), New Policy: Student Records (FERPA), Student Use of the District Computer Systems, Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Sunscreen Application in School, Title IX Sex Discrimination and Harassment, Transportation, and Use of Private Technology Devices by Students; and lastly 6000 - INSTRUCTION: Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum, Credit for Online Courses (Optional and Remote Learning), Curricular Exemptions, Equitable Identification of Gifted and Talented Students, Homework, IDEA - Alternative Assessments, Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Title I), Parental Access to Instructional Materials, Parent-Teacher Communication, and Promotion and Retention. (Bendish/Pepe). Approved. 5-0.

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C. Parkin said that if anyone had any questions to email him. He also explained that he took the Shipman and Goodwin model and filled in the blanks with the region 9 school district, but certain circumstances have optional language. They took local and regional policy and found a way to conform it, so it fits each board's purpose.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: UPDATES TO JOINT COMMITTEES

L. Worosz confirmed the correctness of the joint committee lists.

The ER9 Joint Operating Committee members are: Chair Jeff Parker (Easton), Meghan Bendish (Redding), Chirag Sadana (Redding), Alicia Young (Easton), Gwen Denny (Redding-Region 9), Karen O'Brien (Easton-Region 9), Sara Scrofani (Staff Member).

The ER9 Joint Central Office Negotiating Committee members are: Chair Jon Stinson (Easton-Region 9), Amanda Guarniere (Redding), Devon Wible (Easton), Jeff Parker (Easton), Cheryl Graziano (Redding-Region 9), and Laura Worosz (Redding).

The ER9 Joint Policy Committee members are: Chair Chris Parkin (Redding-Region 9), Bria Pepe (Redding), Kathy Thompson (Easton-Region 9), Jeff Parker (Easton), Alicia Young (Easton), and Meghan Bendish (Redding).

Discussion ensued about the decision about whether or not to dissolve the two remaining committees: the ER9 Joint Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force and the ER9 Joint Wellness Committee.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Stephanie Pierson Ugol explained that there is a requirement for boards to have a wellness policy but there doesn't need to be a formal wellness committee. R. Hicks asked if every board has a wellness committee, and was answered that it is a joint committee, met twice a year, with a menu review and legislative updates. The state has a number of requirements for the policy like that it includes goals for nutrition promotion, education, and physical activity. R. Hicks asked if the committee helps, hinders, or is irrelevant to the administration. Dr. Pierson Ugol answered that it is helpful to get expertise from the people currently involved, but it would be helpful for it to not be a committee so restrictions like quorum can be avoided. C. Parkin said that the DEI task force should be treated differently from the wellness committee conversation, because it was born from community desire and request. The wellness committee issue can be resolved by dissolving it, and delegating the work to the administration.

Board members discussed the DEI Taskforce, saying that in order for it to be more effective and for the task force and the administration to work better together, there should be clearer goals, so they aren't taking on such a large scope of issues. The board members agreed that those involved in the DEI Task Force should come up with specific goals and targets, and present them at the next meeting to determine whether or not there is truly a need for the committee, or it can be covered by the administration with their work within their Safe School Climate Plan.

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education will officially dissolve their participation in the Joint Wellness Committee leaving the responsibility of enacting state policy to the Administration. (Pampel/Stinson). Approved. 5-0.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education will officially dissolve their participation in the Joint Wellness Committee leaving the responsibility of enacting state policy to the Administration. (Bendish/Pepe). Approved. 5-0.

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education will officially dissolve their participation in the Joint Wellness Committee leaving the responsibility of enacting state policy to the Administration. (Parker/Wible). Approved. 5-0

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CENTRAL OFFICE CONTRACTS

J. Stinson reported that there was an initial conversation with Dr. McKinnon last Tuesday, where all contracts up for discussion were looked at, like looking at what is a viable position for McKinnon's contract, and there will be a recommendation made to the board on the June 25th meeting. T. Johnston clarified that that meant there would be no action made from the boards tonight.

JOINT COMMITTEE REPORTS

J. Parker said that his committee met where they discussed the dining, food service and buses.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

C. Parkin thanked everyone for the efficiency of the meeting. D. Wible spoke highly of a recent school trip for the students of Samuel Staples, it was a great experience for the 5th graders. She thanked the 5th grade team and the administration. R. Hicks thanked Dr. Pierson Ugol for all her work.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Move that the Region 9 Board of Education meeting be adjourned. (Parkin/Stinson). Approved. 5-0.

Motion: Move that the Easton Board of Education meeting be adjourned. (Parker/Wible). Approved. 5-0.

Motion: Move that the Redding Board of Education meeting be adjourned. (Pepe/Bendish). Approved. 5-0

The meeting for the Region 9 Board of Education was adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

The meeting for the Easton Board of Education was adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

The meeting for the Redding of Education was adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Submitted by Amanda Guarniere/Devon Wible
Secretary, Redding Board of Education/Easton Board of Education
Recorded by Liadan O'Connor