

REDDING BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

May 3, 2022 – 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 (remote), Belfatto (arrived after Minutes vote), Gibbons (remote), Hardridge (arrived after Capital Plan vote), Sadana

Administration: McKinnon, Pierson Ugol, Scrofani, Del Conte

Others: 4 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 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the minutes of the March 31, 2022 Special meeting, with the following revisions: in Public Comment, “he daughter” should read “her daughter;” and in Discussion, it should read “the BOF requested that the BOE determine whether it could reduce the budget by \$100,000. (Sadana, Parkin). Approved. 3-0-1. (Hoffman abstained).

Hearing no comments or revisions, C. Parkin deemed the Minutes from the April 5, 2022, Redding Board of Education Regular Meeting approved by Unanimous Consent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike D’Agostino, Glen Hill Road, reminded students and parents that all students are still allowed one free lunch per day from the school cafeteria, and he encouraged everyone to go see the JRMS performance of the play, “Seussical Jr.”

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

C. Parkin reminded any members of the public who were watching the meeting on YouTube that there was still time to vote at the Redding polls.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jason McKinnon, read the Redding Elementary School Report in the absence of Principal Melissa Labrosciano. Highlights of the report included: kindergarten visitation day is May 20, 2022; there will be a RES staff vs. parent kickball game on May 20, 2022; the garden club is up and running; RES will participate in All Children Exercising Simultaneously Day on May 4; and, the STEAM Festival was a success.

John Read Middle School Principal, Meghan Ward, said that they had been celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week and read from her prepared report. Highlights of her report included: Day of Silence; Spring Recital; 8th grade poetry unit; CAS 2022 Middle Level Scholar-Leader Award recipients Abigail Avidon and Michael Sherman; Poem in My Pocket Day; In For a Landing math project; Mrs. Hafkemeyer's Clean-Up Litter Earth Day; several World Language projects; grade 8 PSATs; the "Seussical Jr." production; 2022-2023 course selection; and the 8th grade Moving Up Ceremony on June 17. M. Ward also said that there will be an Artisan Fair held at JRMS this Saturday and that the Nature's Classroom field trip had to be canceled due to a lack of staffing on the part of the facility. M. Ward was asked about COVID numbers; she replied that there was a slight uptick in the numbers, but that it had not been a disruption to school.

Dr. McKinnon said that his email to the school community about the COVID numbers and response will now be sent out three times per week.

Director of Special Services, Jennifer Del Conte, said that her department is making sure all the PPTs are coming along.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Pierson Ugol, reported that May is the month for State standardized testing and that the 8th grade will take the 8/9 PSATs, which is a traditional standardized test with pencil and paper and unlike the Smarter Balanced tests which are adaptive. Dr. Pierson Ugol said that they are eager for our students to gain back anything that might have been missed in the last couple of years. She also said that her guidance to the cognitive specialist has been to not cram or rearrange units of study so that they can get in the content before the State test, and also that it is important for our students to experience school in the most natural and normal setting.

M. Ward introduced Sara Pasacreta who is the Director of the JRMS performance, "Seussical Jr." S. Pasacreta extended a personal invitation to the BOE to come to see a performance on Thursday and Friday at 7:00 p.m. or Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. McKinnon said that they have a new way of presenting budget information and that it should be ready for the June cycle of reporting.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: CAPITAL PLAN

M. Hoffman and M. D'Agostino of the ER9 Facilities Committee presented a chart of the possible projects and repairs with a priority level assigned to each one.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education adopt the Capital Plan as presented. (Hoffman, Sadana). Approved. 6-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: RES RECREATION AREA PROJECT

C. Parkin reported that the Town of Redding ARP Committee had approved the project and that they now need to send out an RFP for the project. He said that work will start once school ends and that he would like to be able to award a contract at the June BOE meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: AMLE SURVEY

M. Ward explained the Association of Middle Level Educators survey and her desire to conduct the survey within the JRMS community. She said the survey questions are categorized into the areas of 1) Culture & Community; 2) Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment; and, 3) Leadership & Organization. M. Ward said the survey: will serve as a needs assessment for the school; is used by AMLE in an anonymized way for information on future programs for middle grade; has the support of the JRMS faculty; will be taken by students in grades 5-8; gives students and parents the ability to opt out; will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Examples of questions were read aloud and a discussion followed involving when to administer the survey and usage of the results.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education approve the administration of the Association of Middle Level Educators survey at JRMS. Approved. 7-0.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: POLICY REVIEW

C. Parkin explained that the ER9 Joint Policy Committee is recommending the wholesale replacement of District policies with Shipman and Goodwin policies. He said that the District's approximate 200 policies would be replaced with 86 Shipman & Goodwin policies. C. Parkin said that the first step is to repeal policies that are not needed and then to adopt the new policies. C. Parkin directed BOE members to refer to the chart of policies that explained which ones are to be repealed and which ones are not to be repealed right now, as they need deliberation. A discussion followed that involved: the process by which the policies were put into the categories; communication for BOE; and, a May 24, 2022 deadline for this process.

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education accept for a 1st reading all policies listed on Schedule A, and repeal all existing policies except those listed on Schedule B. (Sadana, Gibbons). Approved. 7-0.

Dr. McKinnon gave an update on the Long Range Strategic Plan work, saying that there will be a focus group of stakeholders on May 12, 2022, at Joel Barlow High School. He said that the focus group will be held in-person, and that with the feedback, the District will be able to start to identify priorities in teaching and learning. Dr. McKinnon said the feedback will then lead to an action plan, and finally, a timetable for the action plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: move that the Redding Board of Education Regular meeting be adjourned. (Hoffman, Hardridge). Approved. 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie Oulton
Secretary, Redding Board of Education

Recorded by Sarah Ota