

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 27, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on January 27, 2009.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Greco.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE** Thomas Arnone
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Thomas Arnone
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT** Chairman Greco announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Joyce Hall, Vincent Grady, Judy Apruzzese-Desroches, Tom Arnone, Patrick Dronney, Greg Stokes, Susan Lavelli-Hozempa, Charles Johnson and Andre Greco

**MEMBERS ABSENT** None

**ALSO PRESENT** Dr. John Gallacher, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Anthony Torre, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the regular meeting minutes of January 13, 2009 be approved. There were no corrections. Motion passed by a **show of hands 8-0-1** with Mr. Dronney abstaining.

7. **BOARD GUESTS**

a. **Dr. Peter Prowda**

Chairman Greco stated that Dr. Peter Prowda will present his enrollment projections through 2018. Members from the Demographic Advisory Committee (DAC) are present and after Dr. Prowda's presentation, they will be allowed to ask questions to help them with their presentation to Board members in February.

Dr. Prowda reviewed past enrollment history data from 1970 to present; growth projections by K-12 levels; contributing factors and prior projections. Dr. Prowda reviewed total enrollment and projected enrollment through 2018; births in Enfield from 1980 through 2013; kindergarten growth; estimated student migration and contributing factors – new housing & sales of existing homes. Dr. Prowda reviewed non-public school enrollment numbers and the accuracy of prior projections.

Dr. Prowda stated that when you look at the information, you can see that there is stability in Enfield and the numbers are predictable barring any catastrophic events.

Chairman Greco asked DAC members if they had any questions for Dr. Prowda. Mr. Neville asked Dr. Prowda if he would characterize what is going on now as one of those catastrophic events and what impact will that have. Dr. Prowda stated that what is going on in Enfield and

across the State can be considered as catastrophic. The impact from people that lose their jobs will decrease participation at private schools where parents are paying for student tuition and can result in an increase at public schools. There can also be the increase of families moving out of Enfield that will lower enrollments. Dr. Prowda does not have a model for this kind of comparison.

Chairman Greco thanked DAC members for coming tonight to hear Dr. Prowda's presentation.

Mr. Arnone stated the housing market in 1984 and 1991 was extremely expensive. The median age of residents in Enfield is 37.3. This is older than the average in the United States. When the boomers move out of their large homes in 10 to 15 years, we could have another influx with enrollments.

Dr. Prowda stated this happened in West Hartford when the seniors left there was an influx of new families that increased enrollments. Dr. Prowda stated that there are a lot of long term residents in Enfield that are over 75 years old.

Mr. Arnone further stated that within 10 to 15 years, we could see movement again in Enfield with the senior population moving onward. Dr. Prowda commented that he liked the way Mr. Arnone is thinking but does not have any models to project the demise of the senior population.

Dr. Prowda asked if there were any plans for development for 55 and over housing. Mr. Arnone does not believe there is any being developed at this time.

Mr. Arnone, Mr. Stokes and Chairman Greco thanked Dr. Prowda for the information provided.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. John F. Kennedy January 2009 Newsletter.

## **9. AUDIENCES**

Susan Braun, Light Street – Ms. Braun stated that she would like to ask Dr. Prowda some questions. Chairman Greco explained to Ms. Braun that the format for tonight's meeting was not setup as a question and answer session. Ms. Braun did not have any further comments and thanked the Board.

## **10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Droney thanked Dr. Prowda for the presentation and stated the information provided will be helpful. Mr. Droney congratulated Leehna Ware for scoring 1,000 points. She is an outstanding athlete, a wonderful role model and wishes her continued success. Mr. Droney stated that the Fermi Instrumental Music will sponsor a comedy show this January 31<sup>st</sup> at Johanna's in Somers and a hypnosis show on February 20<sup>th</sup> in the Fermi Auditorium as fund raiser events.

Mr. Stokes appreciated Dr. Prowda's presentation and the DAC for being here tonight and the work they are doing. Mr. Stokes attended the Eli Whitney Chorus and Band concert and was quite impressed with the students.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa thanked the DAC for all they are doing and was impressed with Dr. Prowda's detailed report. The EHS Cheerleaders won a National Cheerleading Championship competition last weekend, kudos to them. They are an impressive group. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa commented about the article in the paper regarding \$4 million in cuts – this is not

accurate. This is a sustenance budget and these are difficult economic times. We are not trying to increase taxes in Enfield. We are maintaining our current budget. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated the information provided by the DAC is posted on the website and no decisions have been made to close any schools.

Mr. Johnson thanked the DAC for the work they are doing and looks forward to their presentation. Mr. Johnson urged everyone to visit the schools and look at the art work displayed and see what is going on in the schools.

Mr. Arnone stated the presentation with Dr. Mallett at EHS scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> has been moved to February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Arnone congratulated the Fermi the wrestling team for taking the cup back from Enfield High at a recent wrestling match between both schools.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches attended the EHS Instrumental Winter Music Concert and it was wonderful event. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked Dr. Gallacher to elaborate on the Federal Stimulus Package and what Enfield will receive.

Mr. Grady stated the \$4 million cut will affect us and disagrees with Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa. Cuts will need to be made and readjustments will be done. This will affect the students and he does not support and urged everyone to talk to your Town Council members. We should fight against any cuts that will impact education and supports what Mr. Arnone stated at the last meeting. The cuts will be devastating.

Ms. Hall echoed Mr. Grady's comments. Enfield's budget for the last 7 years has been bare bones and there is no fluff in our budget. Ms. Hall stated that if we have a zero increase in our budget, it could require teacher layoffs in order to meet our budget. This is something Ms. Hall does not want to see. This is a serious situation.

Chairman Greco echoed Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa congratulating the Enfield High School Cheerleaders for winning the National Athletic Cheerleading Championship Competition in Providence, RI the past weekend.

## **11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. EHS Science Assembly Public Invited – as presented
- b. Town of Enfield Public Input Meeting – as presented
- c. Location Change for 02-10-09 BOE Meeting – as presented
- d. Fermi Water Damage – as presented
- e. Residents' Donations for Books – as presented
- f. ITPC Update – as presented
- g. Personnel Report – as presented

Dr. Gallacher stated to the best of his knowledge, the Economic Stimulus Package will provide funds for school construction projects or CIP, IDEA, Title I Grants and not for shovel ready projects. Dr. Gallacher thanked Representative Joe Courtney for his involvement. Dr. Gallacher mentioned to Representative Courtney that he would like to use the funds for NCLB requirements. This is a proposal at this time. Dr. Gallacher will provide additional information for Board members.

Mr. Grady asked when this would start if it gets passed. Dr. Gallacher stated it would start for July 1, 2009 through the 2009/10 Fiscal school year.

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Arnone reported that both he and Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa are on the Town Plan of Conservation and Development Committee and urge people to get involved. We are looking at the future in Enfield.

Ms. Hall reported that she attended a Head Start Policy Committee meeting and reviewed programs and we have 80 students on a waiting list. Head Start currently has 104 students attending their program.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa reminded everyone that the Teacher's Internship Program with Mr. Maiorino from the University of New Haven will be held on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa encourages audience members to call 253-6539 to learn more about the workshop.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Policy Review Committee met earlier tonight and they will present a number of policies for a first reading at the February 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Mr. Johnson stated the Policy Review Committee reviewed the following policies:

Policy #5141.25 – Accommodating Students with Special Dietary Needs;  
Policy #3440 – Closing of Public School(s) Equipment/Furniture Disposal Procedure;  
Policy #3541.2 – Bus Transportation – Safety/Operability Responsibilities; and  
Policy #3545.2 – Transportation of Private School Students Out-of-Town.

Mr. Johnson would like the administration to place a reviewed date of January 27, 2009 on these policies.

### **13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL**

#### **a. For the Month of December FY2007-08**

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of December FY2007-08, total expenditures amount to \$57,953.65 broken down between payroll totaling \$0 and other accounts totaling \$57,953.65. All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented."

A vote by **show of hands 9-0-0**, motion passes.

#### **b. For the Month of December FY2008/09**

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of December FY2008-09, total expenditures amount to \$5,991,414.50, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,517,548.68 and other accounts totaling \$1,473,865.82. All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented."

A vote by **show of hands 9-0-0**, motion passes.

#### **c. Line Item Transfers, if any - None**

### **14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **a. Budget Discussion Continued**

Chairman Greco reported that both he and Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches met with the Enfield Teachers Union as requested by Board members at the last meeting. Chairman Greco further stated that our meeting was productive and they are willing to talk about possible concessions. There were no specifics and they are open to further discussions. Chairman Greco thanked the ETA members.

Mr. Arnone asked about the CIP money that we could receive from the Federal Government. Could this replace our existing CIP money that we are planning to ask Town Council members to use for our current budget shortfall? Would we be able to replenish these accounts with this? Dr. Gallacher stated that would be up to Town Council members and it could be done.

## **15. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Curricula Adoptions**

Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education approves the curriculum for Metal Technology 1 (721); Wood Technology 2 (732); Automotive Mechanics 1 (772) and Computer Drafting – Mechanical (713) as presented.

#### **Discussion:**

Mr. Arnone was impressed with the curriculum. These are areas he can see students going into and stated the committee did a great job.

Mr. Grady asked if we have looked into curriculum for the medical field and nursing fields. Mr. Stokes commented that we haven't. Mr. Arnone stated this is an area for growth potential in the workforce.

Ms. Hall stated the schools have been provided books and equipment through the Perkins Grant. Mr. Stokes commented that we receive funds from other grants and are extremely grateful.

A vote by **roll call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

### **b. Proposed FY09-10 School Calendar**

Chairman Greco asked Dr. Gallacher for clarification on the supplemental proposed calendars. Dr. Gallacher stated that there is pending legislation to propose a universal start date after Labor Day and recommends the Board wait until legislation finalizes this before adopting a calendar.

Dr. Gallacher stated the proposed calendar is the first calendar, the minutes from the District-wide Professional Learning Committee are next and they are recommending the February vacation be put back into the calendar. The next is an e-mail from Mary Lombardo with the ETA's recommendations and the final calendar is the recommendations from the ESAA.

Dr. Gallacher stated by Board policy we should start prior to Labor Day. The committees are recommending we hold two in-service days the first week in September. Dr. Gallacher is not following the Board policy. Dr. Gallacher is not in favor of breaking up the first week of school. It is too confusing for the students and for bus runs.

Dr. Gallacher reviewed the proposed in-service days. Dr. Gallacher did not include a February vacation and the April vacation was pushed back a week. Other school districts will be using this week for their April vacation.

Dr. Gallacher stated that there are four calendars for Board members to discuss. Chairman Greco stated the recommendation is to wait until we hear back from legislation regarding the start date.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa asked about the time frame from hearing back from the State. Dr. Gallacher would hope that they would move quickly. Some school districts adopt multiple year calendars.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches is not in favor of the November 30<sup>th</sup> in-service day and would like to see the February vacation added back into the calendar.

Mr. Arnone would also like to see the February vacation added back in.

**c. Conduct RFP for Architect to Assist with Fermi Civil Rights Compliance Review**

Chairman Greco commented that he is not in favor of this and further stated that this is another unfunded mandate. This is a 40 year old building and it will cost us thousands of dollars to make the recommended corrections. Chairman Greco stated that he can not support this.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked what will happen if we do nothing.

Dr. Gallacher stated there are some things in the report that our people can address but he agrees with Chairman Greco. We are not architects when it comes to making corrections with the orchestra pit or the sound booth in the press box. We should show a good faith effort and correct what we can and ask for a time extension in light of our current financial situation. Dr. Gallacher stated that he spoke to Dr. Woods from the State and they are aware of this. We do have a timeline of February 9<sup>th</sup> that we need to respond by in order to be in compliance. Dr. Gallacher stated that he can draft a response for the Board to review. We need to explain our current financial issue and see if they can offer any advice.

Mr. Arnone stated this is a written report and we are aware of it and if we choose not to do it, we are liable. We can't just say we don't have the money. There are a lot of small items that our staff can address. We need to show a good faith effort. Dr. Gallacher agrees with Mr. Arnone.

Chairman Greco agrees with a good faith effort to fix what we can do within our budget. Mr. Johnson stated if we were to spend \$10-15K and hire an architect, this is something we could not sustain in our current budget.

Mr. Arnone further stated that we must comply with their recommendations. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated the building has not changed since the time it opened 40 years ago and we were in compliance then. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches agrees that this is another unfunded mandate.

Mr. Stokes would like to have our attorney review this. Some of these items might need a referendum to repair them. Mr. Stokes would like to know why this isn't grandfathered in. Dr. Gallacher stated in the cover letter, they address this.

Dr. Gallacher stated they visited us 20 years ago and we needed to make changes then. They randomly select schools. Dr. Gallacher further stated that he will have our attorney look at this and get their opinion. Mr. Stokes agrees that the Town attorney should look at this.

Dr. Gallacher stated that we are accepting Federal funds and if they wanted to, they could freeze our funds.

Mr. Droney stated that this is nanny-stateism. We have NCLB, graduation standards and the school calendar and now this. The unfunded mandates from the State of Connecticut and the Federal Government are ridiculous and Mr. Droney does not agree to support any of this until we receive a legal opinion. Next they will say that Enfield High is not in compliance.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Droney to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 27, 2009. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Joyce P. Hall  
Secretary  
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary