

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 9, 2010**

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 February 9, 2010.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT**     Peter Jonaitis, Tom Sirard, Donna Szewczak, Charles Johnson, Judy Apruzzese-Desroches, Joyce Hall, Vincent Grady, Stacy Thurston and Greg Stokes

**MEMBERS ABSENT**     None

**ALSO PRESENT**     Dr. John Gallacher, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Anthony Torre, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Enrico Fermi High Student Representative Meghan Ruff and Enfield High School Student Representative Connor Spain

6.     **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Special Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2010, Special Meeting Minutes for January 23, 2010, Special Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2010 and the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2010 be approved. There were no corrections, motion passed by a **show of hands 9-0-0**.

7.     **BOARD GUESTS** – Bullying Committee

Chairman Stokes welcomed JFK House Master Andrew Longey and Erika Kraselsky from Enfield Youth Services to the Board meeting. Mr. Longey stated last year, the Enfield Public Schools revised our Bullying Policies. We are hosting a program regarding “Bullying, Cyberbullying & Youth Depression” on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in conjunction with Enfield Youth Services. Presenter Mr. Halligan will tell a story about his son that committed suicide after being bullied by his classmates at school and online. At the end of the presentation for students, students will have a chance to ask Mr. Halligan questions. Parents will also have a chance to ask questions at the parent presentation.

Mr. Longey stated that with Enfield Youth Services, a survey was conducted with middle school students. Ms. Kraselsky stated a bullying piece was included in the survey. We are hoping to receive the results from this survey soon. We are trying to bring awareness of Cyberbullying to students and parents. Mr. Longey stated we are trying to make our schools a safer place for students. The committee will look at the results of survey to see what areas we need to focus on. This is a beneficial program. We have bullying curriculum available. The guidance

department visits every classroom regarding bullying. There is also a K-6 curriculum called "Don't Laugh at Me". There is a lot of work still needed to be done.

Mr. Jonaitis asked for the dates of the presentations. Mr. Longey stated student assemblies will be held on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> for grade 8 students at 8:40 AM at JFK; for grade 9 & 10 students at 12:30 PM at Enfield High. The parent presentation will be held at 7:00 PM on February 17<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> for grade 9 students at Fermi and at 12:30 PM for grade 10 students at Fermi.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if this can be taped and shown on E-TV at a later date. Mr. Neville stated Mr. Halligan has turned us down for airing this on TV. It is a very powerful presentation. Mr. Longey has the presentation on DVD's for anyone that can not make the event.

Mr. Grady asked if the survey was well received by the students. Mr. Longey stated the students at JFK took it very seriously. Ms. Kraselsky stated they briefly looked at the results and the students took the survey seriously. Mr. Grady stated the Security Committee would like to receive a copy of the survey results. Ms. Kraselsky stated they can give them a copy of the results when they receive them.

FHS Student Representative Ms. Ruff asked when the survey results would be back. Ms. Kraselsky stated we are still waiting for the computer software to be approved. We are hoping to receive the results prior to the end of the school year.

Mrs. Thurston would like to request a copy of the presentation. Mr. Longey stated he will send her a copy.

Chairman Stokes thanked Mr. Longey and Ms. Kraselsky for their work.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

a. JFK Newsletter.

## **9. AUDIENCES**

Andrew Silva, Wagon Road – Mr. Silva stated both he and Meghan Ruff circulated a petition to Fermi students for the Enfield Board of Education to hold graduations at an off campus venue. Mr. Silva stated 623 signatures were obtained from the Fermi student body. Mr. Silva stated that if bad weather occurs, graduations will be held indoors where only 2 tickets will be given to each graduating senior. Students will be forced to choose family members. Students with split families will have an even more difficult decision to make. Each graduation site proposed at the last Board meeting would cost approximately \$40K. Holding graduations at the high school is like purchasing a lottery ticket. Mr. Silva stated the signers of the Fermi petition were from each class and they understand that making this decision each year may not be possible. Mr. Silva would like the students to hold their graduation at the most promising venue. Mr. Silva asked if Board members can reconsider their decision to hold graduations at the high schools in light of the students concerns. Mr. Silva thanked Board members.

Lawrence Clark, South Road – Mr. Clark stated he has been looking forward to his graduation and he is here to speak out against holding graduations at Fermi. Mr. Clark stated he cares where his graduation is held. If it rains, we will be stuck indoors where only two family members can attend. Imagine how you would feel if your family members could not watch you graduate. This can also cause fights within a family. Do not make us choose who we can invite to share this special day with us. Mr. Clark stated the Board members job is to find the

best solution for the students, parents and the taxpayers. Please do what is right. Mr. Clark thanked Board members.

Lisa Rogers, Winter Way – Ms. Rogers stated she is here regarding the approval of the calendar. Ms. Rogers would like Board members to approve this as quickly as possible. There are groups such as the World Languages Department that are planning trips during the spring vacation. Ms. Rogers received the last workshop meeting minutes and is very pleased and encouraged to see change. Ms. Rogers thanked Board members.

Albert Iacolino, Camelot Drive – Mr. Iacolino stated he was extremely disappointed that the Board decided not to hold graduations at an outside venue. Mr. Iacolino understands the Board's decision not to hold graduations at the First Cathedral due to litigation costs. An outside venue is more cost efficient. Mr. Iacolino thought that a republican majority would have been more fiscally responsible. Mr. Iacolino thanked Board members.

Shannon Gavey, Maple Street – Ms. Gavey stated she signed the Fermi petition and has concerns with the seating arrangements. She has a family member with a prosthetic leg and is concerned that there will not be enough leg room and it will be a struggle to get him there. There could be other students with similar needs. Even holding graduations outside would cause problems. Another venue would be better suited for family members with special needs.

Stephanie Erickson, Elm Street – Ms. Erickson stated she is faced with a decision who will she take to her graduation. She has a split family. Her brother just returned from Baghdad and he should not have to sit on a lawn chair or sit in a gymnasium. Her other brother needs the motivation of seeing his sister graduation. Ms. Erickson asked how is she to choose which parent will attend her graduation. Another venue would serve larger families. Ms. Erickson believes Board members need to look at other options besides Enrico Fermi High School. Ms. Erickson thanked Board members.

Caitlin Daley, Marshall Drive – Ms. Daley also comes from a split family. She lives with two families and has 7 family members she lives with. How can she only choose 2. Ms. Daley wants all of her family members there. This is our graduation that is to be shared with family. It is a milestone.

Maurice LaRosa, Litchfield Drive – Mr. LaRosa is bothered by a statement in the paper that we should control the growth of paras in Enfield. This is wrong. Reconfiguration of schools should be looked at. There are cuts that can be made across the board. Mr. LaRosa wished that the Board had stepped up to fight the ACLU. The separation of Church and State was a letter that was written by Thomas Jefferson to Danbury Baptist. All it meant was the State of Connecticut can not dictate to the Town of Enfield or the people that you will be Catholic or Protestant. It didn't mean that you can not govern the way they ran things under Christian beliefs. The students graduating at the First Cathedral was not a religious decision it was the best venue at that time. Mr. LaRosa applauds the students for fighting for what they believe in but he wished they brought their parents, the taxpayers with them. The taxpayer needs to be listened to. Mr. LaRosa does not believe the Board's decision was the best for the taxpayer. Mr. LaRosa stated logistics play a big part. Mr. LaRosa would like the Board to adopt a practice to let audience members speak at the end of the meeting.

Chelsea Wawrzenski, Brook Road – Ms. Wawrzenski would like Board members to reconsider their decision to hold graduations at the high schools. Her sister's graduation in 2004 was held indoors at Fermi. She had to sneak into the graduation to see her. That should not happen. You are forcing us to choose who we will bring to our graduation. This is not right. We have worked very hard to get to this point. Ms. Wawrzenski stated we should not have to wait for the weather or have to choose family members.

James Bailey Brislan, Oakwood Street – Mr. Brislan is disappointed the Board will not challenge the ACLU. The only way to stop a bully is to use equal or greater force. Their suit is baseless. By not allowing religious facilities to hold graduations, their 14<sup>th</sup> amendment right is being denied. There are organizations like the ACLJ that are more than willing to fight the ACLU. The Board's choice of venue to hold graduations in town is more expensive than other venues. Mr. Brislan stated taking the lowest bid would have been a better choice. The Board is having difficulties balancing its budget. How can you justify spending this amount of money in one day. This amount could be used to fund one staff position. Graduations are extremely important to this community. Mr. Brislan thanked Board members.

Alex Peabody, Washington Road – Mr. Peabody has been watching Board meetings on TV. Mr. Peabody stated students did not show up because we were studying for mid terms. Some students have outside commitments like sports and work and are unable to attend. Mr. Peabody also stated that the advertisement for the meetings was not known. Ms. Ruff made a comment a couple weeks ago that graduations were going to be discussed. He tried to get students to come but they had obligations and were unable to attend. During the Youth Vote, a question was asked "What is the Board of Education going to do for us". If you could advertise more this would help. A survey was needed. Students go to school 5,000 plus hours every year. Students would like to walk away at our graduations seeing our family members present. Mr. Peabody thanked Board members.

Samantha Smith, Park Avenue – Ms. Smith stated she has watched her friends graduate at the First Cathedral and was so excited for her graduation. Now she is not excited anymore. She was not aware of the last Board meeting. If she knew about it, she would have been here. What can we do now. She agrees with Mr. Peabody.

Rachel Barillari, Flicker Lane – She also signed the Fermi petition. She has 8 family members that have helped her mold together her entire career. Her family has invested time in her and should be allowed to attend her graduation. Ms. Flicker stated she should not have to pick family members. This will cause stress and turmoil in her home.

Dominick Alaimo, New Street – Mr. Alaimo stated he has been listening to everyone speak and it all seems to come from money. On this dollar bill it states "In God We Trust". Until we can get these words off of this money, you should fight the ACLU all the way. Mr. Alaimo thanked Board members for the job they are doing.

Dakota McCauley, Southview Street – Ms. McCauley is a sophomore at Fermi. She was told her class is the largest and because her class is so large, she would only be given 1 ticket for her graduation. She will not make that decision and should not be made to make it. To choose is not right for anyone. Ms. McCauley thanked Board members.

Mike Silva, Wagon Road – Mr. Silva stated he has watched several of the Board's past meetings. Graduation site discussions have been held. Concerns were raised for seating and costs for the School Board and Town. The motion to hold graduations at each school passed by 6-3. Mr. Silva questioned the proceedings at the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding laying a motion on the table. The Board was out of order to hold graduations at the schools. The vote for graduations was null and void and should not have taken place. Mr. Silva would like the Board to take into consideration the voice of the students and to thoroughly research each option for graduations. Mr. Silva thanked Board members.

Ken Nelson, Laughlin Road – Mr. Nelson thanked the Board for listening to the students and taxpayers of Enfield. Mr. Nelson would like Board members to make your decisions with the students in mind. Board members have a tough decision to make. Mr. Nelson thanked Board members.

Eric Ballard, Bernardino Avenue – Mr. Ballard stated he knows there are monetary obstacles that Board members need to consider. He is a junior. Students have invested many years and there is a large sentimental feeling associated to this. This needs to be taken into consideration. Mr. Ballard thanks Board members.

#### **10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

FHS Student Representative Meghan Ruff thanked her fellow students for coming tonight. Ms Ruff thanked Mr. Silva for his help with the survey. The petition was a way to get the students voices heard. The taxpayers vote comes first. Ms. Ruff stated 74% of the Senior Class; 50% of the Junior Class; 64% of the Sophomore Class; and 30% of the Freshman class signed the petition. This was done in 2 ½ days. Only 3 students did not want to sign the petition. The vast majority of students want graduations held at an off campus venue.

Mr. Sirard applauds the students and stated they should all be proud of themselves. Mr. Sirard stated it is important to stay involved. Mr. Sirard urged the students to keep up the heat.

Mrs. Szewczak stated it is good to see the Fermi students here tonight. The logistics of two high schools is a concern. Mrs. Szewczak stated she attended a forum with PTO Presidents hosted by Dr. Gallacher. It was very informative to hear from the PTO Presidents. We did receive feedback from them regarding redistricting and the schools do not want to be surprised. They want to be informed and anything sprung on people is always misunderstood. All schools have programs that bring money into the schools. Mrs. Szewczak would like everyone to adopt a school and sign up at the stores or online.

Mr. Johnson appreciated everyone coming tonight. This is important for us to have communication with the students. Mr. Johnson stated we meet on the second and fourth Tuesday's each month at 7:30 PM. Mr. Johnson would like the high schools to announce on the day of the meeting that a meeting is going to be held. The vote for graduations has been taken and the three people that voted against it can not bring it back up for discussion for reconsideration. The Mass Mutual cost was more expensive with the add-ons. Mr. Johnson stated The CT Loves to Read Day was held at the Enfield Public Library. It was a wonderful event. The turnout was great. Mr. Johnson stated JFK had a Change the World Donation Oevent for Haiti. Loose change was collected and they raised \$1,400. This was truly amazing.

EHS Student Representative Connor Spain stated that the students at Enfield High also took a survey and they also wanted a more comfortable venue that will not be judged by the weather. Everything said tonight is the general feeling from Enfield High students as well.

Mrs. Thurston thanked everyone for coming and speaking and agrees with Mr. Sirard. Mrs. Thurston stated Eli Whitney will have Hugs for Haiti where families can bring items in or make donations. They will also vote on the scholarship to be given to graduating students at both high schools.

Mr. Grady thanked everyone for coming and speaking your opinions regarding graduations. We have heard your concerns and we do take what you say into consideration. You may not always like the way we voted. The vote was done with consciousness. We had our information and we voted on it.

Ms. Hall thanked everyone for coming and letting us know how you feel about graduations. This is the total opposite from what we heard the first time. Three years ago, all graduations were held at the schools either outdoors or indoors. Ms. Hall stated the decisions for where and when the graduations will occur are only a small portion of what Board members must do. In the coming year, the schools will implement SRBI or otherwise known as RTI. All teachers

will need to evaluate students to recognize any problems and work to have the students overcome these problems at the earliest point in their education. This will go into effect in September 2010.

Ms. Hall stated that Mrs. Obama spoke today about obesity and children. Schools are also involved in this initiative with our student lunch programs. This will be another obstacle for us to overcome. Ms. Hall further stated this was also discussed at a Head Start meeting and the preschool children that fall into this category. National standards are being established for education in the areas of math and language arts. These are some of the things Board members must address as well as addressing graduation concerns. Board members take their job as agents of Town, State and Federal Government seriously. Ms. Hall appreciates the comments tonight.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches appreciates everyone coming tonight and for their comments. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches agrees with Mr. Johnson and would like Dr. Gallacher to suggest to the Secondary Principals to announce prior to Board meetings and the day of Board meetings to the students. Agendas should be posted at the schools. Students need to be directed where to find the agendas. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches attended the Early Childhood Seminar with Karen Jarmoc, Dr. Gallacher, Mr. Torre and Mr. Grady. It was a wonderful event. For every \$1 spent on early childhood education it will save us \$7 later for additional programs and services that might be needed later. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches welcomed the Boy Scout Troup that was present. They were working on their community involvement badge.

Mr. Jonaitis also thanked everyone for coming. Mr. Jonaitis asked for a 5 minute recess to meet with the entire Board. Chairman Stokes stated this can not be done. Mr. Jonaitis asked to recess to meet with his caucus. Chairman Stokes stated that this can not be done also. Mr. Jonaitis addressed Mr. Silva and his concerns regarding a motion at the last meeting. Mr. Jonaitis believes nothing was done incorrectly.

Mr. Jonaitis stated a motion to reconsider according to parliamentary procedures can only be made by someone that voted affirmatively. Mr. Jonaitis read a passage from Roberts Rules of Orders. Mr. Jonaitis stated based on this information regarding the hasty decision and error, he plans to make a motion to reconsider the decision to hold graduations in town.

Chairman Stokes stated Board members have the opportunity to make a motion when they have the floor. This would not be out of order to do at this time based on the merit.

Mr. Jonaitis moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education reconsiders the decision to hold graduations at the high schools.

### **Discussion:**

Mr. Jonaitis stated after hearing from the students and the possibility of only having 2 family members attend, would like to reconsider this.

Ms. Ruff would like to know what the final costs are associated with each site. We need to know exactly what it is going to cost.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated we did have an itemized list with the associated costs. Ms. Ruff asked if she can receive a copy of the costs.

Dr. Gallacher stated a vote to reconsider needs to be taken at the same meeting. Dr. Gallacher believes the motion should be to rescind or amend. This would need to be done at a future meeting. Prior notification needs to be given as to what the content of the motion will be. This might need to be researched.

Chairman Stokes stated Board members will take a brief recess at 8:55 PM.

**Recess:**

Board members returned from recess at 9:03 PM.

Chairman Stokes stated after conferring, the motion for reconsideration would not be appropriate at this time. According to Roberts Rules of Orders, a Board member or the Chair can ask that the subject be added to the next regular meeting agenda. Chairman Stokes will request the superintendent place this on the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Board of Education Agenda for discussion for possible action of rescinding.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated we are placing the issue of where graduations will be held on the agenda. Does this mean the First Cathedral is back on the table. Chairman Stokes stated the decision for rescinding would be for bringing the graduations back home. If it was rescinded based on the Board's vote, then other decisions could be made. Everything would be on the table.

Mrs. Szewczak asked how this will affect the FOI requests. Chairman Stokes believes he will receive an e-mail regarding this. Mrs. Szewczak asked if we know how much money the ACLU has cost us? Dr. Gallacher stated that we have not given them anything yet but he would guess the legal costs would be around \$5-6K.

Ms. Ruff stated the decision to rescind will be at the next meeting.

Mr. Jonaitis and Mr. Sirard withdrew the motion that the Enfield Board of Education reconsiders the decision to hold graduations at the high schools.

Chairman Stokes appreciated the students coming tonight. Chairman Stokes stated he could not give permission for you to conduct a survey but was not empowered to stop a democratic process as long as it did not interfere with any school activities. Chairman Stokes thanked them for the surveys and they will be placed in our permanent records.

Chairman Stokes stated this has not been easy. The Board got elected and we were notified within 24 hours after being elected about the lawsuit. The Board would have addressed the topic of graduations anyways. The ACLU simply interfered with the Board working closely. Board members would have liked to address this a little more systematically. This became a highly emotional issue. Board members never wanted this to be an emotional issue. We want to do right by the students and give them a graduation they will remember and to applaud your accomplishments.

Chairman Stokes stated we have spent time talking to the ACLJ and attorneys. There are certain guidelines in place. We are stewards of the taxpayers money and do not believe we can gamble with your money. Chairman Stokes believes the ACLU is way off base. There was a chance that if we pursued this, we could have been made to pay for the ACLU's legal fees. This was a tough decision to make. We will do our best and will address this again in two weeks. Chairman Stokes urged everyone to respect the decision that will be made.

Chairman Stokes met with the Town Manager, Dr. Gallacher and Representative Tallarita regarding unfunded mandates and cost savings to relieve some of the burdens. This was a productive meeting.

**11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. BOE Budget Workshop #4 – as presented
- b. Winter Vacation – as presented
- c. Special Meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> – as presented
- d. Junior National Honor Society Induction
- e. Grants Update – as presented

Chairman Stokes stated the next regular Board of Education meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM. Chairman Stokes asked both student representatives to announce this the Monday prior to Board meeting.

12. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS** - None
13. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL** - None
14. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None
15. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. **Approve FY10-11 School Calendar**

Dr. Gallacher stated he has presented two calendars. One has DRAFT – Firm Dates and the other has DRAFT – Not Firm on them for Board consideration. Dr. Gallacher reviewed FY10-11 calendar recommendations. Board members would need to entertain a motion to suspend the first day of school requirement found in Policy #6111.

Mr. Sirard moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak to suspend the rules for Policy #6111 School Calendar(s).

A vote by **roll call, 6-3-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis, Mr. Johnson and Chairman Stokes in dissent.

**Point of Order:**

Mr. Jonaitis asked if we can change our vote before we continue. Chairman Stokes stated no, the vote has already taken place. Mr. Johnson stated you have the right to change your vote prior to the vote being announced.

Dr. Gallacher reviewed vacation and in-service days.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education accept the DRAFT – Firm Dates Calendar for FY10-11.

**Discussion:**

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches to amend the original motion to extend the February vacation through February 23, 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> and have one of the in-service days on either October or November be held on Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. This would move the last day of school forward two days or the last day of school would be on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated this would move the firm dates for graduations forward two days to June 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Jonaitis believes it would be three days because you are front loading the calendar. Dr. Gallacher agreed with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Jonaitis does not like front loading the calendar. It would be a tremendous drain on the teachers to start off the year. Offering more 3-day weekends would be an alternative.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated in-service days drive parents crazy. It is hard to find alternative solutions for working parents.

Mr. Grady asked if the graduations are brought back to town, would they need a day in between to set up. Dr. Gallacher stated no, it can be done in one day as it has been done in the past.

Dr. Gallacher would like to use the October 8<sup>th</sup> in-service date. The November 2<sup>nd</sup> in-service date is Election Day and he would not recommend having students in the buildings for security purposes.

Ms. Hall stated we have heard from many parents regarding the February vacation and they would like it added back in the calendar.

Mrs. Szewczak stated she is concerned with the snow days.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he liked the February vacation as a teacher, but he hated being there in June.

Ms. Hall also stated health concerns with sickness are a concern. The February vacation helps with this concern.

The amendment vote by **roll call, 3-6-0** failed with Mr. Jonaitis, Mr. Sirard, Mrs. Szewczak, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Grady and Chairman Stokes in dissent.

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Jonaitis to amend the original motion to have one firm date for graduations.

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches would recommend we approve a calendar without a firm date for graduations. This is not a graduation issue, this is strictly a calendar issue.

Ms. Ruff agrees with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches.

Mrs. Szewczak stated the motion is for a firm graduation date. We do not have any other choices except to ask for the original motion to be rescinded or accept my amendment to change the graduation date.

Dr. Gallacher does not believe the State would allow us to do this. The Board can either set a firm date for graduations on the night you adopt your calendar or you will need to wait until April 1<sup>st</sup> to set firm graduation dates. By statute you can not set it and change it later.

Mr. Jonaitis stated if we adopt a firm date calendar we are locked into the graduation dates. The not firm calendar will give us wiggle room. Dr. Gallacher stated you can not wiggle too much. You would need to do this by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated she believed if there were no snow days, we could move the date sooner than the 185<sup>th</sup> day. Dr. Gallacher stated if there were no snow days, the State would not care as long as you had your 181<sup>st</sup> day. This could cause problems with Safe Grad

events. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated if we wait to set firm graduation dates until April 1<sup>st</sup> this could pose problems to book a place for a graduation venue.

Mr. Johnson stated Mrs. Szewczak would like to hold graduations on the same day. Mrs. Szewczak stated that is correct. Mrs. Szewczak stated we heard from Safe Grad that the venue would not be large enough to hold the event for both schools at the same location. When we set two dates, we are setting the precedent that we will have two graduations.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if Mrs. Szewczak is proposing that both graduations be held combined. Mrs. Szewczak stated they could be combined or separate. We are looking at expenses. Mr. Johnson stated Safe Grad could still hold their events but not at the same place. Mrs. Szewczak stated there are too many unknowns.

Chairman Stokes asked if the wisest thing would be to set the calendar without any firm dates. When we get to April 1<sup>st</sup> set the graduation dates. Then Safe Grad would run into problems. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated this is the first year that we have set firm graduation dates.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if we adopt a calendar with one firm graduation date can we change it to add two graduation dates later. Dr. Gallacher assumes you could providing the dates are past that date. Chairman Stokes stated we are in unknown territory.

Mrs. Szewczak asked what we have done in the past. Dr. Gallacher stated the graduation dates would move with the snow dates. We would wait until April 1<sup>st</sup> to set firm graduation dates. If we adopted a calendar with one graduation date, we could hold a graduation at 1:00 PM and one at 6:00 PM on the same day. Dr. Gallacher further stated this was done in the past but they were held at the same time at different locations. The Superintendent would go to one graduation and the Assistant Superintendent would go to the other.

Mr. Sirard asked why there is no flexibility with Safe Grad. Chairman Stokes stated Safe Grad came into existence due to student partying. This will give students an alternative for a safe event after graduation.

Mrs. Thurston stated she attended Fermi and went on a boat trip to Boston as their Safe Grad event. Safe grad is a great thing for students.

Mr. Jonaitis asked for clarification from Mrs. Szewczak on her motion. Are you asking for one date for graduations or to have it flexible where we could have one or two dates set after April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Szewczak stated that is what she is saying.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated once the calendar is set, we are not sure if we can add another date later. We do not know an answer to the question asked. The safer thing would be to adopt a calendar without firm dates.

Chairman Stokes stated we need to rescind the amended motion. Mrs. Szewczak and Mr. Jonaitis withdrew the amendment to the original motion to have one firm date for graduations.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sirard withdrew the original motion that the Enfield Board of Education accept the DRAFT – Firm Dates Calendar for FY10-11.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education adopts the Draft - Not Firm FY2010-11 School Calendar.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Jonaitis stated that we can not meet to discuss any of this prior to the Board meeting.

That is why we seem to be confused.

A vote by **roll call, 5-4-0** passed with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches, Ms. Hall, Mr. Grady and Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

**b. Approve New Labor Agreement Between the Board and the Paraprofessionals' Union**

Mr. Jonaitis moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accept the TA agreement with the Paraprofessionals.

**Discussion:**

Chairman Stokes stated we appreciate the paraprofessionals. They helped us out last year during the budget. Chairman Stokes stated they are the unsung heroes. They do a lot for the students. The work they do should be complimented. They give our students a tremendous amount of care and education.

A vote by **show of hands, 8-1-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2010. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Joyce P. Hall  
Secretary  
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary