

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 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 23, 2010.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Stokes.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE** Tom Sirard

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Tom Sirard

4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT** Chairman Stokes announced the fire evacuation announcement.

5. **ROLL CALL**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT Stacy Thurston

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

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2010, Special Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2010 and Special Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2010 be approved. Motion passed by a **show of hands 8-0-0**.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Special Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2010 be approved. Motion passed by a **show of hands 7-0-1** with Ms. Hall abstaining.

7. **BOARD GUESTS** – Carol Parmelee-Blancato, Interim Director of Human Resources

Chairman Stokes welcomed Carol Parmelee-Blancato and thanked her for the superb job she has done as our Interim Director of Human Resources. Ms. Parmelee-Blancato's last day is Wednesday, February 24, 2010.

Chairman Stokes presented Ms. Parmelee-Blancato with a gift and appreciation for her outstanding help to the Enfield District.

Ms. Parmelee-Blancato thanked the Enfield Board of Education for the opportunity to work with them and the administration. It has been an extremely rewarding experience. Ms. Parmelee-Blancato also thanked Maureen Jewel, Personnel Specialist; Jeanette Lamontagne, Personnel Assistant and Barbara Deni, Benefits Specialist. They have been a tremendous assistance to me. It has truly been an honor to serve here in Enfield. Thank you.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

9. AUDIENCES

Rachel Zeni, Farmstead Circle – Ms. Zeni stated she is here as the Enfield High Senior Class President and is here on behalf of the seniors. We have collected over 425 signatures regarding graduations at an off campus venue. Both high schools have this same view and Ms. Zeni hopes the Board will take this into consideration. Ms. Zeni thanked the Board

Glenn Hart – Cynthia Circle – Mr. Hart has watched the Board meetings on E-TV. Mr. Hart does not believe the Board is putting enough emphasis on education. At the last budget workshop, a Board member stated we need to fight for education. This is not being done. Class sizes are growing. Supplies are limited. Libraries do not have any books coming in. The boutique or ala carte classes are what make a community strong. Times are different now. We are falling behind educationally. We are not asking for level funding. The Demographic Study does not make sense. The Town should know what the conditions of the buildings are in. Mr. Hart does not trust that this Board has education on their minds. Mr. Hart thanked the Board.

Debbie Serafin, Yale Drive – Ms. Serafin does not want JFK or Freshman Sports eliminated. Sports have benefited her children as well as many other students. Low participation numbers for the EHS Girls' Basketball program was due to the coaching. Ms. Serafin is sure this program will excel again. Pay to park for everyone including staff would be a way to gain much needed revenue. A lot of working people need to pay to park.

Bill Bowker, Gary Road – Mr. Bowker is here regarding graduations. This is a hot topic. The parents and students have come before the Board and they want it held at either the First Cathedral or an off campus location. The decision was made in haste. Western New England College is another location site to be considered for graduations. Board members need to take into consideration the courses students need to go onto college. Mr. Bowker thanked Board members.

Andrew Silva, Wagon Road – Mr. Silva thanked the Board for listening to the students concerns. The students will be voters in the near future. All the students were approached at Fermi in the same manner. Students are concerned with inclement weather and graduations being moved indoors. Mr. Silva spoke to the event manager at the Mass Mutual Center. Mr. Silva believes the Mass Mutual Center is the best location and is cost efficient. Holding graduations at each school is like buying a lottery ticket. This topic is important to students. Mr. Silva thanked the Board.

Patrick Cotnoir, Circle Drive - Mr. Cotnoir stated the FHS/EHS students do not want to hold graduations at our schools. Mr. Cotnoir would like his family members to attend his graduation. Traditions can change. Mr. Cotnoir would like to see his sister at his graduation. Mr. Cotnoir has not seen any dollar amounts regarding the costs for graduations. The citizens in Enfield deserve to know exactly how their money is being spent. Mr. Cotnoir believes the Board should standup to the ACLU. Mr. Cotnoir thanked the Board members.

Jane Polaski, Jewel Street – Ms. Polaski has been a resident in Enfield for 47 years. She was unable to attend her eldest grandson's graduation because it rained. Her next grandson's graduation was on the field and it was too far to walk. The third grandchild graduated at the First Cathedral and it was wonderful. Everyone could attend. Ms. Polaski has read the entire constitution and there is nothing in there to prevent us from holding graduations at the venue we want. Ms. Polaski hopes the Board will fight for this.

James Bailey Brislan, Oakwood Street – Mr. Brislan is in favor of rescinding the Board’s decision for high school graduations. Mr. Brislan encourages the Board to take on the ACLU. The reality is the ACLU does not have a case. The ACLJ will defend the Board for free. If it is constitutional to hold religious events in our schools and how can it be unconstitutional for us to hold an event in a religious building. We need to draw a line in the sand and stand up to the ACLU. Mr. Brislan thanked the Board.

Shantae Shaw, Rockland Street – Ms. Shaw came from Jamaica and has been in our schools for 9 years. She ushered at the First Cathedral last year for Enfield High’s graduation. Ms. Shaw has family coming from Jamaica to attend her graduation to share this moment in her life. She would like them all to attend her graduation. Ms. Shaw thanked Board members.

Stephanie Erickson, Elm Street – Ms. Erickson stated she pays taxes from every paycheck she earns. Ms. Erickson urged Board members to not make their decision based on what has been done in the past. It is time to change and our class wants to do something different. Ms. Erickson thanked Board members.

Maureen Brennan, Sandpiper Road – Ms. Brennan is impressed with the students that spoke tonight. Ms. Brennan urges Board members to support a budget that will support education. Education can affect home buyers coming to Enfield. Education can have a negative impact on a community. Ms. Brennan agrees with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches and Mr. Grady that we should be fighting for education. It is the Board’s job to ask for a budget that supports education. It is the Town Council’s job to decide the budget allotment. The proposed cuts will be detrimental to our school system. Ms. Brennan thanked Board members for their time.

Rachel Barillari, Flicker Lane – Ms. Barillari stated she spoke at the last Board meeting and hopes that you will consider what the students have said. Ms. Barillari also stated we will be voting in the next election and your decisions will influence our voting decisions.

Ann Contracky, Sherman Road – Ms. Contracky is impressed with the students here. The students have made it clear and Ms. Contracky asked Board members to consider their request.

Sarah Leventhal-O’Farrell, David Street – Ms. Leventhal-O’Farrell has attended many Board meetings. She attended the last Budget workshop and left feeling dismayed with the party-line politics. Ms. Leventhal-O’Farrell urged Board members to fight for education. Board members lack of knowledge will jeopardize the Enfield Public School System. Class sizes will burst at the seams. How do you know what you won’t get if you don’t ask for it. Board members need to fight for the budget we need. Ms. Leventhal-O’Farrell asked for Board members to step down if they can not do the job that is needed. Fight for a budget we need. Ms. Leventhal-O’Farrell thanked the Board.

Judy Simpleton, Abbe Road – Ms. Simpleton stated her granddaughter will graduate from Fermi. Ms. Simpleton thanked everyone that has worked with her and she appreciates the help she has received. This is the children’s graduation and we should support their decisions.

Lawrence Clark, South Road – Mr. Clark stated he has learned many lessons regarding government. This teacher also taught us about town politics. The budget gets approved by the Town Council. Why are Board members only concerned with just the taxpayers when students and parents have a larger concern with your decisions? If programs are cut, students will never get the chance to love art, music, etc. Mr. Clark stated the students should be your first priority.

Patrick Droney, Bobolink Lane – Mr. Droney stated the crowd has answered the question – it is a one school issue. The constitution does not mention the separation of church and State.

The ACLU has twisted this document. Mr. Droney would like Board members to look at an alternative site for graduations. Mr. Droney thanked Board members.

Trisha Wright, Oakwood Street – Ms. Wright is a proud Fermi parent and has attended the last 4 board meetings. Ms. Wright would like the Board to support holding graduations at an off campus location. Ms. Wright stated the schools need to be competitive. In order to do this, AP classes should not be cut. Ms. Wright would also like freshman sports to remain in the budget. It would be a shame to take these from the students. Ms. Wright thanked Board members.

Frances Tracy, Mitchell Drive – Ms. Tracy stated she is a proud Fermi student. Students want their family to attend the graduation. She would like her entire family to be present.

Bob Tkacz, Bernadino Avenue – Mr. Tkacz stated he is for a graduation ceremony. It was a big fight to move graduations to the Cathedral. The auditorium and gyms only hold so many people. Graduations can be done respectfully. The reality is our budget can not afford expensive graduations. Every dollar needs to count. We are losing students every year. We have too many buildings and classrooms. The Board is working hard to make it work. Mr. Tkacz is for graduations. Mr. Tkacz thanked Board members.

Shannel Heath, Thompson Court – Ms. Heath is looking forward to her graduation. She came to Enfield from Bridgeport in eighth grade. It is the Board's job to make the students happy. Ms. Heath does not want to graduate indoors at Fermi. Ms. Heath thanked Board members.

Dominick Alaimo, New Street – Mr. Alaimo stated if the churches can rent our buildings for CCD classes, why can't the schools rent the churches. Mr. Alaimo thanked Board members.

Kayla Map, Alden Avenue – Ms. Map needs to get a job to pay for college. Sacrifices need to be made. Why can't we borrow Asnuntuck's chairs and tent for graduation? What if the students fund raised for graduations to help with the costs? Ms. Map thanked Board members.

Mike Spano, Shermer Road – Mr. Spano is here regarding graduations. Mr. Spano attended his sister's graduation at the First Cathedral and was not bothered by the venue. Mr. Spano stated he feels nothing but shame for the people his parents voted for because they are allowing the ACLU to cripple us by making us do what they want. Mr. Spano thanked the Board.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

EHS Student Representative Conner Spain stated people are afraid of change. Students have experienced graduations at both indoor, outdoors and off campus. Students have gained valuable knowledge from this. Both the parents and the students would like to hold graduations at an off-campus location. The students represent the majority and we would like graduations held at another venue. Students understand there are other topics Board members need to address like in-school suspensions. Maybe we can charge a minimal fee for people to attend graduations. We could make up some revenue. We could also add an additional fee to class dues. Mr. Spain believes the Board can lead us to solution. Mr. Spain stated in 40 years we will have the memory of our graduation.

Mr. Grady thanked everyone for coming and voicing your opinion. Mr. Grady stated Buzz Robotics held a pasta dinner and they raised \$1,729. They will have a competition coming up on April 1st in Hartford. They are a lot of fun to watch. Mr. Grady stated the Parkman School will hold a fund raiser at Red Robin on February 24th from 5-8:00 PM. Mr. Grady stated that he along with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches and Ms. Hall attended the EHS Safe Grad fund raiser at Chicago Sam's and urged everyone to support school programs.

Ms. Hall stated we will start recycling at Crandall & Barnard and show the students how they can help. Everything is acceptable. This will help our Town save money on waste disposal.

FHS Student Representative Meghan Ruff thanked Enfield High & Fermi students for coming tonight. Board members have seen what the students and taxpayers want. Ms. Ruff stated she will help volunteer on any committee project. Mr. Spain had an excellent idea of charging a fee and this should be taken into consideration.

Mr. Jonaitis attended a parliamentary workshop and it was extremely beneficial. The TAG committee will hold a meeting at JFK at 3-5:00 PM on February 25th. Dr. Sally Reis from UCONN will be present. The meeting is open to the public.

Mr. Sirard stated Alcorn held a Change Relief Collection for Haiti and they collected \$886. The Guys & Kids program scheduled for February 24th has been postponed until March. The Raising Readers has also been postponed. Alcorn will also hold a pops and student of the month assembly.

Mrs. Szewczak stated she attended the JFK Jr. National Honor Society Induction Ceremony where 26 students were inducted. She was impressed with the mentors the students choose.

Mr. Johnson stated Enfield Street School will hold a CMT Fun Night on Friday, February 26th. They have 125 parents and students registered to attend. They will also have pizza and a t-shirt project. Mr. Johnson agrees with everyone that spoke tonight. Mr. Johnson stated the vote was done in haste and he is in favor to rescind this motion. Mr. Johnson attended the active training shooter program with the Enfield Police Department. This was an amazing experience to see. Mr. Johnson thanked the Town Council for their support. Mr. Johnson reminded everyone to think of our service men and women that are out there protecting our right and freedom.

Chairman Stokes appreciates everyone coming to the Board meeting regarding graduations and budgets. Growing small can make us stronger. Systemic change can make us better. Change is never easy. We are committed to doing something positive for Enfield. Chairman Stokes stated if you have any questions, please call any Board member. Chairman Stokes appreciates both of our Student Representatives being here.

Ms. Hall asked Chairman Stokes to mention the Special Board meeting that is planned for the discussion for systemic change. Chairman Stokes stated we will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd at 7:00 PM at Barnard School to discuss the systemic change. Board members will discuss how we will go forward with this change. Chairman Stokes further stated that we will cancel the Regular Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday March 9, 2010.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. CMT/CAPT Testing – as presented
- b. Preliminary Racial Imbalance Report – as presented
- c. Personnel Report – as presented

Mr. Grady asked if the high schools are doing something different with the CMT and CAPT testing. Mr. Torre stated the CAPT is a CAPT like test for the freshman students.

Mr. Grady asked when we would need to act on the racial imbalance. Dr. Gallacher stated we are required to submit a correct plan within the 90 days. The plan would need to be implemented within the school year.

Mr. Sirard stated there are too many minority students at Alcorn. Dr. Gallacher stated that is correct.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Jonaitis stated the TAG committee will meet on Thursday, February 25th at 3:00- 5:00 PM at JFK in the library.

Mr. Grady asked if the TAG committee can meet at a later time so parents can attend. Mr. Jonaitis stated the committee is just starting to form. A big component will be to have teachers part of this committee. Having it after school is easier for the teachers.

13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

a. Amend/Rescind a Previous Decision – To Hold High School Graduations at Local High Schools

Mr. Jonaitis reviewed parliamentary procedures to rescind a previous decision.

Mr. Jonaitis moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson that the Enfield Board of Education rescind the previous decision to hold high school graduation ceremonies on the grounds of the high schools.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis stated the Board has given the charge to further investigate off campus graduations to the superintendent. The budget is our primary concern. The Town is also putting together figures for us for graduations in town.

Mrs. Szewczak stated graduations are something she likes to attend. Board members should not have to organize it, arrange the seating or who can attend. If we vote to rescind, can we make it a school function and not a Board of Education function.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked what is the budget number appropriated for graduations. Dr. Gallacher believes it is \$17K for Fermi and \$15K for Enfield High.

A vote by **roll call 5-3-0** passed with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches, Ms. Hall and Mr. Grady in dissent.

Recess:

The Board took a brief recess at 9:00 PM returning to open session at 9:12 PM.

15. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve Graustein Memorial Fund Grant

Chairman Stokes welcomed Mrs. Amy Witbro and Ms. Chris Gomeau the Kite coordinator. Mrs. Witbro stated they are looking for the Board's endorsement. They are applying for a two-year grant through the William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund for \$50K. This would be for developing a large community plan. The Town Council has already endorsed this.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education

approve the Kite application to the Graustein Memorial Fund.

Discussion:

Chairman Stokes has been part of Kite for the last three years and endorses this grant application.

Ms. Hall asked if the next time you apply for a grant it will be for implementation. Mrs. Witbro stated we can only hope that the State budget will get better. They used to match the funds. It is a possibility.

A vote by **roll call 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

b. Approve Board's FY10-11 Proposed Budget

Dr. Gallacher reviewed the summary of the proposed budget adjustments. The fixed budget was approximately \$5 million dollars - \$4.993 million dollars or a 7.96% increase. The Board requested additional reductions. Dr. Gallacher went to a level where he felt comfortable. Any adjustments or cuts will have an impact. Those additional proposed cuts brought us to 3.65 proposed budget. The Board then requested additional cuts to bring us to a 1% budget.

Dr. Gallacher explained the additional proposed cuts in grey area that brings us to 1.25% proposed budget. They will reduce the Technology line item, eliminate the summer school program and transportation, reduce the diesel and gasoline line items, gain tuition for the Enfield Transitional Learning Academy and eliminate curriculum writing.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked about the technology reduction, what we will lose. Dr. Gallacher stated they will down size staff. It should not affect any projects.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated eliminating summer school for the elementary students will impact us because we invite them to attend. Dr. Gallacher stated kindergarten and grade 1 students will be impacted. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated the students will come back to school further behind.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches commented that we will save money from transportation and will gain tuition for an out-of-town student that will attend the Transitional Learning Academy. Dr. Gallacher stated that is correct.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches further stated we will not have any funds for curriculum writing unless they come from grants. Dr. Gallacher stated they can come from Title grants, but the grants are drying up. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated this will put us further behind in curriculum.

Dr. Gallacher reviewed the additional proposed cuts from Head Start.

Dr. Gallacher reviewed the additional proposed cuts from Elementary Schools by eliminating a 1 FTE art teacher; 1.5 FTE kindergarten at Alcorn; 1 FTE grade 2 teacher at Stowe; 1 FTE grade 2 teacher at Whitney; 1 FTE grade 3 Teacher at Hale; 1 FTE grade 5 teacher at Stowe; 1 FTE grade 5 teacher at Memorial; 1 FTE grade teacher at Alcorn.

Dr. Gallacher reviewed the guidelines for K-2 is 25 students and grades 3-6 is 27 students. We tried to focus on the class sizes in grades 1 and 2. Dr. Gallacher presented an enrollment chart. He further stated the classes that are in boxes are returning the out-of-district students to their home schools.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated only the out-of-district students in the few grades where reductions were made will be affected. We have not taken into consideration what this will do to families. Dr. Gallacher stated that is correct. Dr. Gallacher did ask the principals to keep an eye on the numbers when the students move back to their home schools. Dr. Gallacher stated he is also concerned with the grade 6 numbers. We are not sure how many students will be attending magnet schools yet. Dr. Gallacher stated the numbers are fluid at this point.

Ms. Hall looked at grade 2 numbers and questioned the number at Memorial. Dr. Gallacher stated he left that number as is.

Mr. Jonaitis stated realignment has not been taken into consideration. Dr. Gallacher based his numbers on 9 elementary schools.

Dr. Gallacher reviewed his additional proposed cuts for the middle school by eliminating 1 FTE computer teacher.

Dr. Gallacher reviewed his additional proposed cuts for the high schools by eliminating 1 FTE art teacher; 1 FTE computer teacher; 1 FTE guidance counselor; 1 FTE math teacher; 1 FTE music teacher; 1 FTE physical education teacher; 1 FTE reading teacher; and 1 FTE social studies teacher.

Ms. Hall asked how many computer teachers are at the high schools. Dr. Gallacher stated currently they have 1 at each high school. They would go to 1 computer teacher that would be shared at both high schools. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked about the middle school. Dr. Gallacher stated you have 1 computer teacher and 1 Department Chair.

Mr. Grady asked what the case load is for the guidance counselors at the high school. Mr. Newton stated around 240 students. Mr. Newton stated they would be shared by each building. Mr. Duffy stated you would divide the total number by the number of counselors.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated the high schools will share a guidance counselor, a computer teacher and an art teacher. Dr. Gallacher stated they will teach 3 classes at one high school and 2 classes at the other high school.

Ms. Hall is concerned with taking away a reading teacher at the high school. We added a reading teacher either last year or the year before due to numbers. Dr. Gallacher stated we are trying to get the class size numbers up as directed by the Board.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about the number Dr. Gallacher used of \$55K for teachers. Is this for salary plus benefits? Dr. Gallacher stated this is for salary only.

Mr. Sirard asked if we are still in compliance with the cuts for Special Education. Dr. Gallacher stated yes.

Dr. Gallacher stated this brings us to \$63,479,271 or a 1.25% proposed budget increase.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if by eliminating some of the classes bring the numbers up in some of the elective classes. Dr. Gallacher stated some elective class sizes will probably stay the same like the AP classes. We are running the risk of larger study halls. You will run into this with less electives. Dr. Gallacher would advise taking the classes now because we are not sure what will be available after next year.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated this creates scheduling concerns especially since they schedule the seniors first, then juniors, sophomores and freshman students. Mr. Duffy stated they give the seniors what they need in order to graduate. Mr. Newton stated a class is

considered full when it reaches 18. Core class sizes will increase across the board.

Dr. Gallacher reviewed the overall number of staff cuts of 70 employees.

Mr. Grady asked how the elementary schools will run if the secretary is out for a long period. Dr. Gallacher stated we might be able to get a sub like a retired secretary but we normally would not get a sub.

Chairman Stokes thanked Dr. Gallacher for his presentation and the work he has done on the budget under challenging circumstances.

Mr. Sirard moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson that the Enfield Board of Education approve the budget as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated the superintendent has followed a directive from the Board to reduce the superintendent's proposed budget to approximately a 1% budget. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated this is the first time she has seen this budget and in all good conscious she can not move forward with this budget and finds it appalling that the Board could not make a decision with a consultant but they can vote on this. This is unconscionable. We owe it to the ourselves, the children and the community to provide an education. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches did not like the budget Dr. Gallacher proposed, but I could swallow it. Mr. Cotnoir urged us to stand up for education. Mr. Spain urged us to spend as much time as needed to make a good decision. Mrs. Leventhal-O'Farrell urged us to fight for the budget we need. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that this does not make sense. Our charter is wrong.

Mr. Sirard stated we can not change the charter. The Board asked the professionals to make this budget. They are making it as informed as they can. Spending money does not equate quality. Mr. Sirard does not understand the logic if we are spending less we are providing less of an education. Mr. Sirard respects their input.

Mr. Jonaitis stated as a former teacher and a Board member he would like to make no cuts. But as the president has said, it hasn't been this bad since the great depression. As Board members, we are sworn to deliver the best education that we can afford. Mr. Jonaitis stated he will always think like a teacher. Mr. Jonaitis stated he is a realist. Systemic changes are needed. It is time to act. We will not destroy education. Changes have been made in education due to legislation. To increase the mill rate by 1% would equate to \$3 million dollars which would be a 4% increase in our tax bills. Mr. Jonaitis will not be part of something that will create massive increases for the residents of Enfield. Mr. Jonaitis further stated that he is willing to work for the betterment for all.

Ms. Hall stated she has serious concerns and for the last 12 years we have gone down and down with our budgets. We are now at bare bones. We made our superintendent cut another \$1.5 million. We are at less than bare bones. Ms. Hall is extremely concerned with education in Enfield. This is an unconscionable thing to do.

Mr. Grady stated if we suggest this budget to the Town Council it is a joke. Where is the quality education with these cuts? We will not have the best all around education. Mr. Grady stated we cut and cut. This Board does not do anything that is proactive. We need to take a proactive stand. Mr. Grady looked at the mission statement from the State. He does not believe we are doing this. Mr. Grady agrees with Mr. Jonaitis about change. Change is needed but it needs to be done the right way. Mr. Grady agrees with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches. Dr. Gallacher did what he was told to do. When are we going to fight for education in this Town? Mr. Grady is tired of giving the Town Council what they want to hear from us. Let's give them

what we need for a quality education and make them find the money to fund it.

Mr. Sirard stated we are spending over \$14K for our student's education. We are 10th for expenses in Connecticut. We are not 10th for quality. We are in a tough situation. Mr. Sirard does not want to do away with programs.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated \$14K is simple math. One student can cost us \$250K from Sped costs. To equate student costs you need to remove the cost for Sped tuition and the number will drop significantly. You have had 10 hours to look at this budget to know that this is the best we can do. I am sure you spend more time on business decisions. Systemic change is needed. Our physical structure defeats us. This is not restructuring, it just hacks at us.

Mr. Jonaitis asked how long we are going keep deliberating until we make some changes. We have a Board that cares about education deeply. How are we going to pay for it?

Mr. Grady stated we are all parents. We tell our kids to try. Why is this Board not trying? We should try for a budget that we can live with. We are not giving our kids the chance to succeed in life.

Mr. Sirard stated when he makes a business decision he makes that decision based on his professional's advice. We are stuck with the system we have. Every year we make cuts. This will change when we get our process in place.

Mr. Johnson stated tempers are getting hot. We have a situation where we can not present a huge budget. We need to be responsible.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated this is not Dr. Gallacher's professional opinion. We did not accept his professional opinion. The Board asked him to make more cuts.

Mr. Johnson stated there is a difference of opinion. We are trying to come to an agreement. Mr. Johnson stated he has not seen any proposal from the other side. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated her proposed budget was very similar to Dr. Gallacher's budget. Mr. Johnson stated we need to accept the administrator's proposal.

Dr. Gallacher stated he produced what was asked of him. He stopped before he went into the marrow. We tried to do the least amount of damage to the budget.

Mrs. Szewczak stated the first budget was a fixed cost budget with no increases. Dr. Gallacher presented a 4% budget and we asked for a 1% budget. The State does not believe it will be any better. The Town Council can come back and give us 0%. We need to restructure immediately. Salary and benefits have outgrown the Town. Dr. Gallacher has done a fine job.

Mr. Grady stated we are not a private service we are a service oriented business. We are not providing the services that are needed. Things have changed. There is more need now than before. We will not be able to provide quality education. Right now with this budget, whatever we cut, we will never see them again.

Mr. Sirard stated we asked Dr. Gallacher to make a budget we think we can get from the Town. We are asking for an increase.

Mr. Grady stated the parents in this town will pay for increases in their taxes if it will benefit the education. Ms. Hall stated they did do this last year.

Ms. Hall moved to call the question, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches.

Recess:

Mr. Jonaitis asked for a recess at 10:22 PM. The Board returned at 10:26 PM.

A vote by **roll call 8-0-0**, motion to call the question passed unanimously.

A vote by **roll call 4-4-0** motion failed with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches, Ms. Hall, Mr. Grady, and Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Enfield Board of Education adopt Dr. Gallacher's proposed budget of 3.64% increase.

A vote by **roll call 4-4-0** failed with Mr. Sirard, Mrs. Szewczak, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Stokes in dissent.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked what will happen if we do not have a budget. Dr. Gallacher stated that has never happened. By Town Charter we need to present a budget to the Town Manager by February 28th. We have been denied an extension in previous years.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Board of Education offers a 1.24% increase.

Discussion:

Chairman Stokes stated you can not make a motion with the same number.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the 1.24% increase is not based on the proposed cuts Dr. Gallacher just reviewed. Mr. Johnson stated that is correct.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated we are proposing a budget like we did last year - a number with no details. Mr. Johnson stated unless you have another proposal

A vote by **roll call 4-3-1** passed with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches, Ms. Hall and Mr. Grady in dissent and Mr. Jonaitis abstaining.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2010. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Joyce P. Hall
Secretary
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary