

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in the Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on March 10, 2009.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT Joyce Hall, Judy Apruzzese-Desroches, Tom Arnone, Patrick Droney, Greg Stokes, and Andre Greco

MEMBERS ABSENT Susan Lavelli-Hozempa, Charles Johnson and Vincent Grady

ALSO PRESENT Dr. John Gallacher, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Anthony Torre, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Craig Cooke, Human Resources Director; Mayor Scott Kaupin; Councilman Pat Crowley and Matt Coppler, Town Manager

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Droney moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes that the regular meeting minutes of February 24, 2009 be approved. There were no corrections. Motion passed by a **show of hands 6-0-0**.

7. **BOARD GUESTS**

a. **Technology Committee**

Chairman Greco introduced Joanne Kneiss the Technology Committee Chair. The members of the Technology Committee are – Steve Sargalski, Kathleen Bridges, Donna Corbin-Sobinski, Dr. John Gallacher, Cindy Stamm, Tim Neville, Joanne Kneiss, Guy Bourassa, Bruce Hargraves, Ellie Goldberg, Linda Cavanaugh, Chuck Johnson, Amanda Furey and Chris Drezek. Mrs. Kneiss introduced the members of the committee that were present.

Chairman Greco thanked the members from the Technology Committee for being here tonight and the time and effort they have put into this committee.

Mr. Sargalski reviewed the Technology Plan Committee Charge – review/revise Enfield’s Three Year Technology Plan; Update policies/procedures to comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and present the plan to the Board.

Mr. Sargalski explained the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and what is required – internet filtering, internet safety policy and have a public notice and hearing which is being done tonight.

Mr. Neville explained about the CIPA Public Notice and Hearing – the first reading of policies for Student Computer Network and/or Internet Use policy and Staff Computer Network Internet Use Policy; Curriculum regarding Internet Safety; Internet Filtering that blocks sites regarding child pornography/child abuse, pornography/adult content and a blocking/unblocking process.

Mr. Neville stated the Technology Plan Committee is requesting the Board ask committee members any questions and offer any suggestions. They would also like the Board to review and consider the proposed policies and to approve the Draft Plan.

Chairman Greco asked if the ITPC will take over the charge of the Technology Plan or will this committee continue beyond 2012. Mr. Neville stated that we are required to involve a lot of members from the education community. Mr. Neville stated this has been his 4th time being involved with this plan. It takes all kinds of membership including members from the ITPC.

Ms. Hall asked about the blocking form and who will receive the requests and carryout the request to block or unblock a site. Mr. Neville stated it will go directly to IT. They will view the site and will contact the person with any questions. Mr. Sargalski stated that if a site being requested for blocking is urgent, our site program should block this immediately, but in the chance that it doesn't, IT would do this. If it is educational content that is being questioned, it would be reviewed by administration and would then be forwarded to IT.

Ms. Hall stated from the last technology plan that was developed, there have been significant changes in technology does this plan reflect those changes. Mr. Neville stated the plan does reflect the changes.

Ms. Hall asked if we still have teachers that are uncomfortable with using technology in the classrooms. Mr. Neville stated the vast majority of our staff is comfortable using technology.

Ms. Hall asked about putting laptops on the network. Mr. Neville stated that anyone can log on as an EPS guest but you will be restricted. Ms. Hall asked if teachers would be able to access Pentamation. Mr. Neville stated they would not be able to access Pentamation if they are using their own personal laptops. If the teachers are using the laptops being provided by EPS, they will have access to Pentamation to enter student grades and attendance. Ms. Hall asked if we have the software available for this. Mr. Neville stated we have the software but will not install it until September 2009.

Board members thanked the Technology Committee for their presentation.

b. Scott Kaupin, Mayor of Enfield

Chairman Greco stated that members of the Board and Council are trying to do the best job possible regarding the current economic climate. The mayor was asked to come here to talk about the budget and how the Town is facing a revenue shortfall. Chairman Greco introduced Mayor Kaupin and Councilman Crowley.

Mayor Kaupin thanked Board members for inviting them. Mayor Kaupin stated that one of the Town Council's top priorities is to share information, insight, perspectives and decisions with the residents and businesses of Enfield. The State's budget is out of balance by hundreds of millions of dollars. The Town is obligated to provide a spectrum of municipal services and a high quality public education that our taxpayers expect and deserve.

Mayor Kaupin stated that we are expecting a loss of \$1,140,000 in state aide. The grand list in Enfield has declined of 0.5%. We have received lower returns on the Town's investments and are forecasting a 1.0% reduction in the collection of taxes.

Mayor Kaupin stated we are projecting a \$4,250,000 reduction in our 2009-10 revenues with a \$6,000,000 increase for our contractual obligations and our current budget shortfall is \$10,250,000. If we were to do nothing, Enfield taxpayers would see an increase of 13.4%. Mayor Kaupin does not believe the residents and businesses of Enfield can afford any tax increase.

Mayor Kaupin stated that the Board of Education and the Town of Enfield have been managing the crisis by working diligently to find ways to decrease our financial obligations without a significant loss in services. By working together, we are doing everything possible to continue to provide a quality education for the students of Enfield.

Mayor Kaupin stated that the Board and the Town Council are considering a self-insurance program that will control the cost of providing health benefits to our employees and will save us substantial dollars with virtually no significant changes to the healthcare our employees receive.

Mayor Kaupin stated that any solution requires the cooperation of all employees. We will have numerous opportunities for community members to bring their concerns to the TC and BOE through public hearings, community conversations, by telephone and e-mail.

Mayor Kaupin further stated that we live in a great community and will persevere through these difficult times and is confident that if we work together, we will overcome these difficulties.

Councilman Crowley stated that this is not a democratic or republican issue; it is a national issue. Both TC and BOE members understand the severity of this issue and our eyes are open. We do not want to pit education against the seniors or public service against education. We need to work together. If you have any ideas, please bring them forward. Everything needs to be weighed. Big decisions need to be made that will affect the kids in our Town. Your input is important to us.

Mayor Kaupin stated the Town Manager, Matt Coppler will present his proposed budget on March 16th. Mayor Kaupin reviewed the power point presentation listing projected revenue deficit for 2009-10 - \$4.25 million. Mayor Kaupin reviewed the deficit by numbers.

Mayor Kaupin reviewed fixed cost projected increases for the Town and School for pension, health insurance and wages for FY09-10. If the Town and the Board self insure the plan, the cost would be \$1,176,380 million. If the Board and the Town fully insure the plan the amount would be zero. Board members will discuss self funded health insurance later on the agenda.

Mr. Arnone asked Mayor Kaupin what is the Town looking for from Board members. Mayor Kaupin stated they are looking for the Board to find 55% of the revenue shortfall which is around \$2.4 million dollars.

Chairman Greco stated when the Board meets on Thursday, March 12th, the Board will start with just under a \$6 million dollar shortfall that will need to be cut out of next year's budget.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if any stimulus money will be available for the Town and School? Mayor Kaupin stated the stimulus package is to supplement the budget but the conversation now at the State level is supplant. The revenues that are coming in, the legislator is using for the current budget. As of now, we are not sure if any funds are coming to us.

Mr. Stokes thanked Mayor Kaupin and Councilman Crowley for being here and asked if there are any discussions by legislation to delay some of the unfunded mandates being imposed on us. Mayor Kaupin stated we have had some conversations regarding mandates being pushed off. Council members have had conversations regarding not following the unfunded mandates. Mr. Stokes would be happy to be involved with a mandate revolt.

Mr. Arnone stated it is not easy for Board members to revolt because we can be personally liable for any education shortfalls. Mayor Kaupin stated this was discussed and the Town would not leave Board members high and dry.

Board members thanked Mayor Kaupin and Councilman Crowley.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Thank you letters from JFK Band Students;
- b. Breakdown of EHS/FHS Sports Team;
- c. Revised list of FY09-10 Anticipated Magnet School Participation & Estimated Costs.

9. AUDIENCES

Kurtis Kalagher, Pierce Street – Mr. Kalagher stated that he is a student at Stowe School and does not want to see Stowe School or any other school close or the students be redistricted to other schools. Mr. Kalagher stated you will also be closing friendships and will take away some of the best teachers. If this happens Mr. Kalagher stated he will not be happy. What do you want more money or kids being happy? Mr. Kalagher thanked Board members and stated it was an honor to be here.

Rebecca Kalagher, Pierce Street – Mrs. Kalagher stated she is a member of DAC and has two students at Stowe. Mrs. Kalagher joined DAC to make a positive change in Enfield. Mrs. Kalagher is upset about the possibility of closing a school. Mrs. Kalagher thanked her son for speaking tonight. Her son is confident enough to speak in front of everyone and asked if his school closes, will he still be this confident at another school? Parents have questions and want to know the same thing – are we closing a school. This topic needs to be addressed quickly. Parents and children need time to plan for this. Mrs. Kalagher stated all schools in Enfield are special and hopes Board members make their decision known soon. Mrs. Kalagher thanked Board members and hopes they will do right by the children of Enfield.

Sue Braun, Lake Street, Mrs. Braun stated parents are aware that cuts are needed and urged Board members to do it correctly. Mrs. Braun stated if one or two schools are closed, parents that use daycares will be forced to look for new ones because some can not provide transportation. What about class size numbers because of redistricting. Mrs. Braun stated children need to be safe. These are real concerns for elementary parents. Mrs. Braun asked for Board members to close JFK and move all students in 10-12 to Fermi and all 7-9 students to EHS. By doing this, it would not devastate the elementary schools. Mrs. Braun would also like Board members to look into the sister schools with the configuration of K-3 and 4-6. Mrs. Braun thanked Board members.

Maureen Brennan, Sandpiper Road – Mrs. Brennan agrees with what has been said tonight. Items need to be put on the table quickly. The Board needs to announce the school that they will be closing so the public can adjust. Budget decisions can be negative and can have long lasting effects. The council may not fully understand what the changes will do to our community and would like Board members to do this openly. What should we expect and will this be a vote on its own? Our out-of-district policy should be written simultaneously for checks and balances and should be strictly enforced. What will the closed building be used for

and we may be forced to pay back the State quicker than anticipated by closing a school. Has a decision been made about the Bus Software purchase yet? Mrs. Brennan thanked Board members.

Mary Lombardo, Northfield Road – Mrs. Lombardo would like to see everyone contact and talk to our legislators about funding. Mrs. Lombardo can not believe that the BOE is satisfied with a zero percent increase and a \$6 million dollar deficit. Mrs. Lombardo can not believe the people of Enfield will be satisfied with closing one or two schools. Mrs. Lombardo has heard that if the schools close, the teachers are to blame. As a parent, I would not be happy with larger class sizes. Mrs. Lombardo agrees with Kurtis Kalagher, friendships and great teachers are important. Mrs. Lombardo implores everyone to contact our state legislators to bring additional funding to Enfield so we do not have to close any schools. Mrs. Lombardo would like Board members to say to Town Council members that we need more from them.

Laura Montigny, Middle Road - Mrs. Montigny is not trying to be negative, she is trying to be part of the solution. Mrs. Montigny is concerned about something that was said at a Stowe PTO meeting by a Board member that Alcorn school has been cited as being racially imbalance for the past 8 years. Last week that same Board member stated Alcorn has been cited for the last 5 or 6 years. Mrs. Montigny contacted the State Board of Ed and spoke with a State Attorney regarding this. The attorney said that Alcorn has never been cited for being racially imbalanced. Mrs. Montigny is not sure who to believe and has lost her trust in the Board. This concerns her because ultimately Board members will make the decision to close a school. If this is untrue what else is being said by Board members that are also untrue.

Bob Tkacz, Bernadino Avenue – Mr. Tkacz would like the Superintendent to address the warning letters regarding Alcorn being racially imbalanced. Mr. Tkacz stated in the 80's a goal of the Board was to reduce class size and test scores will go up. We have the smallest class sizes and what is happening to our test scores. Enrollment in Enfield is declining. In Massachusetts, many school Boards are turning to the Booster Clubs for funding. School calendars are changing to shut down for two week in December and on Fridays. In New York and Western Massachusetts just about every school district is closing a school. A PTO president in Westfield is looking at this positively that her children will meet and make new friends. Mr. Tkacz stated he received information from Dr. Gallacher several years ago and that there really aren't any unfunded mandates because we are receiving State funding and urged Board members to be careful. Mr. Tkacz thanked Board members.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Droney thanked all the speakers tonight. Mr. Droney addressed Mrs. Lombardo concerns about us being satisfied with the \$6 million dollar deficit. Both TC and BOE members take this seriously and we are not satisfied with the shortfall. Mr. Droney addressed Mrs. Braun and stated he is not happy with the president's decision to leave NCLB alone at this time. This law ties our hands. Mr. Droney thanked the JFK band students from for their letters and stated they will have a concert on May 7th at 7:00 PM and urged community members to attend. The JFK Band won a gold medal at the Fermi Jazz Festival last weekend. Mr. Droney congratulated the Fermi Hockey Team for winning the CCC East Championship. Mr. Droney wishes the Fermi Hockey Team good luck in the States.

Mr. Stokes thanked everyone for coming tonight. Mr. Stokes appreciated Kurtis for speaking tonight. Mr. Stokes addressed Mrs. Brennan regarding the vote for closing a school would be a separate vote but this has not been discussed by Board members yet. Mr. Stokes agrees that time is needed for transition. Mr. Stokes addressed Mrs. Lombardo by stating he does not want to hear anyone to blame the teachers or turn this into a blame game. We need everyone's help to get through this. Mr. Stokes addressed Mr. Tkacz regarding unfunded mandates and

stated we do not want any strings attached to the funding we receive. Board members need full local control.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches was impressed with Kurtis speaking tonight. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated there are a lot of rumors out there and if you do not hear it from us, it is just a rumor. This is CAPT week at the high schools. Some students were told because they have not taken Geometry they are at a disadvantage and are unlikely to do well. This is not ok. We need to be careful how we communicate to our children. As parents, we need to put a positive spin on things to help our children. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches has received complaints from parents because students are being dismissed early during CAPT week. They are walking home instead of waiting in the café. Safety is a concern when we let the students leave early. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches would like us to move on purchasing the Bus Software. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches would like Dr. Gallacher to address the warning letters Alcorn has received under the Superintendents report.

Mr. Arnone stated to put the \$6 million dollar deficit into perspective we will need to look at everything. If we take two schools away, union concessions, sports, band, after school clubs we are still short. This is the reality and it is truly devastating. Mr. Arnone does not want to put anyone on unemployment or take items away from our students. Mr. Arnone stated the EHS Hockey team also won their conference title and congratulated the students. Mr. Arnone stated that two students won DAR awards – William Dague of EHS and David Allen of FHS - congratulations to both students. Mr. Arnone thanked Kurtis for speaking tonight.

Ms. Hall thanked everyone for coming tonight. Mrs. Hall stated that NSBA produces a booklet every year regarding education vital signs. Statistics listed are nationwide. Connecticut has the highest per capita income and as percent of the State budget, education expenditure is 11.2% and is trailing just about every other State in the nation. In Massachusetts, they spend 14.5% of their State Budget on education and New York & New Jersey spend 20.1% of their State Budget on education.

Ms. Hall stated that Crandall had a CMT night for 3rd graders. They had over 375 parents and students attend. Barnard also had a significant number attend their CMT night. Crandall also held a Math night. Math Consultant Cathy LaTaille had parents and students do math exercises in estimating and measuring. Parents were provided tools to help the children at home. Ms. Hall thanked 360 Federal Credit Union and stated they will donate books and piggy banks to all the children at Prudence Crandall School.

Chairman Greco asked Dr. Gallacher to address the racial imbalance issue with Alcorn. Dr. Gallacher stated that he believes the attorney at the State may have given Mrs. Montigny the incorrect information. Dr. Gallacher stated that we have been receiving a letter from the State for around 10 years regarding Alcorn School being racially imbalanced. They take the District average of the minority students (not socio economic) and if the school exceeds that by a certain percentage, the school will receive a letter stating your ethnic mix at the school is out of balance with the district average and the State is reserving the right to possibly say to you that you need to do an intra district desegregation plan to level out the percentage.

Dr. Gallacher stated he shared with Mr. Tkacz the list of OPM list for unfunded mandates from the State several years ago. The OPM believes that they are not unfunded mandates because they are sending schools ECS funds. Dr. Gallacher stated the list regarding sports costs Board members received from Mr. Bernstein are using last years figures for spring sports. Dr. Gallacher would like Board members to use this list as a draft because there might be some changes.

Ms. Hall stated there might be some confusion regarding the word cite. There is a legal meaning and the mere fact is we received a warning letter. Dr. Gallacher stated it is a warning letter and that we have never received a citation.

Chairman Greco stated he attended the Stowe PTO meeting last week and they have been attending Board meetings supporting Stowe to not be closed. Chairman Greco thanked them for their dedication. Chairman Greco stated at the last BOE meeting Mrs. Braun mentioned sister schools K-3 and 4-6 and he would like to discuss this on Thursday. Chairman Greco asked how difficult would this be to discuss this at the Community Conversation on March 26th? PTO members do not want to talk about the budget or our shortfall at the Community Conversation. They would like 3 or 4 scenarios discussed. Transition is big concern and a plan is needed for what we will be doing. Chairman Greco stated on March 26th four options will be discussed regarding the four schools being considered (Stowe, Alcorn, Enfield Street and Hale). The pro's and cons for closing a building; the financial implications for closing a building; what the redistricting boundaries would look like if the school was closed. The DAC has this information. We will go through the presentation quickly and will have round table discussions with parents. We will have close group discussions. This will be the format for the Community Conversation on March 26th.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches believes the DAC did not look at sister schools because they could not get the information done for the short term charge. They did not believe they could get it done in time for September. Reconfiguring the high schools and middle school was also not done because the DAC did not have the time for this to be implemented by September and further stated curriculum would need to be looked at.

Mr. Stokes stated we will not have a decision made prior to the Community Conversation regarding closing a school. This will put us into April. Scheduling needs to be done. Mr. Stokes would like to know where administration is at on Thursday and if administration has any other ideas. If we wait until after the Community Conversation it could be detrimental to a smooth transition.

Chairman Greco stated we would have a Special meeting after March 26th and before the Board meets in April in order to have a smooth transition.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. CMT/CAPT Testing – as presented
- b. Special Board Meeting – as presented
- c. Congratulations Walt Shermer – as presented
- d. Town Manager's Budget Schedule DRAFT – as presented
- e. Grants Report – as presented

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Final Reading of Suggested Changes to 8000 Series Policies

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the proposed changes to Policy #8110 Role of the Enfield Board of Education and Policy #8251 Bylaws of the Board of Education as second readings.

A vote by **roll call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

b. First Reading of IT Related Policies

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the proposed changes to Policy #4118.5 Computer Network and/or Internet Use Policy and Policy #6141.32 Computer Network and/or Internet Student Acceptable Use Agreement Policy as First Readings.

A vote by **roll call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

c. Approve FY09-10 School Calendar

Chairman Greco stated that Dr. Gallacher heard back from the State regarding a universal start date and this will be put off until the 2010-11 school year.

Mr. Stokes moved, Mr. Dronney seconded that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the Administrations Proposed FY09-10 School Calendar as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if we could move the start date. Dr. Gallacher stated the Administration needs the time to review the CMT/CAPT materials. The administration's other recommendation is to start on September 8th or 9th. Dr. Gallacher is not in favor of starting on a Thursday because of busing concerns. Our Board policy dictates us starting on the Tuesday prior to Labor Day. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if we could start the teacher in-service days sooner. Dr. Gallacher stated the ETA contract states the teachers can not start working the Monday prior to Labor Day. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches would like to add February Vacation back into the calendar.

Mr. Arnone moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches to amend the proposed FY09-10 Calendar to include a February Vacation the week of the 15th.

Mr. Dronney received information regarding absenteeism during February and the numbers were a little bit higher than last year. The feedback from parents is they would like to have February vacation back in the calendar.

Chairman Greco stated if we add February Vacation in the FY09-10 calendar, the last day of school would be June 22nd. How would Board members like to handle graduations if we do this?

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches would like to set firm graduation dates on the 185th and 186th day. Chairman Greco stated graduation dates would be June 28th and June 30th because we can not use the Cathedral on Tuesday's.

Ms. Hall stated she would like to move the April vacation closer to March. Dr. Gallacher stated the week of the 19th is the most common week of April vacation.

Mr. Dronney stated we could do a shorter week in February, maybe a long weekend.

Board members agreed to start school on September 3rd, add February 16th to the February Vacation, April vacation the week of the 19th, the last day of school will be on June 17 and graduation for Enfield High will be on June 23rd and Enrico Fermi's graduation will be on June 24th.

Mr. Arnone and Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches rescinded their original motion to amend the proposed FY09-10 Calendar to include a February Vacation the week of the 15th.

Mr. Stokes and Mr. Droney rescind their original motion to adopt the Administration's Proposed FY09-10 School Calendar as presented.

Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Mr. Droney that the Enfield Board of Education adopts the FY09-10 School Calendar as amended.

A vote by **roll call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

15. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve Draft of Three Year Technology Plan

Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Enfield Board of Education adopts the Draft Three Year Technology Plan as presented.

A vote by **roll call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

b. Approve Memorandum of Understanding for Self Funded Health Insurance

Chairman Greco stated Board members met two weeks ago to meet with Town Council members regarding the self funded health insurance plan. Chairman Greco stated the benefits the employees are currently receiving would not change except for the Town becoming the governing body of the plan.

Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding for Self Funded Health Insurance.

Discussion:

Ms. Hall stated a reserve fund would be set up and the reserve fund would be established initially with the demutualization funds and further stated there is nothing that explains this in this MOU. Mr. Coppler stated that we would be responsible for the run-out reserves for payouts. The risk management reserves would use some of the demutualization funds for the first year. This can be added to the MOU. As the pool is built up through premiums the initial money used will not be needed.

Mr. Arnone likes the idea of the plan and asked what would be our reserves for the first couple of years. Mr. Coppler stated we would set aside 25% of \$13 million for the risk management portion. The run-out reserves will accrue each year and the first year we should have around \$1.3 million.

Mr. Arnone stated that he does not want to hear that we are using \$6 million to start the reserve fund when the Board is looking at making cuts. Mr. Coppler stated we will use the money from the demutualization for the risk management portion the rest will be funded by the premiums.

Chairman Greco asked if there will be any out of pocket expenses from the Board operating budget. Mr. Coppler stated the Board will budget the same way you have in the past. Chairman Greco asked if we will budget less. Mr. Coppler stated you should budget the same way you have been for health insurance.

Mr. May from Milliman Consultants and Actuaries stated that Anthem and Connecticare are

obligated to pay premiums prior to July 1st. Chairman Greco stated when Board members met with TC members, it was said that our savings would be around \$800K. When we look at our healthcare line item, we should be able to deduct \$800K. Mr. May stated that we can take \$800K off the healthcare line item.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated we are not anticipating any additional costs for healthcare for next year.

Mr. Stokes asked what the demutualization number is. Mr. Coppler stated the Town received money and shares and that is around \$6-8 million dollars. Mr. Coppler stated you don't sacrifice long term for short term. Mr. Stokes stated we are looking at this both ways and asked if this is your opinion that the Council will use the demutualization money to top fund this and we will not be asked to come up with any additional upfront funding? Mr. Coppler stated this money will be used for the first couple of years. By managing our healthcare, we can lower this number. Mr. Stokes is supporting the MOU.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked what will the employees see different. Mr. May stated Anthem will be self insured and Connecticare cannot self insure. Possibly we can move the Connecticare employees to an Anthem HMO that can be self insured. The benefits will remain the same and the employee contribution may be lower.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if any of our bargaining units will have concerns with changing the HMO. Dr. Cooke stated we have had informal talks with our bargaining units and will follow up with a formal letter. We have the right to do this. Employees may have a preference, but changing may be a positive.

Mr. Coppler stated this will be the Town and Schools plan. Chairman Greco would like to add a holds harmless clause to the MOU. Dr. Cooke stated that Mr. Grady asked the same question. Dr. Cooke stated when mid year issues with funding come up, the school is not equipped to handle them and the Town will address them. Mr. Coppler stated a holds harmless claim can be added to the MOU.

Mr. Arnone stated the Town has around \$6 million in the demutualization fund and asked if there is anything stating how that money has to be spent. Mr. Coppler is not aware of any. Mr. Arnone stated timing is everything. Mr. Coppler stated that the Town has \$11 million in the general fund but we are using it in a prudent way. The Roads 2005 debt is around \$19.5 million dollars. Because we have been able to keep the reserves we have, we were able to get a very low rate for bonding. By doing this, we are saving millions of dollars. You can make arguments both ways. Mr. Arnone stated we are in a worst case scenario right now.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated closing two schools down the road will cost us educationally. This will be devastating. When we hear there is money out there and we are talking about additional cuts, it is mind boggling.

Mr. Stokes received a message from Mayor Kaupin stating the Town should be top funding this not the Board of Education. The money would take care of budget problems now but we do have long term projects. If we spend our Bond rating money, we will be sacrificing the long term for the short term.

Ms. Hall asked if Connecticare has come up with a plan yet. Mr. May stated they have not completed their proposal yet. Ms. Hall stated that if we agree to the MOU, we are still up in the air as to who will administer the plan and the HMO portion. Mr. May stated that is correct.

Chairman Greco recapped and stated a holds harmless clause and the initial reserve fund needs to be added to the MOU. Mr. Coppler stated they will make the changes to the MOU.

Chairman Greco asked who will hear the grievances regarding claims. This also needs to be addressed and placed into the MOU.

Chairman Greco would like to get the revised MOU from the Town Manager and place this on our March 24 agenda.

Mr. Droney moved, seconded by Ms. Hall to table the Memorandum for Self Funded Health Insurance.

A vote by **roll call 5-1-0** passed with Mr. Arnone in dissent.

c. Public Schools of Choice Numbers

Chairman Greco asked Dr. Gallacher what the Board should do. Dr. Gallacher stated that the policy states the Board should set the number of approved seats by March 1st. We are looking at two different magnet schools. The CREC intra district magnet schools can take as many students as they want. They can take the cost of the tuitions directly from the ECS fund. The Public Safety Academy has accepted 21 students for FY09-10 and MLC has accepted 15 grade 6 students. We have not heard back from Suffield Vo-Ag. Dr. Gallacher stated the Hartford Host Magnet Schools send us bills and Dr. Gallacher responds back that we are not paying for the students. If CREC accepts a student, we will have to pay the tuition. Commissioner McQuillan would like us to accept 40 additional project choice students. In the past we could use the project choice funds to pay for magnet school participation. But we are now dipping into our regular budget to fund magnet school participation. The letter from the Commissioner is a request it is not a mandate. Dr. Gallacher stated we should respond back to the Commissioner as to why we would not take 40 additional project choice students.

Ms. Hall stated everything Dr. Gallacher stated is exactly what is being discussed by the Education Committee. Other schools districts are also experiencing this and they can no longer use the project choice moneys to fund this totally either.

Dr. Gallacher stated that Enfield was not part of the original Sheff case. This is a terrible solution and it is not changing the racial diversity. A lot of our minority students are going to magnet schools.

Dr. Gallacher stated that we have a lot of preschool students going to magnet schools. This is something they are rethinking. Dr. Gallacher stated we just wanted to give Board members numbers for magnet schools for next year.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if we received any tuition prices for CREC magnet schools. Dr. Gallacher stated that we have requested the information but have not received it yet.

Mr. Droney asked if we did not take the 40 project choice students would there be any sanctions against us? Dr. Gallacher stated we have economic issues and are looking at closing a building. We would need to see how they respond to this. They can not mandate us to take the students. Dr. Gallacher stated our current intake is to take 10 kindergarten students and it has worked very well. Board members are ok with taking just the kindergarten students.

Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Mr. Droney to table Public Schools of Choice Numbers.

A vote by **roll call 5-1-0** to table passed with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches in dissent.

d. Partnership with CREC on Public Safety Academy for FY10-11

Ms. Hall stated the Public Safety Academy has accepted 21 students for next year and they would like to enter into a partnership agreement with us for 2010-11.

Dr. Gallacher stated they are looking for a permanent location and Enfield is still high on the list. This is something the Board can control with their budget. Dr. Douglas can come and talk to Board members regarding this. CREC is also receiving complaints from other Towns regarding tuitions. The State should be responsible for funding this.

Mr. Arnone stated we need the agreement in order to control the number of students that will go to the PSA. Dr. Gallacher stated that is correct.

Ms. Hall does not believe that Board members can make a decision regarding this tonight. Board members were in agreement to not make a decision regarding a partnership with PSA tonight.

e. Discussion on FY09-10 Budget

Chairman Greco stated we know where we will start on Thursday night – just under \$6 million dollars. Chairman Greco asked Board members to let the administration know the types of things they are looking for Thursday night.

Ms. Hall asked about the ESC grant. The grant that is being budgeted, is this the one they are taking money out of for magnet school tuitions? Dr. Gallacher stated they will take the amount directly from it. They are saying the ECS is not a sacred cow and to expect cuts. If we receive an increase in the ECS it will be based on our portion under the minimum education expenditure requirement. Ms. Hall stated in our budget we will have less money in our budget because they will take the tuition for magnet schools out of it. Dr. Gallacher stated that is correct and they will take it out of the April or May payment. Dr. Gallacher is not sure if it comes monthly or quarterly. Ms. Hall stated we will not have to worry about it for budgeting purposes.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches is hearing comments that the Board needs to make a decision quickly and we need to schedule a meeting to discuss this. Chairman Greco asked Board members to bring their calendars to the Thursday meeting to discuss setting a date for a special meeting to discuss closing a school.

Chairman Greco asked if there are any items they would like administration to address on Thursday.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches would like to discuss pay-for-play as an option. Other towns are doing this successfully.

Chairman Greco stated we can discuss not replacing vacant positions and the MOU for self insurance, the blue sheets from the last budget session. This is very short notice and Thursday will be a brainstorming session. Any ideas or thoughts and looking outside of the box would be great. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches encourages ideas from community members.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Dronney moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes that the Enfield Board of Education enters into executive session to discuss:

- a. Matter(s) Related to a Document Protected by Attorney-Client Privilege

A vote by **show of hands 5-1-0**, motion passes with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches in dissent.

Dr. Gallacher, Mr. Torre and Dr. Cooke joined the Board in Executive Session at 10:45 PM.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches moved, seconded by Mr. Droney to end the Executive Session and return to Public Session at 10:56 PM. Motion passed unanimously by a **show of hands 9-0-0**. No other actions were taken while in Executive Session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches moved, seconded by Mr. Droney to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2009. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 10:57 PM.

Joyce P. Hall
Secretary
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary