

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 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 May 11, 2010.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT Peter Jonaitis, Tom Sirard, Donna Szewczak, Judy Apruzzese-Desroches, Joyce Hall (arrived at 7:55 PM), Vincent Grady, Stacy Thurston and Greg Stokes

MEMBERS ABSENT Charles Johnson

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

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2010 be approved. Motion passed unanimously by a **show of hands 7-0-0**.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Special Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2010 be approved. Motion passed by a **show of hands 7-0-0** with Mr. Grady abstaining.

7. **BOARD GUESTS**

a. **Enfield High School Boys Basketball Team**

Chairman Stokes welcomed the Enfield High School Boys Basketball Team and Coach Cory O'Connell. Coach O'Connell was named the NCCC Coach of the Year. The EHS Boys Basketball Team was the NCCC Regular Season Co-Champions, the NCCC Tournament Champions and lost in the Class M Quarter Finals by 1 point in double overtime. EHS Basketball Players Nate Lindo and Terrance Jones were named to the All NCCC Conference Team.

The EHS Boys Basketball Team held both team banners that will be hung in the EHS gymnasium. Chairman Stokes presented the team a plaque to be placed in the trophy showcase at EHS. Chairman Stokes presented Cory O'Connell a plaque for being named NCCC Coach of the Year.

Board members congratulated the 2010 EHS Boys Basketball team and Coach O'Connell for their accomplishments.

b. DECA Students

Chairman Stokes welcomed Mr. O'Connell and members from DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) to the Board meeting. Mr. O'Connell introduced members of the FHS DECA program that attended the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) that was held in Louisville, Kentucky - Tess Donovan, Katie Norris, Ali Stalgaitis and Kayla Benis.

FHS DECA Officers Ali Stalgaitis and Katie Norris gave an overview of what DECA is. DECA is the largest club at Fermi. Over 100 students participate. DECA allows business and marketing students the opportunity to see first hand how businesses operate. DECA participates in many school events and community projects. DECA students develop interpersonal skills while developing their business skills.

Tess Donovan and Kayla Benis explained how they attended the ICDC in Louisville, Kentucky. We competed Statewide in order to go to Louisville. The competition was held at the Expo Center in Louisville. They attended opening ceremonies and exchanged State pins with other students. Networking allowed us the opportunity to meet many students from all over the country. What we learned at Nationals was greater than any medal we could have received. They visited many attractions in Louisville. This was an amazing opportunity. DECA Students thanked Board members for supporting DECA.

Chairman Stokes thanked the students for their presentation and appreciated them for coming.

c. Capital Workforce

Chairman Stokes introduced Capital Workforce members Tom Phillips and Dennis Mink. Mr. Phillips is the CEO of Capital Workforce Partners and Dennis Mink is the Coordinator of the Youth Employment Program.

Mr. Phillips stated they are working to establish work partnerships with the Town of Enfield. They provide quality work experiences for our youth to gain economic competitiveness. Mr. Phillips provided Board members with a package of information regarding the program. He reviewed Alternative Career Pathways, Career Competency Development, Business/Secondary Higher Education and Workforce/Adult Education Realignment to Board members. These are based on the competencies of what businesses are looking for in applicants. Mr. Phillips also reviewed trends for strengthening the Education/Workforce Pipeline. Mr. Phillips explained how they are trying to track students after graduation.

Mr. Mink explained how they have provided over 2,000 youth with employment experience in the Hartford region. Career competencies encompass basic skills, customer service, computer literacy, problem solving and decision making, interpersonal communications, personal qualities and job seeking skills. They work with youth from ages 14 and up. They work in Tiers I, II, III and IV to give youth experience while they develop what they would like to do with their lives. Youth will reach Tier III and will actually go out into the workforce for youth ages 16 and up. Youth will receive subsidized internships. Tier IV is for top level youth that has gone through the training system and is ready to seek permanent employment.

Mr. Mink stated that they are currently working with 25 Enfield juniors and seniors in our Tier III program out of CREC. These youth are involved with various internships in Enfield for approximately 10 hours a week. They expect to work with 30 Enfield youth in the Tier III summer program.

Chairman Stokes stated that both he and Dr. Gallacher attended a past Capital Workforce Partners presentation at Asnuntuck and thought this would be something the Board might be interested in.

Mr. Phillips recognized Dr. Gallacher for his involvement with the College Connections program at Asnuntuck. This is another alternative workforce connection. Mr. Phillips stated they are here to enhance Enfield youth programs in the workforce. They would like to establish an Ad Hoc committee with Enfield. Each town's focus is different. We can help with alternative career path development. We are willing to build off of what we have already done in Enfield.

Mr. Mink asked if Board members know of any employers that would like to work with our Summer Youth 2010 program by providing internships and they could have them contact either Mr. Mink or Mr. Phillips.

Mr. Jonaitis asked who they are employed by. Mr. Phillips stated they are employed by Capital Workforce Partners. They are a non-profit organization. Mr. Jonaitis asked if they are privately owned or do you work for the State? Mr. Phillips stated they are not employed by the State, they are a non-profit organization.

Mr. Jonaitis stated Capital Workforce Partners would be a great asset to work with for setting up internships for our youth. Mr. Phillips stated yes, we can help to reach out to local organizations.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if they are involved with vocational programs where the students are in the classrooms for two weeks and then on a job site for two weeks? Mr. Phillips stated in Bristol they provided summer internships for the vocational students but not during the school year.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if they work with Porter and Chester or similar schools. Mr. Phillips stated they work with them for adults more.

Ms. Hall asked if the summer program is in addition to the summer program with CREC. Mr. Mink stated CREC is our provider that serves Enfield. Ms. Hall stated that this year's budget for funding summer work is significantly lower than last year. Is there a reason for this? Mr. Phillips stated they are waiting for government funding for summer employment. If funding comes through, we will be looking at a 65% increase over last year. Ms. Hall stated there is hope. Mr. Phillips stated we should be in good shape providing all of our revenue sources come through.

Chairman Stokes and Board members thanked Mr. Phillips and Mr. Mink for being here. Mr. Phillips stated seeing the EHS Basketball Team here tonight was outstanding. Mr. Mink played basketball and is in the Division II Hall of Fame for Tufts University.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Adult Education Graduation Invitations.

9. AUDIENCES

Tom Donohue, Celtic Court – Mr. Donohue stated at the Town/Board reconfiguration meeting held last week several plans were presented. Mr. Donohue stated the job of the Board is to educate our students first and foremost. As you evaluate these plans, look to see what will be best for our students now and in the future. Develop a master plan to be implemented. This will help the residents in town to know what will be happening. We should not do short term plans to make the Town Council happy. Short term fixes are not needed. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that whatever we do for September; make that part of the master plan for the

future. Mr. Donohue can not stress that enough. We should not chase short term plans. Our goal is to educate our children for the future not to meet a budget goal for this year. Please look at plans that are good for the long term. Make sure what we put in place makes sense and is good for growth. Mr. Donohue thanked Board members.

Lena Mack, North Maple Street – Mrs. Mack stated she has 4 children in our school system. Mrs. Mack attended the Strategic Planning Committee meeting last Thursday and appreciated the presentation. Mrs. Mack agrees with long term planning but would like to know sooner rather than later what is going to happen in the fall. The sooner parents know they can plan for the changes. Mrs. Mack thanked Board members.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Grady congratulated the EHS Basketball Team again for their accomplishments. Mr. Grady congratulated the FHS DECA students. His daughter is part of the EHS DECA program and it is a great program.

Mr. Grady attended the EHS production of “Annie Get Your Gun” and it was fantastic! Mr. Senior and students did a great job. Mr. Senior asked that I recognize Bill Peluso for his help with the equipment. They also had some of the elementary students involved in the production. Kudos to everyone involved in this great production.

Ms. Hall stated that a while ago the Hartford Courant ran a story about bus companies. Ms. Hall wanted to publicly congratulate Smyth Bus Company for being number 1. They are the best in the State for maintaining their buses.

Ms. Hall stated that the Crandall students participated in the Governor’s Reading Challenge and they received a reward for their participation.

Ms. Hall stated all elementary schools participated in the Town recycling program. Parkman, Memorial and Nathan Hale were the top schools that participated. Some of the recycling posters are displayed in Council Chambers. Thanks to everyone that participated.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that Enrico Fermi hosted a leadership conference for high school students. Several schools participated. This Friday, Fermi will be a Cool Schools on WFSB. It starts at 5:00 AM.

FHS Student Representative Meghan Ruff stated there will be a lot of fun activities for students to win raffle prizes during the Channel 3 Cool Schools presentation. Friday will also be the night for the Senior Prom and Ms. Ruff urged students to be safe and have fun.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked everyone for their words of encouragement, cards and food during his recuperation. It is great to be back.

Mrs. Szewczak attended the Hale Volunteer breakfast. They have 60 volunteers and she hopes that all the schools have at least that many volunteers. Mrs. Szewczak attended the awards ceremony for recycling. It was definitely worth it. The first place prize was \$1,200 the second place prize was for \$800 and \$500 was awarded for third place. Mrs. Szewczak also attended the program at JFK where she saw the house within a house within a school. Ms. Hall was also at this.

Chairman Stokes also congratulated the EHS Basketball Team and the DECA Students for their accomplishments.

Chairman Stokes reported that the TC/BOE Strategic Planning Committee will meet on Thursday, May 13th at 6:30 PM in the Enfield Room. Dr. Gallacher will present his recommendations. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 18th and will host a community conversation on Thursday, May 20th in the JFK Café at 7:00 PM. The Strategic Planning Committee will make a formal presentation at the May 25th Board meeting. Board members will need to discuss this and make a decision what we will do for September 2010. Chairman Stokes encourages Board members to attend the next few Strategic Planning Committee meetings.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gallacher stated he has started using a different font as cost savings measure suggested by a parent. Dr. Gallacher stated he is now using Century Gothic. We are also encouraging staff members to change their fonts also.

- a. In-Service Early Release Day
- b. ITPC Update – as presented

Ms. Hall asked what the references to HAC and TAC are in the ITPC Minutes. Dr. Gallacher stated TAC is Teacher Access Center and HAC is Home Access Center.

Mr. Torre stated in early fall we will open up HAC to secondary parents. This will allow parents to look at the student's school record. Staff will need to input information. A timeline for implementing information needs to be worked out.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Szewczak reported that the Curriculum Committee met and reviewed the grades 3-8 Computer Technology Curriculum and would like this to be approved at the next Board meeting. If you have any questions with the curriculum guides, please e-mail Guy Bourassa.

Mrs. Szewczak stated that additional Internet Safety information will be added to the grade 3 curriculum. The internet is permanent. Mr. Torre further stated that internet safety is carried through throughout the curriculum grade levels.

Mrs. Szewczak stated the internet is a valuable tool and should be treated as such.

13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Discussion on RFP for Reorganization and Action(s), if any** *Tabled 04-27-10)*

Board members agreed to keep this item tabled.

15. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **EHS/FHS Safe Graduation Contributions**

Chairman Stokes explained to the new Board members that the Board sets aside money for Enfield and Fermi High Safe Grad each year. By charter, we are allowed to contribute \$500 to each safe grad program.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education donates \$500 to each High School Safe Graduation.

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

b. CIP Textbooks – Approve Bid Waiver

Mrs. Szewczak stated the Curriculum Committee met and we are looking for the Board to request a bid waiver from the Town Council. Some of our textbooks are over the \$15,000 price.

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education approves the request for a Bid Waiver for Textbooks.

Discussion:

Mrs. Szewczak stated enclosed in the packet is a list of the textbooks being requested. The teachers and the committee have done their due diligence.

Chairman Stokes stated last term he was the Curriculum chair. The Town has a set policy regarding going out to bid. You can not always go out to bid for textbooks. They need to fit our needs for curriculum. The Town Council allowed us to do this last time.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if we know if the curriculum can be accessed on-line. This can save us a tremendous amount of money. Dr. Gallacher stated unless it is a trade book, for curriculum textbooks, the teachers complete a form and it will have the information listed on it if there are any on-line materials.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the books are really needed. Dr. Gallacher stated curriculum runs in cycles most of these should have already been replaced. They go through a strenuous process of reviewing the materials and text books to make sure it is exactly what we want.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if every student needs a new text book. Mrs. Szewczak believes Mr. Jonaitis is wondering when we will go from textbooks to on-line materials.

Dr. Gallacher stated in order to do this we would need to provide each student with a computer.

Mrs. Szewczak stated we have done our due diligence and textbooks are needed now. In the future it may be different.

Chairman Stokes stated he has gone through this process before. The process is done where the teacher's do not know who the publisher is.

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

c. Suffield VO-AG Consulting Committee Appointments

Chairman Stokes stated our Suffield Vo-Ag liaisons are Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches and Mr. Johnson. We also need to appoint two citizens to this committee.

Dr. Gallacher stated there is a brief summary of the two candidates in the Board's packet. Francis Lutwinas has been a member of the VO-AG Consulting Committee for several years and Adam Bajoris is also being recommended. Both candidates are worthwhile candidates.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education appoints Francis Lutwinas and Adam Bajoris to the Suffield VO-AG Consulting Committee.

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

d. Race to the Top Stimulus Funds Phase II

Chairman Stokes stated Board members did not participate in the Race to the Top Phase I, this is part II.

Dr. Gallacher further stated it is basically a rewrite of Phase I. They have sweetened the pot a bit. There are still some of the same commitments as in Phase I. There is also a short time frame. Dr. Gallacher believes that the graduation requirement will be passed and it will be another unfunded mandate for us. This is an opportunity for us to pick up some additional funds if we met all of the requirements in the MOU. The amount of money we potentially could receive, will not satisfy all of the requirements that we would be obligated to maintain.

Dr. Gallacher will leave this decision to participate or not up to the Board. The Administration will do whatever the Board wants. The president of the Teacher Association was also not planning to sign off on this.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated she believed the high school reform has been passed by the legislation. Ms. Hall stated it has been passed and the date has been set for 2014 beginning with grade 7. It will take a lot of preparation to fulfill all of the requirements. We will all need to live up to this 25 credit bill. The bill is #438. This has been passed by the house and senate and the governor will sign it.

Mr. Grady asked if we know how much we would be responsible for. Dr. Gallacher is not sure if the State knows this yet. There are science and foreign language requirements that we will be responsible for.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches is not thrilled with this legislation. If the community is going to be responsible for this in 2014, it is awfully hard to walk away from some money that could help pay for some of this. The money will need to come from somewhere.

Dr. Gallacher stated we will also need staff from Central Office to work on this.

Mr. Sirard stated this is centralization. This is Hartford telling us what to do. We have already experienced NCLB. Hartford and Washington do not know what we need in Enfield. The people in Enfield know what we need.

Mr. Grady asked what will happen if the Teachers Union does not sign off on this. Dr. Gallacher stated we will lose points and it will count against our application. The more signatures will help with the Federal application.

Mr. Grady asked what will happen if we don't sign this tonight. Dr. Gallacher stated there will not be any extensions. May 19th is the due date. Ms. Hall stated the submission date is June 1st, but our application is needed to make it complete. Ms. Hall stated the CEA and the AFT have both signed on to the second phase of this proposal.

Mrs. Szewczak asked what was on the two State's applications that made them stand out as shining stars. Dr. Gallacher stated Delaware is the second or third richest state, it was 8th from the bottom for putting money into public education, 20% of students in the state attended private schools and everyone signed off. They felt it was a good application.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if Dr. Gallacher was aware of what was happening in New Haven. Dr. Gallacher stated he was not familiar with it. Mr. Jonaitis stated schools are being taken over,

teachers are being fired, schools are being put on special lists and teachers need to reapply for their jobs.

Dr. Gallacher stated this is part of NCLB and it has happened in several other states as well.

Mr. Jonaitis stated this is just another way of the government getting their hands on it and he would like to keep them out as long as possible.

Ms. Hall addressed merit pay with the commissioner of education and it is not in their plan at all and Commissioner McQuillan does not believe in this personally. Mr. Jonaitis attended a meeting where he said trust me, I'll get you the answers because he didn't know the questions. Mr. Jonaitis does not have any faith in this.

Mr. Grady asked Dr. Gallacher what the other area superintendents are feeling about this Phase II Plan. Dr. Gallacher believes the majority of schools will sign on to Phase II.

Chairman Stokes stated if we do nothing at all, it will die here.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Enfield Board of Education participates in the current Race to the Top Plan.

Discussion:

Ms. Hall stated having some money to work along with this plan is worth it. We are not expected to do absolutely everything on the MOU. We are only going to be able to do what we can with the money provided. Ms. Hall believes we should get something to help us out with this to get started.

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

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Stokes stated there is no need for the Board to go into executive session to discuss Matter(s) Related to Pending Claims & Litigation – ACLU Suit.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 11, 2010. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Joyce P. Hall
Secretary
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary