

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2008**

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 September 9, 2008.

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

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

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Tom Arnone

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

5. **ROLL CALL**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Anthony Torre, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Samantha Reid, Enrico Fermi High School Student Representative and Bryan Flanagan, Enfield High School Student Representative

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson that the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2008 be approved. Motion passed by a **show of hands 9-0-0.**

7. **BOARD GUESTS**

a. **ETV**

Chairman Greco introduced Henry Dutcher, the Director of the Enfield Public Library to Board members. Mr. Dutcher is the person behind the scenes for ETV. Chairman Greco congratulated Mr. Dutcher and his team for the transition ETV has made over the past few months.

Mr. Dutcher stated this week we aired a planning and zoning meeting and will start a show called "Everything Enfield". This informational show will have guests such as Chairman Greco and Dr. Gallacher.

Mr. Dutcher reviewed ways for audience and Board Members to help the audio system project their voices better and to produce a quality picture. Mr. Dutcher stated that they have applied for a \$30,000 grant with the DPUC for funds to completely redo the audio system. We anticipate hearing about the grant award in early October.

Mr. Dutcher stated that ETV can air any power point or DVD/video presentation if they are given the information at least two days prior to the meeting. Audience members need to use the portable microphone for their voices to be heard. The projection screen needs to be moved from in front of the cameras to behind the cameras. Mr. Dutcher stated that if we can't see you, we can't film you.

Mr. Dutcher discussed the summer reading program offered this past summer at the Public Library. They had 991 Enfield students that signed up for the program.

Mr. Dutcher stated the Enfield Public Library gives out joint library cards to students. Students can obtain on-line periodicals by using the code on the card. We are the only town in CT that offers this program. Mr. Dutcher stated that he will be meeting with school librarians very soon to start up a book/loan service. We have a courier that can deliver books to the schools.

Ms. Hall commented that some of the microphones work better than other. Mr. Dutcher stated that is one of the problems we have with our current equipment.

Mr. Arnone commented that he likes the screen within a screen on ETV. It works very well. Mr. Arnone stated we do need a pull down screen to avoid blocking the camera. Mr. Arnone also stated that the picture is somewhat distorted from one side of the room to the other. Mr. Dutcher stated that Cox is in the process of converting to a digital and HDTV picture.

Mr. Stokes asked if there was any chance that the Town would be sound proofing the sound of the A/C. Mr. Dutcher stated the Town is in the process of a HVAC referendum and this might be part of the referendum.

Mr. Dutcher thanked Board members.

Chairman Greco introduced our two new Student Representatives, Samantha Reid from Enrico Fermi High School and Bryan Flanagan from Enfield High School.

Chairman Greco stated that Dr. Gallacher will not be with us tonight. He is home ill.

b. Siemens Presentation on Energy Management

Chairman Greco commented that the presentation we will hear tonight is part of the recommendation from the Audit Committee and recommendations from the Staff Surveys. Chairman Greco introduced Jerry Drummond from Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. to Board members. Mr. Drummond will discuss a performance contract that will benefit both schools and town buildings. Mr. Drummond made this presentation to Town members previously and this warrants our consideration.

Mr. Drummond introduced Andy Merola from Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and Vijay Srinivasachari our lead energy engineer. The Town Council approved this last week to place this item on a referendum. Mr. Drummond stated that we will not exceed project costs.

Mr. Merola stated that our program helps you to do things more efficiently and helps you save money. We are talking about money that is currently budgeted for. We are here to help you redirect it more efficiently.

Mr. Drummond explained what energy performance contracting is and the benefits. Success depends upon understanding technical, financial and contractual needs. Mr. Drummond reviewed project costs and project savings. The project will not exceed \$9,700,000 and an annual guaranteed savings of \$700,000. Siemens guarantees an annual savings will pay 100% of the annual costs and if not, Siemens will issue a payment to Enfield for any shortfall each and every year of the 20 year term. Your budget remains budget neutral.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa asked how long the program will run for. Mr. Drummond stated the program will run for up to 20 years. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa asked if the improvements would be continually made during the 20 years so we are getting the newest equipment. Mr. Drummond stated that evaluations will need to be made as needed. Lighting changes will most likely change again 10 years from now, as well as heating. Evaluations will be made to see if any additional services are needed.

Chairman Greco asked if this is leased or financed and who will hold the leases. Mr. Drummond stated initially they are financed with a municipal lease with an appropriations clause and added to a bond referendum.

Ms. Hall stated you guarantee \$700,000 savings each year and if we only reached \$650,000 you would pay us \$50,000? Mr. Drummond stated that is correct.

Mr. Drummond stated that CCM has taken into consideration heating, cooling, buildings closing. Project costs and sample references were discussed.

Mr. Arnone asked why we are only hearing from Siemens and why didn't this go out to bid? Mr. Merola stated CCM went through a process and selected Siemens because they successfully conduct more K-12 building performance audits than any other company.

Mr. Arnone asked about the quality of equipment that will be used. Will it be equipment that we will be comfortable with? Mr. Drummond stated that we will recommend boilers or equipment for you to use. If you are comfortable with a particular brand, you will have the final say. Mr. Arnone asked about vending machines? Mr. Drummond stated that an occupancy sensor will be in place so the lights will be off on the vending machines. Mr. Arnone asked about window replacements. Mr. Drummond stated that seals and caulking will be used to eliminate drafts. Mr. Arnone asked about maintenance contracts. Mr. Drummond stated that would be included in the prices.

Mr. Grady asked how long Siemens has worked with CCM. Mr. Drummond stated they have worked with them for 5 years and he has worked with Siemens for 25 years. Mr. Grady asked if they have looked into solar energy use. Mr. Drummond stated yes, they have looked into green renewable energy, solar hot water, wind and green energy.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked why we need a referendum. Mr. Drummond stated that traditionally this is done on a municipal lease, like a mortgage on a home. You will borrow \$9.7 million dollars to make necessary changes for improvements.

Ms. Hall asked about the recommended improvements for both the Town and School buildings. Mr. Drummond stated there are areas that we have found where changes should be made in order to see substantial savings. Ms. Hall stated that we have been replacing windows in our schools and is this something you will not looking at? Mr. Drummond stated that is correct. Windows will have a longer payback period than 20 years. We are looking at mission critical areas. The community will have the say as to which areas should be looked into. Ms. Hall also asked about the recommendation to replace the window air conditioners. Mr. Drummond stated the committee suggested this. Mr. Srinivasachari stated that Crandall needs air-conditioning for summer school. Mr. Drummond stated we need to balance the items that will give us a better payback. Mr. Droney stated that the PTO at Crandall purchased most of the air-conditioners. Mr. Droney further stated that the windows at both high schools are drafty and this should be considered.

Mr. Stokes asked if the referendum gets approved, how long before the project can start. Mr. Drummond stated we would need around 4-6 months to get started after the referendum was passed. We would want to start in the summer. It would take around 12 months to complete the project.

Mr. Johnson asked when this project would get started. Would they be in the building when the students are there. Mr. Drummond stated that they would start at the end of June when school ended and would work around the students being in school, after hours or on weekends.

Mr. Stokes asked what would happen if we needed more than \$9.7 million. Mr. Drummond stated that the total package price can not exceed the \$9.7 million mark. The project needs to pay for itself.

Ms. Hall stated we have a lot of recommended items and if we get up to a certain dollar amount, some items will not get done. Mr. Drummond stated that is correct. You will need to prioritize items. Board members will be involved in the design process.

Chairman Greco stated that you are not a non-profit organization. Siemens will make money and we will save money. We will not be able to do everything that we want to do. Currently, we have been placing money in a CIP account to replace a boiler here or there. This will allow us to replace items quicker. Chairman Greco would like to see us with newer equipment and paying less for them.

Mr. Arnone stated that we should hear from other companies like G.E. Mr. Drummond stated that G.E. does not do this. CCM has gone through a competitive process and contracted with Siemens. Mr. Merola stated that we have a 5 year agreement with Siemens. If there was a concern, we would go out to bid again. We are happy with them. Mr. Johnson asked if there will be a performance contract setup with Siemens and the Town. A performance contract will be made with the Town and the School will also have a contract with Siemens.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa asked if the Town of Enfield pays a fee to be a member of CCM. Mr. Merola stated that is correct.

Chairman Greco asked Mr. Drummond if he provided a detailed breakdown of the \$9.7 million to anyone. Mr. Drummond stated no. Chairman Greco asked what the makeup of the savings was. Mr. Drummond stated we looked at electricity, gas and oil. We are guaranteeing that you will spend less on electricity, gas and oil. Chairman Greco asked about the energy purchasing contracts that we currently have and some of them we have to purchase a certain number of units. Mr. Drummond stated that we took this into consideration when we came up with our numbers.

Chairman Greco stated that the \$9.7 million is for product, installation, design services and consultation fees. If the Board wanted to use someone else for installation, can this be done? Mr. Drummond stated that it can be done.

Chairman Greco asked who your biggest contract to date is. Mr. Drummond stated Naugatuck. There were no change orders done on this project. Change orders can hurt your overall costs. We can not spend more than \$9.7 million.

Chairman Greco thanked Mr. Drummond, Mr. Merola and Mr. Srinivasachari for their presentation.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. 08/09 Enrollment Chart;
- b. Memo from the Alcorn Family Resource Center;
- c. Packet of Letters of Support for the North School Apartment Project. (*Chairman Greco will pass the letters around for Board members to view.*)

9. AUDIENCES

Brittany Kaplan & EHS Students, Enfield High School – Ms. Kaplan stated that she is here as a representative of the Junior and Senior class at Enfield High School regarding the increase in student parking fees from \$20 to \$100. Ms. Kaplan stated that she has a signed petition of 140 students regarding the 500% increase. Ms. Kaplan stated she would like the Board to reconsider their decision. Ms. Kaplan stated that the burden to repair parking lots and put in security systems in the schools should not be placed on the students.

Alyssa Doner, EHS Student – Ms. Doner stated that during a class assembly the parking increase was discussed. Students were extremely displeased with this and asked why the increase is so drastic. Can the increase be gradual.

Ms. Doner and Ms. Kaplan thanked Board members for listening to them.

Ray Peabody, Washington Road – Mr. Peabody stated that he is here tonight regarding the website. The website still is not functional. Mr. Peabody stated that his wife spoke to the Director of IT regarding the website and he blamed the school department and teachers not giving him information needed in a timely manner. Who are the project sponsor and manager? What were the requirements and who signed off on them. Who set the project timeline and approved it. Who owns the project timeline? What was the process regarding missed timelines? Were there any performance clauses in the contract? Was the website tested before it went live? Mr. Peabody stated that he would like to see e-mail addresses for administrators and teachers, class assignments and an easy way to communicate with teachers through e-mail. Mr. Peabody stated that teachers have expectations for students and he has expectations for them. Mr. Peabody stated that the increase in parking fees is a lot. The parents are the ones that will pay for this. This is a drastic increase. Mr. Peabody asked if there is an after school bus for students. Mr. Peabody stated that the school system does not work for the average student.

Jack Sheridan, Buchanan Road – Mr. Sheridan stated that Board members asked some good questions with the Seimens presentation. Water consumption need to be addressed. How solid is Seimens? This should be part of the contract. Solar information needs to be factored in. The contract with Seimens should be bonded. Mr. Sheridan stated the students made a good point about the increase in parking fees. When taxpayers see empty or half empty buses, it impacts the school budget. Mr. Sheridan thanked Board members.

Joan Perrone & Ty Kohler, Redwood Street – Ms. Perrone stated she is a tax payer. Her children are already paying taxes. Her son paid his parking fee. Ms. Perrone stated students should not have to pay to park at school and she is totally disgusted with this. At Fermi the students are not guaranteed a spot. Where is the money going? Does it go to a student activity fund? My son needs to drive in order to get to his job. Ms. Perrone stated this impacts the younger taxpayers. There are items in the budget that are not properly documented. Will the students have another increase next year? Mr. Kohler stated that in order for him to get to hockey tryouts you need to be at the rink by a certain time. Mr. Kohler stated that he would not be able to take the bus home to get his car in order to get to hockey practice on time.

Shannon Roberto, Yale Drive – Mrs. Roberto stated that the students and parents have made a good point regarding the parking increase. Mrs. Roberto also stated that new teen driving laws will also impact students driving to school. Mrs. Roberto stated that the Enfield's website is very helpful and would like to see more schools use it. Mrs. Roberto asked about a school lunch card program at the elementary schools. Mrs. Roberto would like the Board to look into an emergency notification system. Not all parents are home or are able to access e-mail during the day. Something needs to be done to bridge this gap. Mrs. Roberto stated that she has spoken to Mr. Johnson regarding the bullying policy. Mrs. Roberto stated that there has been new legislation passed regarding the bullying definition. Mrs. Roberto thanked Board members.

Bob Tkacz – Bernardino Avenue – Mr. Tkacz stated that he was the person that passed out the letters from the Alcorn Family Resource Center. Mr. Tkacz stated that he would like to address rudeness. This is a public building and private conversations should be taken outside. This happened tonight by a school employee and Mr. Tkacz will not put up with it. Mr. Tkacz asked that the policy committee review the letters from the Family Resource Center to see if this is a violation of school policy. Mr. Tkacz stated that Preschool and Head Start programs are detrimental to education. All studies show that Preschool, Head Start and Full-day Kindergarten do not improve scores. Evidence shows that children need to stay home with their parents. Mr. Tkacz stated in Finland they start their children at 7 years old and they are far above us in education. Mr. Tkacz thanked Board members.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

FHS Student Representative Reid stated that the first week of school went well at Fermi and the new student orientation program was extremely helpful for incoming students.

Mr. Droney stated that he spoke to Mrs. Perrone and voted against the parking increase. The parking increase issue needs to be re-addressed. Mrs. Perrone mentioned the number of parking spots being available. Mr. Droney would like to see the students that have jobs or play sports receive priority for obtaining a parking spot. Mr. Droney stated that the building security committee will be discussing and looking into a reverse 911 emergency notification system with the second round of grants that is being offered.

Mr. Stokes welcomed all the students and staff back. Mr. Stokes apologized for not answering any e-mails while he was on vacation. Mr. Stokes stated that he is sure that our technology team is looking into the problem and we will get the bugs out of the system. Mr. Stokes stated that he voted for the parking increase. Board members were trying to find every nickel and dime without laying off any teachers. The parking issue is worthy of discussing again and the money goes directly to the operating budget.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated she voted against the parking increase because we should not penalize the students. Mr. Peabody brought up some important ideas. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that we had an Audit Committee and their report is posted on the website. One of the issues was accountability. The website should have been tested before going live. Mrs. Perrone made some good comments and agrees with her. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa agrees with Mr. Sheridan regarding the Seimens presentation and there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered, and having them bonded is an excellent idea. The concept is good idea. The Town is moving forward. Thank you for coming out tonight.

Mr. Johnson agrees with a lot of things said tonight. Mr. Johnson voted for the parking increase but does not feel we should look at it again. We can look at it for next year. Mr. Johnson agrees with Mr. Peabody regarding the website. To leave the website up after it failed was wrong. It needed to be fixed promptly. IT should not be left down and the project management should have addressed it quickly. Mr. Johnson thanked everyone.

Enfield High School Student Representative Flanagan stated that the parking passes affect a lot of students and this is a real problem. A lot of students have after school jobs or activities. Punishing the students by making them pay for the additional increase is a problem. Mr. Flanagan stated that he is proud of his fellow students for making the petition. We do not have after school buses. Students will park in areas they shouldn't and car pooling laws will affect a lot of students. Mr. Flanagan stated that the website pages need to be changed. Some items haven't changed in the past two years.

Mr. Arnone stated that he did vote for the increase. The budget process was extremely difficult. The parking increase is in comparison with other school districts. We lost a team of teachers at JFK during the budget process and we increased parking fees. We needed to cut \$1.2 million dollars. The day planners were also on the chopping block. The bus seats are paid for whether students ride them or not. We did not cut any sports. Mr. Arnone stated that he was not happy to increase parking fees. Mr. Arnone stated that we can not provide a lunch card system at the elementary schools. Mr. Arnone stated that we should hire a part time person to update the website in the district. We have items on the website that are not updated. After school activities and clubs need to be put on the website.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches agrees that the timing of the new website could have been planned better. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches attended the sports information night at EHS. Parents are concerned with the practice locations for the EHS students. This should be posted on the website. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches is also concerned with the JFK and EHS parent nights being on the same night. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that she voted for the parking fees and she voted for it as a deterrent. Driving to school is a privilege. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches would like something done for parents at the elementary schools that write checks for lunches. They should be able to write a check for more than one week at a time. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches

would like our breakfast program to be offered at all the schools. Some students are only getting one meal a day and possibly we can offer a cold breakfast. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that the emergency response system is a great idea for the Building Security Committee to look into. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that Amy Morales is a Town Employee as is the Director of Social Services. They both wrote letters of support of the North School Apartment Project Chairman Greco spoke about. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that Mrs. Roberto put together a reading program over the summer and she commended her for it. The program was very helpful and the students read over 40 books. Mr. Sheridan came up with some good questions for Siemens.

Mr. Grady questioned the sponsor on the website and why Rockville Bank is on the bottom of each page. Mr. Grady stated that the parking fee increase is not fair since we do not offer after school buses and would like to see this topic discussed again.

Ms. Hall stated that we were supposed to maintain the old website until we were ready to go live with the new site. Unfortunately this did not happen. Everyone is in the process of updating all the pages. The reason for the new website is for the services this site can provide with parent access to teachers. Ms. Hall stated that she is reluctant to hear as a Board who voted for the parking increase or who didn't. It was a majority decision. This is not the way democracy works. Ms. Hall agrees with Ms. Perrone if a student pays for a parking spot, they should get a spot. Ms. Hall stated that she is in favor of green energy. On your CL&P bill, there is a spot to sign up for hydro power or wind power and for every 100 citizens that sign up, the Town will receive a photovoltaic cell.

Ms. Hall visited the CREC Safety Academy. Currently 92 students are enrolled in grades 6, 7 and 9. The school will grow each year with an additional class. Students will be able to enter into public safety jobs. Eleven Enfield students are attending. Students come from Hartford, Enfield, Ellington and Bolton and applications are still being accepted until October 1st. The percentage of male students is 60% and girls is 40%. This is a very positive experience for our town.

Chairman Greco stated that he was unable to attend the Eppendorf presentation at Enfield High School last week due to being out of town for his job. Chairman Greco thanked the Eppendorf Corporation for their generous donation to the Science Wing at Enfield High School.

Chairman Greco stated that the Energy Management presentation we heard tonight is something that deserves our serious consideration before it is placed on a referendum. Chairman Greco is in support of this.

Chairman Greco stated that the revenue generated from the parking is not going towards the security cameras or to fix the grounds. The money is going towards the entire budget. The budget process was extremely difficult. We were able to do this without affecting people or programs. Administration researched this and this was a way for us to help balance the budget.

Chairman Greco agreed with Mr. Peabody regarding the website and its execution of it. We completely switched applications and the host server for the new website crashed and we lost a lot of information in the process. Chairman Greco apologized to the public for this inconvenience. When the new website is up and running we will be able to offer some of the programs discussed tonight. Chairman Greco commented that he has seen what other websites can offer and we will get there.

Chairman Greco stated that the Department of Homeland Security is coming out with its second round of grants on October 1st and Mr. Drezek found out today that the Building Security Committee can apply for a reverse 911 emergency response system. Chairman Greco recommends that we do this.

Ms. Hall stated that she also attended the Eppendorf presentation at EHS and the donation of technical science equipment. The auditorium was full of students who were able to see the CSI slide show presentation. This was quite impressive.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Welcome Student Representatives– as presented
- b. School Year Underway – as presented
- c. Web Site Under Construction – as presented
- d. Technology Donation – as presented
- e. Grant Activity Report – as presented

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that she will start bringing up some of the Audit Committee's recommendations for Board members to move forward with or not at each Board meeting.

Chairman Greco asked Mr. Stokes, the Curriculum Committee chair, where the elementary math consultants are this week and next week? Mr. Stokes stated that he was not sure and that this was very improper. Chairman Greco apologized for putting Mr. Stokes on the spot. Chairman Greco stated that the math consultants are revising math curriculum for 2 weeks. Ms. Hall stated this is being done now instead of taking time during the school year. Teachers are evaluating their student's needs during the first few weeks. They are revising the grade 1 curriculum. Chairman Greco stated the timing of curriculum revision should not be done during the first few weeks of school. They should be looking at CMT scores and providing services to students in need. Ms. Hall stated that a schedule has been set for this by the Curriculum Directors. Chairman Greco stated he is concerned that the curriculum revision is being done now. We need to find a better way of doing this.

Mr. Stokes stated that he sent an e-mail to the Curriculum Directors regarding placing items on the agenda regarding substitutes working in curriculum development. Mr. Stokes appreciates Chairman Greco's apology and would appreciate in the future if the Chairman does not humiliate Board members in order to get a point across, we all deserve equal respect.

13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

a. For the Month of July FY08-09

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of July for FY08-09, total expenditures amount to \$782,148.17 broken down between payroll totaling \$671,307.07 and other accounts totaling \$110,841.10. All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented."

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

b. For the Month of August FY08-09

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of August for FY08-09, total expenditures amount to \$5,038,054.37 broken down between payroll totaling \$2,863,427.14 and other accounts totaling \$2,174,627.23. All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented."

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

14. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

15. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Approve Head Start Grants

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Droney read by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Head Start Enhancement Grant for \$96,986; the Head Start Service Grant for \$3,000; and the Early Childhood link Grant for \$27,500. All of these are State Grants.

Discussion:

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that she will vote to not approve the Head Start Grants because of the way the grants are structured at the State and Federal level. Some of the items purchased by Head Start with the grant money is not in the best interest of our tax dollars. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that she would like to see the money poured directly into education and not to purchase miscellaneous items.

Mr. Arnone stated that there is more to the items on the invoices and we should give the people from Head Start the opportunity to explain why the items are purchased before we classify it as a waste of money.

A vote by **show of hands 8-1-0**, motion passes with Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa in dissent.

b. 2009 Graduation Site

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches moved, seconded by Mr. Droney to table the 2009 Graduation Site discussion until the September 23, 2008 Board of Education Meeting.

A vote by **roll call, 8-2-0**, motion to table passes with Mr. Johnson and Ms. Hall in dissent.

c. Authorize Three-Year Personal Service Agreement with Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes that the Enfield Board of Education approves the agreement that provides \$86,400 to our Adult Education Program over the three year period for the purpose of providing distance learning opportunities through the Connecticut Adult Virtual High School.

A vote by **roll call, 9-0-0**, motion passes.

d. Discussion on Possible Formation of New Board Subcommittee

Chairman Greco asked for this to be placed on the agenda and would like to reconvene the Demographic Study Committee. The intention of the committee would be to look at grade configurations. This is something we can look into and see what other districts are doing and can this help us across the district.

Ms. Hall asked if we would bring together the previous committee or start with a new committee. Chairman Greco would like to see us start with a new committee. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that the prior committee has a great deal of knowledge. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that she would be on this committee again if needed.

Ms. Hall asked if middle school and high school is included in this configuration. Chairman Greco stated yes.

Mr. Arnone agrees that this is a good idea. We need to expand our classes in high school. We can increase AP classes and expand our knowledge as a district. We would be able to offer our students more classes and a better opportunity.

Mr. Johnson agrees that we need to look into this and is in favor of reconvening this committee.

Ms. Hall asked if we would hire another demographer. Chairman Greco stated this would be up to the committee. The past committee had developed a powerful software program that might be useful.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that this was something Glenn Hart, one of the Audit Committee members recommended.

Board members agreed to move this forward and that this is still a work in process.

e. Discussion on the Need for D Wing Improvements

Ms. Hall stated that at the Eppendorf presentation we viewed the diagram prepared by George Rypysc. Mayor Kaupin spent a great deal of time reviewing the diagram and suggested that such a drastic change at Enfield High School would require a referendum and suggested that focusing EHS as a local magnet within the town as a school for Science & Technology and Fermi would be a Liberal Arts school. Fermi still will need science equipment. It is critical that EHS obtain improvements to their science wing.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes to table the Discussion on the Need for D Wing Improvements until the October 14, 2008 meeting.

A vote by **roll call, 9-0-0**, motion to table passes.

f. Discussion on FY09-10 Proposed Budget

Chairman Greco stated that Board members can get a head start on the FY09-10 budget. How does the Board want to structure the budget, community conversations and opened the discussion for ideas.

Ms. Hall stated on the website it lists the Board's objectives and by November for this year, we will have developed a method for developing a zero based budget.

Chairman Greco clarified what a zero based budget is. Zero based does not mean there will be no increases. We will start the budget process at zero and move forward by adding programs and costs as opposed to taking last years budget and adding a percentage to it to create this years budget.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated we justify why we have certain programs as if they didn't exist. Chairman Greco stated that is a thought.

Mr. Droney would like to see the Community Conversations done first to hear what the priorities of the parents, students and teachers are instead of later on during the budget process.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches also likes this idea and would like to see the Community Conversations audience targeted, like holding one at the senior center, one at the elementary school, middle school and high school. We can learn something from the Town Council. They hold their community meetings where there is back and forth communication.

Mr. Stokes likes the idea of going to different locations with round table dialogue with parents. We need to hear from everyone, parents, teachers and students. We need to give everyone the opportunity to be heard.

Mr. Droney stated that the process last year was us vs. them. It was unproductive, very adversarial and frustrating. Holding open discussions would be beneficial for Board members.

Mr. Johnson stated that we are asking the residents of the Town to come up with their ideas.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that Paul Russell felt confident that we should be able to get updated software with actuals to provide a transparent software system. We will have a much better idea of what is happening. This will make a significant improvement. We should have a better system in place for this budget season and it will make a tremendous difference.

Chairman Greco asked when Board members would like to start the budget process. Mr. Stokes stated we should start in October with parents first. Board members should be careful not to make public statements concerning how the budget looks like in advance. Board members will differ on our votes, but we need to respect each other as a Board of nine. We need to be careful of what we say during the budget process.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated we need to avoid the adversarial issues. Mr. Stokes stated Board members do not have to go to each school conversation meeting. We can double up and go to PTO meetings and talk to parents there. We need to get the show on the road.

Chairman Greco stated this is a good start. Board members will come up with a calendar and discuss this more.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson to enter into executive session to discuss Matter(s) Related to Personnel. A vote by **show of hands, 6-3-0** motion passes with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches, Mr. Grady and Mr. Droney in dissent.

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

At 10:50 PM, Mr. Drezek was excused from Executive Session. At 11:00 PM, Dr. Cooke and Mrs. Gittleman were excused from Executive Session

At 11:25 PM, Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Mr. Arnone to end the Executive Session and return to Public Session. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands. No other action was taken in Executive Session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Ms. Hall to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2008. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 11:26 PM.

Joyce P. Hall
Secretary
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary