

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 27, 2009**

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 October 27, 2009.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Greco.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE** Chuck Johnson
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Chuck Johnson
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 and Andre Greco

**MEMBERS ABSENT** Susan Lavelli-Hozempa

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

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2009 be approved. There was one correction – Mr. Droney recognized Mrs. Harrison not Mrs. Droney. Motion passed by a **show of hands 8-0-0**.

7. **BOARD GUESTS** - None

8. **CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS** - None

9. **AUDIENCES**

Linda Bridge, Alden Avenue - Mrs. Bridge stated she is here on behalf of the Enfield Food Shelf. Mrs. Bridge stated that due to economic times, they are seeing between 15-20 new families each week. The Enfield Food Shelf is starting their "Talk Turkey" drive. They need all the help they can get collecting food items. They are planning to serve between 700-900 families this holiday season. Donations are desperately needed. Mrs. Bridge stated that whatever you are planning to serve your family this holiday; that is what they are looking for, the turkey with all the fixings. Mrs. Bridge asked Board members to spread the word and talk it up.

Ms. Hall asked if they can also use monetary donations as well. Mrs. Bridge stated money is always needed. She can purchase more items with money than the average person. Mrs. Bridge stated her dollar will go farther because she can purchase items at Food Share.

Ms. Hall also asked if they are able to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. Mrs. Bridge stated that she receives quite a bit of fresh fruit and vegetables from the produce market and local farms.

Mrs. Bridge thanked Board members and looks forward to seeing them volunteer again during this holiday season.

## **10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Arnone stated that both Youth Vote debates were great and congratulated the students and Mrs. Witbro. Mr. Arnone stated that during the Town Council debate, it was mentioned that we are in the top 10% for spending for education. This statement is incorrect. We are in a reference group with 17 other towns. Out of those 17 towns, we are ranked 11<sup>th</sup> for per capita spending that is approximately \$11K per student. We are nowhere near the higher spending for districts in our ERG. Mr. Arnone stated that we are getting a huge bargain for our dollars. Next year it will be lower.

Mr. Arnone stated he will be ending his two year term as a Board member and thanked all of the Board members and administration. Mr. Arnone thanked Dr. Gallacher and Mr. Torre. Mr. Arnone has been proud to be a Board member. We didn't always see eye to eye but have always remained friends.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated this will be our last regular meeting as Board members. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches is seeking another term as a Board member. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches wished Mr. Arnone, Mr. Droney and Mr. Greco good luck and further stated it has been a pleasure working with each Board member.

Mr. Grady attended the TOY reception for Tom Higgins and was quite impressed with his reason for becoming a teacher. Mr. Higgins has done a great job representing our school district. Mr. Grady congratulated all of our teachers for doing great jobs.

Mr. Grady stated it has been fun working with Mr. Arnone, Mr. Droney and Mr. Greco. Mr. Grady further stated that we agree to disagree but we really did agree on quite a few items. Mr. Grady thanked his fellow Board members.

Ms. Hall stated that she attend the Youth Vote events and both were well attended and thanked Mrs. Witbro and staff members for a job well done.

Ms. Hall stated she attended the Lights on Afterschool program at Barnard and was impressed by how many attended it. The event was quite informative.

Ms. Hall also attended the TOY reception and was also impressed by Mr. Higgins speech. It was quite touching.

Ms. Hall stated that JFK's newsletter was extremely informative and thanked the staff for producing such a great newsletter.

Mr. Droney stated that the Fermi National Honor Society Induction is next week. But unfortunately it is on the same night as the Meet the Candidates Night. He wished all the students good luck.

Mr. Droney stated the new FHS SRO is Officer Mike Rotondaro. He will be a great fit for Fermi.

Mr. Droney stated the Youth Vote events were both great. One of the candidates made the remark that the questions were not made by the students. This statement is untrue. The students made all the questions up.

Mr. Droney stated that this will be Board members last meeting together. It has been an educational experience and a true honor serving with all of you. We all had a common goal of trying to do what is best for the students and the community. Mr. Droney thanked Dr. Gallacher, Mr. Torre, Mrs. Zalucki and the Central Office Staff. Mr. Droney thanked the administration members that have left us. You have made our jobs as Board members that much easier. Mr. Droney also recognized the teachers for all that they do on a daily basis throughout the entire year. Mr. Droney stated their work is heroic.

Mr. Stokes stated that he also attended the Lights on After School event and it was wonderful. Mr. Stokes also attended the TOY reception and was also impressed by Mr. Higgins. Mr. Stokes stated that the EHS Safe Grad Auction will be held on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Stokes wished Mr. Arnone, Mr. Droney and Mr. Greco good luck. He further stated that we may have disagreed but we never lost our respect for each other or our humor. Mr. Stokes stated that we all have our outside callings and thanked each Board member for what they have done.

Mr. Johnson stated it has been a great two years and hopes to see some of the same Board members after the election. Mr. Johnson wished Mr. Arnone, Mr. Droney and Mr. Greco good luck.

Chairman Greco also thanked present and past Board members. Chairman Greco thanked Dr. Gallacher, Mr. Torre, Mrs. Zalucki and the teachers. At times, it was tough and we had our differences but we did a lot of great things together like the security in our schools, upgrading our technology, reviewing and revising our policies and curriculum. Chairman Greco stated at the end of the day, we did the best for our children and the community. As Board members, we did our due diligence. Chairman Greco further stated that it has been a privilege and honor to serve on this Board and hopes that the new Board will continue to do good work.

## **11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Thank You Board Members – as presented
- b. November 3<sup>rd</sup> No School for Students – as presented
- c. November 17<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting – as presented
- d. Veteran's Day – as presented
- e. NCLB Letter to Parents – as presented
- f. Personnel Report – as presented

Dr. Gallacher gave the Board an update on H1N1. Our schools are reporting absences daily. The absenteeism rate at each school is sporadic. The CDC is telling you to think about closing if your absenteeism rate is above 40%. This is something that the administration is monitoring closely.

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Stokes reported that the Curriculum Committee met and Ms. Hall will give a report on this later in the agenda.

Ms. Hall reported that she attended the CREC meeting and reviewed information from that meeting. Ms. Hall stated that in your Friday packet, you will receive information regarding the CREC minutes, Legislative Priorities, Legislative Proposals for 2010 and a CABA Legislative Update. Ms. Hall discussed the Sheff mandate that will require schools to take students. Ms. Hall also reported that other districts are also having the same financial difficulties that Enfield is undergoing.

Ms. Hall reported that she attended a Head Start Policy meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Hall reviewed information from that meeting. Ms. Hall stated that Head Start officers and representatives were elected. Ms. Hall stated this year they will receive new equipment for hearing. Ms. Hall also reported that 71% of the Head Start students are receiving dental care. Ms. Hall further reported that some parents and grandparents are concerned that some teachers do not recognize that families other than the two parent family can exist.

**13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None**

**14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

**a. Final Reading of Revisions to Policies #5125, #5131.1 and #9341.9**

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes that the Enfield Board of Education approves the final readings to policies #5125 Policy on Student Records & Confidentiality, #5131.1 Bus Conduct and 9341.9 Exhibit File as presented.

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

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Approve HHS Grant for Head Start**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Health & Human Services Grant for \$793,424 and the acceptance of these funds for the Enfield Head Start Program.

**Discussion:**

Ms. Hall asked both Mrs. Clement and Ms. Levasseur to be present to answer any questions from Board members.

Mrs. Clement stated that Head Start had their review in June 2009 and is happy to report that they met all the requirements and showed strength within the mental health category. Ms. Levasseur reviewed the outcome measurements.

Ms. Hall asked if the Enfield Head Start was in line for a competition for \$1 million because of your success year after year and will you apply for it. Mrs. Clement stated that they operate as a delegate under Manchester Head Start. So it would be up to our grantee Manchester to apply for this.

Mr. Droney congratulated Mrs. Clement and her staff for a job well done.

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

**b. Curricula Adoptions**

Ms. Hall reviewed each curricula presented at the Curriculum meeting on October 20, 2009.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes that the Enfield Board of Education approves the curricula adoptions for Kindergarten Math; Business Law 1 (527) & 2 (528); Accounting 1 (530) & 2 (531); K-6 General Music; UCONN Individual & Family Development (800); and Family & Society (812) as presented.

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

**c. Approve 2010-2012 Program of Studies**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Droney that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2010-2012 Program of Studies.

**Discussion:**

Ms. Hall asked Mr. Sargalski, Mr. Brown and Mrs. Osborn to be present to answer any questions from Board members.

Ms. Hall stated that Mrs. Osborn was instrumental with the development of the 2010-2012 Program of Studies. Mrs. Osborn produced the charts that are included in the program of studies.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that she would like to see a disclaimer added to the program of Studies regarding the availability of courses may not be available or may not be offered. This is something that should be looked into especially if the course is no longer available. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that she likes the charts that have been added to the program of studies.

Mr. Arnone congratulated Mr. Brown, Mr. Sargalski and Mrs. Osborn for a job well done.

Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Sargalski stated a disclaimer can be added to the program of studies. They will also be looking for student art work to place on the cover of the 2010-12 Program of Studies.

Ms. Hall also thanked Mr. Brown, Mr. Sargalski and Mrs. Osborn for all the work they did on the 2010-12 Program of Studies.

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

Ms. Hall also stated that the FACS would like to offer additional cooking classes due to the number of students that want to take this class.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Ms. Droney to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2009. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Joyce P. Hall  
Secretary  
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary