



Education, seconded by Mr. Grady. Ms. Hall moved to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Grady. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

A vote by **roll call 7-0-1** passed with Mr. Johnson abstaining.

Chairman Stokes congratulated Vice Chairman Johnson.

**c. Secretary of the Board of Education**

Chairman Stokes opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Grady moved to elect Joyce Hall as the Secretary for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Mrs. Thurston. There were no other nominations. Ms. Hall moved to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Grady. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Stokes congratulated Secretary Hall.

**6. SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman Stokes recognized outgoing Board members that were not present. They did a great service for us. Both Mr. Greco and Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa were not able to attend. Mr. Greco did a fabulous job as our Board Chairman. We appreciate his service and leadership. Mr. Greco will be missed.

Chairman Stokes presented Mr. Tom Arnone with a plaque of appreciation. Mr. Arnone stated it was an honor to serve on the Board. Mr. Arnone wished everyone good luck and handed Board members policy #8110 Role of the Enfield Board of Education. Mr. Arnone urged Board members to know their role. Mr. Arnone thanked everyone and wished them good luck.

Chairman Stokes stated we appreciated Mr. Arnone's service. The last two years have been trying and challenging at times. We may not have always agreed but we were always agreeable with our personalities. Chairman Stokes thanked Mr. Arnone.

Chairman Stokes presented Mr. Patrick Droney with a plaque of appreciation. Mr. Droney stated the last two years flew by. Mr. Droney stated he has gained a tremendous appreciation for what it takes to be a Board member. Mr. Droney stated that he has become friends with Chairman Stokes and appreciates his friendship. Mr. Droney stated that both he and Mr. Grady have been friends for many years. Mr. Droney stated Mr. Grady was his best man at his wedding. We may have had some disagreements over the past two years, but we have remained friends and has a tremendous respect for Mr. Grady. Mr. Droney stated Board members have a lot of hard work ahead of them. The next two years will be hard. Mr. Droney wished Board members good luck and thanked them.

Chairman Stokes stated that he will miss Mr. Droney. Both Mr. Droney and Mr. Arnone were always interested in what was best for the students in Enfield.

**7. COMMENTS, IF ANY, FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRPERSON**

Chairman Stokes thanked his fellow Board members for electing him as Chairperson. He is committed to make this a great an effective Board of Education. He will share information equally and timely so we can make the best decisions. Within the nine of us, there is wisdom, talent and strong desire to move this district forward. Chairman Stokes pledges his dedication to the students and their success. Chairman Stokes pledges to work willingly side-by-side with

the administrators, teachers and support staff. Chairman Stokes pledges to understand and to be prudent with the taxpayer's hard earned money. Chairman Stokes thanked his campaign team, Maryann Turner and Jason Jones for all of their hard work. Chairman Stokes thanked his wife and his family for their patience, understanding and support. With out their support, none of us could do what we are doing. Chairman Stokes stated it is time to get busy and it is a new day in Enfield education.

#### **8. COMMENTS, IF ANY, FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**

Chairman Stokes welcomed Mrs. Thurston to the Board of Education. Mrs. Thurston stated she is looking forward serving the Town and the students. There is a lot to learn and is hoping for a great two years.

Mr. Grady thanked Mr. Arnone and Mr. Droney for their service. It was a pleasure working with you. We didn't agree on a few items, but we did agree on a lot. Mr. Grady stated that his friendship with Mr. Droney has survived through it. Mr. Grady stated that Mr. Arnone's spirited conversations has made the Board entertaining at times. It was a pleasure serving with you both. Mr. Grady thanked the people that voted for him and he will do his best and due diligence to provide the best education we can at a good price for the taxpayers. Mr. Grady thanked his family. Our families support us the most. Mr. Grady is looking forward to working with all the new Board members. It will be a couple of tough years but is sure we can provide our students with a sound education.

Ms. Hall thanked all her supporters during this election. Ms. Hall congratulated Ted Plamondon for being inducted into the Connecticut Veteran's Hall of Fame and those that were awarded by the Police Department for their various activities for saving people in our Town and for providing services to the Town. Ms. Hall wished the EHS Schools Match Wits team success in their upcoming contest in November. Please watch them on PBS. Ms. Hall is looking forward to a collegial Board working for the good of education in Enfield without the focusing on partisan politics in Enfield for the next two years.

Chairman Stokes stated that Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches will be back for the next Board meeting and that she was sworn in early today.

FHS Student Representative Meghan Ruff reminded Board members to turn their microphones on and you are in a lucky position because you can vote on things that are for the good of the students. Ms. Ruff thanked Board members.

Chairman Stokes welcomed Mr. Jonaitis to the Board and stated you do not need to move the microphones. Mr. Jonaitis stated he will do what he wants in jest. Mr. Jonaitis thanked everyone that helped him get on the Board of Education and the Republican team that has the majority. We were elected as a team and hopes the next two years we come out as a team of nine as opposed to a team of five. We need to put aside our differences and work for the betterment of the children. Mr. Jonaitis would like to get our elected officials in the Town of Enfield and the Teachers in Enfield back on sound footing. Petty differences need to come to an end and we have to work together for the kids in Enfield. Mr. Jonaitis stated after 37 ½ years as a teacher in our Town and recently retired for one year, the No Child Left Behind is a run away freight train and it is not going away. Some things need to change and we are going to have to do things quite differently. We need to have the teachers teach to other than just the test. Mr. Jonaitis stated everything he has said is for the betterment of the kids and the teachers in our Town. Thank you.

Chairman Stokes welcomed Mr. Sirard to the Board. Mr. Sirard thanked his friends and family for their support. Mr. Sirard thanked the voters for their support and the trust they have placed in him and pledges to keep and maintain that trust. Mr. Sirard is hoping that we can

all work together as a nine Board team and is confident that we can do it. It won't be easy and we probably will have some disagreements but at the end of the day we all want the same thing. Thank you.

Chairman Stokes welcomed Mrs. Szewczak to the Board. Mrs. Szewczak thanked everyone that showed their support and the Republican Town Committee for backing her as a candidate and everyone in the Town of Enfield for voting for her. This is an honor and a pleasure to serve. This will get me back into something that is very important to me – education and the children in Enfield. If we educate our children and do it well, everything else will follow in suit.

Vice Chairman Johnson stated that he is truly grateful to be here again. Mr. Johnson will continue to strive for an equal balance for the student's needs and the needs of the taxpayer. Schools are in place to education our young. They are our future. The Board of Education needs to find the best balance for our students. We need to provide our students the best education that is affordable. The nine Board members each will bring their own special talents to this Board. We all want to provide a positive impact on the lives of the students currently here and those that will follow them. Mr. Johnson thanked the voters of Enfield, the Board for their support in him as Vice Chairman and his wife and family. Mr. Johnson stated that it is important for him to give back something to his community

Chairman Stokes thanked the audience for coming tonight and for supporting the Board. We look forward to working with the Administration and the Town Council. Times will be challenging but we have the talent and the energy to meet that challenge.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard to adjourn the Special Meeting of November 17, 2009. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Joyce P. Hall  
Secretary  
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary