

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 24, 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 November 24, 2009.

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, Charles Johnson, Judy Apruzzese-Desroches, Joyce Hall, Vincent Grady, Stacy Thurston and Greg Stokes

**MEMBERS ABSENT** None

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

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson that the Special & Regular Meeting Minutes of October 27, 2009 be approved. There was one correction - Ms. Hall would like the Regular meeting minutes of October 27, 2009 under Board Committee Reports - Head Start Policy to have the following added – 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. Motion passed with this change by a **show of hands 5-0-4** with Mr. Jonaitis, Mr. Sirard, Mrs. Szewczak and Mrs. Thurston abstaining.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Special Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2009 be approved. There were two corrections - Mr. Jonaitis would like under Newly Elected Board Members Comments to have the following changes made – change 47 ½ years to 37 ½ years and Mr. Jonaitis stated that he will do what he wants in jest. Motion passed with this change by a **show of hands 8-0-1** with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches abstaining.

7. **BOARD GUESTS**

a. **Community Health Center, Inc.**

Chairman Stokes welcomed the Jane Hylan, the Director of Community Health Center (CHC) to the Board meeting. Ms. Hylan stated she is the Director of School Based Health Services at CHC and is here to propose to the Enfield Public Schools how the in-school behavioral health program can serve the students and Enfield Community. Ms. Hylan introduced Megan Giesen,

a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and she works for the Meriden school system for CHC. CHC has been providing school based services for 15 years. CHC is already providing dental health services to Enfield students. CHC is prepared to start delivering school-based behavioral services to selective schools in Enfield. They will need office space, telephone and internet access to run their school-based behavioral services. They offer group services, individual services, family services and are available for PPT's. This would be a partnership with CHC, the teachers, parents and the Board of Education would set the terms of the contract similar to the dental services we are currently receiving. Parents would need to approve and give consent before any services can be given. CHC will not replace any staff in our schools. CHC is here to enhance our school social workers. In-kind services would be used; therefore there will be no cost to the Enfield Public Schools for this service. Services will be available to all students regardless of insurance. Students that have insurance will pay \$10 co-pay for each visit. Healthier children make better students.

Mr. Johnson stated that CHC would need internet services and asked if they would need any specific type of program? Ms. Hylan stated they would use our network and would VPN into the CHC network.

Mr. Grady asked Dr. Gallacher if we would be able to provide the space to house this program. Dr. Gallacher stated we would be able to use the space that another provider was using. Dr. Gallacher further stated that when CHC made its initial presentation, we had a high school guidance counselor, high school social worker, psychologist and Cindy Stamm present and they called other school systems that were using CHC. The responses they received were very good reports. Dr. Gallacher stated this service can be given throughout the year. The space used would be minimal.

Mr. Grady asked how long the contract would be for. Ms. Hylan stated the contract can be set annually. Dr. Gallacher stated our current Dental Contract is for a year. Mr. Grady asked if we would be better off to set a multi year contract or yearly contract. Dr. Gallacher would like us to set a one year contract and see how it goes. We did this with the dental program.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked which schools would receive the services. Dr. Gallacher would discuss this with our Pupil Services Department to see where the services are needed most, but believes it would be placed at the high schools, middle school and some elementary schools.

Mr. Sirard stated the actual cost would be in-kind services, nothing else. Ms. Hylan stated that is correct.

Mr. Grady asked if we are limited to the number of schools CHC can cover. Ms. Hylan stated that it depends on the need of the school and we need to bring in a social worker that will be busy. In some communities, CHC is in every school.

Ms. Szewczak asked if it would be better to start off in the elementary schools first. Dr. Gallacher stated a lot of the issues are with our high school and middle school students. Ms. Hylan stated starting at the elementary schools would be ideal to avoid dealing with the bigger issues at the high school level but services are still needed at the secondary schools.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches agrees with Mrs. Szewczak but every year we hear about a high school student that has committed suicide. This area needs to be addressed. If CHC services can help, thank you.

Ms. Hall asked if they plan to be full time. Ms. Hylan stated that will depend on which schools we are at. Some times we will split a social worker between two schools. It depends on the need.

Ms. Hall asked how CHC's fees compare to other services in the area. Ms. Hylan stated we are federally qualified and will bill accordingly. The student's co-pay set at \$10 across the board regardless of what their insurance requires. The parent's might use CHC services and the co-pay might be higher.

Mr. Grady stated if we voted on this tonight, how soon can these services be provided? Ms. Hylan stated CHC will need to recruit first and believes we could start in January.

Chairman Stokes stated that Board leadership will meet in a week to review this. Chairman Stokes further stated, the he would like to hear presentations first, then it will discussed it with Board leadership and then it will be placed on the next regular Board agenda for action.

Mr. Sirard asked if the Board would be liable, if CHC self-insured or would they require a rider from the Enfield Board of Education? Ms. Hylan stated in the proposal that was sent to Dr. Gallacher, it discuss liability and she believes it is either the Board or the Town of Enfield that becomes liable.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that is how the dental program worked.

Mr. Sirard asked if we can be sued by the user of the service. Ms. Hylan stated there is language in the proposal that was sent and does not want to misquote the information. Chairman Stokes asked Dr. Gallacher to forward a copy of the proposal to Board members.

Board members thanked Megan and Jane for coming and wished them a happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Hall thanked them for the dental program.

**b. Barry Bernstein, Athletic Coordinator**

Chairman Stokes asked Mr. Bernstein here to discuss the 2010 Enfield High/Fermi Thanksgiving game.

Mr. Bernstein stated when Enfield and Fermi where in the CCIL and the league became too large, it then became the CCC in the 1990's. Enfield High joined another league. The CCC closed the doors when they reached 32 teams last year. Enfield High has been in the NCCC for all sports except for football and hockey. The problem is the Nutmeg football conference that Enfield High school was is in disbanded. Enfield had no conference to join this year. We applied to the Pequot League and explained our long standing Thanksgiving Day game with Fermi. They denied us. The costs associated being an independent is phenomenal. The student's loose out on any student academic conference awards, any all-league or league conference awards. We then reapplied to the Pequot Conference for next year. The Pequot League will assign all the games that will be played starting with the Thanksgiving game working backwards. Next year the new league setup will have playoff games the week after Thanksgiving. Enfield High will play a rival within the Pequot League on Thanksgiving Day. Mr. Bernstein has already received a call from a rival CCC school that would like to play against Fermi on Thanksgiving day There is no way for Enfield High to join the CCC conference at this time.

Mr. Jonaitis asked how close is Enfield High's enrollment to joining the CCC? Mr. Bernstein stated the CCC has the largest school enrollment sizes in the State. Some of the schools have 400 to 3,000 students. The size does not have anything to getting into the CCC. The NCCC has M Schools, S Schools and a few L Schools.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if they are breaking up the schools within the league based on enrollment. Mr. Bernstein stated they are doing this somewhat but mostly based on geographic areas.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if there are any options for us. Mr. Bernstein does not know of any conferences that are seeking teams except for the Pequot. The Pequot League is only for football.

Mr. Jonaitis stated Enfield High will remain in the NCCC for all sports except for football that will be in the Pequot League. Mr. Bernstein stated that is correct except that the Enfield High Hockey is also in a different league, the Northern Hockey Conference (NHC).

Ms. Hall asked if the Thanksgiving Day game is a deal breaker. Mr. Bernstein stated it was last year but after we looked at trying to schedule football games for Enfield High, we realized how difficult it is was and reapplied to the Pequot League. Mr. Bernstein believes we will be allowed into the Pequot League. We will find out in December.

Mr. Grady asked if Fermi can get into the Pequot League. Mr. Bernstein stated no because they would be going out of the CCC conference. The CCC has every sport in their conference.

Mrs. Szewczak asked if we have a freshman and JV football team. Mr. Bernstein stated that Fermi now has a freshman football team. Both the freshman & JV teams have played games against Enfield High.

Mrs. Szewczak asked if the two high schools could play a non-varsity game. Mr. Bernstein stated the CIAC rules committee has stated that the last varsity game of the season must be a scheduled game.

Mr. Bernstein stated there is a coaches meeting in December. EHS football coach Jay Gaucher will be at this meeting. They will also hold a principals meeting in December. Mr. Bernstein will share the information he receives from both meetings.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if Mr. Bernstein needs anything from the Board. Mr. Bernstein stated his heart is committed to making all of our programs the best that they can be and to give the students an equal opportunity to compete. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if any Board action is needed. Mr. Bernstein stated no, he just want to inform the Board of where we are at this time.

FHS Student Representative Meghan Ruff stated this will end the FHS/EHS Thanksgiving Day Football game. Mr. Bernstein stated that unless something changes, the 38<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day game will be the last at this point. Ms. Ruff asked if there is a chance this could be a year to year basis. Mr. Bernstein stated this will depend on how they break down the schedule.

Mrs. Szewczak asked if all of the other teams play each high school. Mr. Bernstein stated they don't all play each other any more. Mrs. Szewczak stated that is too bad because this is a fun way of bring the Town together. Mr. Bernstein stated some of teams play each other either one or two times during the season.

Chairman Stokes asked Mr. Bernstein to keep us informed of any new developments. This is a passionate situation that is out of our control.

Mr. Bernstein told Board members to e-mail or call him with any questions. He is here for the educational process for the students in Enfield.

Chairman Stokes asked Mr. Bernstein who he is rooting for at the Thanksgiving game. Mr. Bernstein stated he sits in the middle of the field and does not root for any one team.

Chairman Stokes thanked Mr. Bernstein for coming.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**9. AUDIENCES - None**

**10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

EHS Student Representative Connor Spain stated that he is rooting for Enfield High on Thursday.

Mrs. Thurston stated she is rooting for the Falcons. Mrs. Thurston stated Eli Whitney will hold a fund raiser on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Barnes & Noble. They will also have an ice cream social on December 9<sup>th</sup> in the all-purpose room at 6:00 PM. Mrs. Thurston stated she had a lot of fun serving food at St. Patrick's last week.

Mr. Grady stated he is rooting for the Raiders. Mr. Grady attended the EHS DECA induction ceremony. Approximately 30 students were inducted. Mrs. Stone and Mr. Clement did a very nice job.

FHS Student Representative MeghanRuff is rooting for the Falcons.

Mrs. Szewczak stated she has contacted Nathan Hale and is looking forward visiting. She will be gone for the next two weeks and will return on December 10<sup>th</sup>. You can e-mail her and she will respond to any e-mails when she gets back.

Mr. Johnson is rooting for the Raiders. Mr. Johnson stated Enfield Street will have a PTO meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup>, Enfield High will put on a play called "Pillow Talk" on December 6<sup>th</sup> and the Torch Light Parade will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Stokes stated he is rooting for the referees. EFEE held a fund raiser on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Twin Rinks. The students had a great time. EFEE will offer grants to our educators with the money they raise.

Mr. Grady further stated that Fermi Safe Grad will hold an auction on December 4<sup>th</sup> to raise money.

**11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Thanksgiving – as presented
- b. December 4<sup>th</sup> In-Service – as presented
- c. December 8<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting – as presented
- d. H1N1 Make-Up Days Plan, if Necessary – as presented
- e. Final 2008-09 Strategic School Profiles – as presented
- f. Personnel Report – as presented
- g. Grants Update – as presented
- h. ITPC Update – as presented

Mr. Grady asked if the absenteeism rates have gone down. Dr. Gallacher stated they are much lower. Nursing Supervisor Vayda is still sending me the absenteeism each week. Bill Blitz still believes that Enfield can be hit by the H1N1 Flu. Enfield has been lucky so far.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

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

14. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

15. **NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Donate Two Student Parking Spaces to the Fermi SAFE GRAD**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education donates two parking spaces to the Fermi Safe Grad.

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked if we should also donate two parking spaces to the Enfield High Safe Grad. They also have other fund raising events coming up.

Dr. Gallacher commented that Enfield High did raffle off two parking spaces at their auction that was already held. Chairman Stokes stated they were donated by Mr. Duffy.

Mr. Grady moved to amend his original motion, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education donates two parking spaces to both the Fermi & Enfield High Safe Grads.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches further stated that this comes up every year. Can we amend the amended motion to continue this ongoing tradition every year? Chairman Stokes would prefer for us to address this every year. It gives the Board the chance to acknowledge both Safe Grad Committees.

A vote by **show of hands 9-0-0** on the amended motion passed unanimously.

**b. Board Committee Appointments**

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Board Committee Appointments for 2009-11.

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that Board members can attend as many of these meetings that they would like to attend. If something on any of the committee agendas interests you, you are more than welcome to attend. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches mentioned that each committee is supposed to take minutes and that the minutes should be posted on our web-site. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches would like to see that the chairs do this. Chairman Stokes stated the minutes for the standing committees are needed.

Mrs. Thurston asked if Board members would receive a schedule as to when the meetings will be held. Chairman Stokes stated the chair of the committee will be contacted by Central Office prior to the meeting to set the agenda. Mrs. Zalucki stated that once the committee membership has been approved, she will contact each chair and set up the dates, times and locations for each meeting.

A vote by **roll call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

**c. Action, if any, on a Monetary Gift to the District**

Chairman Stokes stated that the Board received a monetary gift from Abraham Simcovitz to be used for a Gifted and Talented Program. Mr. Simcovitz wife was a teacher in Enfield several

years ago. Mr. Simcovitz had previously asked the Board where he could financially help the Board. Several other organizations wanted some of his estate. Chairman Stokes, Ms. Hall and Mr. Grady attended the hearing. After mediation, the courts settled his estate.

Ms. Hall added for clarification – those who have contested the bequest, will receive \$250K to clear the way for the Board to receive what was bequeathed to us for a "gifted and talented" program.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Enfield Board of Education to accept the mediation settlement from Mr. Simcovitz estate for the amount of \$250K.

A vote by **roll call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

## **16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Stokes stated the Board has the need to enter into executive Session. Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education enters into executive session to discuss:

- a. Matter(s) Related to Pending Claims & Litigation – Document Protected by Attorney-Client Privilege
- b. Matter(s) Pertaining to Collective Bargaining – ESAA Contract

Motion passed by a **show of hands 7-2-0**, with Mr. Grady and Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches in dissent.

Dr. Gallacher, Mr. Torre and Mrs. Parmelee-Blancato joined the Board in Executive Session. Mrs. Parmelee-Blancato was excused from Executive Session at 9:15 PM.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of adjourn the Executive Session.

A vote by **show of hands 9-0-0**, passed unanimously. No actions were taken while in executive session.

## **17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sirard moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 24, 2009. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Joyce P. Hall  
Secretary  
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary