

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 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 November 25, 2008.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Greco.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE** Patrick Droney
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Patrick Droney
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; Anthony Torre, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Sean Patrick Crane, 2008-09 TOY; Mark Reppucci and Section Leaders from the FHS Marching Band; Debra Berger, Thomas G. Alcorn Principal; Nancy Hayes, Henry Barnard Principal; Bonnie Mazzoli, Prudence Crandall Principal; Ellie Goldberg, Enfield Street Principal and Altressa Cox-Blackwell, Hazardville Memorial Principal

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** None
7. **BOARD GUESTS**
- a. **Teacher of the Year**

Chairman Greco introduced Enfield's 2008-09 Teacher of the Year - Sean Patrick Crane. Mr. Crane is a Social Studies teacher at Enfield High School. Chairman Greco stated that he was quite impressed to see Mr. Crane in his classroom helping two students after 4:30 PM the other day. Chairman Greco presented Mr. Crane with a plaque from the Enfield Board of Education.

Mr. Crane thanked Board members, Enfield Teacher of the Year Committee members, EHS Social Studies Department, EHS Administration, Mr. Difilipi, Dr. Gallacher, Mr. Torre, Ms. Zalucki, Mr. DeMash, Ms. Neil, EHS student Patrick Thomson, Dr. Henderson and Mrs. Mazzoli. Mr. Crane stated there are many additional people he would like to thank, but he would stop.

Mr. Crane thanked Chief Sferrazzi, Chief Alaimo, Vincent Grady and EMT Workers for their assistance with Dr. Taylor. Dr. Taylor is recuperating nicely. Mr. Crane spoke to Dr. Taylor's son and they may discharge him from the hospital in a few days.

Mr. Crane discussed what makes an effective teacher and what makes an accountable teacher. He was taught, coached and mentored by Mr. DeFilipi. Dr. Taylor also mentored Mr. Crane. Dr.

Celio had a tremendous influence on Mr. Crane as well as Frank Gaul and John Fletcher. They are what an accountable teacher is - you show up every day ready to work with your students and know your content. Mr. Crane stated that we are all accountable to the taxpayers and the students.

Mr. Crane stated together, we live in each others shadows. Mr. Crane stated that those who taught and mentored him have inspired him. Thank you.

Chairman Greco and Board members thanked Mr. Crane.

b. Fermi High Marching Band

Chairman Greco introduced the Enrico Fermi Marching Band and Mr. Reppucci. Chairman Greco congratulated them on their first place finish at the United States Scholastic Band Association's New England and State Championship. This is the fourth consecutive year this marching band has achieved this award.

Mr. Reppucci thanked Dr. Gallacher, Mr. Torre and Board members for inviting them. Mr. Reppucci is extremely proud of the Enrico Fermi Marching Falcons. Mr. Reppucci stated that the students are extremely dedicated. They have consistently demonstrated excellence throughout their numerous performances. Thank you for supporting our program. Mr. Reppucci introduced section leaders and the awards they have received – Andrew Pizzuto, Andre Silva, Nick Craven, Kaleigh Duggan, Tyler Reese, Jack Shaughnessy, Nicky Campisi, Nicole Haynes, Peter Lipomi, Ashley Marco, Eric Ballard, Emily Gracewski, Samantha Hurlburt, Jack Zarcaro and Al Iacolino. Mr. Reppucci stated there are a total of 96 members in the marching band and ensembles.

Mr. Reppucci urged Board members and audience members to come to the football game to hear the band or you can hear them at their December 17th concert at 6:30 PM or the Torchlight Parade on December 7th. Mr. Reppucci thanked Board members.

Chairman Greco asked the elementary principals to move to the front row for any Board member questions. Chairman Greco stated that Board members saw three of the nine elementary schools CMT presentations a couple of weeks ago. The remaining principals are here to answer any questions.

Mr. Arnone asked for a brief overview of the needs of your school for Enfield Street and Alcorn.

Mrs. Berger stated that 3 out of 4 students at Alcorn receive free and/or reduced lunches. Mrs. Berger stated that many students do not have the focus or language skills and are unable to set goals for themselves. We are working with students in small groups. The Alcorn staff looks at the specific needs of each student in order to help them. Academic support in math and reading is an area that additional help is needed in.

Mrs. Goldberg stated that Enfield Street has just been identified as a Title I school - 35% of our students receive free and/or reduced lunch. We are also working with our students in small groups for comprehension. Our students are also lacking enhanced language skills and staff members are continually playing the catch-up game. Additional staff would allow us to provide additional help in small group settings.

Mr. Arnone asked for the explanation of Title I. Mrs. Berger stated that Title I is based on the percentage of students that qualify for free and/or reduced lunches based on the percentage of the overall district. Dr. Gallacher stated that besides free and/or reduced lunches there are other criteria items. We have selected to use free and/or reduced lunches. Title I is a component of the ESEA (Elementary Secondary Education Act) with the intent to supplement not supplant local efforts. The Board hired 3 additional teachers with the Title I monies. Dr.

Gallacher publicly thanked our elected representative – Joe Courtney. We received a significant increase in our Title I funds due to his petitioning. Barnard is at 33% for free and/or reduced lunches and if they reach 35% they will also be a Title I school. If Barnard becomes a Title I school, we will need to split our funds between 3 schools.

Ms. Hall asked the elementary principals to state what they are most proud of in each of their schools.

Mrs. Berger stated that she is extremely proud that Alcorn made safe harbor. The teachers and students worked hard to reach this goal. The Alcorn family works very hard to meet the needs of the students. Staff members are dedicated. The students are resilient and have beautiful spirits. Mrs. Berger is very happy to be the principal at Alcorn School.

Mrs. Goldberg stated that she is also proud of Enfield Street for making AYP. We are a HOT school and are thankful for the support of the Rotarians. All the teachers strive to deliver education to all students with multiple intelligences. Students do not learn by just paper and pencil. The arts are extremely important. Mrs. Goldberg stated that she is extremely proud to be the principal at Enfield Street School.

Ms. Hall asked if Enfield Street received another HOT grant this year. Mrs. Goldberg stated that when you are through with the HOT School grant you have the opportunity to buy into the network at a cost of \$6,500. The Enfield Street School PTO sponsors them with \$3,500 and the Rotarian's sponsored the remaining amount.

Mrs. Mazzoli stated that she is most proud of the students, staff and Prudence Crandall families. The staff and students have made improvements and have risen to the occasion. Staff members have been working with data and everyone is looking at the children's needs. We are growing in all areas. We received a grant from CREC for students in grade 5 & 6 for non-fiction.

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell stated that she is also proud of her teachers, students and parents. Memorial embraces the learning opportunity. Memorial will have an additional subgroup next year. Small group instruction helps the students at Memorial to focus on their personal best. If students are doing their personal best, we can not ask for anything else. Mrs. Cox-Blackwell stated she is proud to be the principal at Hazardville Memorial.

Mrs. Hayes stated that she is proud of the staff at Henry Barnard. The data driven decision making teams at grade levels look at monthly progress and monthly we celebrate accomplishments. We received a technology grant from CREC where staff members will receive additional training with Software Inspiredata. We will purchase the software that can be shared with students. Mrs. Hayes encourages Board members to come to Barnard and see what they are doing with data decision teams.

Ms. Hall stated that she was pleased to hear that all staff members are working together enthusiastically. Ms. Hall thanked the elementary principals.

Chairman Greco thanked the elementary principals.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

9. AUDIENCES

Kathy Thomson, Duff Drive – Mrs. Thomson congratulated Mr. Crane as Enfield's Teacher of the Year and urged you to talk to him regarding his travels. Mrs. Thomson was happy to hear that Dr. Taylor is on the road to recovery. Mrs. Thomson stated that she is here tonight regarding graduations. There are only 4 schools that use the Cathedral for graduations – Windsor, South

Windsor, Fermi and Enfield. Bloomfield does not graduate at the Cathedral. Mrs. Thomson would like to know the delivery time for the protective covering for the fields. Mrs. Thomson stated there is a difference between a solemn ceremony and being respectful. When the Town and schools combined their grounds crews we were told there would be a significant cost savings. Where are those costs savings? We are now being told it is too expensive to hold the graduations in town. Mr. Tkacz referred to holding Enfield proms in town at Figaro's. Figaro's is not large enough to hold a prom. Mrs. Thomson thanked Board members for allowing her to speak and urged Board member's to allow Enfield High to graduate in town. Mrs. Thomson wished Board members a happy Thanksgiving.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Droney publicly thanked Chief Sferrazza, Chief Alaimo and North Thompsonville Firefighters for their heroic efforts last week with Dr. Taylor. Mr. Droney stated EHS students are looking forward to him coming back. Mr. Droney extends his best wishes to Dr. Taylor. Mr. Droney stated that Mr. Grady and EMT workers did a great job and you do not get enough credit for what you do. Thank you.

Mr. Droney congratulated Mr. Crane as our Teacher of the Year and congratulated the Enrico Fermi Marching Falcons. Mr. Droney stated that Mr. Reppucci does a fabulous job. Mr. Droney urges everyone to come watch the football game on Thanksgiving.

Mr. Stokes thanked everyone for coming to tonight's Board meeting and speaking. Last year, they projected 30 days to get the protective coverings for the fields. Mr. Stokes thanked Mrs. Thomson for speaking up regarding graduations. Mr. Stokes congratulated Mr. Crane. Mr. Stokes stated that the Torchlight Parade will be held on December 7th and this year they will turn into Thompsonville before ending up on the Town Green. Please come out on December 7th.

Mr. Johnson reminded everyone about the Enfield/Fermi Football game. Mr. Johnson wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Johnson stated that our prayers are with Dr. Taylor and hopes to see him back real soon.

Mr. Arnone would like to place an item on the agenda for discussion – starting the meetings at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 PM. Chairman Greco deferred this item to be placed on a Policy meeting agenda. Mr. Arnone congratulated Mr. Crane and stated that he has a lot of enthusiasm and a strong work ethic. Mr. Arnone asked Dr. Gallacher to find out why we have a 12.0 G.P.A. instead of a 4.0 G.P.A.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches echoed everyone's sentiments stated tonight.

Mr. Grady wished Dr. Taylor well wishes and congratulated Mr. Crane. Mr. Crane knows his subject matter extremely well and is a great teacher. Mr. Grady stated that Mr. Crane is one of our many passionate teachers in our school system. Mr. Grady congratulated the Fermi High Marching Band and all of the principals at our schools. The principals guide and motivate the teachers and they are passionate because of you. Mr. Grady wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Ms. Hall agrees with what everyone has said tonight. Ms. Hall stated that the handouts from the CABE/CAPSS Convention can now be found on-line at www.cabe.org and information regarding the High School Reform can also be found there. The anticipated costs are quite expensive.

Chairman Greco congratulated Mr. Crane as our Teacher of the Year. Chairman Greco was impressed to see him working with students at 4:30 PM. This was truly inspiring and he can see why Mr. Crane is our Teacher of the Year. Chairman Greco congratulated Mr. Reppucci for

creating such a quality program and it is a true testament of your talent and dedication of both you and your students. Chairman Greco wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Thanksgiving Vacation – as presented
- b. December 2nd Special Meeting – as presented
- c. December 3rd Joint Meeting with Town Council – as presented
- d. Personnel Report – as presented

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Arnone stated that the Finance Committee met and reported that the Audit Committee had questions with \$350K and Mr. Arnone stated that the question has been resolved by all parties. All parties agree to the \$350K balance. Mr. Arnone thanked Mr. Drezek and Mr. Neville for their assistance and especially Mr. Drezek. The business office needs updated software. This issue could have been easily resolved with updated software that can show transparency.

Mr. Stokes reported that the Curriculum Committee met Monday night and will present later on the agenda. Mr. Stokes reminded Board members about the money set aside for textbooks in the CIP account. The Curriculum Committee has been looking into purchasing items and will submit their lists in a couple of weeks.

Ms. Hall reported that the Computer Technology Teachers submitted a detailed report regarding teacher and student instruction. Ms. Hall will provide Board members with a copy of one of the reports in the future.

Chairman Greco reported that the security projects at JFK and FHS are complete and the cameras are recording. At EHS, the installation should be completed next week. Training will start on December 15th. The complete security project should conclude prior to Christmas.

Ms. Hall asked about the State Department of Education reducing funds for security grants for next year and asked if this will affect us. Chairman Greco stated that this may affect the second round of security grants that we applied for. What we are doing now will not be affected.

13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

a. For the Month of October FY2007-08

Mr. Arnone moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of October FY2007-08, total expenditures amount to \$217,316.62, broken down between payroll totaling \$0 and other accounts totaling \$217,316.62. 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 8-0-0**, motion passes.

b. For the Month of October FY2008/09

Mr. Arnone 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 October FY2008-09, total expenditures amount to \$5,634,327.32, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,496,190.91 and other accounts totaling \$1,138,136.41. 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 8-0-0**, motion passes.

c. Line Item Transfers, if any - None

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Policy Revision #5131.9 Anti Bullying – Final Reading

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Dronney that the Enfield Board of Education accepts changes to Policy #5131.9 Anti Bullying as a final reading.

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

b. Renumber & Revise Policy #8370 to Align with 9000 Series – Policy #9350 Hearings – Final Reading

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education accepts changes to Policy #9350 Hearings as a final reading.

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

c. Policy Revision to Selected Policies in the 2000 Series, Administration – Final Reading

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the changes to Policies #2110 Superintendent Job Description; #2110.1 Purposes of Evaluation – Superintendent of Schools; #2111 Superintendent of Schools – Appointment; #2112.12 The Superintendent of Schools – School Report Cards; #2112.13 The Superintendent of Schools – Communications from Employees; #2112.14 The Superintendent of Schools – Office Hours; #2130 Staff Supervisory Personnel; #2212 Principal – General Functions; 2212.2 Principals – Supervision of Students; 2212.3 Principals – Suspension of Pupils and 2450 Review of Administrative Decisions as a final reading.

A vote by **roll call 8-0-0**, motion passes.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education rescinds Policies #2112.5 Superintendent of Schools – Temporary Appointments; #2111.12 Superintendent of Schools – Supervision of Custodians and #2212.4 Administrators – Vacation. These policies are obsolete and they should be rescinded.

Mr. Grady and Chairman Greco questioned the second policy number read by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson stated the correct policy number is 2112.15 Superintendent of Schools – Supervision of Custodians not 2111.12.

Discussion:

Chairman Greco stated that he is uncomfortable with the way the motion was read and asked for the original motion to be withdrawn and restated with the three correct policy numbers and titles.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Grady to withdraw the original motion.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Enfield Board of Education rescind Policies #2112.5 Superintendent of Schools – Temporary Appointments; #2112.15 Superintendent of Schools – Supervision of Custodians and #2212.4 Administrators – Vacation be rescinded.

A vote by **roll call 8-0-0**, motion passes

15. NEW BUSINESS

Motion to Add an Item to the Agenda:

Mr. Arnone moved, seconded by Mr. Droney to Approval of a Grant for PK-6 Reading Intervention Materials for Instructional Support and Assessment.

A vote by **show of hands 7-1-0**, motion passes with Mr. Johnson in dissent.

Chairman Greco stated that this will be Item 15c.

a. Approve Addendum to Program of Studies

Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Addendum to the Program of Studies.

A vote by **roll call 8-0-0**. Motion passes unanimously.

b. Discussion on Board Contributions to Organizations

Chairman Greco asked Dr. Gallacher to clarify his memo to Board members.

Dr. Gallacher stated that the Enfield Town Charter states that no more than \$500 can be donated to an organization by the Board unless the Board has a liaison to that organization. If you do not have a liaison, you are limited to donating only \$500 and since we have a liaison to SAFE Grad, Board members can exceed that amount.

Mr. Droney moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes that the Enfield Board of Education donates two parking spaces at both high schools for the purposes of being auctioned off for SAFE Grad.

Discussion:

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that Enfield High already held their auction. Administrators donated their parking spaces for the auction.

Ms. Hall stated this was a donation by the faculty at Enfield High.

Mr. Droney commented that he received a call from the FHS SAFE Grad chairperson who stated Principal Duffy donated two parking spaces. Mr. Newton was not comfortable doing this since this was a budget line item.

Ms. Hall stated that this would be above and beyond what was already done at Enfield High and does not seem to be appropriate. If someone wants to donate spaces to Fermi that would be ok.

Mr. Arnone commented that the person that donated the space can have their space back and they could then use the two spaces being donated.

Mr. Johnson stated the space at EHS was donated, not parking passes.

Mr. Stokes stated that both schools will have multiple fundraisers where the two parking spaces can be used.

Ms. Hall stated that this is going to be a very tight budget year and this is not an appropriate use of funds. This was donated by one school and we are artificially trying to do it at another school.

A vote by **roll call 4-3-1**, motion passes Mr. Johnson, Ms. Hall and Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches in Dissent and with Mr. Arnone abstaining.

c. Approval of a Grant for PK-6 Reading Intervention Materials for Instructional Support and Assessment.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education authorize the administration to apply for an OPM Grant related to Buzz Robotics and reading intervention instructional support and approve a resolution on nondiscriminatory policy.

A vote by **roll call 8-0-0**, motion passes

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Ms. Hall to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 25, 2008. 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