

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 26, 2013**

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 26, 2013.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Sirard.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Chairman Sirard

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Sirard

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

5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Jonaitis, Lori Unghire, David Wawer, Vin Grady, Tina LeBlanc, Timothy Neville, Stacy Thurston and Tom Sirard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** David Bouley

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; EHS Student Representative, Christine Luksic and FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgiver

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)** - None

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. Special BOE Meeting –

Dr. Schumann stated the Board originally planned to meet on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to hold a Board Workshop. The Board reviewed a draft agenda during the Executive committee meeting prior to tonight's meeting. We are now looking at holding the Board workshop on January 11<sup>th</sup>. I will need to see if the Board's attorney Thomas Mooney from Shipman & Goodwin is available for this Saturday morning workshop. We will confirm the new date with Board members.

- c. Grants Update – as presented
- d. Personnel Report – as presented
- e. Enrollment Data – as presented
- f. Thanksgiving Break – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES**

Christine Juhasz, Monroe Road – Mrs. Juhasz stated the Junior Robotics Team performed at the Suffield Competition. She was thrilled that JFK put a team together. The team and advisors were so excited. St. Bernard's also had two teams that performed. Councilman Lee also attended the event. She passed around some photos from the competition for Board members to view. This was such a positive event for all of the students.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Continue the Discussion Regarding the Use of the Enrico Fermi Building**

Mr. Neville stated this item was tabled.

Dr. Schumann stated the motion made by the previous Board did not pertain to any Board action. The Board can continue the previous discussion.

Chairman Sirard stated the floor is open for Board members to continue discussing the future use of Enrico Fermi High School building.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to use Fermi as a school for students in grades 7 & 8, for a vocational program and for an alternative education program. The school is large enough and could be used for multiple uses. There would still be room for the Town's Library Annex and a community center. He would like the Board to form a Joint Committee with citizen participation. The school has some concerns with meeting compliance concerns. Money would be needed to make this happen. The Board should also consider the use for Harriet Beecher Stowe. The Public Safety Academy is currently using this building and it will become available once their new building has been completed. We can also place multiple programs in this building. They also have some trailers that we might be able to use.

Mr. Neville agrees with Mr. Jonaitis. The Town asked us if we would like to hold onto this building. There are a number of questions we need to ask before any decisions can be made. This is an emotional topic. We need to see if the programs would be suitable in this building. We need to hold an ongoing discussion where we can post questions through the chairman to the superintendent for him to answer. We can continue this discussion at each of our meetings for any additional questions that have been raised to us.

Mr. Neville asked the following questions:

- What is the current debt that is owed on John F. Kennedy, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Enrico Fermi. When will the debt be paid off by?
- OCR concerns with Enrico Fermi – can we obtain a copy of the report. Does the report give a timeline when the concerns need to be repaired by? Dr. Schumann submitted a report when the referendum was passed.
- Have any cost estimates been completed for what we were cited on? The elevator and auditorium were areas of concerns.
- Will the work that is needed require a referendum to correct the OCR compliance issues.
- How many years will this take before the building can be used?
- How much money will this cost to make the repairs so the building can be used by students.
- Will the State pay for a percentage of the repairs. Some of the items needed are repairs and maintenance.
- Can Enrico Fermi be adapted to a middle school house/team structure?
- Can Enrico Fermi be used immediately as a middle school once the new high school opens?
- What kind of renovations will be needed in order to make Enrico Fermi a middle school?
- Are we going to make a 21<sup>st</sup> century middle school like our new high school building to meet the needs of our students?
- Can the current high school science wing handle what is required for middle school science curriculum? What would it cost to make these changes if needed?
- Can the current middle school structure work at Enrico Fermi?
- How would busing be handled at Enrico Fermi? There are 27 buses that bring the

students to JFK.

- JFK accreditation will need to be completed. We have postponed this to 2015. Will this have any impact with the NEAS&C accreditation?

Mr. Neville added that he would like to have some of these questions answered. He would also like the public to add any additional questions they may have regarding this. We need to base our decisions on factual information. We need to see if Enrico Fermi will meet our needs.

Mr. Grady asked if we can find out about a vocational program and see if there is any interest or need for one. We should start at the middle school level first and then the upper grades. We should also look at our adult education program needs. These are two additional questions that can be added to the list.

- Is there any need or interest for a vocational program? How many students would be interested?
- How many students are interested in adult education programs?

Mr. Jonaitis believes 75-80% of the students continue with secondary education after they graduate from high school. That leaves 25% of graduating students that will not continue their post secondary education. That will give us a rough estimate of students that might be interested. The new high school that will be built will hold 1,700 students. It will start off almost being overcrowded.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated enrollment numbers are projected to decrease to around 1,500. The new high school can accommodate more students if needed.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the new high school will be close to capacity from the start. Some students will not want to go to college and may opt in for a vocational program. He believes around 150 students would be interested. This would also help out with any overcrowding at the high school. This could also grow into something more where we could potentially make money by having students from surrounding towns attend our vocational program.

Mr. Jonaitis does not want this discussion to drag on. He would like us to look into this in a timely manner. He would like the school to still function as a school with a middle school setup. Kids will learn, teachers will teach regardless of the building setup.

Mr. Wawer also believes public input is important. We need to recruit citizens. The Superintendent can provide a list with information that has been researched. When the public is engaged, we will get a better product. The public was involved with the high school consolidation. The public needs to be involved with the possible uses for both Fermi and Stowe.

Mr. Neville agrees with Mr. Wawer. We needed to start the conversation here with Board members. We need to continue this discussion at each meeting. We can share any additional information via E-TV and can setup a committee. The public can come and speak to us about this topic. We need to get the facts out to the public.

Mr. Jonaitis agrees that this topic needs to be placed on the agenda for further Board discussions. An update can be given by the Superintendent with answers to any of their questions.

Chairman Sirard asked Dr. Schumann to place this item on the next and future agendas for a continuation for Board members to discuss. Dr. Schumann will continue to place this item on any future Board agendas.

Chairman Sirard stated if the Board establishes a subcommittee to discuss this topic or any other topic will they need to be a standing committee of the Board? Dr. Schumann stated the Board can establish any subcommittee at anytime. They do not need to be a standing committee.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated there are approximately 50 students that we send to Cheney Tech each year.

Mr. Grady added there is a limit to the number of students that we can send to both Cheney Tech and Suffield Vo-Ag.

Mr. Neville added magnet schools have become more selective in their process for accepting students. They always receive more student applications than what they accept to attend their respective schools.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Approve SAFE Grad Donations**

Dr. Schumann reviewed the proposed recommendation for SAFE Grad donations for both graduating high schools with the Board.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves the donating \$500.00 to the Enfield High School SAFE Graduation Committee and \$500.00 to the Enrico Fermi SAFE Graduation Committee.

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

### **b. Policy Revision - #9133 Standing Committees of the Board – First Reading**

Dr. Schumann reviewed the proposed policy revisions for Policy #9133 Standing Committees of the Board with Board members.

Chairman Sirard stated that members of the Board of Education expressed an interest in re-establishing a Policy Committee.

Mr. Neville would like whichever committee that pertains to the policy (Curriculum, Finance, Student Issues) should be invited to discuss any policy changes with the Policy Committee.

Mr. Jonaitis added that in the past, the committee that wanted a policy change would contact the Policy Committee with any proposed changes. The Policy Committee would review the proposed changes and would bring the policy before the entire Board for a vote.

Mr. Neville would like to see the members of the standing committee address the policy concerns first and then they would bring it to the Policy committee. This way the committee that has knowledge about the policy can address any changes to the members of the Policy committee.

Mr. Wawer agrees that comprehensive discussions regarding the policies take place prior.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Wawer that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed policy revision for #9133 Standing Committees of the Board as a First Reading.

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

**c. Policy Revision - #9368 Order of Business and Board of Education Meeting Conduct – First Reading**

Dr. Schumann reviewed the proposed policy revisions for Policy #9368 Order of Business and Board of Education Meeting Conduct with Board members.

Chairman Sirard stated that we received many comments regarding Audience Comments being moved on the agenda. Public input is very important and many comments were not being addressed. We would like to add two sections on the agenda for audience participation. This will align our agenda format with the Town Council's agenda. This is the purpose for this revision. It is important for us to improve our communication with the public.

Mr. Jonaitis would like the Board to have a second comment section. This way the audience members can speak and we would let them speak a second time. The Board can address audience member's comments or questions. He would then like a second Board Member Comment section for Board members towards the end of the agenda where they can discuss/comment about any other items they would like to mention. He would prefer this format.

Mr. Neville is okay with 2 audience member sections. He would caution answering audience questions directly. We are only a Board, when we take action upon an item otherwise we are just individuals as defined in the policy. Some items will be deferred to the Superintendent. We can respond to issues sent to us in e-mails under Board member comments.

Chairman Sirard stated Board member comments are just that, comments and can be used as he/she would like. You can address what an audience member has said if you choose to. We can let audience members speak two times. We will be in line with what the Town Council is doing by adding a second audience participation portion to our agenda format. If we discuss items out of order it will bog down the meeting. This is being done in order to facilitate questions raised by the audience. As far as allowing audience members to speak a second time after all audience members have spoken, this is something we have allowed in the past and he does not see a problem with allowing this. Board member comments after Audience Participation will allow for the Board to address any audience members concerns if they chose to respond or not. He believes the first reading addresses everyone's concerns as is.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the reason he is suggesting the first Board member comments should only be to address audience member's comments that are current. You keep the discussion on topic to what the audience is commenting on. Later on the agenda, Board members can discuss any issue they would like to discuss.

Mr. Neville believes what Mr. Jonaitis is looking for is how the proposed policy looks.

Chairman Sirard added this will align our agenda with what the Town Council is currently doing.

Mr. Jonaitis would like a second Board member comments added to the agenda.

Mr. Neville stated audience members will have an opportunity to address any items we address on the agenda a second time.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Wawer that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed policy revision for #9368 Order of Business and Board of Education Meeting Conduct as a First Reading.

A vote by **roll-call 7-1-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

**11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

**12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Jonaitis stated we are starting to have difficulties with sub coverage at some of the schools due to teachers that are doing curriculum work. He does not like having teachers called out of the classroom to work on things like this. He does not consider this an emergency. Taking a teacher out of classroom to cover another teacher is not right.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if we having difficulties getting subs? There was a workshop held on computers where the computers all failed at JFK.

Mr. Jonaitis asked for information from Ms. McKernan regarding the Magnet School Test Scores at the last meeting and still has not received this information. He would still like to receive this information.

Mr. Jonaitis would like the administration to address the grounds crew and ask them to not mow next to the classrooms when school is in session. We need to respect the teaching time in the classroom. This is very distracting for teachers and for students. He would like the grounds crew to become better organized to address this concern in the spring.

Mr. Wawer asked if Human Resources can determine the potential impact of the affordable care act on our school staff health benefits. The IRS has deemed the law extends to employers and mandates the State and local governments comply with this. This will affect future contracts and future budgets.

Mr. Wawer attended an assembly at Henry Barnard. The energy from Mr. Higgins and Mrs. Smith was extremely high at 1:30 PM. He learned about the student's progress. The students were well behaved and responded to questions when asked. It was a lot of fun and this is done on a monthly basis. He would like to see if E-TV can tape these kinds of events for the parents that are unable to attend so they can view these events on You-Tube. He would like the Superintendent to look into this to see if this can be done. He suspects there are similar other events that could also be taped for public viewing.

Mr. Grady attended the First Readers Ceremony with Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek. The group was smaller but the kids were just as happy and proud. It was a great time.

Mr. Grady stated Parkman will hold a POPS assembly tomorrow and they will hold their One Story, One Book Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The Crandall PTO and the Kindness & Compassion Club raised money by selling "duck for a buck". They raised \$585 and will send the money to the Philippines Relief Fund via the Red Cross. They had a good time with this event. They are also donating 245 pounds of food to the Enfield Food Shelf.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the EHS girls soccer team is volunteering at the Enfield Soup Kitchen. They lost in overtime during the playoffs. The girl's field hockey team also lost in the first round. High School basketball tryouts will be happening this week and next week. She added that JFK held their Turkey Trot.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the JFK students that held a fundraiser event "Take a Ride for Nico" will attend the December 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. This was quite an emotional event for students, faculty and families. EFEE held a campout at the Library that was a lot of fun. This was also a wonderful event.

Mrs. LeBlanc gave a shout out to her niece Jillian Laponese who has been named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All

State for Field Hockey. She congratulated her publically.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished everyone a happy safe Thanksgiving.

Mr. Neville stated he attended the event for Nico. It was a fantastic event. This event was impressive and very moving. The students came up with this event by themselves.

Mr. Neville agrees with Mr. Jonaitis regarding the questions they asked about at our last meeting from Mrs. McKernan. He would also like to see the subgroups for Special Education for the CMT also.

Mr. Neville asked about the fire extinguishers at JFK. Do you know why they have not been taken yet? Dr. Schumann stated the Town Manager said they would be removed. He can look into this again.

Mr. Grady stated the reason they were all on a cart is due to the new State Regulations. They only require fire extinguishers to be in high hazard areas.

Mr. Neville does not understand why it is taking weeks for them to be removed.

Mr. Neville asked about the computer grant. Dr. Schumann stated this item was placed in your Friday Update Packet. We did receive the grant.

Mr. Neville would like to invite Buzz Robotics to attend a future meeting. He suggested December 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Atiyeh will contact you.

Mr. Neville wished everyone a safe holiday.

Mr. Jonaitis would like the Executive Board to bring back the Personnel Committee. There would be an ongoing negotiations team and they could help with the screening process for any open administrative positions.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mr. Grady and Mr. Neville for a smooth transition process. He also wished everyone a very happy Thanksgiving.

### **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **Point of Information:**

Chairman Sirard stated the following for any new Board members: if you were not present at the meeting, you cannot vote on the minutes. You can abstain from voting.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Special Meeting minutes of October 22, 2013 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-3** passed with Mrs. Unghire, Mr. Wawer and Mrs. Thurston abstaining.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting minutes of October 22, 2013 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-3** passed with Mrs. Unghire, Mr. Wawer and Mrs. Thurston abstaining.

### **14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None**

### **15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

### **16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Board enters into Executive Session for:

- a. Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously at 8:00 PM.

The Board reconvened to the Enfield Room for the Executive Session. Joining the Board in Executive Session were Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek.

The Executive Session ended at 8:54 PM. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

## **17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 26, 2013.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Vincent M. Grady  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary