

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 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 December 9, 2008.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice Chairman Johnson.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE** Greg Stokes

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Greg Stokes

4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT** Vice Chairman Johnson announced the fire evacuation announcement.

5. **ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT Vincent Grady, Judy Apruzzese-Desroches, Tom Arnone, Patrick Droney, Greg Stokes, Susan Lavelli-Hozempa, Charles Johnson and Andre Greco (arrived at 7:37 PM)

MEMBERS ABSENT Joyce Hall

ALSO PRESENT Dr. John Gallacher, Superintendent of Schools

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Mr. Droney that the regular meeting minutes of November 18, 2008, regular meeting minutes of November 25, 2008 and the special meeting minutes of December 2, 2008 be approved. Motion passed by a **show of hands 7-0-0**.

7. **BOARD GUESTS**

a. **Unified Sports – Barry Bernstein, Coaches & Players**

Vice Chairman Johnson welcomed Mr. Bernstein, Coaches Ms. Hansen, Ms. McCann and assistant student coaches Ahmed Hammad, Patrick Knighton and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Unified Sports Division CCC Indoor Soccer Tournament Champions.

Mr. Bernstein thanked the Board for recognizing these special athletes. Mr. Bernstein explained that unified sports are a spin-off of Special Olympics. The purpose of unified sports is to pair up disabled students with non-disable peers in a competitive athletic atmosphere. What stands out the most is the effort, the sportsmanship and the commitment of the players and the enthusiasm of the fans and parents. At the opening ceremony of each contest, the players recite the following: Let me win, but if I can not win, let me be brave in the attempt. There are five divisions in unified sports based on the level of quality play or disability. The rules for soccer require three athletes and two non-disabled peers on the field and there are limited substitutions during play.

Mr. Bernstein stated that the two student coaches are being nominated for the Michaels Cup and just being nominated is an honor. The student coaches are Ahmed Hammad and Patrick Knighton.

Mr. Bernstein stated that he has a plaque for Ms. Shelly Hansen and Ms. Melanie McCann that will be displayed in the show case at Enfield High. Mr. Bernstein stated that Fermi is in the process of forming a unified sports team with the assistance of Marilyn Cressotti.

Chairman Greco presented certificates to Coach Shelly Hanson, Siobhan Murray, Nicholas Margolfo, Patrick Knighton, Tyesha Henry, Christopher Harris, Ahmed Hammad, Susan Fox, Bryan Flanagan, Sierra Fennel, Lacey Eaton, Jonathan Colon, Jonathan Ballinger, Coach Melanie McCann and Steven Simmons.

Chairman Greco presented the plaque to Ms. Shelly Hanson on behalf of the Enfield Board of Education and Athletic Department.

Dr. Gallacher stated that Mr. Duffy sends his congratulations to the unified sports team members. Mr. Duffy was unable to attend tonight's presentation and Assistant Principal Mrs. Yvette Santiesteban is present.

Mr. Bernstein introduced one of the student coaches - Patrick Knighton to Board members.

Chairman Greco and Board members congratulated and thanked the members of the Enfield High Unified Sports Team.

Ms. Hanson stated that the students give something of themselves everyday and they are incredible. Mr. Stokes stated that Board members are extremely proud of the students and what they have accomplished.

b. Metacomet Ridge Program Presentation

Chairman Greco introduced Susan Boucher, EHS Science Department Chair. Mrs. Boucher thanked Board members and stated that she has been involved with the Metacomet Ridge Interdistrict Academy for four years. Students from Enfield High, John F. Kennedy and Thomas G. Alcorn participate with students from our partner school Roosevelt Middle School in New Britain. Ms. Boucher wants to make the school community aware of this program and stated the program is open to all Enfield students and the schools in the surrounding communities. Mrs. Boucher stated that Mr. Thomas Menditto and Mr. Thomas Alena will also speak about the program.

Mr. Menditto is the Science Technology Coordinator from New Britain and is the Director of the Grant. Mr. Menditto gave an overview of the Metacomet Interdistrict Academy. Students from surrounding Towns, CREC and the State of Connecticut are also involved in this program. Students learn about GPS, ground coverings, dominant/co-dominant species of trees, shrubs, hydrology studies and soil studies, use of scientific tools, biometry, geology and diversity. Students also keep journals on the information they obtain. Mr. Menditto addressed the summer program.

Mr. Thomas Alena is a Chief Meteorologist. The Globe Program allows students to obtain valuable science information that is inputted into a data base and is used to help with scientific information and data. Students use hands-on learning. Mr. Alena stated that he trains the teachers and they then train the students. Students learn valuable information in our science center at Talcott Mountain. Students can learn about meteorology at the science center.

Chairman Greco asked how many Enfield Students are involved in the program. Mrs. Boucher stated that 30 students are involved in the program and they would like additional students to become involved. There is an extreme commitment that is required of the students.

Mrs. Boucher introduced Dr. Munshi from New Britain. Dr. Munshi stated that they have 40 students involved in the program. The students are doing both science and math. Dr. Munshi stated that she is very fortunate to have a partner like Mrs. Boucher. We plan our trips along the Metacomet Ridge which is time consuming. The program is helping with student assessments and explained that there are no tests involved with this program. Students and teachers are growing together. Mrs. Boucher stated that students learn protocols and vocabulary and document entries in a journal. The only prerequisite is students must want to learn about science and math. We accept all students, not just AP students.

Mrs. Boucher introduced staff members involved in the program – Jason Smith, Beth Piltz, Jim Robbins, Chris Munroe and Janice Cerrato. Mrs. Boucher introduced a student from JFK and two students from Alcorn.

Miguel Chavez stated that he enjoys learning about the Metacomet Ridge and visiting the Talcott Mountain Science Center. He looks forward to learning about science and meeting new friends.

Cierra Menard and Nijaya Preston stated that they like taking field trips on Saturday. They have visited Talcott Mountain and experimented with chemicals and have learned about soil, rocks and minerals. Our next trip is to look at the moon and stars. Both students are glad to be a part of the Metacomet Ridge Program. Thank you.

Mr. Arnone stated that he has also hiked along the Metacomet Trail as a youngster and with his children and grand children. It is great to get our children out of the classroom and outdoors learning and studying nature. This is a fantastic program and Mr. Arnone supports it 100%.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that Ms. Hall is a huge advocate of science and it is too bad that she is not here tonight.

Mr. Stokes stated that this is a wonderful program. Mr. Droney stated that this is an excellent program and encourages students to become involved.

Mr. Grady asked if there is a cap to the number of participants. Mrs. Boucher stated there is no set limit. Students just need to make a commitment. Mr. Menditto stated we would like to fill the buses up to capacity.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa asked if the students receive credit for participating. Mrs. Boucher stated the students do not receive credit. Students just want to participate. It is a fun way to learn about science and to be part of it.

Chairman Greco was glad to hear that there are no formal assessments that are required and encourages them to continue this. Chairman Greco thanked them for their presentation.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

9. AUDIENCES - None

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Droney wished everyone a happy holiday. Mr. Droney attended the Torchlight Parade and listened to the students from the luxury of his car for a portion of the night. It was a cold night and extends kudos to the students and the Fire Department for a great job. Mr. Droney stated that the U.S. Army band will be playing at Fermi on Sunday, December 14th around 2:00 PM and some of the Fermi students will play with them. Mr. Droney urges everyone to contact your State Representatives and Legislators and encourage them to fully fund education and to address the unfunded mandates. They need to hear from us. Our funding levels could be severely impacted.

Mr. Stokes also wished everyone a happy holiday season and Happy New Year. Mr. Stokes attended the Fermi Safe Grad Auction and it was a tremendous success. Mrs. Reese and Mr. Bourassa did a great job. Mr. Stokes thanked community members for supporting both schools.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa wished everyone in Enfield a happy holiday season. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that we will soon be upon the budget season and difficult decisions will need to be made. We are facing difficult economic times. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa asked everyone to keep the spirit of Christmas in your heart and enjoy the warmth of the season.

Mr. Johnson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. There are a number of school concerts going on and urged everyone to support the students. Enfield High students put on a play that was wonderful. Our students do a tremendous job and need our support.

Mr. Flanagan wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season. Enfield High has decorating contests and doorways have been decorated throughout the school. Mr. Flanagan stated that he has been part of unified sports for the past four years and he has thoroughly enjoyed it. Mr. Flanagan reported that Doc Taylor was back in school yesterday and is doing great.

Mr. Arnone stated ditto to all the holiday sentiments. Mr. Arnone is glad to hear that Fermi will be forming a unified sports team. The FHS Girls Softball had a craft fair fundraiser. Mr. Arnone thanked Sean Sweeney and the staff at Fermi. Mr. Arnone thanked the custodial staff at Fermi.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches echoed everyone's sentiments stated tonight and wished everyone a safe healthy New Year.

Mr. Grady wished everyone a safe holiday season. Mr. Grady thanked Mrs. Stone and the DECA students for the breakfast they provided before the Thanksgiving Day Game. Mr. Grady enjoyed the Thanksgiving Game. Mr. Grady is glad to hear that Dr. Taylor is back.

Chairman Greco wished fellow Board members, students, faculty, staff and administrators a happy holiday season. Chairman Greco thanked both Board Guests for coming and for those involved with both programs.

Chairman Greco stated that Board members were planning to hold a special meeting on December 16th to hear the Superintendent's proposed budget. After the joint TC/BOE meeting held on Wednesday, December 3rd Chairman Greco made the decision to cancel the special meeting on December 16th. There is too much uncertainty going on at the State level and there is uncertainty as to where we will end up with this years' budget. At this point in time, we are not sure of our budget allocations. Hopefully we can start the budget process again after the holidays.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Christmas Vacation – as presented
- b. ITPC Update – as presented
- c. Grants Update – as presented (*Chairman Greco asked if any of the CIP dollars have been spent yet? Dr. Gallacher stated funds were spent on the large IDEA Grant, the Consolidated Grant and the 21st Century Grant - Alcorn.*)
- d. Personnel Report – as presented

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches reported that the Demographic Advisory Committee (DAC) met last week. The committee discussed an item that will come up on the agenda later. The committee feels that there is an elephant in the room – the elephant in the room is the budget and current financial situation. The current charge of the committee is a long term charge and they would like to know if they should be looking at short term, budget impacting solutions in addition to the long range plan. This is something the committee would like to know before they start.

Mr. Droney reported that both he and Mr. Grady will meet with Assistant Town Manager Mr. Vindigni to discuss the Town's Emergency Response Plan and how it impacts the schools. Mr. Droney asked about the status of the cameras at Enfield High.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that the Finance Committee will attend the next DAC meeting so they can give them some suggestions regarding the current budget. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that one of the recommendations of the Audit Committee was the Substitute Internship Program. Mr. Maiorino from the University of New Haven is in the process of setting up some dates to meet with us regarding this program.

Chairman Greco agrees with the Finance Committee working with the DAC. Anything we can do to help with this year's budget that will affect next year's budget is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Stokes stated that Finance Committee members had a healthy discussion and agrees about the elephant in the room and it will require all of our help.

Chairman Greco stated that everything will be installed by the end of this week at Enfield High and the training will start next week. We are still on schedule.

13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

a. For the Month of November FY2007-08

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa 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 November FY2007-08, total expenditures amount to \$133,175.05, broken down between payroll totaling \$0 and other accounts totaling \$133,175.05 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 November FY2008/09

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa moved, seconded by Mr. Droney that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of November FY2008-09, total expenditures amount to \$6,310,777.39, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,563,739.36 and other accounts totaling \$1,747,038.03. 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 - None

15. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve 2008-09 Board Objectives

Chairman Greco reviewed the 2008-09 Board Objectives with Board members. Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes that the Enfield Board of Education adopts the 2008-09 Board Objectives.

Discussion:

Mr. Johnson would like us to add a bullet under Board Committees to address recommendations from the Audit Committee.

Chairman Greco agreed that Board members made a commitment to Audit Committee members. Mr. Arnone stated that we assigned tasks to individual members. Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that she is overseeing this list. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that we should include something that shows we are continuing to look at their recommendations.

Chairman Greco recommends adding a bullet – Review the recommendations of the Audit Committee for potential Board action.

Mr. Johnson moved to amend the motion to include a statement under Board Committees – Review the recommendations of the Audit Committee for potential Board action.

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

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

b. Approve the Services of a Demographer

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated the numbers we received from the last demographer are two years old. Dr. Prowda can provide us a comprehensive report for Enfield for \$1,650 that will provide us with some up-to-date statistical data.

Mr. Grady asked when Dr. Prowda can start. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that he can start within a couple of weeks.

Mrs. Lavelli-Hozempa stated that it is extremely important to obtain accurate statistical data on birth rates in Enfield and urges Board members to support this.

Mr. Arnone stated that he was planning to vote against this because of budget restraints but since we had such a productive Finance Meeting, this information will be extremely helpful.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Dronney that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Services of a Demographer for \$1,650.

Mr. Stokes stated that we will need the information from the demographer as soon as possible. Chairman Greco stated this will help us as Board members with our due diligence.

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

Chairman Greco stated that Board members have the need to enter into Executive Session to address Items 15 c & b.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Droney moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes to enter into executive session to discuss:

- a. Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining
- b. Matter(s) Related to Grievance(s)

A vote by **show of hands, 8-0-0**, motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Gallacher and Dr. Cooke joined the Board in Executive Session at 9:00 PM.

Mr. Droney moved, seconded by Mr. Stokes to end the Executive Session and return to Public Session at 9:42 PM. Motion passed unanimously by a **show of hands 8-0-0**. No other actions were taken while in Executive Session.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

c. Memorandum of Understanding for Custodial Services

Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Understanding for Custodial Services and authorize the Superintendent to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board.

A vote by **roll call 7-0-1**, motion passes with Mr. Droney abstaining.

d. Action, if any, on Grievance

Mr. Stokes moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Enfield Board of Education denies the grievance with the Enfield Teachers Association. The Board has determined that the math study halls are a duty and not a sixth class period. Math teachers are assigned math study halls in place of larger study halls, cafeteria duty or hall duty. There is no curriculum or lesson plan or formal assessments required.

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

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches to adjourn the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2008. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Joyce P. Hall
Secretary
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary