

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 12, 2016**

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 January 12, 2016.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Tom Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Lori Unghire
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Lori Unghire
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Tom Sirard announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Stacy Thurston, Vin Grady, Walter Kruzel, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Mike Ludwick, Tina LeBlanc (participated remotely) and Tom Sirard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tim Neville

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; FHS Student Representative Thomas Vose and EHS Student Representative Lila Wilcox

Chairman Sirard stated that Tina LeBlanc will participate remotely tonight per BOE Policy #9341.8 Participation at Board Meetings by Remote Methods.

6. **BOARD GUEST(S):** - None
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**
  - a. Student Representatives – as presented
  - b. January Events – as presented
8. **AUDIENCES** - None

Vin Weseliza, Deer Run – Mr. Weseliza asked if the Future Use of Fermi Committee members endorsed the 68 page report that is on the Board's website. This was presented at a committee meeting. Thank you.

Maurice LaRosa, Litchfield Drive - Mr. LaRosa asked about the snow bus for the students that live in the Litchfield Drive area. He asked the Board about this last year and is still waiting for an answer. The weather is only going to get worst. The kids need to walk in the streets. He would like to see us avoid a tragedy. The students that live along Raffia Road have a winter bus. Why not these students? These are the only students that walk to JFK. He has given the Board a solution. Why is this decision taking so long? Safety for all of our students is something the Board discusses. We need a solution. Thank you.

9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Ludwick attended the Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast. This was a great event. He

thanked everyone that is involved with this program.

Mrs. Thurston stated they are planning a Fermi Hockey Alumni Reunion game. Players from the first hockey team to the last team will participate. You can contact Tim Jensen on Facebook for more information. The date will be Fermi's last home hockey game which is also senior day.

Mr. Grady wished for everyone to have a good year and a happy healthy new year. He also attended the Rachel's Challenge breakfast. It was a great event and was well attended.

Mr. Kruzel stated he also attended the Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast. It was a great time. He thanked the members involved with this program. He attended the Stowe Early Learning Center open house. This is a great facility. He thanked the B&G staff for a great job. Another great event was held last night for the First Readers. The turnout was great. He thanked the staff involved in this program.

Mr. Peabody wished everyone a happy new year. He welcomed the audience members. Before the Christmas break, he attended Crandall's One Book, One School event and read to the third grade class. He thanked Dawn Marchese for everything she and her staff do for our students.

Mr. Peabody stated the Rachel's Challenge Pancake breakfast is a great event. Rachel's Challenge is one of the most important things for our students to be part of. These are great events for our schools and families. He wished Mr. Neville a speedy recovery. He congratulated the EHS girls Basketball team for winning last night's game.

Chairman Sirard wished everyone a happy new year and he wished everyone a good year.

Chairman Sirard stated the issue of the snow bus has been referred to the Policy Committee. We started this discussion with Mr. Smyth a few months ago. They are currently working out things since Mr. Smyth's passing. Smyth bus started the Raffia Road winter bus run free of charge. We will review this item with them. There is a transition at Smyth Bus and this will be reviewed by the Board's Policy Committee.

Chairman Sirard stated regarding the 68 page document presented to the Future Use of Fermi Committee. The summary of the work product was placed on the website for the public to view. It was public information. The decision for this was from the Board's Leadership committee. A lot of work went into this report and we felt it deserved to be placed on the Future Use of Fermi Website.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Transition Update**

Dr. Schumann stated the transition has worked out very well. We met on Tuesday and discussed the technology area. We are waiting for equipment to be delivered and anticipate the delivery in the next week. The Auto Shop will be up and running next month. We are moving forward with the construction project.

Mr. Grady asked when the demolition of the D wing will start. Dr. Schumann is not sure but will find out.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Superintendent's FY2016-17 Budget Presentation**

Dr. Schumann thanked Mr. Bourassa, Ms. Middleton, Ms. Burr and Mrs. West for their assistance putting the budget book together. He reviewed the district's 2015-16 goals and theory of action with the Board along with the Enfield Public Schools Why Card; student enrollment and magnet school enrollment; administration, department and schools accomplishments; funding stream for the Enfield Public School System; 2016-17 budget timeline; needs requests budget – 11.69% or \$73,582,853; tipping point and critical window of opportunity; initiatives for the EPS to move forward; spending projections for new initiatives; fixed costs; skill sets needed for our students and value adds; and fixed cost needs.

Dr. Schumann proposed a 9.09% or \$71,874,289 budget for FY2016-17. He distributed the FY2016-17 Budget book to Board members. The administration is prepared to work with the Board over the next several weeks to fine tune the proposed budget.

Mrs. Thurston left the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Chairman Sirard asked if any Board members had any questions.

Mr. Peabody would like to schedule work session meetings for the Board.

Chairman Sirard will refer this to the Leadership Committee to discuss and set dates for the Board to meet to discuss the budget.

**b. Discussion and Action if any, regarding High School Consolidation Advisory Committee**

Chairman Sirard stated the Leadership Committee discussed forming a temporary standing committee to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible. They will make sure communication with the Board and the public continues and will deal with any issues that would not be covered by the Building Committee or the Superintendent's professional committee. This will also provide a conduit for traditional ideas to present to the Board of Education for consideration. The public may have many ideas. The committee can vet these ideas before they are brought before the Board.

Chairman Sirard would like to see the membership of the High School Consolidation Advisory Committee include 2 Republican and 2 Democratic Board Members and 1 Town Council Member.

Mr. Ludwick moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education creates a High School Consolidation Advisory Committee.

**Discussion:**

Chairman Sirard would like to leave the appointments of High School Consolidation Advisory Committee to the members of the Leadership Committee.

Mr. Ludwick feels this committee is a good idea. He would like community members to bring items forward. There are a lot of ideas for the opening of the school. Having equal party representation and including a Town Council member is also a good idea. He would like to be considered for this committee.

A vote by **roll-call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

**c. Discussion and Action if any, regarding 2015-17 BOE Priorities**

Chairman Sirard stated the Board held a retreat on December 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed our priorities

for the 2015-17 term. He read the following BOE Priorities for Board consideration:

- Continue to pursue positive relationships with all stake holders.
- Pursue partnership with Town council to develop long-range facility plans.
- Ensure transition to a consolidated high school is as smooth as possible.
- Promote a positive direction for Enfield Public Schools.
- Continue to pursue innovative public and private partnerships.
- Continue to refine the budget process.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2015-17 BOE Priorities as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

## **15. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Building Committee**

Mr. Kruzel reported the Building Committee met last Tuesday. The demolition of D Wing will occur in two weeks. The Fire Department will be there the week before.

Mr. Grady stated the demolition was delayed.

Mr. Kruzel stated an abatement on A wing is going on which caused the delay with D wing. Fencing around D wing has been put in place. He met with Art Pongratz today who is enjoying his retirement.

### **b. Curriculum Committee - None**

### **c. Finance Committee**

Mr. Peabody reported the Finance Committee held an organizational meeting last night and discussed several items with Mr. Drezek and Dr. Schumann. They addressed all of our questions and ideas for upcoming meetings. The Finance staff does a great job and their priorities are in-line with the Board's priorities.

Mr. Peabody requested from the Chair to the Leadership Committee to look transition costs and any one-time costs like Band Uniforms. He would like the Finance Committee to be updated on this. He knows this is something that is currently being worked on.

Mr. Peabody added that he is looking forward to working together with Mr. Drezek and Mrs. West.

### **d. Policy Committee**

Mr. Ludwick added the Policy Committee will meet on February 1<sup>st</sup> at Henry Barnard in the Board Conference Room. The public is welcome to attend. The agenda will be posted prior to the meeting. We will discuss the snow bus along with several other items.

Mr. Grady asked if the committee could meet before February 1<sup>st</sup>. We could be hit with some storms between now and then.

Mr. Ludwick stated we can try to meet sooner. We will look to see if any dates are available.

**16. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Special Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

**17. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None**

**18. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**19. AUDIENCES**

Vin Weseliza, Deer Run – Mr. Weseliza stated he is questioning the content of the report that was not discussed by the Board or the Future Use of Fermi Committee. It was not endorsed by the committee. He feels this is misleading by posting this on the website or is this just a 3<sup>rd</sup> party report.

Maurice LaRosa, Litchfield Drive - Mr. LaRosa extended his sympathy to the Smyth family for their loss. This topic should have been already taken care of. It was brought up last winter. The Policy Committee will look into it and we will still need to have a first and second reading if any changes are made to the policy. This could bring us to April for a final decision to be made. He does not want to see the Board drag their feet on safety. No one wants to see any child get harmed. The Board has been given a viable solution to consider. Put the kids on the bus that stops one street over. This would fix the problem. Thank you.

**20. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2016.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary