

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 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 26, 2016.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Walter Kruzel, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Mike Ludwick, Tina LeBlanc, Tim Neville (participated remotely) and Tom Sirard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stacy Thurston and Vin Grady

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent and Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent

6. **BOARD GUEST(S):**

- a. EHS Building Committee Leadership

Members from the Enfield High School Building Committee gave the Board an update on the progress of the Fermi Wing, A Wing, exterior, gym and D Wing. Demolition of the D Wing should occur in a week or so.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if the entire gymnasium floor was being replaced. Mr. Daigle stated about a quarter of the floor has been replaced due to water damage. The entire floor will be refinished so you will not be able to notice any difference.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if the Eagle will be placed where the Raider was. Mr. Daigle stated that funds have been put aside for this. The Board will need to make a decision on this.

Mr. Petrucelli added the Eagle Logo will be on the face of the bleachers and will be visible throughout the gym.

Mr. Kruzel thanked the members of the Building Committee for all of the hard work you have done. Keep up the good work. Many of the committee members are on site frequently during the week. Mr. Daigle is there daily.

Mrs. Unghire thanked the Building Committee members for everything you have done. The Fermi Wing is beautiful.

Mr. Ludwick also thanked the members of the committee for their hard work and dedication. He would like to see the members give us monthly updates. Our goal is to have Enfield High completely open for September 2016. He would like to be on top of any areas of concern.

Mr. Daigle stated we are in daily contact with the Administration, Board and Town Council members. He does not foresee any issues popping up. If something arises, we rectify it immediately or we will reassess the situation and will come up with a solution before. We can give the Board updates if that is what you would like.

Mr. Ludwick stated the Fermi Wing and café are beautiful. The students really enjoy it.

Mrs. LeBlanc also thanked them for your hard work. The community is behind you. We have worked through some of the logistical issues with parking, student drop off and picking up students. The school is really impressive. She agrees with Mr. Ludwick about the café. It is great.

Mr. Kruzel stated we had an issue last week and Amar resolved it the next day. These guys are on top of everything.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- a. Student Representatives – as presented
- b. February Events – as presented
- c. Grants Report – as presented
- d. Personnel Report – as presented
- e. Student Surveys – as presented

8. AUDIENCES -

Sue Braun, Light Street – Mrs. Braun is concerned with the Auto Lab at EHS. The students in Auto II have not been able to work on anything major until the lifts are installed. How many times can they change tires? There was a glitch with the Town's Purchasing Department not processing the P.O.'s. There was a similar glitch with the phones not being processed timely. The band students do not have a band room. Her son will graduate in June. Getting to the café is dangerous. She hopes the Board can address these areas of concern before both schools merge in September. Next year you will have twice as many students at this school. She was all for the merge at first. Now she is just glad that her son will have graduated before the merge occurs.

Chairman Sirard stated we just heard about the lifts last week. He asked Mr. Daigle to address some of these concerns.

Mr. Daigle stated there was a delay with the P.O.'s due to the transition period with the Town Manager and Finance Director positions. The P.O. has been processed by the Town. We are waiting for the vendor to deliver the merchandise now. We have been working with the Town to resolve this. We have gone through many hurdles and are doing the best that we can. The lifts are under a contract and we are looking for a timeline for them to be delivered. We appreciate everyone's understanding and look to rectify this as soon as possible.

Mr. Peabody thanked Mr. Daigle for this update. He asked Chairman Sirard to see if there is a performance clause in the contract. Mr. Daigle stated the company reassured us from the beginning that they could deliver. We are still waiting for the materials.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this needs to be someone's priority. What can we do to make this happen? All the kids will be together in 8 months. This needs to be resolved quickly.

Mr. Daigle stated the automotive classroom needs this equipment. This delay is not acceptable to him either. We dealt with the phone system. We are doing everything we possibly can do.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we worked hard to get the pre-referendum to pass for the consolidation to occur. The Building Committee has been very involved and we are now down to the nitty gritty. Someone at the Town needs to get involved with this P.O. so we can receive the merchandise. Items get delayed all the time. This is affecting the student learning process. She wants to avoid a situation like this happening again.

Chairman Sirard asked if we can rent a scissor lift to use in the automotive classrooms. Mr. Shamas stated the materials are coming from California and they are supposed to be here next week. He would like to give them a few more days. The slabs would need to be rated for a portable scissor lift.

Mr. Daigle will look into this for just in case they fail to deliver the merchandise.

Mr. Peabody stated there seems to be a communication gap with processing the P.O.'s. The Town Council needs to look into this. The Building Committee needs these items. Our students are losing out. This is affecting our students learning process.

Mr. Ludwick asked who knows when a P.O. has been submitted. What is the process? Mr. Daigle stated the P.O.'s are submitted to the Town Manager, legal reviews them and then the finance department. We are notified once they have been signed off.

Mr. Ludwick stated we are worried about the education of the students not the P.O.'s. Can we be notified when you submit any P.O.'s so we can look into this?

Mr. Daigle stated we can copy the administration on the P.O.'s that are submitted.

Mr. Ludwick added that communication needs to be tighter with the P.O.'s. There is safety in numbers. We can check up on them.

Chairman Sirard stated he will address this at the next Governance Meeting.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Neville thanked the Building Committee for their presentation and for addressing our concerns. He does not believe the school needs to be involved with the P.O.'s. This needs to go through the Town Finance Department. We can nudge them but Governance can address this topic.

Mr. Kruzel stated Buzz Robotics will have a pasta supper benefit fund raiser event on March 3rd at St. Bernard's Church Hall from 5-8:00 PM. They are working to get their robot ready for competition. He will mention this and other events at upcoming meetings. He urged everyone to support them.

Mrs. Unghire stated the JFK students held a dance and it was a lot of fun. The students have a lot of energy. She also watched a JFK Girls basketball game and that was also a lot of fun.

Mrs. Unghire attended a CREC Council meeting where the speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey addressed us. She also met the new CREC Executive Director Greg Florio. CREC celebrated their 50th anniversary at the Wadsworth Atheneum. The performing arts students performed. It was a nice event. The CREC Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 18th.

Mr. Ludwick would like to have someone from our business office get involved with the P.O.'s. He doesn't want to hear that we are backlogged waiting for items in July. He would like an update on this at each Board meeting. If the Building Committee can copy us when they submit a P.O. this might help with the process. We can't trust that this will not happen again.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that both Mr. Grady and Mrs. Thurston were unable to attend tonight's meeting due to family commitments.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated on behalf of Mr. Grady, he would like the Board Chairman to acknowledge who consented to putting the Fermi Use Report up on the Board's website and was there a consensus of the committee for the report and if so who.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked both Mr. Power's and Mrs. Carne for all of the hard work they have done with the JFK band. The students are very excited about their upcoming performances. Her son really enjoys band.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that she is glad to be part of the Enfield High Girls Basketball journey this year along with Mr. Ludwick. UConn Coach Geno Auriemma attended a game to watch a player. This was a great experience for the players. She is hoping for a snowless winter.

Mr. Ludwick stated this is Catholic Schools Week. He coaches the St. Bernard's Girls basketball team. There are many avenues for our students in this town.

Chairman Sirard stated that he asked for the Future Use of Fermi report to be placed on the website. It was work product and deserved to be placed there. The Board said that all documents should be posted on the website. It is available to the public.

Chairman Sirard stated the proper procedure would be for the Governance Committee to discuss the purchase orders. The Town would need to address this issue with their employees.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Transition Update

Dr. Schumann stated the members of the EHS Building Committee have updated the Board on the progress.

Mr. Peabody asked about the Band and Athletic Uniform purchases. Can this be addressed at the next meeting with a status update? He is requesting this item be addressed through the Board Chairman.

Mr. Ludwick would like to receive weekly updates about the P.O.'s through Governance meetings. We need to make sure this question is addressed each time you meet. He wants to follow the proper channels.

Chairman Sirard stated this needs to be discussed by Governance. Mr. Neville can also ask members of the Building Committee about the P.O.'s.

Mr. Neville added that both he and Mr. Kruzel can ask for updates from the Building Committee and they can report back to the Board.

Mr. Peabody would like Chairman Sirard to send a message about this out to the Governance Committee before the next meeting so they will be prepared to address this topic. Chairman Sirard stated he would.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. 2016-17 School Calendar Discussion

Dr. Schumann stated the proposed draft 2016-17 school calendar meets all the CREC Regional Calendar mandated requirements. The Board will need to adopt a calendar by the end of February.

Mr. Peabody would like to know if any of the professional workshop dates are tied into the CREC common calendar. Dr. Schumann stated two of the days are: Election Day and the day after President's Day.

Mr. Peabody will discuss the calendar with the Curriculum Committee to see if any of the professional development days being offered are combined with any other towns as a cost savings issue.

Dr. Schumann stated if we send people out of district, it is usually cost neutral. He does not see any cost savings in this area.

b. Fermi High School Building Use Decision Timeline Discussion

Mr. Neville stated the Leadership Committee discussed a timeline at our last meeting. We have developed a 5 point document.

- The March 8th Board meeting is still the target date for the Fermi decision.
- Since the Board has not yet formally accepted the data, we will schedule a Leadership meeting to review the data that currently exists and validate it from the various existing reports. The Leadership Committee will come to a consensus on the data to be used by the entire Board in considering a decision regarding Fermi.
- The Leadership Committee shall determine the criteria the Board will use in coming to a decision on the Fermi reuse and shall present it to the entire Board.
- Present the data and decision criteria to the entire Board at the next Board meeting for consideration.
- Determine at the next Board of Education meeting the next steps and timeline leading up to March 8th Fermi decision date.

Mr. Peabody stated this is a good process for us to go forward with it.

Chairman Sirard stated we will need public conversation factored into the timeline. We need to offer two opportunities for the public to comment. This needs to be factored in. We will discuss this at the next Board Leadership meeting.

Board members all agreed on reaching a decision about the use of Fermi by March 8, 2016.

c. FY2016-17 Budget Discussion and action if any

Dr. Schumann stated the administration is prepared to assist the Board with the FY2016-17 budget process.

Mr. Peabody stated the Superintendent's budget showed value and success. He would like Dr. Schumann to prioritize the initiatives on Slide 24/25.

Dr. Schumann stated they are all equally important.

Mr. Peabody would like to know when the Board can receive the demographics for enrollment

through 2025. Dr. Schumann stated he will have this for the next Board meeting.

Chairman Sirard asked Board members when they would like to set budget meetings.

Mr. Neville would like us to set meetings to start the process. We need to submit our budget to the Town Manager by February 23rd.

Dr. Schumann stated the Board Leadership Committee will meet next week and we can set the schedule then.

15. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Building Committee – None
- b. Curriculum Committee – None
- c. Finance Committee

Mr. Peabody reported the Finance Committee met earlier tonight. We will approve accounts and payroll later on the agenda.

- d. High School Consolidation Advisory Committee

Chairman Sirard stated that Mrs. Unghire, Mr. Ludwick, Mrs. Thurston and Mr. Grady will be on the High School Consolidation Advisory Committee. We will find out who the Town Council member will be from the Mayor.

16. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Unghire moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2016 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** passed with Mr. Neville abstaining.

17. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education accept the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of:

- July 2015, total expenditures amount to \$441,278.42, broken down between payroll totaling \$1,081,087.31 and other accounts totaling \$1,522,365.73;
- August 2015, total expenditures amount to \$439,586.93, broken down between payroll totaling \$959,168.43 and other accounts totaling \$1,398,755.36;
- September 2015, total expenditures amount to \$3,711,634.54, broken down between payroll totaling \$1,419,145.85 and other accounts totaling \$5,130,780.38;
- October 2015, total expenditures amount to \$5,959,588.51, broken down between payroll totaling \$1,604,630.03 and other accounts totaling \$7,564,218.54;
- November 2015, total expenditures amount to \$3,996,812.94, broken down between payroll totaling \$1,331,215.31 and other accounts totaling \$5,328,028.25;
- December 2015, total expenditures amount to \$4,315,378.72, broken down between payroll totaling \$1,704,405.04 and other accounts totaling \$6,019,783.76;

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 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

Line Item Transfers – None

18. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

19. AUDIENCES

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis is concerned about the March 8th Board decision regarding Fermi reuse. She is afraid a decision has already been made. We want our voices to be heard. There is a petition circling about this. She has concerns about the choice program and some of the disruptive students. She understands that once they start in Enfield, they are with us until they graduate. Some of these kids are great. Some of these students are disrupting the educational learning process. When is enough, enough? It is not fair to our students and our staff. She also has a concern about a parent having the right to move their child from a class and was denied. She would like someone to look into this. She thanked the Board for everything you do.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

21. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2016.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary