

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 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 March 8, 2016.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Tom Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Tina LeBlanc
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tina LeBlanc
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, Stacy Thurston, Vin Grady and Tom Sirard

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffery Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; Enrico Fermi Student Representative Eric Barnes and Enfield High Student Representative Caitlyn Passmore

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

a. Special Guests

Dr. Schumann welcomed Enfield High School Renovation Chair Randy Daigle to the Board meeting.

Mr. Daigle gave the Board an update regarding the construction progress at Enfield High and anticipated time lines for the gymnasium, weight room and auditorium. We are on track and on budget. Students will move in 6 months from March 1st. Staff will be able to move in on August 8th. We have learned from the past move and will make changes for this move.

Mr. Daigle added that the team has done their due diligence keeping costs down and have been able to purchase the band uniforms and athletic team uniforms for \$225K. He commends the Building Committee for their work. Students wearing some of the uniforms displayed to the Board and the public for the first time football, soccer and band uniforms.

Mr. Daigle stated this is all for the children of Enfield. The wings on the uniform show an E and F.

Mr. Peabody thanked Mr. Daigle for the update and outstanding job. He added that any surplus money would go back to the Town. Mr. Daigle stated that is correct any funds we do not use will go back to the Town.

Mr. Neville thanked Mr. Daigle and the team for everything. He asked if the uniforms will be here on time. Mr. Daigle stated we have ordered the fall uniforms and they will be here on time

for fall sports when they are needed.

Mr. Kruzel thanked Mr. Daigle and the High School Building Committee Team for everything you have done. This has been a job well done.

Mrs. Leblanc asked about the P.O.'s. Mr. Daigle stated we are all set with P.O.'s. They have all been processed and he does not foresee any upcoming problems.

Mr. Ludwick thanked Mr. Daigle for the update. He added the lifts in the EHS Automotive area are functioning. He appreciates the work done by all committee members. Mr. Daigle added we are moving forward and are on schedule.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Daigle for everything the committee has done and for the status report. The uniforms look great. He toured the gym and the eagle on the bleachers look great.

Mrs. Unghire thanked Mr. Daigle for his report. The uniforms look wonderful.

Mr. Neville would like to have the picture of the Eagle placed on the website. It is a great picture. Mr. Daigle added the eagle on the center court will look great. The eagle is shouting "Enfield Pride".

Mr. Grady asked what has happened with the original logo. Mr. Daigle stated it could not be saved and was sanded off.

Mr. Grady asked what will be done with the old uniforms and equipment. Mr. Daigle stated that is out of his jurisdiction. Dr. Schumann stated this will be discussed by Board Leadership.

Mrs. Thurston asked about the banners and trophies from Fermi. What will be done with them? Dr. Schumann stated we have a transition plan and this has not been decided yet.

Mr. Daigle stated we have room for them at the new high school.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mr. Daigle and the Building Committee Team for everything you have done.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- a. Student Representatives – as presented
- b. March Events – as presented
- c. Grants Report – as presented
- d. Personnel Report – as presented

8. AUDIENCES -

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Circle – Mr. Jonaitis appreciates everything the Building Committee has done but the uniforms should not have been used with this money. All the extra money should have been turned back to the Town. He has concerns with the options presented for the Future Use of Fermi. The Board has a big decision to make regarding Fermi. He would like to see the building still be used for educational purposes. He asked Board members and urged them to vote for what you believe is right and what is best for Enfield. Thank you.

Josh Hamre, New King Street – Mr. Hamre stated the Board has a responsibility and your decision regarding Fermi is not under any time constraints except for what the Town Council has imposed for a referendum. Do not rush this decision like the decision to close Alcorn and

Stowe. The costs to renovate JFK are lower. Is this the better option? Over 600 voters support making Fermi a middle school. Building repairs have been kept up at JFK and not at Fermi. Please take your time when making this very important decision. Thank you.

Vin Wezelisa – Mr. Wezelisa stated he obtained 638 signatures. At the community conversation 80 residents spoke about using Fermi as the middle school. A special meeting was held and there were no opportunities for community members to speak. We have many questions that need to be answered. The report presented by the Leadership Committee used the same information that was in his report. What would it cost to make Fermi a middle school? What would it take to make necessary changes at JFK? Students should not have to walk outside to get to classrooms. He looked at the options presented by the Board Leadership. The Board has failed to show they can make a sound decision. The Town will pay for studies needed. He supports Option #3. Thank you.

Amy Tanguay, Renee Lane – Mrs. Tanguay agrees with Mr. Jonaitis about the money used for the uniforms. She sent an e-mail to the Board and has not received a response yet so she read her e-mail. She feels the Leadership report does not show all the needed repairs at JFK. The Board is rushing their decision. The final decision regarding using Fermi needs to be well thought out. Please take your time and make the correct decision. Thank you.

Jen Briette, Laurel Park – Ms. Briette stated that over 600 people have signed a petition to keep Fermi as a middle school. You have not done your due diligence. Take your time and listen to what we are saying. You asked for us to come to Board meetings and let us know how we are feeling. We want Fermi as the middle school. You didn't listen to the students about the school colors. Take your time when you make this decision.

Mary Scutt, Yale Drive – Mrs. Scutt is concerned with the process. The Fermi Re-Use Committee was dissolved. The committee should be reformed to complete their task. The Board Leadership gave a presentation to the Board. The Board should do what is best for our kids. We do not want the Fermi building turned back to the Town. A study is needed and the Mayor supports this. Hold off on making any decisions. Educate the public. There is a lack of transparency and transparency is needed.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis stated that both political parties ran transparent campaigns. She read some of the campaign comments from Board members. The local community knows what is best for Enfield. People are concerned about the long term plans. We did not thoroughly go thru the process. You have talked the talk and now need to walk the walk. We were promised a long term plan. You do not have enough information to make a decision tonight. The Town Council will support a study. She would like the Board to prove that JFK is the better location for our middle school.

Bob Tkacz, No Certain Address – Mr. Tkacz stated he was a Board member in the 90's and we made a lot of tough decisions. We need to keep certain schools open due to State bonding. You will make the decision regarding Fermi. The facilities study went out for a referendum vote and it was turned down. JFK is a fine middle school. The Board knows the facts and can make the decision now. We need to watch our dollars. We need to upgrade JFK. Fermi has many issues. We need more money in our town and need to increase our tax rolls. Fermi should be sold so we can gain revenue just like the fire station.

Ilene MacDonald, Spring Street – Mrs. MacDonald is concerned with the crises situation regarding the costs. Won't the costs be the same if we keep the middle school at JFK? There are many unknown costs. The Board does not need to make a decision tonight. Please wait until a study can be preformed. Thank you.

Wendy Osada, Drive - Mrs. Osada stated she was in favor of using Fermi as a middle school

until she heard the Board Leaderships presentation. There is an outstanding bond at JFK. The Fermi setup would not be conducive for a middle school. She thanked the Board Leadership for their presentation but there are gaps. JFK square footage compared to other middle schools would fall to the bottom third of middle schools in CT. Fermi as a middle school would be in top third. The upgrade costs are inconclusive. Construction costs for new are more than renovations. The construction time at JFK would be longer since the students would still be in the building than construction costs for Fermi. The students would be disrupted if JFK was renovated while being in the building. A thorough assessment is needed before the Board makes any decision.

Trish Neilbarry, Road - Ms. Neilbarry has children in our schools. The Board has asked for our opinions and we have been ignored in the past for the school colors and mascot. The Board did what it wanted. We have signed a petition and attended community conversations. We want to use Fermi as a middle school. This is all about money. You made an assessment and want us to buy into it. The Mayor has offered to conduct a study. All you need to do is ask for it. This process has not been transparent.

Jim Halpin, Parker Street – Mr. Halpin stated the people are not being represented in this process. The Police Chief wants to use Fermi as an academy. Construction costs are cheaper if you don't put in any foundations. The fields at JFK are a joke. Why did we spend the money on the Fermi fields if we are going to close the school? Fiscal responsibility is needed. As citizens, we have had quite enough. We need integrity from our Board members. You made your campaign promises but have not lived up to them. There is always controversy in this town. Thank you.

Bethany Ouellette, Betty Road – Mrs. Ouellette stated that nothing has been clear with the reporting. We did a great job consolidating the schools. We elected you to do your job. Transparency is needed. There is no solid information and no real truth. The fields at Fermi will still be needed for our student athletes. A study should be conducted. Please do not make a decision about Fermi tonight. More time is needed. Thank you.

Shannon Grant, Yale Drive – Ms. Grant stated the Board has heard many reasons why not to close Fermi. Population in our town is decreasing. A casino will be built less than 10 miles from us. Enfield is a perfect place for casino workers to live and raise their families. We will see double the growth in Enfield in a few years when the casino is completed. Will JFK be able to accommodate future student population? The report is not accurate. She commended Dr. Schumann for the program of studies night. What a difference from the last time she attended one. She will have an incoming 9th grader going to EHS. We are pushing our students to further their educations. She asked the Board what their legacy will be.

Jen Briette, Laurel Park – Ms. Briette stated a referendum does not mean we do not support education

Bob Tkacz, No Certain Address – Mr. Tkacz stated facility assessments were done. We have great fields at Fermi. The grounds at Fermi are capped by the EPA. That is why we have new fields at Fermi. The enrollment projections report completed by Pete Prowda, show a decrease by 8% in 2025. Vital statistics report that there are more deaths in Enfield than births. We are losing population all over CT. There will be no State bonding funds for school renovations. We have empty seats in our elementary schools now. Fermi is not needed and should be sold.

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Circle – Mr. Jonaitis stated that he does not believe it would be a crime to close JFK. This is the best audience participation he has seen in quite some time. He thanked the audience. He asked the Board to please postpone your decision.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis stated if we had a long term plan, maybe some of the

CREC students would come back to us. We need to invest in our children's education in Enfield.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the proms at both high schools will be held soon in March. She wished them all a safe and happy prom.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated the Enfield High Girls Basketball players. They are the conference champs and are competing in the Class M State contest. She wished them luck.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked audience members for coming and reaching out to us. She hears what you are saying. She is also a parent and a tax payer. She read the definition of transparent. We need to practice what we pledge. She will not second guess what is discussed during Governance meetings. She trusts her Board Chairman and Superintendent. The Board's Chairman and Superintendent keep us informed.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that she spoke at the last meeting. She read what insanity means. She has done what she could do and apologizes if her comments may affect the Board negatively. She believes the Board will get thrown under the bus regarding the vote regarding Fermi. If you believe in something, you should speak your mind and don't pass the buck. We have kicked the can down the road and repairs are needed in our buildings. These repairs come with a cost. She is concerned with the referendum for our buildings and our kids will pay for it. The allocated guard money was used for the Hazardville Institute. An amendment was made and it failed. The money would have been better used on the guards. You have the right to vote. She hears what you are saying. People are starting to see what Enfield is all about. Now we will watch and see what happens next especially with our taxes.

Mr. Neville thanked everyone for coming. We have all agonized over this decision. We are looking to do our best for the kids and citizens in Enfield. He was told we should not think about the money. He can't help but think about the cost implications. This is a crisis in his mind.

Mr. Neville stated community members can call or e-mail any Board member. Our contact information is now on the website. He thanked Mr. Weseliza for this information. We need to have conversations with you.

Mr. Neville stated the Board Leadership compiled this report because people had very little information and a lot of misinformation. This is something we requested the Building Committee to do to find a way to purchase uniforms. The money will go back to the Town not to the Board of Education. We have asked them to look at equipment costs. Nothing wrong was done by the Building Committee. He was glad that EHS will do some team building for the students. The EHS Building Committee's teamwork and dedication was able to purchase the uniforms. He is pleased with this.

Mr. Neville attended the First Readers Trivia Night. It was a lot of fun. He encouraged community members to attend next year.

Mr. Neville stated the lifts are working at EHS. Mr. Kruzel has some great pictures.

Mr. Grady thanked Mr. Daigle. The Building Committee is doing a top notch job. We are going to have a top notch high school. He thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting and voicing your concerns. We hear what you are saying. Our minds are not made up yet.

Mr. Grady attended the Parkman POPS assembly. The students are doing a great job. He

thanked the staff at Parkman for recognizing the student's achievements. This is a wonderful program.

Mr. Kruzel stated we added the uniforms to the Building Committee. He thanks them for finding the funds to purchase them. By doing their due diligence and by keeping costs down, we were able to purchase the uniforms for the new high school. If we didn't do this now, it would be 2018 before we were able to replace them. This money was spent on the kids.

Mr. Kruzel reported that the BUZZ Pasta Supper was held and the turnout was great. They raised a good amount of money. They have a FIRST event this weekend. BUZZ will hold a dinner/dance on April 9th at the Elks.

Mr. Peabody thanked everyone who attended the community conversation. He has spoken to many people about this. This is all about the kids. Enfield schools need to be the shining star in our community. We need to let the Town Council know we are their second priority. We presented our FY2016-17 budget to the Town Council. He congratulated Dr. Schumann for a good job with the presentation.

Mr. Peabody stated we discussed a concept of joint budget workshops with the Board and Town Council. We are reaching out to the Town Council to forge teamwork. The budget keeps us up at night. Our children are part of this community. He looks at long term and short term plans when he makes decisions. Our education is on the rise and we will get there. We are making changes to our curriculum. He thanked everyone for coming and for your community participation.

Mrs. Unghire thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. She appreciates your passion. We have all lost sleep over this topic and do not take our responsibilities lightly. She appreciates your phone calls, e-mails and conversations. She takes your concerns seriously.

Mrs. Unghire attended a CREC meeting and the Legislative Breakfast.

Mrs. Unghire congratulated the EHS Girls Basketball Team for all of their hard work. She went to the game and they are tough. We are very proud of you.

Mrs. Unghire attended the First Readers Trivia Night. It was a lot of fun. She also urged community members to attend next year.

Mr. Ludwick congratulated the EHS Girls Basketball Team. For the second time, the girls sang the National Anthem again. The girls are awesome and urged them to keep up the good work. This is what Enfield is all about. The St. Bernard's basketball teams are also on their way to the nationals. He wished them luck also.

Chairman Sirard congratulated the EHS Girls Basketball team. You all rock! Keep up the good job.

Chairman Sirard stated we approached the Building Committee and have all be working on the uniforms. We have been shown mockups. We will still need to use the Fermi fields for our athletic teams.

Chairman Sirard stated that building capacities are set by State building code. The State Fire Code will set the numbers for the buildings and rooms. This also includes the cafeteria.

Chairman Sirard was not in favor of turf fields. He got over this. Deferred maintenance has been going on for decades. We have been neglecting the maintenance in our buildings for quite some time. Nothing has changed and we are now playing catch-up.

Chairman Sirard stated the Board had a challenge and the demographics did not support the number of schools we had. Our demographics were shrinking. So we closed 2 elementary schools and reorganized the K-8 grade configuration. There was a long term plan. We are currently discussing forming a long term planning committee so we do not need to deal with this again.

The Governance Committee has shared information with Town Council and Board members. Information is shared for discussion with both sets of members. The Mayor will share information with his people and I will share information with Board members.

Chairman Sirard stated there are 4 people on the Board Leadership Committee. Any information discussed is then shared with all Board members.

Chairman Sirard stated he was in favor of the guards and supports his decision. The Board members listen to what everyone is saying. He thanked the Board members for their hard work. We do our best and get beat up a lot. He tries not to make this personal and there have been some nasty comments that have been made.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Transition Update

Dr. Schumann stated the schools will merge in 6 months. We learned a lot from our November move to the Fermi wing and know we can do better. We will be ready September. The Transition Committee meets monthly and talks daily to resolve any questions and concerns with the Building Committee.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and action if any regarding Enrico Fermi

Chairman Sirard read a motion for Board consideration.

To conditionally release the Fermi Building to the Town of Enfield providing the following needs are addressed:

- The athletic fields at JFK be remediated as soon as possible;
- The Town Council and the Board of Education through the Superintendent of Schools address the portable classroom issues at JFK; and
- The Town Council and the Board of Education through the Superintendent reserve educational spaces at the Fermi building for the long term strategic plan for the educational needs of the district

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Ludwick that the Enfield Board of Education approves the motion as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Grady stated he recalled that we voted on this topic as a Board a while ago and would table this until the high school was completed. Once the high school was completed we would look into this. He is wondering if we should table this until the High School consolidation is completed. Why is there such a rush to get this done now?

Chairman Sirard stated the Board's new term discussed this and proposed for the Board

Leadership look into this. The Board approved this.

Mr. Neville stated the Board presented their recommendations on January 26th for the Board Leadership to bring back a recommendation to the Board and for the Board to make a decision regarding Fermi at the March 8th Board meeting. This was approved by the Board.

Mr. Grady stated there is a lot going on with the high school renovation project. Can we put the decision off to a later date? We need to do our due diligence. We are taking on two huge projects.

Mr. Kruzel stated the plaque on the wall dictates how many people can be in a building.

Mr. Kruzel stated conducting another study will mean a hill of beans. We have more data now than we need. Our taxes will go up. Approximately 1.46% of community members signed the petition.

Chairman Sirard urged audience members to conduct themselves in an orderly manner – no heckling will be allowed. He also reminded audience members there is no back and forth. Please respect the process and the chambers.

Mr. Neville stated there was a process. The original process did not work. We have a problem that needs to be resolved. Do we have use for the Fermi facility? We can make recommendations for what it could be used for. There is a lot of misinformation out here. There are many ideas floating around. We need to look at the facts and what is best for our kids. We used to plan for building repairs. We have many roofs, HVAC systems and boilers that need to be replaced or repaired – around \$55 million dollars. We just took on a \$35 million dollar debt for the high school. We need to consider all of this. We need to know how this will be paid for. We need a long term plan. He believes the numbers are pretty close. Finding the money is not the solution to repair priority 1 items.

Mr. Neville added that we need to do what is best for this community. He does not know how we can pay for this. He can't kick the can down the road anymore. Fermi is a crises situation in his mind. He is glad to see audience members here tonight and at the community conversation. We have been doing less with less. It is not just the Fermi issue we need to consider. We have the annual budget to deal with also. We are proud of the direction we are going with our schools. He is a citizen that pays taxes. No one can find \$55 million dollars.

Mr. Grady asked about the report presented by Board Leadership, who put this report together.

Mr. Neville stated Board Leadership met and reviewed everything in the report. Mr. Peabody did the graphs using the information from the FCA report. Board Leadership made changes and came up with the final presentation. Bringing this to the Board was part of the original plan.

Mr. Grady asked if any of Mr. Peabody's original report was used in the Board Leadership report. Mr. Peabody stated the information in his report came from the FCA report and demographic study. The report from Board Leadership also used information from the FCA Report and enrollment information from the Demographic Committee.

Mrs. Thurston stated the Future Use of Fermi dropped the ball. She was part of this committee. She didn't agree with the report then and is not happy with this report either. She would like to have a 3rd party come in and give us a report. She is not ready to vote on this and would like us to wait. She does not want to turn the building over to the Town.

Mr. Ludwick stated the debate we have been having is very healthy. He thinks JFK is a great

middle school. He supports JFK. They were just re-accredited. They can control the kids in this building. Putting middle school students at Fermi would be difficult. He appreciates everyone's passion.

Mr. Grady stated that he has asked for someone to walk through Fermi to see if the building is conducive for a middle school. He has never received any information on this. We have only heard people's opinions. We need a non-biased opinion about Fermi being used as a middle school. We are going to make a decision with material that people are viewing as fuzzy. We could turn our buildings into something else like a vocational building. Making a decision tonight is wrong. We never do anything pro-active in this Town. He would also like us to wait.

Mr. Kruzel asked Chairman Sirard to re-read the motion.

Chairman Sirard re-read a motion for Board consideration.

To conditionally release the Fermi Building to the Town of Enfield providing the following needs are addressed:

- The athletic fields at JFK be remediated as soon as possible;
- The Town Council and the Board of Education through the Superintendent of Schools address the portable classroom issues at JFK; and
- The Town Council and the Board of Education through the Superintendent reserve educational spaces at the Fermi building for the long term strategic plan for the educational needs of the district.

The motion was moved by Mr. Kruzel and seconded by Mr. Ludwick for the Enfield Board of Education to approve the motion as presented.

Mr. Peabody asked if this motion would be binding for the Town Council. Chairman Sirard stated this would be a conditional release for the building.

Mr. Neville stated if they don't agree with this, Fermi would come back to us. Chairman Sirard stated if the Town Council disagrees, Fermi would still be our building.

Mr. Neville stated he is also concerned that we did not take any questions and answers after the presentation. This bothers him. He would like to respond to their questions. Maybe this should be discussed further. We could table this for 2 weeks. He also said if we are ready, okay. If we are not, that is okay also.

Mr. Grady added this report was done by the Board Leadership Committee. The original Future Use Committee did not have this information. Maybe the Future Use of Fermi Committee should be informed that we have the information they need now. They could then continue with their charge.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Pre-Referendum Committee was an effective committee. There were 2 members from the Board and Town Council and an independent on the committee for transparency. There were also liaisons on the committee. This is the kind of committee she is looking for.

Mr. Neville is not looking to form another committee. We did our due diligence. Money is a huge concern. The misinformation out there needs to be resolved. We need more time. We would need to look back in the minutes regarding Mr. Grady's questions. He thought it was for the Board to wait until we were done with the budget. We need to think this through. This topic can split Board's. He is not in favor of forming another committee. We need to get the information out to the public. Factual data will resolve this.

Mr. Peabody called for the question.

A vote by **roll-call 6-3-0** passed with Mr. Grady, Mrs. Thurston and Mrs. LeBlanc in dissent.

Chairman Sirard asked for audience participation to stop and to respect the process.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Building Committee - None
- b. Curriculum Committee - None
- c. Finance Committee – None
- d. Leadership Committee – None
- e. Policy Committee - None

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2016 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mr. Grady abstaining.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Special Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2016 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mr. Grady abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

a. For the Month of January 2016

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education certifies that in the month of January 2016, total expenditures amount to \$6,796,146.49 broken down between payroll totaling \$3,891,537.44 and other accounts totaling \$2,904,609.05.

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 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

b. Line Item Transfers, if any - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES

Vinnie Weseliza, Deer Run – Mr. Weseliza stated that he is disgusted with the Board's process. We had a committee that didn't do anything. Information is missing. You do not know how much it will cost to repair JFK. The repairs you will make at JFK will be a band aide approach. An independent study is needed and would have solved a lot of questions. We are doing an injustice to our school system. You just put our school system behind.

Lauren DiNazzo, Deer Run – Ms. DiNazzo stated this school system stinks. She does not have any children. People move to towns with good school systems. Mr. Weseliza ran for the Board and did not get appointed. He has been doing research on Fermi on his time for years. You just made a decision with unknown costs. How can you be proud of this decision? I work hard and pay taxes in this town. You made a decision with unknown costs. We have modular classrooms at JFK. The Board does not have any figures to back your decision. You have not

done your due diligence. You say that you are looking out for the kids. You have done a disservice to the kids in our town. I just don't get it.

Jenna Beebe, Martin Street – Ms. Beebe stated she is very disappointed. You just ruined her future. Thank you.

Amy Tanguay, Renee Lane – Mrs. Tanguay stated she is very disappointed. Our kids have art on a cart at JFK. They are eating lunch at 10:30 in the morning and are going outside for classes. The Chairman's tone was rude. He agrees with Mr. Grady that you needed to look into this more and take the Town Council's money to get an opinion done. Why not look at the big picture and look at our education needs. You don't have all the answers. You have given the Town Council a stipulation. What does this mean? Will they fix the fields at JFK? The classrooms outside are more like trailers. You have the power to make the change but you chose not to. Using Fermi as a community center is not the answer. Our kids are not getting the education they deserve.

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Circle – Mr. Jonaitis stated the books Mr. Kruzel is referring to did not just come out. He is disappointed with the Board's vote. The 3 democrats voted the way you believed – thank you. A letter was written years ago about the ADA compliance. The Board did not need to worry about these repairs because we were building a new high school. We have had 3 years to decide what to do with Fermi. We used to have building repairs on a schedule when facilities belonged to the Board. We have kicked this can down the road. Where will the money come from now to make needed repairs. This will now fall on the Town. JFK is not a bad building. He had ideas of what to put in Fermi. We need long term planning. He does not believe the Executive Committee should make all of the decisions. Board members should have the same information to make the needed decisions together. You should discuss things together behind closed doors as a Board. He is very disappointed.

Rebecca Halpin, Parker Street & Laurel Park – Ms. Halpin is disappointed with the Board's decision. She wanted to go to a bigger school. JFK is not a bad school. The halls are crowded. She would like the recreation center placed at JFK. She does not like going outside for classes. The education at JFK is good but the building needs to be bigger. She would like a better education.

Jim Halpin, Parker Street – Mr. Halpin stated that the number of phone calls a United States Senator needs to receive is 30 in order for them to take a complaint seriously. He would think you would have taken this more seriously. He has lived in Enfield his entire life. He has never gone to a meeting because he knew how it would be. We have asked the Board to postpone this decision. Your figures may be correct, but we will never know. We do not have faith in the Board. Accountability is a big issue and you still chose to do what you did. He went to JFK and it isn't a bad building. JFK is small. He has a problem with the trailer park mentality. It is the dedication of people, students and community that makes the difference. You have disappointed so many people. Character is important. Our students deserve better than this. You will see more of him.

Gina Sullivan, Spier Avenue – Ms. Sullivan thanked Mr. Weseliza for everything you have done over the past 3 years. He has put a lot of effort into this. The Board has a lot of committees. She recommends the Board form another committee – a communications committee. The lack of communication is pretty bad.

Bethany Ouellette, Betty Road – Mrs. Ouellette questions the Board's vote and conditions of the vote. There is no definitive timeline for these conditions. You have given the Town Council an open door to kick this down the road. The conditions should be more detailed and outlined.

John Rinaldi, Ridge Road – Mr. Rinaldi stated the definition of an argument is not to impose

your opinions on others. You are supposed to argue your cause. He heard it from one side of the Board to wait. He did not hear why you were going to vote yes. He has concerns that you didn't state why you voted for this.

Kim Knapp, Roland Street – Mrs. Knapp is very disappointed with the Board's vote and the party politics that go on in this town. It is time for a change in Enfield. You asked for us to get involved. We did and you still didn't listen to us. You have criticized people signing the petition is insulting. Now it is budget time and you will want us to get involved. The Board did not listen to us. This is cowardly. She read a poem called "the Man in the Glass".

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Circle – Mr. Jonaitis stated that he hates common core. He stated that 1.4% of the 45,000 people that live in Enfield is less than what Mr. Kruzel mentioned. You would also need to consider if they are registered voters.

Liz, Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis thanked Mr. Weseliza for all of his hard work. We lost out when he was not elected to the Board. He did not quit and stayed true to his cause. She has vowed to get more than 600 signatures to keep this petition going so people remember this on Election Day. Mr. Weseliza got 600 signatures on a freezing cold day. She is not happy with the Board's decision about Fermi. She read the Board's campaign promises and it didn't matter. The fact that the Council Chambers is packed, it still didn't matter. We need a giant change in Enfield.

Eileen MacDonald, Spring Street – Ms. MacDonald stated this is my first time speaking in public. I plan to attend more meetings and will be more vocal in the future.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Ludwick to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2016.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary