

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 22, 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 22, 2016.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Walter Kruzel, Raymond Peabody, Mike Ludwick, Tina LeBlanc, Tim Neville, Stacy Thurston, Vin Grady and Tom Sirard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lori Unghire

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S):** None
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**
 - a. Student Representatives – as presented
 - b. March/April Events – as presented
 - c. Grants Report – as presented
 - d. Personnel Report – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES**

Vin Wezelisa, Deer Run – Mr. Wezelisa stated the Board released Fermi back to the town without any professional studies being conducted. The Board and Town are now going to form 2 special committees. The Board said they had all the information they needed to make a decision and no additional committees were needed. He reviewed correspondence from Mayor Kaupin. Community members believed they were going to be part of the decision. The Board proposed conditions for the Fermi and JFK buildings that he reviewed. He cannot vote or support any referendum that will be made. Thank you.

Shannon Grant, Yale Drive – Ms. Grant stated she looked at the Town Council's budget on-line and the year to date totals. She commended the Town Managers budget. She reviewed financial numbers with the Board. The Board's budget is always being adjusted downward. She would like to know why repairs have not been made. The Town Council budgeted for these repairs. She noted the Public Safety and Public Works line items are more expensive than the Board of Education items after you factor out grants received. The Board needs to ask for your money and what is being budgeted. This is your job and you need to ask for it and why they are taking the money back. Thank you.

Jen Bruyette, Laurel Park – Ms. Bruyette thanked both Mr. Drezek and Dr. Schumann for meeting with her and addressing her questions. She would like to know why the Board is no longer a member to CABE. They offer professional development workshops for Board members that would be very beneficial regarding parliamentary procedures.

Gina Sullivan, Spier Avenue – Ms. Sullivan stated the Board asked for our opinions. You want to hear from us. We voiced our opinions, came to meetings and community conversations. We even presented you with a signed petition and that didn't matter. You want to hear from us and hear our opinions. Maybe you will hear this.

Richard Keyner, Abbe Road – Mr. Keyner stated the presentation made by Mr. Neville and Mr. Peabody to the Board two weeks ago was excellent and it showed lot of information. Many people do not attend meetings but watch them from their homes. A lot of people appreciated your decision about Fermi and JFK. He appreciated this information about Fermi and JFK. Thank you.

Shannon Grant, Yale Drive – Ms. Grant asked about what will happen to the Fermi pool since the building is being turned over to the town. They have budgeted \$80K for rehab maintenance for the pool. The repairs for the boilers have been deleted from the budget. She would like to know why?

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ludwick stated the St. Bernard's varsity girls and boys basketball teams are advancing to the national tournament that will be held in Bridgeport, CT on April 2nd. The St. Martha's boys' team also has teams in this tournament. These groups are nice young people in our town. He wished them all good luck. Education takes many forms in our town. We have a lot of good stuff going on in our town. These students are well mannered and show a tremendous amount of dignity.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked the Town Manager for his budget presentation. Mr. Erdmann presented a fair budget for education. He recognized our needs and presented a needs based budget.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Ms. Grant for her comments and understands your frustrations. The Joint Facilities Committee will give the Board a voice when it comes to our buildings. We lost our voice when the buildings were turned over to the Town.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Ms. Bruyette for her comments. We were members of CABE for years. They teach you how to be a Board member and give you a networking opportunity with other Boards of Education. Being a member of CABE is helpful. This was cut from our budget due to the budget so we could save a teaching position.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated high school students are registering for classes for next year. The block scheduling will be an exciting opportunity for our children. These are some of the positive things we are doing for our students.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that Fermi held their junior prom last week and Enfield High will hold theirs this week. She wished the students a happy and safe prom season. She also wished everyone a happy Easter.

Mr. Neville commented to Ms. Grant that we push for our budget. We need help from everyone. Every year we fight this same battle. Deferred maintenance is very important and it is needed. He would like to receive a copy of the Town Council's proposed budget from the Town Manager. He added that some of the items Ms. Grant was discussing might have been for the referendum that did not pass. We have some priority items that need to be addressed.

Mr. Neville stated that CAFE is very important to Boards of Education. We cut our membership with CAFE to save a teaching position. The costs for the Fermi pool are needed to rehab the pool. It needs to be properly maintained. It cost a lot when we rehabbed the JFK pool. We will still need to use the Fermi pool for athletics and the community. He would like an explanation about why we are choosing one item over another.

Mr. Neville also congratulated Mr. Erdmann for the budget he presented. He watched this from his home. He presented a rationale for the needs presented in the budget. We will meet with them to discuss the budget and will continue to build bridges between the Town Council and Board of Education.

Mr. Neville stated that we listen to what you are saying. The fields need to be addressed. The money for these items needs a referendum and a pre-referendum committee comes first. What you were saying did not mesh with the information we had. We are listening to what you are saying. He is sorry, but we disagree with you. We have a responsibility to the community to find a balance. He is available to continue this conversation with any community members. It is not about not listening to you, it is about not agreeing with you.

Mrs. Thurston congratulated one of our outstanding Eli Whitney teachers – Charlotte Zenzik. Mrs. Zenzik and her husband competed in a dance competition and raised funds for an organ donor charity – Donate Life Connecticut. They raised over \$3K for this organization. She thanked her for everything she does for our students and our community.

Mr. Grady congratulated the Buzz Robotics team for their recent competition win. What they are doing is amazing and a lot of fun to watch.

Mr. Grady also congratulated the Enfield High girls basketball team for going as far as they did in the State Tournament. They are a group of talented athletes who put their heart and soul into every competition. He looks forward to them competing again next year.

Mr. Grady complimented Enfield High School Building Committee Member Wendy Osada. She attended the Town Council meeting and spoke about Fermi and JFK about construction and renovation costs. He wished the Board had more information before we made our decision.

Mr. Kruzel also congratulated the Buzz Robotics team for the outstanding win at the Worcester, Massachusetts competition. They will hold a fund raising event at the Elks on April 9th from 7-12 PM. You can buy tickets at the door.

Mr. Kruzel wished everyone a happy Easter.

Mr. Peabody congratulated the Buzz Robotics Team and the Enfield High Girls Basketball Team. He recognized a past Fermi student that is going on to further his education at Asnuntuck. We have kids in our town that will work very hard. Keep up the good work.

Mr. Peabody commented to Ms. Grant that the numbers represented in the Town Manager's budget represent what we can and can't do for our students. We will hold workshops with the Town Council. We need to make sure the Town Council understands that the Board of Education is their #2 priority. We support the Superintendent and our education system. He looks forward to working with the Town Council. The Town Manager did a good job with the budget presentation.

Mr. Peabody stated when he made his decision regarding Fermi, he looked at all of the information that was presented. He looked at the benefits and value added. The Fermi building has an educational purpose but not as a middle school.

Mr. Peabody thanked his fellow Board members and looks forward to working with them during budget season. We respect each other and may disagree at times.

Chairman Sirard congratulated Mr. Erdmann for having his temporary contract extended.

Chairman Sirard congratulated the Buzz Robotics and the Talented and Gifted JFK Sea Perch team. The JFK team conducts robotics in the water. He would like for them to attend a future Board meeting to show everyone what they are doing.

Chairman Sirard stressed to audience members to not believe everything you read or hear in social media. There is a lot of misinformation out there.

Chairman Sirard stated we will ask the Town for what we need. The Town Council will give us what they can afford. He reviewed the costs for SPED and the reimbursement we will receive from the State. We are being shorted reimbursement for SPED costs around \$12-\$14 million dollars every year from the State. This has been going on for years.

Chairman Sirard stated we stopped being members of CABA due to financial constraints. We are currently using our attorneys at Shipman and Goodwin for Board member training.

Chairman Sirard stated he ran for the Board of Education to provide continuity. He was here for the start of the reorganization. We looked at a lot of information then. Very little has changed from what we are doing now. The pre-referendum committee was formed first before we made our decision regarding the high school. This is why we chose to renovate Enfield High School. We are now following the same process for JFK. We have base line information and used base line information when we made our decision about the high school. He is available to meet with anyone to help explain the process. Respectful conversations are needed and that did not happen at the last meeting.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Transition Update

Dr. Schumann stated there were some concerns with the air compressor voltage in the chemistry lab, technology lab and auto shop at Enfield High. The compressor is running and the chiller is not operating properly. The necessary repairs will be addressed on Wednesday.

Dr. Schumann stated several students attended the Connecticut Association Leadership Summit. They met at Central Office with Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey, Mr. Newton, Mr. Bourassa and myself today. They had an idea about the merger. One of the students is here tonight and will update the Board.

Ms. Abigale Bosco stated we met and discussed students from each high school shadowing each other to help ease the tension for when we consolidate. This will help to promote a better school climate and ease the tension. We will now be one school – the eagles. There will not be many opportunities for student orientations. The students will have the opportunity to meet each other before we become one in the fall.

Dr. Schumann stated we are looking to do this in May over several days. The students are planning this.

Mr. Ludwick congratulated Ms. Bosco for articulating this plan so eloquently to the Board. He hopes the adults see how you students are handling yourselves so positively. This is impressive. It is a great idea. Keep up the good work.

Dr. Schumann stated the students are excited about their schedules for next year. They are moving forward and are embracing the change.

Mrs. LeBlanc appreciates the students coming forward.

Mr. Ludwick addressed an area of concern for the parking at Enfield high. This is going to need to be monitored next year when the student population doubles. They are crossing over the driveway. This could be dangerous with more students at the high school next year.

Dr. Schumann stated student safety is a major priority. The students are not using the tunnel. This is something we will be addressing with the principals.

Mr. Grady asked if the problem with the air compression and lifts had anything to do with the ordering issue.

Mr. Kruzel stated this problem has nothing to do with the delay receiving the materials. There was a delay with the purchase orders. This is the first he has heard about the compressor chiller issue. He will look into it.

Mr. Neville stated we did hear from several parents previously about the lifts. The Building Committee addressed those concerns. The compressor was wired for the wrong voltage. This was not caused by the company who delayed sending the merchandise.

Mr. Kruzel stated he will look in the chiller. Payment has not been sent out to this company yet.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and action if any regarding Appointing Board Liaison(s) to the Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Sirard stated he would like the Board to table both items for now.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Ludwick that the Enfield Board of Education tables appointing Board Liaison(s) to the Joint Facilities Committee.

Discussion:

Chairman Sirard stated the Town Council has not addressed this item yet. Once they address it, the Board can address it.

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

b. Discussion and action if any regarding Appointing Board Liaisons(s) to the John F. Kennedy Middle School Pre-Referendum Committee

Mr. Ludwick moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education tables appointing Board Liaison(s) to the John F. Kennedy Middle School Pre-Referendum Committees.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Building Committee

Mr. Kruzel reported the Building Committee continues to move forward with the gymnasium. They are moving along with "A" wing. The weather has been on our side.

Mr. Neville added the Building Committee feels a stop light at the top of the hill on Enfield Street which is State road is needed for next year. The committee feels we will need police to monitor the traffic flow into and out of the school. This is a huge safety concern. The committee will continue to address this concern.

Mr. Neville stated that Mr. Daigle is looking into the wear path on the grass from the students. It is a steep slope and something needs to be done. The students are mapping out their own path. This could potentially be a dangerous situation. Wendy Osada is addressing the traffic light before we open up in September.

Mr. Ludwick would like us to put staff there to monitor the traffic flow. They will use the breakdown lane to go right which is also dangerous. People don't want to wait for the light.

Mr. Neville added this will be discussed regularly at our meetings.

b. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee met. We looked at the AP offerings chart. This shows the value added to our curriculum. He would like each Board member to receive this. It shows the history of AP offerings.

Dr. Schumann added we have tripled our AP offerings for our students.

Mr. Neville stated they also discussed the standards based grades 3-5 report cards. We will meet with parents to see how well this is working just like we did with the K-2 report cards.

Mr. Ludwick would like us to offer workshops for the community showing what we have done. We have taken some hits about lack of communication. People can't find things on our website. This will show community members what we are doing in our schools.

Mr. Neville added this is something we are looking into doing by presenting this information to the public. We need to discuss these kinds of things with the public. Good minds think alike.

Mr. Peabody stated last year we had students come to the Board meeting about the Lexia reading program. We need to show the Town Council what our students are doing. The changes we have been making are budget friendly.

c. Finance Committee

Mr. Peabody reported the Finance Committee met earlier tonight. We will address accounts and payroll later on the agenda. The Finance Committee members would like to reassess our needs for membership with CAFE. We are an active Board and take advantage with the services they offer.

a. Policy Committee

Mr. Ludwick stated the Policy Committee met and reviewed several policies and State mandated requirements. We will bring forward several policies for first readings in April and

May. We also discussed our membership with CABE. Several of our policies should be reviewed annually and bi-annually. CABE might be able to offer some of their services to us at a reduced cost. We will have an update on this topic for our April meeting. Our policies all need to be in compliance with the State. This is a needed service.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Special Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2016 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-2** passed with Mrs. Thurston and Mr. Grady abstaining.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2016 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

a. For the Month of February 2016

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education certifies that in the month of February 2016, total expenditures amount to \$5,478,273.36 broken down between payroll totaling \$3,905,750.41 and other accounts totaling \$1,572,522.95.

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** passed unanimously.

b. Line Item Transfers, if any - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Invitation to attend the Memorial Day Parade on May 29th.

16. AUDIENCES

Lori Bosco, Simon Road – Mrs. Bosco has concerns with the visitor parking lot at Enfield High. There is a sign but there isn't any visitor parking. The teachers are using this area. Spaces need to be marked clearly for visitors. Next year parking will be a real concern. She thanked the Board.

Abby Bosco, Simon Road – Ms. Bosco stated students have started to schedule their classes for next year. The AP courses offered are fantastic. She has been able to take so many AP credits. When she graduates next year, she will have 45 college credits. She thanked the Board for making this possible.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Ludwick that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel and Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining.

A vote by **show of hands 6-2-0** passed with Mr. Grady and Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

The Board relocated to the staff lounge for the Executive Session at 8:10 PM. Mr. Drezek and Dr. Schumann joined the Board in Executive Session. No Board action occurred during the Executive Session.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ludwick moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 22, 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