

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 25, 2015**

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 August 25, 2015.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Tom Sirard
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tom Sirard
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Sirard announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Jonaitis, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Vin Grady, Tina LeBlanc, Timothy Neville, Stacy Thurston and Tom Sirard

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Wawer

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **EHS Building Committee**

Dean Petrucelli from Silver Petrucelli & Associates and Amar Shamas from Gilbane Construction Company gave the Board an update regarding the Enfield High School Building Project. They showed slides of the progress made.

Mr. Petrucelli stated that Phase III FF&E has been approved by the State. He added that they are here to support Gilbane throughout the remainder of the project.

Mr. Shamas added that it has been equally enjoyable to work with everyone involved in the project. We are on target to move into the STEAM wing in November. Construction site curb work will start next week. Landscaping will start within the next 3 weeks. The cafeteria is expected to open in November. The Culinary Arts space is targeted for completion in September/October.

Mr. Shamas stated furniture packages are out to bid and are due in September. The entire project is on schedule.

Lynn Scull, EHS Building Committee member added that it has been a pleasure to work with Silver Petrucelli & Associates and Gilbane Construction Company.

Mr. Neville stated the cafeteria is scheduled to open in November. Mr. Shamas agreed with Mr. Neville.

Mr. Neville asked about the music wing. Mr. Shamas stated we will start the construction in late November/December 2015 and should be completed in March 2017.

Mr. Neville stated the overall project is on schedule. Mr. Shamas stated we are on schedule and the trades are keeping us online and are moving us forward with the project.

Mr. Neville added that this has been a great group to work with. He thanked them for everything they have done.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the progress that has been made is phenomenal. The building looks great. This has been such a great transition.

Mr. Jonaitis asked when all the students move into the building. Mr. Shamas stated the Enfield High students will move into the Fermi STEAM Wing November 25, 2015. Both schools will be combined for September 2016.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about the capacity of the STEAM Wing. Will all the students fit? Mr. Shamas stated they will all fit. There are 16 classrooms in the STEAM Wing and the cafeteria will also be used for classrooms while we renovate "A" Wing. We have enough space to cover all existing classes.

Mrs. Scull stated the band/music room will be ready around February/March 2016.

Mr. Jonaitis stated all the students will be together at EHS in September 2016. Students will be using the Fermi STEAM Wing in November 2015.

Chairman Sirard thanked the members of the Building Committee for their top notch professionalism.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. First Day of School – as presented
- c. Grants Report – as presented
- d. Personnel Report – as presented

8. AUDIENCES

Vincent Weseliza, Deer Run – Mr. Weseliza stated that JFK has been left untouched for years and will need roughly \$15-18 million for renovations. We are expecting the number of band students to increase at JFK. Storage and classroom space is needed at JFK. The grounds at JFK also need to be renovated. Using the Fermi building for the middle school will give us the space that is need for all programs. Using Fermi as a middle school could meet future growth needs. He would like to see a study done comparing JFK and FHS to see which building would be better for our middle school. He has done extensive work on this and Fermi could be our best option for a middle school. Thank you.

Amy Tanguay, Renee Lane – Mrs. Tanguay agrees with Mr. Weseliza. She thanked the Board for their responses to her e-mails she sent them. Expense is a concern for her. She would like the Board to look at the future. We need our middle school to prepare our children for our great high school. We need to improve our middle school education. We need long term plans for the future of our students.

Elizabeth Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis agrees with Mr. Weseliza and complemented him on his extensive research he has done about Fermi. The two Fermi reports do not match. We need to do what is best for our kids and our town. Our buildings are falling apart. She has been asking for a plan for quite some time and has not seen anything. We consolidated our neighborhood schools. She is all for saving money. We need to invest in our schools and

education. If we do this, it will boost our home values. We have great educators in Enfield and need to stand behind them. Our high school will be state of the art once it is completed. We need to look at the whole picture. We are giving our students free lunches and they are tossing items in the trash. Someone needs to look into this. She agrees with Mr. Weseliza's report. She would like to see us use Fermi as the middle school. Thank you and urged Board members to remember why you ran for the Board of Education.

Josh Hamre, New King Street – Mr. Hamre also thanked Mr. Weseliza for his report about using Fermi as the middle school. When we closed Alcorn, there was no bond owed to the State. This was not a positive experience for him. He does not want to see the Fermi/JFK issue to be made based on State bonding. We did what was best for the bottom line not what was best for the kids. Thank you.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Grady thanked the speakers and for Mr. Weseliza for his report about Fermi. He wishes everyone a good school year and welcomed back the teachers.

Mrs. LeBlanc also thanked all of the speakers tonight. You are fighting for Fermi and that is great. There is no bond for Fermi. She also welcomed back the students and teachers.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he will not be running for the Board again. He will step aside for the Joint Security Committee meetings as previously asked by the Chairman for Mr. Peabody to take his place.

Mr. Jonaitis did not know we had summer high school classes. If a student has a question or is having difficulties, someone needs to be available for them to address their concerns.

Mr. Jonaitis is not happy that we will not present anything tonight about the Future Use of Fermi Committee. He thought this would be addressed tonight. He would like this issue to be resolved as soon as possible. He would like to see us use Fermi in some capacity. We need to look at using Fermi for educational uses.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the Town is responsible for keeping up the conditions of the buildings not the school board.

Mr. Jonaitis has a concern with the capacity of the new STEAM Wing at EHS.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the audience speakers made some great comments tonight. Mr. Weseliza gave the Board a great report.

Mr. Peabody recognized some past students and Enfield residents. He thanked Mr. Weseliza for his report and Mrs. Tanguay for her comments. He also thanked the speakers for their comments made tonight.

Mr. Peabody stated the Board values education and he is proud to work with them.

Chairman Sirard stated there was no bond at Alcorn. There were other issues for us closing Alcorn. We were cited for having too large of a minority population at Alcorn. The building also had a second floor which posed another problem with the Fire Marshall.

Chairman Sirard stated the Town is responsible for the school buildings and grounds. If you have any concerns about the buildings and grounds, you can bring them to the Town Council to address.

Chairman Sirard also thanked the audience speakers. He thanked his fellow Board members for all of their hard work and dedication to the town and students.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve Employee Technology Purchase Program – 2015-16

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Employee Technology Purchase Program for 2015-16 as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the money will come out of the employees paychecks. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct. This program allows employees to purchase new technology and will not cost the district anything financially.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee met last night. He will address this item at the next Board meeting.

b. Finance Committee

Mrs. LeBlanc reported the Finance Committee met earlier today and we will address this item later on the agenda.

c. Future Use of Fermi Committee

Chairman Sirard read a prepared statement – unfortunately due to the complexity of the task and the challenges of collecting the data, the committee was unable to make a clear, singular recommendation to the board. Therefore, the leadership committee will now take the data and determine a process for moving forward.

He thanked the committee members for their dedicated effort to meet their charge. They have collected a large amount of credible data which was included in the Board packet.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Special Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire that the Special Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification as follows:

"I hereby certify the following months of total expenditures:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Payroll</u>	<u>Other Accounts</u>	<u>Total</u>
March	3,916,052.05	1,456,208.12	\$5,372,260.17
April	4,009,542.48	1,751,022.45	\$5,760,564.93
May	5,957,995.02	1,804,573.74	\$7,762,568.76
June	2,779,736.05	3,475,672.38	\$6,255,408.43

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 document."

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

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the Superintendent's line item transfers as follows:

<u>From:</u>	
Certified Salaries	1,124,791
Benefits	988,296
Other Purchased Services	39,200
Education Supplies	22,804
Textbook/Library Textbooks	14,769
Total	\$2,189,860

<u>To:</u>	
Non-certified Salaries	321,234
Salaries, Other	419,001
Professional Services	870,995
Transportation	112,557
Magnet School Tuition	53,684
SPED Tuition	335,616
Technology	22,804
Athletic Supplies & Equipment	39,200
Dues/Fees/Subscriptions	14,769
Total	\$2,189,860

A vote by **roll-call 7-0-1** passed with Mr. Jonaitis abstaining.

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES

Elizabeth Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis stated that she is aware that the Town Council is responsible for the school buildings and grounds. She has concerns with wasted food. The Board Leadership Committee will make the decision about the Use of Fermi. Will you give the public a report about this for transparency concerns or will this be done in private? She is looking for clarification on this.

Suspend the Rules and Add an Item to the Agenda:

Mr. Sirard moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education suspends the rules to add an item to the agenda to address audience member questions about the Use of Fermi.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis would like to know if the Board can also address this issue.

Both Mr. Sirard and Mr. Grady withdrew the motion.

Josh Hamre, New King Street – Mr. Hamre stated when the Alcorn school closure discussion happened, the members of the PTO were told not to show up at any Board or Town meetings. The minority status could have been rectified.

Elizabeth Windsor Post, Indian Run – Mrs. Post stated the initial Future Use of Fermi Committee was valued. The education budget has not increased in 5 years. What do we value in Enfield?

Mary Scutt, Yale Drive – Mrs. Scutt is concerned that a presentation about the use of Fermi was not given tonight. Transparency is needed. She would like some clarification about who will make the decision about the use of Fermi.

Kim Knapp, Roland Street – Mrs. Knapp would also like transparency about the use of Fermi. She does not know the procedure but transparency is needed. She is also disappointed that no report will be discussed and that the Board Leadership Committee will make the recommendation.

Ed Deni, Aloha Drive – Mr. Deni stated that we have 7 elementary schools that need repairs. This will be done by a referendum. The Town owns the Fermi building. He expressed his concerns about the Board and the Future Use of Fermi committee. Mr. Weseliza's presentation makes sense. He would like to see the middle school moved into the Fermi building. We could move the Intermediate schools to the JFK building. This would save us money. There is no long term plan in place. This needs to be addressed.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of August 25, 2015.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary