

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 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 September 15, 2015.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Peter Jonaitis
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Peter Jonaitis
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. **2015 Teacher of the Year**

Dr. Schumann introduced our 2015 Teacher of the Year – Connie Mazzetta to the Board. Mrs. Mazzetta is a Pre-School Special Education Teacher at Hazardville Memorial Elementary School.

Mrs. Mazzetta thanked the Board for inviting her to the Board meeting. She has been working with Special Education Pre-School Children for the Enfield Public Schools for over 20 years. She is also a Board Certified Behavioral Analyst. She also has her Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Mrs. Mazzetta added that she is honored to represent the Special Education program and the children she works with. She is also grateful to work with such exceptional teachers in the Enfield Public Schools.

Mr. Peabody congratulated Mrs. Mazzetta for the good work you do for our district. He asked what the one major challenge you deal with daily was. Mrs. Mazzetta stated communicating with students with Autism is a core challenge. Developing communication skills is one of the biggest problems people with autism face.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated Mrs. Mazzetta. You helped a friend of hers by giving her advice that has worked out greatly. Something as simple as advice can help parents tremendously.

Mr. Neville congratulated Mrs. Mazzetta. We could not have a better person representing the Enfield Public Schools. Special Education and Autism is near and dear to his heart. He has heard many positive things about you. Early intervention with Autism helps our youngsters out to be successful. He applauds you for the work you did over the summer to get ready for

this. You represent Enfield very well.

Mr. Jonaitis congratulated Mrs. Mazzetta. He asked if she is at the Stowe Early Learning Center building. Mrs. Mazzetta stated she is still at Hazardville Memorial but will be moving with the program to the Stowe building.

Mr. Jonaitis asked Mrs. Mazzetta to elaborate about the Stowe Early Learning Center. Mrs. Mazzetta stated that we are very excited about the Early Learning Center. The building is very age appropriate for developmental practice for our children. We appreciate the support of the community.

Mrs. Unghire thanked Mrs. Mazzetta for all of her hard work and dedication to our students.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mrs. Mazzetta for being our Teacher of the Year. This important for our district and Town and we are very proud of you – thank you.

Chairman Sirard presented Mrs. Mazzetta a plaque for being the 2015 Teacher of the Year.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. Rachel's Challenge Week – as presented
- c. Family Day – as presented
- d. School Events – as presented
- e. JFK NEAS&C Accreditation Visit – as presented

8. AUDIENCES

Cathy Smith, Iroquois Road – Mrs. Smith stated she is the president of the Friends of Instrumental Music at Enfield High. She is here about the band room at the new high school. She has many questions about the move of the items from the EHS band room during the Thanksgiving break. Our biggest fear is the room we are moving to will not be large enough for EHS's band and next year for both high school bands. Who will pack these items up and when will this be done. We have concerns that items will be broken. Thank you.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Jonaitis stated that he has 3 more Board meetings before his term ends. He ran for the Board of Education 6 years ago because he wanted to make a difference and make necessary changes. He gives credit where credit is due. He feels that former Board Chairman Greg Stokes did a great job. He has been disappointed with the lack of transparency. He hopes the next Board and Town Council members will work together again to do what is educationally best for the students of Enfield. Together we have made some good decisions in the past. He would like them to work openly and honestly and keep the lines of communication open.

Mr. Jonaitis added the Fermi Reuse Committee was put to rest until next June after budget season.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked everyone who has supported him over the past 6 years. He appreciates your kind words.

Mr. Peabody stated that his children were involved in the music program in Enfield. He supports the music program and wants to know why it is not taken more seriously as an academic program. Music is not just band it is an academic program. The Board understands this and this is something the transition team is going to handle. Our combined band is going

to be powerful. He watched the EHS band at the football game and they were great.

Mr. Peabody stated he is wearing this Field hockey shirt in support of former Enfield stand out athlete and former Enfield Teacher Amy Romano. Each year, they hold an event to raise money for college scholarships for deserving students in Ms. Romano's memory. They hold a scavenger hunt and field hockey tournament to raise the money.

Mr. Peabody would like the administration to post our SAT scores on the website. This is something we need to do in order to showcase our student's academic achievements. Other towns are doing this. Transparency is the foundation of all budget requests. It will also show us what we need to improve on. Enrico Fermi's SAT scores were 1530 and Enfield High's were 1441. He is confident that our academic programs are geared to improve our students academically. Students need to know how to take these tests.

Mr. Peabody stated our new high school band and athletic teams will need new uniforms. He is looking for any one time costs or a transition report on this. He asked for a transition budget last year. He would like this for the next meeting and this would help us greatly.

Mr. Peabody congratulated all students and staff for the start of another school year. He wished them all great success this year.

Mr. Grady stated that he attended Parkman's first day of school and back to school picnic. The picnic was well attended and he wished all the students a good school year.

Mr. Grady would like an update about the security in our schools since we no longer have SRO's at the elementary schools. He would like the administration include in an update about any grants they have received, hardening of the schools and security. We haven't had a Security Committee meeting in months. This information would be greatly appreciated also.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that Enfield High held their Rachel's Challenge event today. The impact of this program is always so powerful. It has a great impact on the students. This year we will not hold any evening events for parents. She hopes that we will have evening events every other year.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that she attended the Enfield High Football Game and saw the band perform. They were fantastic. We need to look at our bands, the transition of the school consolidation, upcoming elections, and budget season. We have a lot going on but need to be concerned about what is going on in our schools. Our band parents have some serious concerns. She would also like to see an update on the transition.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the EHS/FHS Field Hockey game last week in the rain. One of the parents took a picture of both teams together and it is great. She would like to see this picture posted on the website.

Mrs. LeBlanc added the John F. Kennedy will hold their Curriculum Night and the High Schools will hold their open houses in September.

Mr. Neville stated that Rachel's Challenge is a positive program. He would like to see us continue with the parent programs, even if it is every other year.

Mr. Neville stated the transition team is working on the Band room at Enfield High. Packing is part of the plan. The moving will occur in November. This is currently being worked on. He would like to see the Board receive an update about this.

Mr. Neville would also like some clarification about the Eli Whitney Playground. It was shut

down and parents would like to know when it will back up and running again.

Mr. Neville stated our student test scores are going in the right direction. The Curriculum Committee can look into this and can give an update on the progress for transparency. There are a lot of good things that are going on in our district.

Mr. Neville stated that he and Mr. Peabody are on the joint IT Committee. Our last meeting was cancelled and we are looking to reschedule this meeting. This is an important topic and we need to meet. He would also like the Superintendent to find out when our next meeting will be held.

Chairman Sirard stated the transition team has been working diligently on the move and they will get this done. He is confident in the administration. They are on top of this and they will get it done for us. He would like Dr. Schumann share any information as soon as you receive it. This would be greatly appreciated.

Chairman Sirard reminded everyone that Family Day will be held on the Town Green on Sunday, September 20th. It is a great day for families to participate.

Chairman Sirard stated that Rachel's Challenge is a great program that we have in all of our schools. Many positive things have come from this. So many of our professionals are involved in this program.

Chairman Sirard stated that getting ready for the NEAS&C Accreditation at JFK is a huge undertaking. This speaks volumes about us. We have a great school system and are on the right track.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. CIP – Radio System Update and Action, if any

Dr. Schumann reviewed the need for the CIP – Radio System Update and process to obtain the funds (\$200K) set aside by the Town for this upgrade to our communication system. The Board will need let the Town know and they can release the necessary funds.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education appropriates the funds from the Town to purchase a new Radio System for the district.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville stated we are using the same radio system we have had for the past 10 years. We had difficulties reaching all parts of the buildings. The new radios will be able to reach all areas?

Dr. Schumann stated we will need to place repeaters around the district and will go as far as we can with the funds that we have to accomplish this.

Mr. Neville asked if this system can integrate with the police and fire departments. Dr. Schumann stated yes.

Mr. Neville asked if anything will be built into the contract for replacements and who will maintain them? Will this come out of our budget or the Town's budget?

Dr. Schumann stated we will purchase a maintenance contract in the beginning and it would eventually need to come out of the Board's operating budget.

Mr. Neville asked who will own the radios. Dr. Schumann stated we would own them.

Mr. Peabody asked if we have looked into available technologies like hi-bread smart phones for communications. Can this be discussed with someone instead of us using repeaters? He would like us to discuss this further with someone from the communications field. We need to look at the scope of the vision before we settle with any contracts.

Mr. Grady asked about licensing fees and maintenance for the radios. Will it remain the same?

Dr. Schumann would need to look into this further.

Mr. Neville assumed that Mr. Harrison is working on this project.

Dr. Schumann stated the \$200K can be used for any kind of security system. The radios will give us the most bang for our bucks.

Chairman Sirard stated radios have been the topic of discussion for many years. We know there have been issues with the construction of the schools and we have dead spots in the schools. We have discussed this in the Security Committee but there were no solid recommendations made. Mr. Harrison has been looking into radios for the schools to use.

Dr. Schumann stated Mr. Harrison has spent time with the Police Department Communication Specialist and they feel this is the best for us.

Mr. Neville is okay with this but he wants to know what we are getting before we vote on this. This is a need we should address.

Mr. Peabody added that consulting with the Police Department is good but he would also like to see the specifications and what we are getting along with the costs.

Mr. Jonaitis asked where the money is coming from.

Chairman Sirard stated it is coming from the Town. Money has been set aside as a CIP.

Chairman Sirard asked if the Board would like to table this item. Both Mr. Neville and Mr. Peabody withdrew the original motion.

Chairman Sirard would like this item to be added to the next again. He would like an update for the Board.

Dr. Schumann will get some additional information from Mr. Harrison for the Board.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee - None

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel – Superintendent’s Evaluation.

A vote by **show of hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

The Board relocated to the staff lounge for the Executive Session at 7:50 PM. No Board action occurred during the Executive Session.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 15, 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