

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 29, 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 20, 2015.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Vincent Grady
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vincent Grady
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. **Dr. Joseph Erardi, Newton Public School Superintendent and Chair of the CAPSS Federal Relations Committee**

Dr. Schumann introduced Dr. Erardi, the Newton Superintendent to the Board. He is also the Chair for the CAPSS Federal Relations Committee.

Dr. Erardi thanked the Board for the invitation. As you all know, when this committee is together, we are working hard for advocacy that influences National Education Policies. Dr. Schumann is one of three superintendents that represent Connecticut when we go to Washington DC. We are making relationships with our Federal Delegation. He feels it is important to share with the Board what we are doing as members of the Federal Relations Committee. He is privileged to sit as an Executive Committee member for this delegation. Dr. Schumann has an outstanding relationship with Senator Joe Courtney. Our work is important for the betterment of schools systems across the country. We work long hours and help to create legislation. We are proud of our work.

Chairman Sirard thanked Dr. Erardi for coming.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives Report(s) – as presented
- b. Staff PD & Columbus Day – as presented
- c. EHS/FHS Induction Ceremony – as presented
- d. Grants Report – as presented
- e. Personnel Report – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES**

Rebecca Kalagher – Mrs. Kalagher stated she is here about the transition team and would like an update on this. There are many areas that need to be addressed like class offerings and scheduling. Will more AP classes be offered? Will students be able to receive unofficial transcripts and what will this look like? What about class rank? She is also concerned about the music wing not being ready until February/March 2016. Many other parents are concerned about the band room and will it be able to hold everyone. What about the uniforms. Our students are currently competing and are working very hard. How will this all work out? Students are applying to colleges with music as their majors. Are we doing a disservice to them if the rooms are not ready? Band uniforms need to be ordered. We have a great music and academic program that is weighted. Will the auditorium be large enough for the graduating class in case it rains? Thank you.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Grady congratulated Enfield High Student Tory Orefice for being recognized as one of the 2016 the National Merit Scholarship Program winners.

Mr. Grady addressed the Board about a fund raising program called the “Sunshine Kids Club” that benefits kids with cancer. They are looking to raise \$5K. He would like us to place this on the website. This fund raiser is for a great cause and he supports it.

Mr. Grady added that he participated at ShopRite for “Bagging for Hunger” with Mr. Peabody and Mrs. Unghire. He had a good time and met many people. He would like to correct this problem in our town.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the JFK Curriculum night for grade 6 students. The clubs and late buses at JFK have started. She also attended the EHS Curriculum night. She cannot wait for them to be using the new science wing.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the JV Football game at Enfield High and two Eagles flew over the field. We were all excited about the Eagles. This was very symbolic.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that our roads are being done by Spazzarini Construction Company and they are doing a great job.

Mrs. LeBlanc agreed with Mrs. Kalagher that we need to get the transition information out to the parents. Mr. Longey addressed parent concerns before the Curriculum night at EHS. This was very helpful to the EHS parents. She agrees the parents have a lot of questions that need to be addressed. Thank you for your valued points you mentioned tonight. You opened our eyes to many different things.

Mr. Neville stated a lot has been happening with the transition. The Superintendent has a list to discuss with us tonight. Some things have been decided and some items still need to be addressed. Some of the items will be discussed at the Curriculum meetings. Some of the concerns involve money. We need to figure out a way to address these one-time costs with the Town Council. He apologized for not being open with this to the public. This item will be addressed tonight and at the next several upcoming Board meetings.

Mr. Neville stated that class offerings are tied to budgets and scheduling. Once they are combined, there will be more offerings for students. This will not be perfect. We are offering our students more AP classes now. If you have any other questions, please call us.

Mrs. Thurston stated Eli Whitney will hold their welcome back picnic. They will also hold their first PTO meeting on October 7th.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the Board met prior to the Board meeting and we discussed the transition plans and music. He added that we are moving forward with this and everything is on schedule at this time.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the topic of the casino in Enfield has energized people. This is what needs to be done when we decide about Fermi. Referendum items will need to be decided this election. We could use Fermi as a middle school, as an alternative education program, vocational education program and many other things. We could draw students from the surrounding towns. Don't just let this building sit there and deteriorate. There are many reasons why students act out in class. We have a great alternative program at Alcorn that is working because of the small student to teacher ratios. Alternative education is a win-win for everyone.

Mr. Jonaitis hopes that the Board can finally put to bed the Superintendent's Evaluation. This has gone on way too long.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he made several requests through the chair that have not been addressed yet. He is now asking again through the chair about a parent addressed the Board several months ago about walkers taking the bus during the winter months. They are looking for the Board to approve students walking to the nearest bus stop. He also asked if a student makes up work during the summer could it be counted. He still has not received an answer about this. He reminded Board members that Central Office works for us not the other way.

Mr. Jonaitis stated during the Meet the Candidates Night you should ask questions and hold candidates to it. Ask tough pertinent questions. Candidates need to live up this.

Mr. Peabody recognized several past students for their accomplishments. Our school system has produced some success stories.

Mr. Peabody stated the ERfC program offers a safe place for kids before and after school. They can do their homework and they offer programs for our kids. This is a great program for our kids. They held a backpack drive and received many items for students.

Mr. Peabody thanked our PTO's for doing a great job and supporting our kids. He urged parents to get involved with their PTO at their child's school.

Mr. Peabody attended Family Day and had a great time. This was their 18th year holding this event on the Town Green.

Mr. Peabody stated our buildings and grounds are responsible for our school grounds. He would like to know the condition of our schools. He requested from the chair to Dr. Schumann to obtain a schedule of inspections for the play grounds and the repairs that are needed. Eli Whitney playground has been closed for repairs. Some of the rest rooms at Barnard need to be looked at. He would Board members to have some building walkthroughs. Some of the walls at Barnard and Nathan Hale need fresh paint.

Mr. Peabody requested from the chair to Dr. Schumann to look into storage for classroom materials being stored at Alcorn. Some of our teachers are buying their own materials. Can we let the teachers know about this storage area at Alcorn?

Mr. Peabody requested from the chair to Dr. Schumann if there is any excess equipment at any of the schools, we should let the other schools know so they can use it. Some of the desks need to be replaced.

Mr. Peabody thanked Mrs. Kalagher for speaking tonight about our music programs. We will look into the academic programs.

Mr. Peabody requested from the chair to Dr. Schumann that the Building Committee put up a FAQ page on the website. Questions could be answered here for parents. He stated that we discussed the transition tonight. We will continue to look into alternatives.

Mrs. Unghire thanked Mrs. Kalagher for your concerns.

Mrs. Unghire stated that Hazardville Memorial held a picnic and the turnout was great. She attended a CREC meeting in Hartford. She attended Family Day and everyone had a great time. She spoke to members of EFFE & KITE at the Family Day. She thanked everyone involved with the "Bagging for Hunger" event at ShopRite. She also thanked the Miller family at ShopRite for everything they do for our community.

Mrs. Unghire attended the Rachel's Challenge event at Fermi. She was there from 8 – 2 PM. It was truly amazing and very powerful program. Mr. Newton asked that each one, reach one. She added that Andrew, Lily and Hannah, you rock.

EHS Student Representative added that the busing and parking continue to be a big concern at Enfield High. There are currently two buses that are extremely overcrowded in the Thompsonville area. Walkers are taking the buses. There are some buses like the one she rides that only have a few students on it. She would like something to be done about this, maybe we could send some of these empty buses to this area to pick up the students.

Chairman Sirard thanked Dr. Erardi for attending tonight's meeting. He has had the privilege of lobbying with Dr. Schumann also.

Chairman Sirard stated the transition information has been slow coming. Information will now be forthcoming. The builders are doing a great job and they are currently on time with the project. The administration is handling the transition professionally and it will be forthcoming.

Chairman Sirard addressed Mrs. Kalagher by stated both the auditorium and gymnasium will be air-conditioned.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Transition Update and Action, if any

Dr. Schumann reviewed and distributed a memo about the high school consolidation transition and timeline. The project is currently on schedule. Uniforms will cost around \$230K - \$250K for the entire school. We need to order items for the Band during the winter and items for fall athletics in the spring. This is a starting point for a transition budget.

Mr. Neville stated we need to expedite the uniforms with the Town Council. We need to discuss this item quickly and do not have the luxury to wait.

Mr. Neville requested from the chair to Dr. Schumann for this be discussed at the next Governance meeting. This is not in our budget and needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. We can even hold a joint meeting if needed to discuss this.

Chairman Sirard stated we will address this at the next Governance meeting.

Mr. Peabody asked when the next Governance is meeting. Dr. Schumann stated we will first need to establish if this process will continue with the Interim Town Manager and Mayor.

Mr. Peabody requested from the chair to the Dr. Schumann for this discussion to be held in the next few weeks. We have some quotes to start with. We also need to look at what can be done concurrently. Some items can be sent to the Policy and Curriculum Committees to speed up the process.

Mr. Grady asked who decides on the band uniforms. Dr. Schumann stated the band directors and Dr. Goodnite have spoken to a company and have mockups. We can show the Board if they would like to view one of them. There is no policy in place that prohibits the Board or the Administration to make decisions regarding uniforms.

Mr. Grady does not believe the Board should make this decision.

Mr. Jonaitis would like the students to decide. Remember what we went through with the mascot.

Mrs. LeBlanc added the Enfield High Uniforms just say Enfield. We might not need to order everything.

Dr. Schumann stated the new uniforms would include the new school colors. He is sure we could use some of the older uniforms but would not have enough for all of the programs.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that students from both EHS and FHS would like to purchase the older uniforms. This could be a revenue source for the new uniforms.

Dr. Schumann stated the uniforms are Board equipment and this could be discussed by the Policy Committee.

Chairman Sirard would like this to be referred to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Grady asked who made the decision for the band uniforms at Fermi. Mrs. Kalagher stated the band director and Dr. Goodnite.

Mr. Neville requested from the Chair to Dr. Schumann it might take up to 6 months to hire a new Town Manager.

Chairman Sirard is confident that he and Dr. Schumann can set up a meeting with the Town Manager and Mayor.

Mr. Neville added that money is never an easy issue to deal with. This needs to be discussed now. The Board and Town Council need to discuss this. We need to order the uniforms in January/March. We can look at the old uniforms to see what we can use. We don't want to do this part of the consolidation poorly.

Chairman Sirard would like Dr. Schumann to set a meeting with the Mayor and acting Town Manager.

Mr. Neville would like them to meet at least once or twice a month to get this done. You can also delegate items to us in order to get this done as quickly as possible.

Chairman Sirard stated this will jump start the process.

Mr. Peabody stated that he previously asked for a transition budget to discuss one-time costs with the Town Council. If we had done this before, we wouldn't be scrambling now. He believes we will have a new high school and need new uniforms to go with the new school pride. He doesn't want to see the music program with old uniforms. Music is near and dear to his heart.

Mrs. Thurston added that no one wants to see us with old uniforms.

Mr. Jonaitis stated to help with the costs the JV and Freshman teams when and where possible the teams can use some of the older uniforms.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated bringing our students together is the top priority. We will be dealing with scheduling and other transition issues. We can save money where we can and use some of the older uniforms for JV and Freshman teams. Band uniforms are a big expense and she would like to see the money for this. We want our students to be happy. There will be some bumps along the road that we will need to deal with. The success of our students is important.

Mr. Neville would like to see the administration recommend to us what is needed. If additional meetings are needed, we can schedule that. This is a big deal. Let the people that are doing the research bring the information back to us.

Mr. Peabody agrees. Let the Music and Band Director make the decision about the uniforms. We should only approve the funding for this.

Dr. Schumann distributed a memo to the Board regarding a contingency plan if there are any construction delays that might prohibit the merger of the two high schools to take place in September 2016. This memo will go to the CIAC and we will ask for the two schools to be allowed to compete in the Central Connecticut Conference as the Enfield High School Eagles in the event that the merger does not take place in September 2016 due to unforeseen construction delays. We are hopeful that there will be no construction delays, but need to put a plan in place for just in case. We need to notify the CIAC about the merger by October 1, 2015. We are formally making a request for permission to merge the athletic programs for our two high schools for the 2016-17 school year.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the CIAC document as presented by Dr. Schumann.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis would like a moment for the Board to read the memo.

Mr. Neville stated this is going to give us an insurance policy for just in case. You are doing your due diligence in case of any unforeseen construction issues. He will vote in favor of this document.

Mr. Peabody stated this is well written document that will assure that our students will have the opportunity to compete. He will vote in favor of this also.

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

Mr. Peabody asked how this letter will be sent to the CIAC since tomorrow is October 1st. Dr. Schumann stated we will e-mail and will send it out by certified mail to the CIAC.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee met on August 24th. We discussed technology, report card changes and curriculum changes. We will be discussing technology with the Board at a later date. We have revised the elementary K-2 report cards and have responded to the parent's concerns. We also reviewed the summer curriculum writing. We will discuss with the Board about the ACC Partnership with the middle school and high school. We discussed the high school curriculum implications with the consolidation. This will also be discussed with the Board.

Mr. Peabody added the parents that participated were amazed and pleased that the Curriculum Committee asked for their input. Kindergarten report cards amaze him now with how much the students need to know. He looks forward to doing this more with parents.

Mr. Jonaitis asked who gave input on the update K-2 report cards. Mr. Neville stated the Academic office met with principals and the teachers.

b. Building Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Building Committee met on September 25th. The Board discussed the transition prior to tonight's Board meeting. The Transition Committee will meet next week with Dr. Schumann. Storage is a huge concern. We are looking to use part of Stowe or Hazardville Memorial.

Dr. Schumann added that there is some space at both Stowe and Alcorn that could be used.

Mr. Neville asked if there will be space at Memorial. Dr. Schumann stated that may be possible also.

Mr. Neville stated communication was discussed. Posters have been made about the rooms at EHS. This will be shared with parents and information will be posted on-line.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Special Meeting Minutes of September 14, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-3** passed with Mr. Grady, Mr. Jonaitis and Mr. Peabody abstaining.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 15, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-1** passed with Mr. Neville abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. An invitation to attend the Veteran's Day Parade on November 8 , 2015.

16. AUDIENCES - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Neville 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 8:26 PM. No Board action occurred during the Executive Session.

Return to Open Session:

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:36 PM.

Suspend the Rules to Add an Item on the Agenda:

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to add the approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation to the Agenda.

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

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Superintendent's evaluation.

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-1-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 29, 2015.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary