

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 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 October 13, 2015.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Tina Leblanc
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tina Leblanc
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Sirard announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Wawer & Vin Grady

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. Student Representatives Report(s) – as presented
 - b. Youth Vote Events – as presented
 - c. October/November Events – as presented
 - d. NEAS&C Accreditation Visit – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES** - None

9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated both high schools Field Hockey teams for qualifying to compete in the State Championship. She wished both teams good luck.

Mr. Neville attended the Fermi Band Parents meeting along Chairman Sirard with Town Council member Donna Szewczak and Randy Daigle and Amar Shamas from the Building Committee. Enfield High parents also attended the meeting. We addressed many of the parent's questions and rumors. He feels the transition item on the Board agenda will help to get the word out to the public. He urged parents to contact them if you have any questions. The high school consolidation is a huge change for the Town and the parents. He would like to see a FAQ place on the website about the high school consolidation and frequently asked questions about the building.

Mrs. Leblanc stated there is a fund raising event being held on October 22nd at Red Robin called the Enfield Pink-a-Thon. The funds raised will go towards children with cancer.

Mrs. Thurston attended the Eli Whitney PTO meeting. She is happy to say that parents have

stepped up and filled the open positions for this committee. They will have a Halloween party for the students on October 23rd.

Mr. Jonaitis stated being a teacher now is very different from when he taught. He added the changes made do not make the education any better. Textbooks are written very differently now. He feels it takes a young teacher 5-7 years to become a really good effective teacher. You learn what works and what doesn't. You also learn how to reach your students. Learning should be fun. Teachers are now faced with more paperwork. The new teacher evaluation system is frustrating for teachers.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he finally received an answer at the Policy Committee Meeting about his questions for summer school work and the winter school buses. He added that he needed to ask for this information again.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to see the ETA and Board of Education work together like they have in the past.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to see the staff at Central Office take their vacations during the school vacations.

Mr. Jonaitis added that the transition and music are areas of concern for the parents. The students are flexible and will adapt to this. He urged parents to understand that this is a huge undertaking. Everyone will be inconvenienced slightly.

Mr. Peabody is looking forward to the Jack-O-Lantern Festival on Saturday, October 17th. He attended the Nathan Hale spirit assembly. Ms. Roman and the staff are doing a great job. He urged audience members to attend a school assembly

Mr. Peabody also attended the Prudence Crandall Ice Cream Social and book sale. Mrs. Miller is also doing a great job. The students were very polite and well-mannered. Our parents have done a great job with their kids.

Mr. Peabody recognized several past students for their accomplishments. He also recognized an Eagle Scout for his fire hydrant project.

Mr. Peabody thanked the Shop Rite and Miller family for everything they do for the Enfield Public Schools. They hire our students and are proud of the work they are doing. They are very dedicated to Shop Rite. Shop Rite supports Rachel's Challenge.

Mrs. Unghire is also looking forward to the Jack-O-Lantern Festival on Saturday. The Fermi National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on October 29th. Enfield High will hold their National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on October 19th.

Chairman Sirard recognized Don Notman who recently passed away on October 1st. He established the Andrea Notman Scholarship fund at Fermi in his daughter's memory. Mr. Notman will be missed by many and the Enfield Public School system. Thank you for everything you did for our students.

Chairman Sirard congratulated both high schools Field Hockey Teams for qualifying for the State Championship.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mr. Neville for answering many of the Band Parents questions. We were able to squash many of the rumors that were floating around.

Chairman Sirard reminded audience members that October is Cancer Awareness Month.

Cancer affects just about every family.

Chairman Sirard reminded audience members to attend the Town Council Youth Vote Debate at JFK on October 22nd and the Board of Education Youth Vote Debate at Fermi on October 26th.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of the 2016 Regular BOE Meeting Schedule

Dr. Schumann stated we have provided the Board with a draft meeting schedule. This needs to be approved by the Board and submitted to the Town Clerk for posting.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2016 Regular Board Meeting Schedule as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis asked if there are any conflicts with any of these dates with holidays. Dr. Schumann stated there are no conflicts with the proposed meeting dates.

A vote by **roll-call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

b. BOE Policy #6146 Requirements for Graduation and Action if any

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Jonaitis that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy #6146 Requirements for Graduation as a first reading.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville explained that the Curriculum Committee has previously reviewed the proposed changes. Earlier tonight, the Policy Committee met and reviewed the changes that eliminated the CMT and CAPT requirements needed for graduation requirements. We have added the PSAT scores and district performance standards as a way to meet the numeracy and literacy graduation requirements.

Mr. Jonaitis added the State is pushing this change and we received this information late this summer.

Mr. Neville stated we were anticipating this last spring.

Chairman Sirard stated the Policy Committee supports the changes. Mr. Neville stated both the Curriculum and Policy Committee support the changes.

Mr. Peabody asked for an explanation about what DPT stands for. Mr. Neville stated this is for the District Performance Tasks.

A vote by **roll-call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to waive the second reading for Policy #6246 Requirements for Graduation in order to move this policy forward.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis stated he knows why we need to move this policy change forward but he will not vote in favor of waiving the second reading. He does not like to make changes quickly.

A vote by **roll-call 6-1-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

c. BOE Policy #9340 Meetings and Action if any - None

d. November 24th Regular Board Meeting and Action if any - None

Dr. Schumann reviewed with Board the options for November 24th Board meeting. This will be the first meeting with the 2015-17 Board. Typically this meeting is held as a special meeting for the organization of the Board and the oath of office. If the Board does not want to hold a special meeting prior to November 24th meeting, we can hold the organizational meeting and oath of office on the regularly scheduled meeting date on November 24, 2015.

Board members agreed to keep the meeting on November 24, 2015 for the organizational meeting and oath of office.

e. Transition Tasks

Dr. Schumann distributed a document outlining the Transition Team Task List as requested by the Board.

Mr. Neville would like this document to be placed on the website. He would also like for Mr. Daigle to receive a copy of this. Dr. Schumann will have this placed on the website with a date. We will need to frequently update this document as we move forward with the tasks.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about the Eagle Hour. Dr. Schumann stated there will be an hour each day for lunch for students. Teachers will be available during this time to work with students if they need help. Clubs can also meet during this time.

Mr. Jonaitis added this will help the students that made use of study halls in the past. They will still have a quiet place to get their homework done.

Mr. Neville stated we can have Ms. Middleton, our Chief Academic Officer to explain the structure for this at an upcoming meeting.

Dr. Schumann stated the Curriculum Committee has reviewed this. It will need to go to the Policy Committee before the entire Board will discuss this concept.

Mr. Peabody stated we need to get ahead of the message. There are a lot of rumors out there. As soon as we can address this with the Board, we will be able squash the rumors.

Chairman Sirard would like this document placed on the website for public viewing.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported that the Curriculum Committee met on October 6th and reviewed the High School Program of Studies and Graduation Performance tasks. These changes will be in place for the start of school in September 2016. He reviewed the Social Studies and Civics curriculum changes with the Board. The curriculum has been rewritten to reflect the frameworks.

b. Building Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Building Committee met on October 8th. We are waiting for the Fermi Wing Certificate of Occupancy and are on target with the punch list for 1 and 2. We have received the bids for the movers. On site work is continuing. Paving will be done in November. We are moving forward with the gym, lockers and café. Temporary boilers are in place. We are on target for the move on the November 25th.

Mr. Jonaitis asked who Amar Shamas is. Mr. Neville stated he is the Project Director for Gilbane Construction Company.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 13, 2015.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary