

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 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 27, 2015.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Sirard.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Tim Neville

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tim Neville

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)** - None

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives Report(s) – as presented
- b. Election Day, Veteran's Day & Staff PD Days – as presented
- c. Grants Report – as presented
- d. Personnel Report – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES**

Gina Porcello, Spier Avenue & Sue Braun, Light Street – Both Mrs. Porcello and Mrs. Braun thanked Mr. Jonaitis for his service to the Enfield community. They referred to themselves as the “couch people” and thanked him for his dedication and for speaking your mind. You will be missed.

9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Neville attended the Youth Vote Debates on October 22nd and 26th. He was quite impressed with the student's questions. The debates were done very well and were very insightful. The process is fantastic. He commends the staff involved with the students. He looks forward to future debates.

Mr. Neville attended the Enfield High National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on October 19th and the Teacher of the Year Reception on October 14th. These are some of the good things that are going on in our schools that we don't mention or celebrate enough. It is nice to recognize our staff.

Mr. Neville also attended the NEAS&C Board member interviews held on October 25th at JFK.

The questions were well put together and the JFK staff had good comments. This is a good process that we must go through every 10 years. We need someone to assess what we are doing and what we need to improve on.

Mr. Neville encouraged voters to vote on Election Day. Typically, local elections have a low voter turnout. He would take his children when he voted. This is part of our democracy. He asked for voters to support the 3 referendum items. These items will make Enfield better.

Mr. Peabody also attended the Teacher of the Year Reception. It was touching and rewarding to see one of our Special Education Teachers recognized. They do so much for our students. Mrs. Mazzetta is well deserving of this recognition.

Mr. Peabody also attended the Youth Vote Debates and stated it was a blast. The students did a great job. He also attended the JFK NEAS&C accreditation process. They continue to improve each year. We are making good things happen. He referred to this as continuous quality improvement.

Mr. Peabody attended the Henry Barnard PTO meeting. He thanked the members of all of our PTO's for the work they do for our students and families. He learns a lot by attending these meetings. He encouraged parents to get involved.

Mr. Peabody congratulated former Enfield students that have gone on to obtain successful careers. He is proud of the education we provide for our students in Enfield.

Mr. Peabody also urged voters to respond to the referendum items. He would like Enfield residents to support Item #3. This item will address many issues in our schools that people are complaining about. Thank you.

Mrs. Unghire also attended the Teacher of the Year Reception. She thanked Mrs. Mazzetta for representing us and for everything she does for our students. The reception was very nice.

Mrs. Unghire recognized two social studies teachers - Tony Allegro and John Unghire. She attended the Jack-O-Lantern Festival and had a great time.

Mrs. Unghire attended the CREC meeting where they introduced the new superintendent Dr. Greg Florio. Dr. Douglas was recently presented an award from the YMCA for his accomplishments with our youth. Dr. Douglas will be missed. There was a webinar at the meeting where they discussed insurance coverage. She asked if we have stop/loss coverage with our insurance. Mr. Drezek stated we do with our insurance carrier.

Mr. Grady congratulated the group involved with raising money for the Sunshine Kids Foundation. They reached their goal of \$5K and he looks forward to seeing the Mayor and his boss with pink hair. He is looking forward to seeing them with pink hair. He thanked everyone involved with this fund raising event. This was a job well done.

Mr. Grady stated he attended the Parkman Halloween Party. The kids had a great time. Some of the costumes were really great. He also attended the Jack-O-Lantern Festival. The kids had some great costumes and some of them were very creative. It was a good event and well run.

Mrs. LeBlanc also attended the Youth Vote debate. The students did a really good job. Some of the questions were pretty tough. She is very proud of our students. She also encouraged voters to go out and vote. This is your constitutional right. If you want to see change, you need to vote.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked the Enfield residents for voting for her. She has enjoyed representing

Enfield over the last 4 years. She enjoys working with her fellow Board members. She also has enjoyed working with the administration. We will miss Mr. Jonaitis and thanked him for his time served as a Board member. She urged community members to go out and vote.

Mr. Jonaitis was glad to hear that many of the Board members attended the Youth Vote debates. He was disappointed that the Fermi building was not mentioned during the debate. This will be discussed with the next Board in June 2016. He would like to see us use the building for something possibly as a middle school, music academy or an alternative learning program to entice our students to stay in Enfield. Steal some of the magnet schools ideas. The reorganization of the elementary schools was a tough decision for Board members to make. The Fermi building will also be a big decision to make. If we don't use it for a school, he feels it will never be used as a school again.

Mr. Jonaitis offered a suggestion for the Board members. Sometimes you will be asked to do something you don't want to do. A time will come when you will need to do what is right, what is good and what is needed. He urged Board members to follow their hearts and to not let politics dictate your decisions. He would like to see Tina LeBlanc as the next chair and Michael Ludwick as the next Vice Chair regardless of which party is in control.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek. He does not agree with the idea of the administration's cabinet. The cabinet does not know Enfield, our core beliefs, teaching staff and secretarial staff.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he has been a Board member for 6 years. We made tough decisions during his time as a Board member. We have fought for education. We are fighting to keep control and politics keeps getting in the way. Politics has gotten in the way of what we need to do. We do not need to fight against ourselves. He became a Board member because of his love of teaching. He was a teacher for 38 years and wanted to share this knowledge. He loved to teach the students how to learn. He has tried to educate and enlighten people during his term as a Board member. He has been referred to as the conscious of the Board. He thanked those who have supported him and who have thanked him. He now publically thanks you.

Chairman Sirard stated our students have done a tremendous job with the Youth Vote Events. They have gone above and beyond this election. He attended the Jack-O-Lantern Festival and the kids had a great time. The committee involved with this program did a fantastic job. This is a great event for our community.

Chairman Sirard congratulated our Teacher of the Year Connie Mazzetta. You do us proud. He thanked her for everything she does for our students.

Chairman Sirard stated this is the final meeting for the 2013-15 Board. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you. He thanked his fellow Board members for their hard work and dedication. He wished them all good luck. He wished Mr. Jonaitis good luck and thanked him for his service to the Board and community.

Chairman Sirard urged voters to support the 3 referendum items. Referendum #3 is very important and is tied to education. We need this item to pass. If you vote no on Referendum #3, you cannot say you support education. This will have a direct impact on our future budgets. Our budgets are very tight and this referendum will help us.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Transition Tasks

Dr. Schumann updated the Board regarding progress that has been made regarding the

transition tasks. Both the Curriculum Committee and Policy Committees will be meeting to review items. The Governance Council met and we are looking at marching bands and athletic uniforms. The Leadership Committee will need to meet. The FY2016-17 Budget process will start. We are moving forward with the transition tasks and will keep the Board updated.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if the students could be part of the uniform decisions. It would be nice to have the students input and collaboration. Dr. Schumann stated we haven't included the students but this is something we could look into.

Mrs. LeBlanc would like students from the junior class from both Enfield and Fermi high school to be included in the process.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of FY2017 Head Start Federal Grants, Program Plans and personnel Policies

Head Start Director Mrs. Clement and Family Support Coordinator Mrs. Bowles updated the Board about the program at Head Start. This information and our annual report can be found on the Head Start website.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2017 Head Start Federal Grants, Early Childhood Community Assessment Program Plans and Personnel Policies as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville asked if Head Start was at the maximum number of students. Mrs. Clement stated we have 104 students and there are 27 students on a waiting list.

Mr. Neville asked how this program is funded. Mrs. Clement stated we receive Federal and State grants. We also receive support from the Board of Education.

Mr. Peabody thanked Mrs. Clement and Mrs. Bowles for what they are doing with the students. You provide a constant consistency for these children along with emotional support. This is a great program.

Mr. Neville asked if the students are still being included with the construction process at Enfield High. Mrs. Clement stated they are very busy getting the building ready. The students love to watch them working.

Mrs. Bowles added they have included the students in the past.

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

b. Approval of FY2015-16 EHS/FHS Safe Grad Donations

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education approves donating \$500.00 to the Enfield High School Safe Grad Committee and \$500.00 to the Enrico Fermi Safe Grad Committee.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville would like to continue this tradition when the high schools are combined. This addresses some of the concerns that go along with graduations.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville stated the Curriculum Committee met on October 21st and reviewed the program of studies proposed changes for 2016. We discussed technology, music, business/family & consumer sciences, science and social studies. The presentations given were exceptional. They will enhance our curriculum for years to come. We will continue to discuss items at the next meeting. We will meet again on October 28th and will discuss scheduling, grading, decile ranking, weighted courses, valedictorian and salutatorian.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about curriculum writing for history. Will this be done by grade levels? Mr. Neville stated they are doing this by grade levels now so we do not need to repeat history items.

Mr. Peabody added that the curriculum will link each grade level to the next grade level. This was a great meeting. They were very prepared and he is looking forward to the next curriculum meeting.

Mr. Neville added that we are looking at ways to improve our curriculum frameworks and student learning. The principals and Ms. Middleton will present this item to the Board at a later date.

b. Building Committee - None

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-1** passed with Mr. Grady abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jonaitis moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 27, 2015.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary