

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

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 February 9, 2016.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** : The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Tom Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE** : Walter Kruzel
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** : Walter Kruzel
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT** : Tom Sirard announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL** :

MEMBERS PRESENT : Walter Kruzel, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Mike Ludwick, Tim Neville and Tom Sirard

MEMBERS ABSENT : Tina LeBlanc and Vin Grady

ALSO PRESENT : Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; Enrico Fermi Student Representative Thomas Vose and Enfield High Student Representative Caitlyn Passmore

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)** : None
7. **SUPERINTENDENT 'S REPORT** :
 - a. Student Representatives - as presented
 - b. Heritage Fair - as presented

Chairman Sirard asked about the status of the lifts at Enfield High.

Mr. Drezek reported that Mr. Shamas informed him that the lifts for Enfield High were expected to arrive on Monday. They will now be here on or around Wednesday. We will update the Board once they arrive.

8. AUDIENCES -

Jim Staley, Windmill Road - Mr. Staley is a retired engineer and now is a math tutor at Enfield High. He is concerned with the student's use of cell phones, their attire, lack of discipline and general disregard for staff and teachers. These issues need to be addressed before the student body doubles next year. Students need to adhere to a code of conduct. Without this, school is just a babysitting service and you are wasting the teachers, students and taxpayers time and money. This needs to be addressed by the administration and enforced. Thank you.

Vinnie Weselisa, Deer Run - Mr. Weselisa is for Fermi being reused as our middle school. Community members want a voice in this decision. He started a petition to see who would support this. The petition circulating has no binding components. It is just to see how many people would support this. He wished the members of the Board were at the fire station to see how many people support this. We need to invest in our children's future. He would like for the community meetings regarding the use of Fermi to be recorded for E-TV viewing. This way community members will be able see this discussion if they are unable to attend the community conversations. He thanked the Board for listening to him. Thank you.

Bob Tkacz, No Certain Address - Mr. Tkacz would like to see the Building Report for Fermi. He will submit

a FOI request to receive this information. Fermi will need to be brought up to code if it is to be used as a middle school. The building needs a lot of work. He would like John F. Kennedy Middle School remain as the middle school. He will not sign any petitions. He feels we should close another elementary school due to declining enrollment. He feels the Board should be level funded this year and next year.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street - Ms. Davis thanked the administration for the tough decisions you made regarding snow days. She is supporting the petition to use Fermi as a middle school. We all pay taxes. We will pay for Fermi to be used as a community center or as a state of the art middle school. Putting money in our schools will help our community to continue to grow. This will increase our home values. She has concerns with mold at Prudence Crandall and the air quality study that was completed. She hopes the administration will continue to look into this. When it rains, water leaks into the building. She encouraged all community members to attend the Heritage Fair on February 20th at JFK. This is a great way for our community to celebrate your heritage. Thank you.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kruzel attended the Four Chaplin Mass at St. Patrick's church. This is a yearly event. They had some really good speakers. The mass was well attended. He thanked all of the Veteran's for your service to this country.

Mr. Peabody will get Mr. Tkacz a copy of the Fermi Building Report he requested. This report can be found on our website and on the Town's website.

Mr. Peabody attended the Prudence Crandall Pride Day. The students ran the assembly and they recognized their peers. They also recognized the boy and girl scouts in the school. It was a great event.

Mr. Peabody appreciated the comments made by Mr. Staley. He has worked with youth in our town. This is a cultural issue we need to work through. A lot of our students have cell phones. He thanked Mr. Weseliza for your hard work, research and dedication regarding the reuse of Fermi.

Mrs. Unghire thanked the audience members for speaking tonight. She also thanked our student representatives for everything you do.

Mrs. Unghire stated the CABE/CAPSS Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 18th at the Capital.

Mrs. Unghire stated the First Readers will hold a Trivia Night on February 27th at Mount Carmel. She has put together a winning team. She encouraged everyone to attend. It is a great event and you will have a lot of fun.

Mr. Ludwick asked about an update on the purchase orders? Mr. Drezek stated once the lifts are delivered, they will all be complete.

Mr. Neville thanked Mr. Staley for tutoring. Student behavior is worth discussing. He encourages the administration to look into this.

Mr. Neville stated all of the reports regarding Fermi have been placed on the website and are available for public viewing.

Mr. Kruzel wished everyone a happy fat Tuesday.

Chairman Sirard stated that we have discussed our electronic devices policy as a Board. We can look into this again. He hopes the other issues you mentioned are not as dire as you have indicated.

Chairman Sirard also encouraged everyone to attend the Heritage Fair. It is a lot of fun and there will be a lot of different kinds of foods to purchase and taste.

Mr. Neville encouraged Board members to attend the Trivia Night at Mount Carmel. Last year we had a

really good time.

Chairman Sirard would like to add budget conversations under Board Committee Reports. This would be Item 12c - Leadership Committee.

Add an Item to the Agenda:

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Ludwick to add an item under Board Committee Reports - Leadership Committee

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Action if any regarding the 2 016-17 School Calendar**

Mr. Drezek reviewed the administration's recommendations for the 2016-17 School Calendar.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2016-17 School Calendar as presented.

Discussion :

Mr. Kruzel asked about the reason for November 23rd being a no school day.

Mr. Drezek stated this was discussed in length by the Leadership Committee.

Mr. Neville added that the day before Thanksgiving is a busy travel day for many families. This typically is not a productive school day for students.

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

b. **Future Use of Fermi Decision Timeline**

Chairman Sirard stated the Board set a target date for a decision regarding the use of Fermi for March 8th. The Leadership Committee met on February 4th regarding the logistics for the reuse decision for the Fermi building.

By unanimous consent, the committee came up with the following next steps moving forward:

- We will hold 2 community conversations in the Henry Barnard All Purpose Room on February 17th and February 24th at 7:00 PM;
- The Board Leadership Committee will be conducting the events with the remaining Board members in attendance;
- The Board Leadership Committee will ask for public opinions on the future use;
- The Board of Education will be using data obtained from independent sources that the town has collected, is current and has a verifiable provenance.

Chairman Sirard is looking for the Board to adopt this as a timeline and he would also like to have E-TV film the community conversations. This will give the public two opportunities to speak about Fermi.

Mr. Neville stated the Board Leadership has not finished our discussion regarding this. We need to

determine which documents will be used. Our discussions will continue until we reach February 17th.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed timeline as presented.

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

c. **Action if any , regarding Local 1303-46 of Council #4 Clerical Employees and Cafeteria Employees Contracts**

Chairman Sirard stated Item 11c. will be address after the Executive Session.

15. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Building Committee

Mr. Kruzel reported the Building Committee met last week. The D-Wing has been demolished. We are plugging along.

Mr. Neville stated the lifts were supposed to be here this week and they should now be here around Wednesday. This delay is hurting our students. He would like to know if it takes long to install them.

Mr. Kruzel agrees with everyone's frustration. He does not believe it takes more than a day to install them. He will let the Board know once he hears anything.

b. Policy Committee

Mr. Ludwick reported the Policy Committee met on February 1st. We reviewed several policies including gifts to the district. We do not want to add any unnecessary policies. We are waiting for quotes for the winter bus run. We will meet again during the first week of March on Monday.

c. Leadership Committee

Chairman Sirard stated the Leadership Committee met on February 4th. We did not have time to discuss the budget and have set another BOE Leadership Committee meeting for Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 PM regarding setting a budget schedule.

16. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2016 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-1** passed with Mrs. Thurston abstaining.

17. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

18. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

19. AUDIENCES

Vinnie Weseliza, Deer Run - Mr. Weseliza asked if the criteria for the community conversations can be described in laymen's terms. Will this information be posted somewhere?

Chairman Sirard stated all of the information that will be used is posted on our website.

Mr. Weseliza would like to know exactly which documents will be used.

Mr. Neville added there are 3 or 4 different reports that we will be looking at. There are around 15 different reports posted on the website.

Chairman Sirard stated the hard number data is what we will use. The Board has received copies of everything.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining.

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

Chairman Sirard added the Board will not return to Council Chambers.

The Board relocated to the Staff Lounge at 7:40 PM.

Mr. Drezek joined the Board in Executive Session. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

Return to Open Session :

11c. Action if any , regarding Local 1303-46 of Council #4 Clerical Employees and Cafeteria Employees Contracts

Mr. Ludwick moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the tentative agreement with Local 1303-46 of Council #4 Municipal Employees AFL-CIO Clerical Employees Contract as presented.

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

Mr. Ludwick moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the tentative agreement with Local 1303-46 of Council #4 Municipal Employees AFL-CIO Cafeteria Employees Contract as presented.

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

21. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2016.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary