

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 23, 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 August 23, 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, Lori Unghire, Mike Ludwick, Mike Ludwick, Tina LeBlanc, Tim Neville, Stacy Thurston, Vin Grady and Tom Sirard

**MEMBERS ABSENT :** Raymond Peabody

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)** :

a. **Enfield Legislators**

Board members welcomed Representative David Kiner and David Alexander to the Board meeting.

Chairman Sirard asked about the budget process cutting education funding and transportation.

Mr. Kiner reviewed ECS costs and projections for next year with the Board.

Mr. Alexander reviewed tax increases and cutting services. He has shared his concerns and frustrations about this. Programs that are not working should be cut. ECS cuts were done on a percentage basis and by underperforming districts. Enfield is not an underperforming district. The cuts made were horrible, but they were done equally across the board.

Mr. Neville stated the State is obligated by law to fund education. We all have jobs to do and are trying to make plans for the future. The way the budget process is done, is after we have set our budget. We are working with the town. Cutting developmental services is wrong. These services cannot be farmed out. How can we plan for the future?

Mr. Kiner stated there are no explanations for this. Enfield sets their budget before the State sets their budget. They could do this differently, but they don't. The Governor proposes a budget in January so you will have somewhat of an idea about the budget then.

Mr. Kiner added that they have met with developmental services and have heard some really heart wrenching stories. Allied Services provides assistance to many clients.

Mr. Alexander stated the Government is under staffed now. There were some tax credits for home owners but the property tax increases will negate this. The average resident will bear the brunt of this.

Mr. Ludwick would like for us to hold more meetings like this with open dialogues. Next year's budget is

going to be even worse. We need open conversations. How can we fund key programs next year without making cuts? Are there ways to minimize State mandates? The lottery was supposed to fund education. Other towns have taken hits like Enfield. We need your help. CREC has hit our budget and this is a cut in our education funds. Are there ways to fund this? Public education is at risk. We need to open up the lines of communication.

Mr. Kiner stated that communication is important. He would like a list from us regarding state mandates. He will submit this. We want to work with you.

Mr. Kiner stated that New Haven has a lobbyist that fights for them. You can form a delegation from the surrounding towns to fight for you. We can meet with representatives once or twice a month. Under performing districts need to show what is needed in order for them to improve. They need to jump through hoops to get the funding they need. He is not running next term. He loves Enfield and will go with you before the education committee. Working together with other towns is a good idea. Form a delegation and fight together. Improving communications with legislation is always a good idea.

Mr. Alexander stated we did not have enough money to fund programs last year. Funds from sales tax will help somewhat. The State need to build an appropriate budget. Legislators can bring back concerns. He reviewed regionalism and how it can make us more efficient. CREC provides a good product. Students that do not get into a magnet school are forced to go to public schools.

Chairman Sirard left at 7:40 PM.

Mr. Alexander stated we are funding magnet schools and are creating problems by doing this. Public education is not being funded properly. We are cutting money to many towns. When the magnet students come back to their schools, you still need to fund for that student.

Mrs. Unghire thanked the representatives for coming to tonight's Board meeting. She has been saying this for years - this need s to change.

Mr. Kruzal stated the Building Committee reached out to Mr. Kiner. We were fast tracked with our renovation project. We know how to spend money wisely in Enfield. Not the way they are spending money in Hartford. Thank you. We are here because of you.

Mr. Kiner stated we all fought for this. It was a joint effort with Mr. Alexander and Senator Kissel.

Mr. Alexander stated he was the new guy. Mr. Kiner led this task and deserves the credit. You have been reaching out to us about the traffic light. DOT needs a traffic study to be done. We will continue to fight for this for you.

Mr. Neville stated the money for a traffic light is outrageous. We do not want to see an accident occur before a light is installed.

Mr. Alexander added the engineers will make the decision about the traffic light. They feel by adding another light so close to the South Road light may cause more accidents.

Mr. Neville appreciates you both continuing to look into this for us.

Mr. Kruzal added the light on North Maple Street and Shaker Road was new and they just replaced it again.

Mr. Ludwick thanked them for coming.

Mr. Kiner stated he will forward a link to you with bills that were passed into laws this year.

Mr. Neville stated we will have more ideas for you next time you come.

Both Mr. Kiner and Mr. Alexander thanked the Board for the invitation to come.

**b. Enfield Clean Energy**

Mr. Chodkowski, the Town Manager spoke to the Board about Clean Energy. Melissa Everett was unable to attend. He presented a power point presentation about town-wide energy performance contracting to finance infrastructure improvements. This will be a referendum question in November about improving our infrastructure. The air conditioning does not work at the library and in other town buildings. Systems are starting to fail due to their age.

Mr. Chodkowski stated we looked at studies for our infrastructure. Our boilers are out dated and are not energy efficient. This project will allow us to make improvement without increasing taxes or fees. The project is lengthy and is regulated by State Statute. We would be buying more efficient equipment that will allow us to make necessary changes with our savings.

Mr. Chodkowski stated we would use Honeywell. They will secure the subcontractors to make the improvements. We are guaranteed to see savings with this contract. He reviewed the risks with the performance contract. The work would be bonded. He reviewed the buildings that were looked at. This information can be found on the Town's website and updates will be posted there. He reviewed the cost savings and projected financials. The construction time would be around 15-18 months and they would start in January 2017 and should be completed in June/July 2018. We would save \$760K per year. The savings would put positive cash revenue back into the town's budget.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Chodkowski. It will be refreshing to work with you. It is encouraging to hear from you. Thank you for presenting this information tonight. It is nice to hear that there is light at the end of the tunnel and Enfield is not unique.

Mr. Neville thanked Mr. Chodkowski. It is good to have you on two of our committees. We will enjoy working with you. Will you have a choice as to which level 1 buildings can be done first. Mr. Chodkowski stated a small percentage of the project is flexible. The most critical systems that would affect a building could be done first. They would need to recalculate the project if buildings are repaired out-of-order.

Mr. Neville asked who will borrow the funds for this project. Mr. Chodkowski stated the town will borrow the money and would acquire bonds. They would be held by the town.

Mr. Neville stated the funds saved would be reimbursable for school improvement projects. Mr. Chodkowski does not know if they would be reimbursable. He will look into this.

Mr. Grady asked about solar power being used like other towns. Mr. Chodkowski stated they did not consider using solar to improve energy efficiency due to the weight of the solar systems causing structural concerns.

Mr. Grady added that other towns have their solar panels on the ground. Did you look into using the ground? Mr. Chodkowski will look into this. He stated there is a Bright Idea Grant to explore solar power we can look into this in the future. It is not part of this project but they are planning to look into this in the future.

Mr. Kruzel thanked Mr. Chodkowski for his presentation and supports this 100%. This is a no brainer. The new high school has LED lighting. All of our buildings will be using this. He thanked Mr. Chodkowski for this information.

Mr. Ludwick asked if we do not use the equipment correctly, who will determine this. Mr. Chodkowski stated Honeywell will. They will test the systems and will review the assessments done. Most times they will be accurate. If there are any deficiencies, we would be responsible for them.

Mr. Ludwick asked if we are leasing or purchasing the equipment. Is the contract transferrable to another vendor? Mr. Chodkowski stated Honeywell is the vendor. Honeywell will complete the project unless

there was some kind of a corporate takeover. Most of these are leased purchase program and some will be a direct purchase program.

Mr. Ludwick thanked Mr. Chodkowski for this informative information. A public hearing will be held on September 6<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Chodkowski urged everyone to go and vote in November.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT 'S REPORT :**

- a. Staff convocation & Professional Learning - as presented
- b. First Day of School - as presented
- c. Grants Report - as presented
- d. Personnel Report - as presented

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Abigail Bosco, Simon Road - Ms. Bosco likes everything they have done at Enfield High School. She asked if any Board members have been involved with the college application process. When you apply to colleges, there will not be a lot of merit scholarships for students due to the larger class sizes now. Fermi students have had higher GPA's than Enfield students. The classes she has taken are not the same as the ones previously offered at Fermi. This will affect the honors classes. She is proposing the Board offer a fairness doctrine and keep the two senior classes separate for 2017. She will be hurt financially if we keep all students in the same GPA grouping. She feels very frustrated because all of her hard work will not be enough to keep her in the top 10 % of her class. She thanked the Board for listening.

Lori Bosco, Simon Road - Mrs. Bosco stated combining the two high schools is great. Her daughter will graduate from high school with a year and a half of college courses. The students were taught differently at both high schools. All the seniors will be combined together with their class ranks. Her daughter will lose her number 1 class rank and will lose scholarships because of this. The senior class does not benefit from combining them together. This will affect many students with high GPA's. Mr. Longey suggested discussing this with Uconn. We need to honor the students by keeping both classes separate.

Lindsey Bruce, Broad Leaf Lane - Mrs. Bruce is concerned about transportation for her kindergarten student. She was told that her daughter would be transported to school. Then she received a call from Smyth bus to confirm transportation for her daughter. When she told them her address, they told her she is a walker and could not ride the bus to school. Her older daughter can ride the bus to her school but her Kindergartener could not. They suggested that her older daughter get off at Enfield Street and walk home with her Kindergartener. She is concerned with the parking lot at Enfield Street School. There are no crossing guards on the two streets they need to pass by. There is a lack of sidewalks for the students and the danger of predators. Windsor Locks, Ellington, South Windsor and Stafford provide transportation for kindergarten students living a quarter of a mile to three quarters of a mile from the school. When the schools were reorganized, parents no longer can have older siblings walk to school with their younger sibling. She would like the Board to review their transportation policy for all the Kindergarten students.

Mr. Sirard returned at 8:35 PM.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Kruzel stated we will start school in two weeks. He wished all students a good school year. It is nice to see everyone again.

Mrs. Unghire was glad to hear that we received the CO for Enfield High School. She wished everyone good luck this school year. She thanked Representatives Alexander and Kiner for attending tonight's meeting. We need to keep our communication open. She also thanked the Town Manager for attending tonight and discussing the clean energy performance contract.

Mr. Ludwick stated the Enfield High School football game will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup> under the lights against Southington. The girl's soccer team will play before that. The new high school will open and all our high school students will attend one high school. The band camp kids have been working very hard this summer. He can't wait to hear them play. The high school will move back to LL class. He challenges everyone to come to these games. He would love to see dial-a-ride provide transportation to the game for our seniors. He would love to see the bleachers filled to people. The students are all looking forward to the first day of school. The opening ceremony committee has several events planned when the construction is completed.

Mr. Ludwick would like to see representatives from our schools attend Board meetings once a month to let us know what amazing things they are doing. Last year we had the students from JFK and Buzz Robotics. We can highlight their efforts for residents to see what is going on in our schools.

Mr. Ludwick stated our transportation policy is pretty clear. He does not know why this would have been said and could we look into this. Dr. Schumann can look into Mrs. Bruce's concerns.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Enfield High School Safe Grad Committee started meeting. We will have our Safe Grad Auction on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Elks. We have chosen the venue for the Safe Graduation Party for the 2017 graduating class. A lot of work is going on.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if we have an option for a rain date for the high school graduation. Do we have the option to move the date as long as we are at the 181<sup>st</sup> day? Dr. Schumann stated we can add a rain date to the calendar if the Board chooses.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she has started the college process and it is very stressful. She will look into Ms. Bosco's concerns. She understands how this will affect students. You may not like the answers we get. Colleges want to see strong courses in student's schedules. There is no more senioritis. Some colleges want you to take math as a senior.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that we have discussed reviewing our transportation policy.

Mr. Ludwick stated our transportation guidelines are less than what the State recommends. If we reduced the distances, it would cost us additional funds that are not budgeted to expand this. We will try to find an answer about the bus company.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished everyone a safe happy school year. She addressed negative comments about the new high school. There are many positives about the high school that outweigh the negative. There will be 150 students in our band. She is excited to see them perform on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The football team will make history as the Enfield Eagles. The students are being offered more and harder classes. There are so many positives happening at our combined high school. We will roll with the punches and wishes everyone a safe and happy school year.

Mr. Neville likes the new sign at Stowe. The high school is so positive and there is so much excitement around the opening of school this year. The town will be so proud of this. We are offering our students new schedules and the eagle hour. The kids have put up with the construction and rolled with the punches.

Mr. Neville stated he likes when our students approach us. He would like the administration to address the question regarding ranking. The college process is an argues task. They are looking for students that take a rigorous class schedule. They are looking for rigor. The superintendent and principal can address your questions.

Mr. Neville wished everyone a good school year. This is going to be a special year for our students at Enfield High.

Mr. Grady wished everyone a safe productive school year. The new high school is exciting.

Mr. Grady asked if the Safe Grad Committee has looked at holding weekend graduations since the graduating classes will be much larger now.

Dr. Schumann stated the graduation is the Board's decision. If this is something the Board would like to discuss further, you can.

Mr. Grady asked if the Policy Committee can look into what other towns are doing with transportation and review our policy again. He always drove his kids to school because of the distance they had to walk to school. We need to look at the safety of the students walking to and from school. Times are different now. He would like this placed on the next policy agenda.

Mr. Grady wished all the new staff good luck and thanked all of the retirees for their service to the students.

Chairman Sirard apologized for leaving abruptly. Grammy had a flat tire. He thanked Bess Zaharis and her sons for stopping to help them. Acts of kindness like this, make him very happy. This is one of the reasons he is happy to live in Enfield.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mr. Kruzel for stepping up and handling the weights at EHS. He thanked Mr. Ludwick and Mrs. Unghire for handling the sale of the uniforms. We all volunteer our services and this is why we all love Enfield and do good things for our town. Thank you.

Chairman Sirard stated we now have a unified high school and need to focus on the positives. The Board's goal has been to consolidate the high schools. We all need to work together. There will be some rough patches that we will need to get through. We need to ignore the negatives. We are moving in the right direction for our students and our town. We need to look at the big picture.

Chairman Sirard stated we reviewed our transportation policy previously. We have budget issues and there are bigger cuts coming. We are very liberal with our transportation policy. Adding buses would be tough.

Chairman Sirard appreciates Representative Kiner and Alexander being here. We will look at this again. You may not like the answers we come up with regarding transportation. He doesn't know why the bus company reached out to the parent.

Chairman Sirard asked if the Safe Grad can hold a rain date for their event. This is something we will need to look at to find a happy solution.

Mr. Grady asked to poll the parents to see if weekend graduations would work better for them.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Transition Update**

Dr. Schumann reported that Amy Morales designed the sign for the Stowe Early Learning Center. We have several programs at this building.

Dr. Schumann reported we received the CO as promised. Amar worked hard for the CO. He promised we would be in the building and he came through. We have a plan and tours will start at Enfield High. Freshman and new student orientation will be held on September 1<sup>st</sup>. We are in full swing and are ready for school to start on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Policy Revision - BOE Policy #9160 Student Representatives - First Reading**

Mr. Ludwick reviewed the proposed changes to Policy #9160 Student Representatives and waive the

second reading of this policy.

Dr. Schumann added he is not sure how quickly we will know who the student representatives and alternates will be. We will try to have them in place for Board approval for our next Board meeting.

Chairman Sirard stated there is a general consensus of the Board to join the two motions, the first and second readings as one.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed changes to BOE Policy #9160 Student Representatives as a first and second reading as presented.

**Discussion :**

Chairman Sirard stated the language in the policy has been cleaned up. Mr. Ludwick stated that is correct.

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

**b. Leadership Finance Working Group**

Mr. Neville stated we have work to do before our February budget talks start. We need to start looking at our financial needs and efficiencies. He has discussed this with Mr. Ludwick and would like to start working with the Board Leadership to prepare us for the budget process by looking for efficiencies now.

Mr. Ludwick added this is a joint issue and we need to work together. We need to build on what we know is coming. Can we influence what we know is coming. Towns are doing many interesting and creative things. The goal is to save public education and look at where Enfield is going. Public education is at risk. We need to inform the Town about where we are going.

Mr. Neville is looking to start this discussion at our next Leadership meeting. He doesn't want us to be in the same place again.

Chairman Sirard stated we will make this an agenda item on our Leadership agendas.

Mr. Ludwick stated mandates will be our first item to discuss. We need to start looking at other revenue resources. We will find items to discuss at the Leadership meeting.

Mr. Neville believes we have put together a list a mandates. Chairman Sirard confirmed that we have produced a list for the legislators a couple of times.

Chairman Sirard would like this to be an item for the next Leadership meeting.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Building Committee**

Mr. Kruzel stated we received the CO. A lot of hard work was done by everyone. The total project is about 80% complete. Kudos to the students for putting up with all of the construction. The students will unite and the Fermi kids will now see what the Enfield High kids have been going through. We have had no safety issues and the building is beautiful. He urged everyone to attend one of the tours of the new high school.

Mr. Neville added this could not have happened without everyone's hard work. This is why we have been so successful with this project.

Mr. Kruzel stated by fast tracking this project, we are done a year ahead of schedule.

Mrs. Unghire stated the Opening Up Committee will hold ceremony in the spring when all of the construction has been completed. The school will be opened up for the public to tour the building.

b. Finance Committee - None

c. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the August Curriculum Committee was cancelled. We will meet next in September.

**13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kruzel and Mr. Neville moved that the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2016 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**

Lori Bosco, Simon Road - Mrs. Bosco thanked you for listening. This affects the 10% of the students.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. Schumann stated at the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board has the need for a non-meeting for collective bargaining strategies.

Mr. Ludwick moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire to enter into Executive Session for Matter(s) Relate to Personnel and Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining.

A vote by show-of-hands 8-0-0 passed unanimously. The Board remained in Council Chambers for the Executive Session.

No Board action occurred while they were in Executive Session.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel to adjourn the Regular Meeting of August 23, 2016.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary