

**ENFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017**

A Special Meeting of the Enfield Town Council was called to order by Chairman Kaupin in the Enfield Room of the Enfield Town Hall, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut on Monday, March 6, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL-CALL –Present were Councilors Arnone, Bosco, Cekala, Davis, Deni, Edgar, Falk, Kaupin, Lee, Ludwick and Szewczak. Also present were Town Manager, Bryan Chodkowski; Town Clerk, Suzanne Olechnicki; Director of Finance, John Wilcox; Deputy Director of Public Works, Billy Taylor

Present from the Enfield Board of Education were Walter Kruzel, Timothy Neville, Raymond Peabody, Richard Regnier and Thomas Sirard. Vincent Grady, Tina LeBlanc, Stacy Thurston and Lori Unghire were absent. Also present were Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Schumann and Deputy Superintendent, Christopher Drezek

PRESENTATION OF ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET

Dr. Schumann highlighted the following areas:

- Enfield High School is fully open and operational.
- John F. Kennedy Middle School received its accreditation.
- Efforts are moving forward to develop Positive Behavior Intervention Support “PBIS” in the schools.
- Parkman improved its SBAC scores by 27%.
- After school educational clubs are becoming more popular.
- Students from Enfield High School are visiting other schools and becoming role models and working on character building for younger students.
- Schools are working on attendance to lower absenteeism.
- Schools are working on engaging parents.
- The reading tutor partnership with United Way is expanding.
- Stowe is fully operational and there’s a tremendous collaboration between Town services and the Board of Education, and classes will probably be expanded going forward.
- New computer courses are being planned at the middle and high school levels.
- 150 scholarships were awarded to high school graduates last year.
- Music groups continue to perform tremendously throughout the State.
- Increasing numbers of middle school students passing the physical assessments.
- First Readers continues to thrive.
- Special Education is highly regulated in terms of compliance, and Enfield continues to meet all those compliance regulations.
- Eight seniors were accepted to visual arts schools last year.
- Athletic programs are excelling.

- In the business area, Enfield High School has an outstanding school store, and they received the DECA gold level status.
- Family & Consumer science enjoys a beautiful new facility at Enfield High School.
- Great results achieved at high school and middle school level in math, science, social studies, technology and world language.
- Robotics continues to be a focus.
- There is a rise in AP classes from six in 2012 to 17 this year, and another AP class will be added next year.
- The point of sale has been completed in terms of Nutrition Services.
- An expansion of the Asnuntuck collaborative.

Dr. Schumann stated the CREC program takes 300 to 400 students into CREC magnet schools. He noted as a result of new programs and the new high school, students are coming back. He noted Enfield currently has about 5,200 students.

Dr. Schumann stated the per pupil expenditures are as follows:

- State Average - \$17,000
- DRG - \$16,000
- Enfield - \$13,800

He stated this shows Enfield is doing a lot better than other towns, and they're doing it in an economical manner.

Dr. Schumann stated 53.9% of the last budget came from local taxes and 39.6% came from the State. He pointed out it takes \$72,700,000 to run the school district. He noted the school system was able to get another \$5 million dollars in grants. He pointed out this is what they are operating on for this current school year.

He noted staff was asked if they could have everything they needed to make Enfield's school system better than it is now, and the resulting increase would be 7.82%.

Dr. Schumann stated across the country superintendents, principals and teachers are finding that students are coming to school with different sets of issues causing elementary classrooms to be a struggle in terms of getting things done. He noted this has been noticed in Enfield, and teachers, principals and parents are telling them about this. He stated as a result they are asking for the following things, which they believe will help address this problem.

1. One floating nurse (many students are coming to school in need of medical attention and are very fragile, and a person needs to be available to help out in situations).
2. One elementary counselor so each elementary school has a full-time counselor.
3. Six Behavior Specialists for each school. (These would be highly skilled people, but they may have different skills, and they could collaborate to find out what can

- be done to solve the problem they have in terms of getting students ready to learn.).
4. Additional special education support. (More students are coming to Enfield who are identified as needing special education services).
 5. They want to put every elementary teacher and staff member through the Positive Behavior Intervention Support training.
 6. Kindergarten aides to help in each kindergarten so there are two people dealing with the youngest learners.
 7. Replace I-Macs in high school library.
 8. I-Pads and I-Macs at JFK Middle School.
 9. 25 I-Pads and I-Pad cart for World Language.
 10. 25 I-Pads for each of the Grade 3-5 schools to speed up the state testing.
 11. 5 I-Pads for Physical Education so students can log in their data.
 12. Three 3-D printers for Technology Education.
 13. 25 I-Pads and I-Pad cart for the Guidance Department.
 14. Assistive Technology to help special education students with reading, writing and speech.

Dr. Schumann stated all these initiatives total \$815,256. The cost to run the district is \$70 million dollars. He noted the total is now standing at \$71,074,732, or 4.53% above this year's allocation. He pointed out the new initiatives would result in 1.18%, and required increases are driving the costs up 3.84%.

He stated insurance benefits are currently at 15%, and it's hoped that will continue to drop.

Dr. Schumann referred to magnet schools and noted at this time the state funds at \$10,400 per student, and it's been heard that the state will reduce that figure by as much as \$1,000 per student, and the school district will have to pick up that figure.

As concerns special education costs, Dr. Schumann stated it is not known what will happen with the Excess Cost Sharing grant, but each year it's reduced by a couple percentage points, and that will cause the school system to look for another half million dollars to cover special education costs.

Dr. Schumann stated the Board of Education and Administration has been working very hard with bargaining units, and each bargaining unit agreed to a zero percent wage increase for next year, and that will save a substantial amount of money. He noted as a result of the elementary school consolidation, there will be cost savings due to position reductions. He stated as a result of the consolidation, the Smyth Bus Company has been able to re-look at their routes and are going to offer a year extension on the contract at a zero percent increase. He noted work done ahead of the budget process allowed them to save about a half of a percentage point.

He stated there are still a lot of unknowns because it's unknown what's going to happen at the State level with ECS funding, and it's unknown what will happen with health

insurance and other insurances. He noted they have no idea what will happen with the magnet schools. He stated there's also the issue of the State possibly passing on some of the cost of the teacher pensions to the towns.

Dr. Schumann stated this budget still does some good things. He noted they won't lose anything, and they can move everything they currently have forward. He stated they do address the required budgetary increases in magnet schools, special education and insurances. He noted this budget provides some behavioral, academic, social and emotional support for elementary students. It provides new technology hardware at all levels – laptops, I-Pads, computers and 3D printers. He noted this also allows them to add a math teacher for two new classes at Enfield High School.

Councilor Arnone questioned the difference between a counselor and social worker. Dr. Schumann stated there is some overlap in these positions. He noted a counselor also has an academic piece.

Councilor Arnone stated the Town tried to push forward a partnership with the School Department regarding social workers as a result of suicide concerns. He questioned how the Town can do more with its resources to lessen the burden on the school side. Dr. Schumann stated his belief there's a great opportunity for a partnership.

Councilor Falk questioned whether enrollment numbers include only students from Enfield. Dr. Schumann responded the enrollment number includes every student who is in Enfield classrooms October 1st of every year, and this includes out-of-town students. He noted out-of-town students average 110 to 120.

Councilor Ludwick suggested consideration be given to using interns or high school seniors instead of kindergarten aides.

Councilor Ludwick questioned whether technology is leased or purchased. Dr. Schumann stated they purchase instructional technology, and administrative technology is leased.

Councilor Ludwick questioned the idea of contracting behavior specialists, and Dr. Schumann noted contracted behavior specialists are very expensive.

Mr. Sirard referred to Enfield's per pupil expenditure and noted Enfield is below the averages, and they're doing a better job the right way. He stated while he had concern about the teachers' pension plan, Enfield has no control over that because that's the State's issue.

Councilor Deni referred to the teachers' contract and stated his belief it's not a hard zero because over the course of that contract, the Board is continually increasing its share of the medical insurance above what the Town of Enfield's employees are paying. Mr. Sirard stated Enfield is ahead of the State average on the health insurance breakdown,

which is 14% to 16%, and Enfield is up to between 18% and 20% at the end of three years. He stated his belief this is a great contract.

Mr. Neville stated over the last three contracts, they've consistently seen everyone paying their fair share. He noted every bargaining unit stepped up.

Chairman Kaupin expressed appreciation for this detailed presentation. He noted the Town Manager will present his budget at the first Council meeting in April, and the Council will adopt the budget in mid-May.

Mr. Neville requested the Board and Council meet again as they did last year, and Chairman Kaupin agreed.

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #4056 by Councilor Falk, seconded by Councilor Bosco to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4056** adopted 11-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 6:55 p.m.