

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 28, 2017**

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 March 28, 2017.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT :** Rich Regnier, Raymond Peabody, Walter Kruzel, Tim Neville, Stacy Thurston, Vin Grady and Tom Sirard

**MEMBERS ABSENT :** Lori Unghire and Tina LeBlanc

**ALSO PRESENT :** Dr. Jeffery Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; EHS Student Representatives Abigail Bosco and Sarah Passmore

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

a. **Special Recognition**

Dr. Schumann thanked the members of the Board of Education for everything you do for the school system. The board makes many tough decisions. You volunteer your time, make many hard decisions and sometimes take resistance for your decisions. Tonight, we would like to recognize you for everything you do for the students and staff. Each Board member has received items from the students in our schools: a Swag Bag, Eagles T-Shirt and Travel Mug from Enfield High students; a Swag Bag, 3D Printed Magnet, Rachel's Challenge T-Shirt and Thank You Cards from the John F. Kennedy students; a Basket with Candy, Notepad, Plant and Thank You Letters from the students at the Intermediate Schools; Banners with all of the Primary student's fingerprints; a Painted Potted Plant from our Head Start students and a Decorated Standup Card from the students at the Stowe Early Learning Center.

Principal Graham, Principal Fenton had a few K-3 students display a banner with all of the students thumb prints on them.

Principal Sargalski and teacher Alana Beebe introduced JFK students Lindsay, Kara and Jordan who are members of the Rachel's Challenge Club. The students described the 3D magnets that are in the swag bags along with thank you cards.

Principal Longey introduced Jacob and Madison. The students shared their experiences at Enfield High school. They were freshman when the groundbreaking was held at EHS. Looking at the finished product, it was all worth it. Students and athletes are enjoying the weight room and cardio room; our career center helps students with their post secondary planning; our auto shop and culinary arts areas help students to further their careers; our music and drama arts students are also benefiting from the new locations; world language students are furthering their skills using our language labs; block scheduling allows for a greater course selections and AP classes, Merging the two high schools allowed us to continue our dedication to Rachel's Challenge and expand our athletic teams to include freshman sports. The additional administration support is also appreciated. They invited all Board members to attend our ribbon cutting

ceremony on May 13<sup>th</sup> . Thank you for all that you have done for the Enfield Public School system and your support of our education.

Dr. Schumann thanked our Board members.

**b. Randy Daigle**

Dr. Schumann introduced Randy Daigle, Amar Shamas and Wendy Osada. They are here to give the Board an update regarding the Enfield High School Project.

Mr. Daigle stated we have received our CO and the Enfield High building is being used 100%. We are closing out the last phases of the punch lists.

Mr. Shamas showed the Board photos of the building. We are closing out the punch list and will finish the landscaping. This building is 100% ADA compliant. He appreciates the cooperation from the staff, students and administration during this project. He reviewed the turnover packages in detail for each floor at Enfield High.

Mr. Daigle added that this type of turnover package should be done for each building in our town and hopes that these will be used as examples. We are excited about this and want this project to be a continued success. He added that we are still under budget and on time with this project.

Chairman Sirard asked if the turnover package includes a preventative maintenance package. Mr. Shamas stated yes and it is included in the turnover package for all scheduled maintenance.

Mr. Peabody congratulated the entire committee for a job well done. He commended them for the communications throughout the entire project. You kept the public informed and got the job done well. We put our trust in you and the building is awesome. This is a great opportunity for our students learning environment. We are maximizing use in the entire building. Thank you.

Mr. Daigle stated Wendy Osada and Gina Sullivan are our communications experts who got the word out on our website and in our newsletter. Their services were second to none. Our architects have shared this information to other committees showing them what they should do. Mr. Peabody added that he shared the website link to one of his colleagues.

Mr. Neville also thanked them for the past 6 years. You are all volunteers and did an amazing job. He is very proud of the entire team as a citizen and as a liaison. The turnover package is the piece that our facilities are lacking. You have been the model for this. This technology will help us out greatly.

Mr. Kruzel stated the Building Committee still has 10 of the original 13 members. The Women's Club dedicated the Visual Arts Program to Dr. Arthur Pongratz. He also added we are the only building project in the State of Connecticut that was under budget and ahead of schedule.

Mrs. Osada stated that Mr. Daigle has been here from day 1 and has dedicated numerous hours/days to this project.

Chairman Sirard stated this is a wonderful achievement. On behalf of the entire Board, thank you and we commend you for a job well done. You all deserve a lot of credit for this amazing project. Congratulations and thank you.

**7. SUPERINTENDENT 'S REPORT :**

- a. Student Representatives Report - as presented
- b. Budget Presentation - as presented
- c. Staff PD & Early Release Day - as presented
- d. March/April Events - as presented
- e. Grants Report - as presented

f. Personnel Report - as presented

Dr. Schumann added it is Buzz Robotics time again. They will compete this weekend at Hartford Public. He wished them good luck in their competition.

Dr. Schumann added that he and his administration will meet to prepare for the K-2 transition to prepare families and students. He will keep you apprised of these developments.

Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek will meet with the JFK architects on Wednesday to review the requests and recommendations of items received from the JFK department chairs. This is very similar to what the high school project did. We are finishing up with one project and hopefully we will be able to start another one for the middle school students.

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Chairman Sirard asked audience members to keep their time to 3 minutes and they will have one time to speak. He also asked that audience members avoid using personalities and personal attacks.

Marcy Taliceo, Coolidge Drive - Mrs. Taliceo stated that no Board member has publically addressed another Board member for negative posts they made on Facebook. No one has posted anything about this in any form of media. She would like the Chairman to be removed from the Board. She added that they will continue to make the community aware of what occurred. She is sure Enfield will make a change in November.

Judy Kilty, Abbe Road - Mrs. Kilty stated the Board made a decision to close Nathan Hale. This was a bad decision. She has asked for the numbers about closing Hale and moving Central Office employees to Alcorn. Who has this information and why is this such a secret? She received the information and will share this for a price. You are all accountable to the taxpayers for any money that is spent. We will need to pay the State the money that is owed once Hale is closed. You are all elected official and are all accountable.

Linda Allegro, Grant Road - Mrs. Allegro is here to state her concerns. All Board members should treat everyone with respect and dignity. We are blessed to live in a land of democracy. The Chairman of the Board abused this right. We all deserve freedom from hate and fear and should be free from discrimination. Our chairman cannot fairly represent the children in our town. The Chairman should resign from his position. We all deserve respect and dignity.

Kathy Durner, Sandpiper Road - Mrs. Durner stated she was upset with what was posted online by a Board member. There are consequences when you post something offensive online. The posts have been removed. The board has an obligation to do what is right for the students. She understands that we need to move on but everything is not okay and fair. There is enough cyber-bullying that is going on. The Board has an obligation and can address this.

Trish Neild Barry, Buchanan Road - Mrs. Barry thanked the Chairman for his apology. This was caused by your statements that were posted online. Elected officials are held to a higher standard. She would like the Chairman to resign or be removed from this position. You may have a lot of knowledge about our school system but you as a Board member have responsibilities to our kids. She would like our Board policy updated regarding Board member conduct. You have done a disservice to our kids. She would like you to explain what you did to our kids at JFK so they can learn that what you post online matters at an assembly. You let our children down by posting negative comments online.

Gina Sullivan, Spier Avenue - Mrs. Sullivan stated at the special Board meeting the Chairman apologized for what he had done. This is a step in the right direction. We do not allow our children to act this way. Hate is everywhere as well as on social media. As the Chairman, you need a level of decorum and respect and should be a role model for our kids. You were honored tonight by our students. Please set an example for our kids and don't let them down.

Ester Hernandez, Town Farm Road - Ms. Hernandez stated she is a student at JFK and is a Hispanic woman. She was offended by what was posted. She also saw disrespect at the last Board meeting. This shows poor judgement. She is worried about your behavior as our Chairman and the future generations in Enfield. Your behavior makes her feel unsafe. Please be more respectful.

Chad Allegro, Leary Road - Mr. Allegro stated that he is disgraced by what the Chairman posted on Facebook. This is an insult to our community. You insulted many nationalities and threatened our safety by your hateful posts. We have many Hispanic people in our community. What messages are you sending! These racist negative posts are not okay. He would like the Chairman to do the right thing and resign. Our community and students deserve better.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street - Mrs. Davis stated it was great to see the students recognize the Board for their hard work. Diversity is something we teach in our schools to our students. What the Chairman posted was unprofessional. If you did this at your jobs you would be fired. If our children did this, they would be suspended. There should be consequences for using Facebook to post racist comments for our leaders. She would like the Chairman to take ownership for your actions and teach our students about your mistake. Our children are watching. Congratulations on being the Republican of the year.

Christina Tetreault, Green Manor Road - Mrs. Tetreault does not see any savings by closing Nathan Hale. The posts made by a Board member on Facebook are racist. Someone with these kinds of views should not be in charge of our schools. By allowing him to remain on the Board, you are telling our children that these posts are okay. She would like the Chairman to resign. She likes the idea of having him teach our children the dangers of posting information online. ERfC has run our before and after school programs for many years at reduced prices for families that need assistance. The superintendent is bringing in new companies next year. Please keep ERfC in our schools. They do so much for our families in Enfield.

Eileen MacDonald, Spring Street - Mrs. MacDonald stated both parties closed Nathan Hale. You will be remembered for years for doing this. This decision was rushed. Do you expect taxpayers to now fix JFK? There is such a lack of respect with this group. Memorial needs many repairs. You should all be ashamed of yourselves. Children were asked to send you letters praising you. The Chairman should resign or step-down for what was posted online.

Tracy Roberts, Kennedy Drive - Mrs. Roberts stated she just moved to Enfield in November and was planning to raise a family in this town. If she knew ahead of time about what was going on here, they never would have bought a home in Enfield. The Board is closing schools and posting racist information online. She works in Hartford with under-privileged children. She

did not like seeing the negative posts. Raising a family in Enfield concerns her greatly knowing what is going on with the school board.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Neville thanked the staff and students for recognizing the Board. The kids are the reason we volunteer and run for office and do this. We are grateful and proud of our students for everything they do.

Mr. Neville thanked Randy, Amar, Wendy and the members of the Building Committee for everything they have done. They have dedicated so much of their time to this project. We can all be proud of this for the rest of our lives. When we work together we can do things right. He hopes we can continue this as we work on the facilities project.

Mr. Neville addressed the Chairman's behavior and post on Facebook. This was wrong, inappropriate and he was offended by it. He discussed this with him. We discussed our roles. We are not ignoring this as a Board. He has been working with children for 40 years. We need to change bad behavior. The Chairman took the post down and admitted he was wrong. The special Board meeting was held for another issue. He will not respond to anonymous letters or e-mails. Anger and hate has brought us to this point. He accepts the Chairman's apology. Your approach is going to bring out the worst behavior. If we choose to run for office again, you can vote for us or not vote for us. We are all volunteers and should

not be threatened. You do not need to agree with him. He would like to see a change in behavior. These are his opinions.

Mrs. Thurston thanked the students for the gifts. This is why she volunteers to be a Board member. If you do not hear from her, please do not assume you know the answer on anything. She will not post anything or respond to any social media posts. She has a relationship with her Board members and dealt with it her way.

Mr. Grady stated due to a change in his work schedule, he has missed several Board meetings. He stated that he is frustrated. This will be his last year as a Board member. He was frustrated over the Fermi vote, the closing of Nathan Hale and the lack of Policy Committee meetings and parent's concerns with bussing. He thanked the students for the gifts. This made him feel good to be part of this Board. He hopes the rest of the term will be positive. Thank you.

Mr. Regnier thanked the students for the swag gifts along with the time and effort they put into our gifts. These efforts are greatly appreciated. This is awesome - thank you.

Mr. Regnier thanked all of the First Readers. He attended the First Readers event and it was a wonderful program. Reading brings such joy to our kids and speaks volumes.

Mr. Regnier stated this is also Social Worker appreciation month. He thanked all of the social workers out there for everything you are doing to make a difference.

Mr. Regnier thanked Mrs. Middleton for the STEAM curriculum for our K-2 students. This is a big step and it is going well. This program is being well accepted by our students.

Mr. Regnier stated the Policy Committee is down a member. He would like to be placed on this committee so we can address some of the concerns that have been noted.

Mr. Regnier stated if he receives an e-mail with a name, he will respond to it. The roads to get somewhere may be different, but the end result is something we all want to get to. Be part of

the process and express your opinions. This is what democracy is all about. He is not saying that he is not anything. He is not racist and is not a bigot. The forum for tonight's meeting is for the kids and the education our students receive. He understands your passion. I was against the posts on Facebook. We need to move forward as a community and learn from this.

Mr. Peabody thanked everyone for your thoughts and concerns. All of our rights and freedoms have components to them. Responsibilities are attached to them. We come up with remedies to problems. All Board members should attend training lessons on social media. Our policies need to address Board member behavior, attendance and participation. There are courses on diversity. People are human and will make bad choices along the way.

Mr. Peabody recognized several past students for their accomplishments after graduating from Enrico Fermi and Enfield High School. These kids are successes and we need to emphasize this.

Mr. Peabody commended Dr. Schumann for his reorganization with the Special Education Department. He has heard some really good things about the progress that has been made. He complimented Mrs. Hayes for her efforts as a past principal and a coordinator in the Special Education department. Our special education program works and there are success stories here as well.

Mr. Peabody stated that he will be resigning from the Board of Education effective April 28<sup>th</sup> due to health concerns. He has enjoyed his time as a Board of Education member and appreciates everything his fellow Board members have done for him. Thank you for being his friend.

Mr. Kruzel wished his wife a happy birthday. He attended the Invention Convention on Saturday. The turnout was great and some of the student's inventions were amazing. They all worked really hard on

their ideas. Seventeen students were chosen to move onto the next level for the State competition. He wished them all well.

Mr. Kruzel stated that Buzz Robotics is working hard at Fermi getting ready for their upcoming competition. He wished them good luck at their competition at Hartford Public this weekend.

Mr. Kruzel attended the First Readers Ceremony and presented them a book that was written by our first group of First Readers. The turnout for this event was also great. Representative Stokes was also at this event.

Mr. Kruzel stated there is a lot of good in this town. He extends kudos to the entire Enfield High School Building Committee. This is a great group of hard working individuals. Thank you for your hard work.

Mr. Peabody added the Athletic Hall of Fame will hold a golf tournament fundraiser event for student scholarships on May 6<sup>th</sup>. You can contact either Tim Jensen or Mike Cotnoir for additional information.

Chairman Sirard stated that he appoints Rich Regnier as the Policy Committee Chairperson to fill Mr. Ludwick's vacant seat. He thinks you will do a wonderful job on this committee.

Chairman Sirard stated that he went to the State Appropriations Committee on February 21<sup>st</sup> and spoke on behalf of the Enfield Public School System. His message was well received and he will continue to fight for us. They recognized our hard work in Enfield as a team and he reminded them about the K-12 constitutional priorities. He hopes this will have an impact and he will continue to attend these sessions and will continue to fight.

Chairman Sirard stated that Mr. Peabody has been a good friend and they respect each other. You will be missed.

Chairman Sirard stated he did what he did and he takes accountability for it. He thanked Mr. Neville and the Board for helping him and their advice to do the right thing.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Approve Revised 2017-18 School Calendar**

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2017-18 School Calendar revisions as presented.

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

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Building Committee - None**

### **b. Curriculum Committee**

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We discussed a half year one semester introduction to Auto Course. This course will teach students basic car maintenance. We also received a data assessment presentation from Ms. Middleton. This presentation will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Peabody added that this committee has added courses without adding any expenses. Ms. Middleton and her predecessor Ms. McKernan have set our students up with curriculum for greater learning. It has been fun working with all of you on the Curriculum committee.

Mr. Neville added we have increased technology in our school system and AP courses. We now offer 18 AP courses. Dr. Schumann added we will add one more AP course next year.

c. Finance Committee

Mr. Peabody reported the Finance Committee will meet on March 21<sup>st</sup>. We have made changes to our budget books, made changes to our nutrition program and have given insight to our funding sources in our budget. The TAG settlement has been finalized. This program is self-funded through the Simcovitz Estate and will not cost the district anything. Credit needs to be given to Mr. Drezek, Mrs. West, Mrs. LeBlanc and our legal team for working through this.

Mr. Peabody has enjoyed his time on this committee. He appreciates Mr. Drezek's help and guidance. Mrs. West has done an amazing job. He believes Mr. Kruzel will take his place on this committee and will do well. Thank you all.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Policy Committee - None

f. Facilities Joint Committee

Mr. Neville reported we are reviewing SBS data to prioritize our needs. We would like to put in place a repair schedule for maintenance. He will update everyone at our next Board meeting.

Mr. Kruzel stated this committee has a vacancy. Anyone interested can apply via the link on the Town Council website. You can also contact any committee member or the Town Manager's office.

g. Any Other Committee Reports

Insurance Committee - None

Opening Ceremony Committee

Mrs. Thurston stated the official date for the ribbon cutting ceremony is at May 13<sup>th</sup>. They will also hold other events on this date.

**13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Special Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5 -0-2** passed with Mr. Grady and Mrs. Thurston abstaining.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-2** passed with Mr. Grady and Mr. Sirard abstaining.

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Special Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 4-0-3** passed with Mr. Regnier, Mr. Grady and Mr. Sirard abstaining.

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Special Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-1** passed with Mr. Grady abstaining.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Special Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-2** passed with Mr. Grady and Mr. Regnier abstaining.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL**

**a. For the Month of November 2016**

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that we accept the superintendent's certification as follows:

I hereby certify that in the month of November, total expenditures amount to \$6,330,191.34, broken down between payroll totaling \$3,979,844.89 and other accounts totaling \$2,350,346.45.

All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented.

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

**b. For the Month of December 2016**

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that we accept the superintendent's certification as follows: I hereby certify that in the month of December, total expenditures amount to \$6,747,835.45, broken down between payroll totaling \$3,956,071.96 and other accounts totaling \$2,791,763.49.

All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented.

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

**c. For the Month of January 2017**

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that we accept the superintendent's certification as follows: I hereby certify that in the month of January, total expenditures amount to \$6,146,496.90, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,004,275.30 and other accounts totaling \$2,142,221.60.

All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented.

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

**d. For the Month of February 2017**

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzal that we accept the superintendent's certification as follows: I hereby certify that in the month of February, total expenditures amount to \$5,525,894.80, broken down between payroll totaling \$3,930,532.52 and other accounts totaling \$1,595,362.28.

All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented.

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

**e. Line Item Transfers, if any - None**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**16. AUDIENCES**

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Circle - Mr. Jonaitis thanked Mr. Peabody for his service to the Board and the community and wished him good luck.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION -**

Mr. Kruzal moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matters Related to Personnel.

A vote by **show-of-hands 4-3-0** passed with Mrs. Thurston, Mr. Grady and Mr. Peabody in dissent.

The Board remained in Council Chambers for the Executive Session. Both Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek joined the Board in Executive Session.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 28, 2017.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary