

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 10, 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 January, 2017.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Tom Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Lori Unghire
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Lori Unghire
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Tom Sirard announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Walter Kruzel, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Tim Neville, Stacy Thurston and Tom Sirard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Vin Grady and Tina LeBlanc

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

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

a. **KITE**

Dr. Schumann introduced members from KITE (Key Initiatives to Early Education) to the Board. LeAnn Beaulieu, KITE Chairperson; Ashley Levesque, KITE Coordinator and Jennifer Moncuse, KITE Accountability/Enfield Plays On Coordinator gave the Board and overview of the partnership programs. They also reviewed the grants they have received from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund and Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Grant and the different programs KITE offers from these grants.

Mr. Neville thanked the members of KITE for what you are doing. Your focus on early education is important. He asked about the collaborative grant with Manchester. Mrs. Moncuse stated that Manchester is interested in the Plays On program and applied for a grant. Since we are established, they wanted Manchester to collaborate with us with their grant.

Mrs. Beaulieu added this is a 3-year grant and this will allow both of our communities to continue to grow together. Mr. Neville added this is a feather in the Enfield KITE's program that other communities are recognizing the good work you are doing here in Enfield. You can also see what other communities are doing. Good job.

Mr. Neville is also impressed with the other grant you received for working with our young families through the PEP (People Empowering People) program. You will be offering a training program. Where will this take place?

Mrs. Levesque stated this will be held at Enrico Fermi High School Cafeteria on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Registration is required.

Mr. Neville asked what is the Kaboom playful city? Mrs. Levesque stated you can follow them on Facebook. They are doing great work across the country by bringing play into many communities. They are a national group. If we can be recognized as a playful city, there is additional funding available and we will have bragging rights with highway signs. It would say welcome to Enfield, a playful city. That is our end goal.

Mr. Neville thanked them and encouraged them to keep up the good work you are doing.

Mr. Kruzel asked about their website. Mrs. Levesque stated our website is enfieldkite.org. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at the Stowe Early Learning Center. This is a great program and thank you for all of your help.

Mr. Peabody also thanked them for coming to the Board meeting and explaining about your program. You have opened up my eyes. You are correct about kids not knowing how to play anymore. You don't see them outside playing like when we were growing up. Scouting also shows kids how to play. He supports your organization. Thank you.

Chairman Sirard thanked the members from KITE for their presentation and for everything you are doing for the Enfield community.

**b. JFK Pre-Referendum Chair - None**

**7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – as presented
- c. January Events – as presented

Mr. Neville asked about who sponsored the leadership conference you attended. Ms. Bosco stated we attended the elementary leadership conference held at Asnuntuck Community College. The conference taught us about being leaders in our society. It was sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools.

**8. AUDIENCES -**

Trish Neild Barry, Buchanan Road – Mrs. Neild Barry stated 4H Clubs also teaches younger kids how to play. She thanked Mr. Peabody for reaching out to the nurses. We are still looking for a long term plan. She would like the Board to ask Dr. Schumann for a long term plan and the Board can then tweak it. She did not like hearing that Hale was one of the lowest performing schools. Some of these websites that rank schools based their rankings on limited information and are not accurate. She thanked the many different individuals in our history that have stood up for our rights. We are just looking for a detailed plan. We need transparency and will continue to ask for this. We will not let our kids fail. Thank you.

Elizabeth Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis stated that KITE does an amazing job. She would like to see a long range plan also. She would like to see the two year plan that showed closing Hale. Our teachers do an amazing job. They need more respect. Some of them are residents and taxpayers in Enfield. They believe in our schools and send their children to our schools. If we had involved them in the beginning, this process might have gone smoothly. She doesn't agree with putting money aside for moving expenses. This could have been used for other things like the volunteer fees or money being put aside for the JFK Band & Orchestra field trips. At the last meeting, a student with an allergic reaction was brought up. The student went to the hospital again. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> time this student has had an allergic reaction. She hopes that someone does something to help this student out. This should be a priority. Thank you.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Unghire congratulated our new Enfield High National Honor Society Members. She attended the Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast. It was a well attended event. She thanked everyone involved with this event.

Mr. Neville wanted to clarify a comment from the last meeting. There is no policy on teacher ratios. There is strive to language in the ETA contract.

Mr. Neville would like to schedule some meetings for the Board to discuss the budget after Dr. Schumann presents the budget. We need to set these dates up and we are limited before we need to give our recommendations to the Town Council by the end of February. We need to let the public know about these dates.

Mr. Neville stated the decision made regarding Nathan Hale was not done by a party line vote. We all voted as individuals not based on our party affiliates. We will carry this plan out with the best of our abilities.

Mr. Neville stated the comment made regarding the reimbursement rate from the state was for the renovations at Fermi high school. He did not believe that we would ever receive that good of a rate again for future renovation projects. We know the state will change the reimbursement rates again on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We were very fortunate to receive the reimbursement rate we received for the Enfield High project.

Mr. Neville stated the comments made about our schools are not accurate. There are many websites that grade our schools. You need to take this information with a grain of salt. There is no valid evaluation with these sites. The information on these sites can be offensive.

Mr. Neville would like to make sure we have reached out to the parent that Ms. Davis was referring to.

Chairman Sirard stated he will address this during his comments.

Mr. Kruzel stated it was pointed out to him that he did not make any comments regarding the Hale discussions. Our Board members made comments and he agrees with them. If he had additional information to bring up he would have. He didn't just want to say ditto but he will – ditto.

Mr. Kruzel also attended the Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast. It was a well attended event.

Mr. Peabody stated he spoke with the nurses at the elementary schools. He visited Enfield Street School and watched the students during a LEGO build. They were building castles as teams. This was great to see and is an educational team building lesson. While he was there, he saw first-hand the staff working with a student that had a melt-down. They are doing a great job and he truly appreciates the staff and what they are doing.

Mr. Peabody stated that Prudence Crandall will be holding there one book, one school event again. This program brings the school together. He thanked the reading department and Joan Marsh for being involved in this program.

Mr. Peabody wished Kari Monteforte a get well and warm wishes. He congratulated Nancy Hayes on her new appointment in the Special Education Department and welcomed Mr. Fenton.

Mr. Peabody added that we are being cut \$250K from our ECS grant that we receive from the state. We will have another gap that we need to fill in our budget. He has faith in our administration and Town Council to fill this without harming the school system.

Mr. Peabody stated the volunteers is a town/police issue. This needs to be addressed by the Town Council. He will look into the funding for JFK band field trips. The Board understands what our teachers and support staff do for us. We appreciate everything they are doing.

Mr. Peabody stated that he also attended the Barnard PTO meeting. They are doing a great job.

Mr. Peabody would like audience members to contact our legislators and Governor's Office and ask them to keep our schools harmless during this budget session. He wished everyone Happy New Year.

Chairman Sirard welcomed everyone and wished them all a Happy New Year. He stated he is aware of the situation with the student with the allergic reaction. He is in constant contact with the administration and they are looking for a resolution. We will not be public with this information and are dangerously close to violating student confidentiality rights. Please let this issue go and do not bring this up publically out of privacy for the family and student. Thank you for understanding on this.

Chairman Sirard stated background checks were a function of the State Police. The state used to cover this fee. They are no longer covering this. This is a budget issue now.

Chairman Sirard stated that we stand up for our teachers and staff. No one is disrespecting our staff. This statement is not true. Our past contracts are examples of this.

Chairman Sirard stated there are no long term plans or intentions to close another school. We have the appropriate number of buildings and do not have the infrastructure to do this. This has not been discussed and will not happen.

Chairman Sirard stated the Joint Facilities Committee is coming up with a long term plan for our buildings and maintenance. The Board sets goals for 2 years. This is our 2 year plan. We list our goals on the website. The Board is under the Town Charter and operates on a 2 year cycle. Some towns have 5 year plans. We get an annual budget from the Town Council. We are always continuing to improve. Enfield is very similar to other towns. We are not a distressed school system. There is always room for improvement. We have a very good school system in Enfield.

Chairman Sirard added that when renovations are considered, the state will look at enrollment and building capacities for new projects. Most school districts are under capacity. We have done everything they are saying now regarding renovation reimbursements. We are doing everything correctly and have taken into consideration future school requirements. We are continuing to move forward and our plans are moving forward. Now we need to weather the instability coming from the State concerning budget cuts. We need to keep the best interest of our students and staff in mind.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Transition Update**

Dr. Schumann presented a video showing the music wing and auditorium at Enfield High School. We toured the space last week. This is going to be a spectacular facility once it is

completed.

Mr. Kruzel stated they will start the walk-throughs for the CO on Tuesday next week. This should be completed by Friday. Our plans are to have the students in this area after the mid-term exams have been completed and for the start of the second semester.

Dr. Schumann added this would be for January 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. 2017-18 Calendar Discussion**

Dr. Schumann stated this is the first year for the regional calendar. The proposed draft calendar meets the regional guidelines and our policy. The Board can review this draft and we will place it on an upcoming agenda for Board approval.

Mr. Neville asked when we need to approve this by. Dr. Schumann stated by the end of February per Board policy.

Mr. Neville asked if by following the regional calendar, this will allow for some collaborative professional development days. Dr. Schumann stated Election Day and the day after President's Day are mandatory professional development days. The April vacation is another mandated date. The collaborative days are Election Day and the day after President's Day.

Mr. Neville asked what constitutes our region. Dr. Schumann stated it is the Hartford region. CREC region or RESC.

Mr. Peabody stated we have already started our cooperative professional development with certain schools systems to maximize costs. He doesn't like a regional calendar and does not like Hartford telling us what to do.

### **b. Action if any, regarding Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining**

Chairman Sirard stated this item will be addressed after the Executive Session.

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Building Committee**

Mr. Kruzel showed the Board 2 additional pictures of the auditorium. There will be 4 clocks in the auditorium.

Mrs. Unghire asked about the seating capacity in the auditorium. Mr. Kruzel stated it is approximately 918.

Dr. Schumann added we also have the pit, the stage and assigned handicap seating.

Mr. Kruzel thanked the members of the Building Committee for everything they have done with this project.

Chairman Sirard asked if we are still the only project that is ahead of schedule and under budget. Mr. Kruzel stated that is correct. We were one of two schools that were fast tracked. We are the only school district that is under budget and on time with our building renovation project.

Mrs. Thurston added it has been this way since the beginning of the project.

Mr. Kruzel stated we were fast tracked by past Representative David Kiner.

Mr. Neville stated he is asked why we didn't just extend the project. By fast tracking this project, we saved millions of dollars to the overall project. By doing this we were able to get more for less.

Mr. Kruzel stated we have received the maximum square footage for the maximum ratio reimbursement rate from the state.

Mr. Neville stated we need to give credit to the entire building committee. We should be proud of what we have.

Mr. Kruzel added that the screens and monitors for the high school collaborative spaces have been approved. The Town should be ordering these shortly.

b. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee met on December 14<sup>th</sup>. We discussed graduation requirements increasing from 22 to 24 credits starting with the freshman class of 2020. Changes will need to be made to our Board policy to reflect this. We discussed increasing math credits; changing a statistics/probability course to a half year course; changes to Auto I and Auto II courses; and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology Textbook online course. All items were approved by the members of the Curriculum Committee.

Chairman Sirard stated with block scheduling, how many credits our students can earn while they are in high school. Dr. Schumann stated they could potentially earn 32 credits by the time they are ready to graduate.

Chairman Sirard asked if any other school districts are offering that many courses for students. Dr. Schumann stated other school districts have that ability but do not require it since they have study halls. We are using our school time for instruction. He does not believe any other school district offer this.

Chairman Sirard added when the State is ready to implement the graduation requirement changes, we are ready.

Mrs. Thurston congratulated the staff who present these curriculum changes. They are so excited about what they present to us. She also congratulated the students for taking the courses. She likes being on this committee and seeing what we can offer our students.

Mr. Peabody added these curriculum changes are made without any cost increases to the district.

Mr. Neville stated they are doing an amazing job with our curriculum. Our students are gaining so much with our curriculum.

c. Finance Committee

Mr. Peabody reported the Finance Committee will meet on January 17<sup>th</sup>. The meetings are open to the public.

d. Leadership Committee

Chairman Sirard stated that Leadership has met many times. These meetings are also open to the public.

e. Policy Committee

Mr. Kruzel reported the Policy Committee needs to meet again. We have several policy changes to review.

f. Facilities Joint Committee

Mr. Neville reported we have a joint facilities committee with the Town and Board. We will look at all our Town/School facilities and will look at priority I, II and III issues. We are looking to have a long range facilities plan and a course of action. We are making progress. We will meet this Thursday and Dr. Pongratz will be joining us. There are a number of items we need to deal with. We need a plan that can be funded to keep our infrastructure in place. We are looking for roof and HVAC replacement plans. Both Mr. Kruzel and I both feel confident with this committee's task.

Mr. Kruzel stated ditto.

Chairman Sirard stated this is one of the reason we formed this committee.

Mr. Neville added this is something that has been going on in the background. We hope to be able to present something from the committee soon.

g. Any Other Committee Reports

Insurance Committee

Mr. Kruzel reported the Insurance Committee met and the RFP's are in. We will be scheduling interviews next with the different insurance carriers and we should have something to report in February.

**13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston moved that the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2016 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**16. AUDIENCES**

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis would like to clarify that the parent reached out to her. She is speaking on behalf of the parent. She is just trying to help this parent. She can show you the text. She is not trying to stir something up. She hopes someone is helping her

Chairman Sirard stated the superintendent and administration have looked into this.

Mrs. Davis added the parent just texted her and that no one has helped her.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education enters into

Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-1-0** passed with Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

Board members 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.

**Return to Open Session:**

**b. Action if any, regarding Matter(s) Related to a Perspective Supply Contract**

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to engage in a one year contract discussion with Smyth Bus.

A vote by **roll call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

**c. Action if any, regarding Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining**

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education authorizes the Tentative Agreement with the Enfield Nurses Association as presented

A vote by **roll call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2017.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary