

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 14, 2014**

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 14, 2014.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairman Sirard.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Timothy Neville

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Timothy Neville

4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Sirard announced the fire evacuation announcement.

5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Jonaitis, Lori Unghire, David Wawer, Vin Grady, Tina LeBlanc, Timothy Neville, Stacy Thurston and Tom Sirard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Vin Grady, Tina LeBlanc, Peter Jonaitis and Open Position

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; and FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)** - None

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. Superintendent's Budget Presentation – as presented

Dr. Schumann presented his proposed 2014-15 Budget to the Board. He reviewed CAPT Scores, Full Day Kindergarten implementation, LEGO Building Tomorrow Partnership, FIRST Robotics (video of Dean Kamen, founder of FIRST), Building Global Connections with the Korean Delegation, John F. Kennedy National Association of Middle School Principal Finalist, College Board AP Honor Roll and UAV Club's Drone Project. He reviewed staffing increases, needed curricular enhancements, the past two staff convocations, and his vision for the Enfield Public Schools. Mr. Drezek distributed Budget Books to Board members.

Dr. Schumann reviewed the total costs requested by staff equaling \$73,028,876; his reduction of -\$5,565,680 for a total proposed FY2014-15 budget request of \$67,463,196 or a 4.98% budget increase.

Chairman Sirard thanked the Superintendent for his 2014-15 proposed budget presentation.

b. Buzz Robotics – as presented

Mr. Bob Scagni, an Engineer for UTC Aerospace Systems gave an overview of the FIRST Robotics program in Enfield. He reviewed the FIRST Robotics kick-off program that was held in Manchester, New Hampshire. There are over 2,700 students involved in FIRST. He added that 45 schools in Connecticut are involved in this program. Enfield won the FIRST Chairman's Award in 2002. This is one of the highest awards to attain. Since 1995, 475 students have

been involved in the Enfield FIRST program.

Mr. Scagni distributed booklets to Board members. He reviewed the timeline for FIRST: Preseason is held during September and December and weekly meetings are held; Build Season is held during January to mid-February and they meet 7 days a week; and Competition Season is held during March and April.

Mr. Scagni encouraged Board members to stop by during their build season at Fermi to see what they are doing.

Mr. Neville thanked Mr. Scagni for everything you have done for the Enfield FIRST program. He asked him to come back again once they have the new robot up and running. Keep up the hard work you are doing.

Chairman Sirard stated you have made him a believer and he is a fan of Buzz Robotics. He is extremely proud of FIRST and urged him to keep up the good work.

c. Student Representatives Report – as presented

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Colleen Signiglio, Shannon Drive – Mrs. Signiglio stated she is here at the request of Dr. Schumann. She is concerned for the students that walk to JFK and are not allowed into the building until the doors open up at 7:30 AM. The students are waiting outside during some extremely cold days. She does not have this problem at the high school. She would like the Board to consider adding a stipend position in the proposed budget for supervision during the winter months at JFK or allow the students to enter the building and wait by the lockers. There are many wonderful programs being offered to our students. She would like the Board to consider this request.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Neville attended the Rachel's Challenge Breakfast. The students did a great job and it was a great community activity that pleased him and makes him proud to live in Enfield. There were a lot of people that attended. Some of the kids went to help at the food shelf and they were also very happy with them.

Mr. Neville attended a Crandall PTO meeting and they are a great group to work with. They also had a presentation from PLA that was similar to the one presented to the Board. Lisa Rogers did a great job presenting the program to them. Mrs. Cox-Blackwell also gave an overview of SBAC Testing that was very informative.

Mr. Neville stated that he is the Board's representative on the Building Committee. They are also a great group of people to work with. OSHA training will be offered on January 25 – February 1<sup>st</sup>. Please let him know if anyone is interested in attending.

Mr. Neville stated the Board held a retreat and we looked at our priorities.

Mrs. Thurston stated she is the Eli Whitney liaison and they are holding a fundraiser for grade 5 students by selling loom bracelets. They will also hold an event at the Stop Rite Plaza McDonald's on Wednesday. She encouraged everyone to attend and buy a happy meal.

Mrs. Unghire stated the Fermi Safe Grad Auction was held and it was a great time for everyone that attended. It was well attended and a lot of fun. She is the liaison at Memorial and Mrs. Mazzoli gave her a tour of the building and she met some of the teachers. She also attended a

PTO meeting and they also have some fundraising events coming up in the next couple of months.

Mr. Wawer recognized Brendan Walsh and many others for their involvement with Rachel's Challenge Breakfast held at St. Patrick's. The event was well attended and a great community event.

Mr. Wawer is the liaison at Barnard and recently had a tour of the building. There were some issues in the building that are currently being addressed by Buildings & Grounds. He wonders if similar problems are happening in other buildings. He commends the staff for doing a great job. He attended the EHS Lamplighters production of "What a Life". The students did a great job and gave quite a performance.

Chairman Sirard stated he is the Enfield Street liaison and he attended a PTO meeting. Liz Davis gave a presentation regarding PLA and he strongly suggests parents take advantage of this outstanding program.

Chairman Sirard stated the First Readers will hold a fundraiser Trivia Night at Mount Carmel on February 14<sup>th</sup>. He had a lot of fun attending this last year and encourages parents to attend this event. The cost is \$120 per table of eight or \$20 per person. You can contact Judy Apruzzese-Desroches 860-214-7477 or at [japruzze@gmail.com](mailto:japruzze@gmail.com)

Chairman Sirard stated that at our Board retreat we came up with a motto – getting everyone on the same page. We also set some attainable goals. He thanked Dr. Schumann for his presentation. It is budget season which happens to be his least favorite time of the year. We could achieve a lot of things if it weren't for the unfunded mandates that the state imposes on us.

Chairman Sirard commends Buzz Robotics for coming tonight and supports them. Another one of the Board's goals is to support public and private partnerships professionally and educationally. The goal is to provide our children with the very best education to prepare them for the workforce of tomorrow. Public and private partnerships lower that cost significantly. We are moving toward the older way of doing things where your local economy dictates what your education system looks like. We are developing what the workforce will look like and we are keeping the workforce local. This is something we all want to help expand our local tax base. With an expanded tax base, we can afford many things.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION REGARDING THE USE OF THE ENRICO FERMI BUILDING**

Dr. Schumann stated that we do not have any new information at this time. We will discuss forming a committee under Item 11d. This committee will be very helpful discussing the uses of Fermi.

Chairman Sirard asked if we can start that discussion now or should we wait until Item 11d.

Dr. Schumann stated the Board should wait to discuss this until the item is addressed on the agenda.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. EHS BUILDING COMMITTEE PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF ED042 PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Mr. Dean Petrucelli from Silver Petrucelli and Associates addressed the Board. He is the chief architect on the Enfield High School project. They are seeking approval and signatures for the ED042 form that is required by the State of Connecticut before the project can be released for bid. The drawings, specifications and estimates need to be presented to the State of Connecticut. Part of that requirement is to obtain approval from the Building committee, the Board of Education and the Superintendent. Those signatures are required on the ED042 that he has with him tonight.

Mr. Petrucelli explained the three phases are needed. This is the first phase of this project. The project has been fast tracked. This includes the structural steel, structural concrete and site package only. Phase 1 of 3 is a small but critical piece that will allow construction to start much sooner. Tonight's package is the civil package for everything on the site and the structural package for the Fermi wing and the concrete package for the Fermi wing.

Mr. Petrucelli explained that there are 3 pieces to the package, the specifications or written document, set of drawings and an estimate. The estimate was produced by Gilbane Construction. They are the construction manager for the project. The budget for this project is \$103 million dollars. Phase 1 of 3 is for steel and concrete and will cost around \$14.6 million dollars.

Mr. Petrucelli stated we are looking for the Chairman and Superintendent's signature tonight and that the project has been reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Neville thanked Mr. Petrucelli and Mr. Daigle for being here tonight. This is step 1 of 3.

Mr. Petrucelli stated we have a PCT meeting with the State of Connecticut on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Neville added that the signatures are needed prior to this meeting with the state. If this is not done it could delay the bid process.

Mr. Petrucelli stated that is correct. We are slating to start construction in May 2014 providing we receive an approved PCT so we can start the bid process in March 2014.

Chairman Sirard stated we are digging the hole, pouring the concrete and putting up the steel with these drawings for the Fermi wing. Mr. Petrucelli stated that is correct.

Mr. Wawer asked if they could provide the Board with a description of the three phases of the project.

Mr. Petrucelli stated the 3 phases are:

- Phase 1 – fast track of concrete and steel
- Phase 2 – the balance of the project
- Phase 3 – is FFE (fixtures, furniture and equipment)

Mr. Wawer moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education authorizes the Board Chairman and the Superintendent to endorse the appropriate ED042 Plans and Specifications as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 5-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Daigle stated based on the referendum, the project was scheduled to be completed in 2017. By the state allowing us to fast track the project, we will have the project completed for September 2016. We originally planned to break ground in June 2014 but are now looking to do this in the middle of May 2014. With everyone working together, we are ahead of schedule.

Our relationship with the Board and Town Council has been great.

Mr. Daigle extended the Building Committee's appreciation to the Board. Thank you for everything you have done to get this project up and moving.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mr. Daigle and the members of the Building Committee for all of the hard work you have done.

**b. APPROVE HIGH SCHOOL 2014-16 PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

Dr. Schumann stated that Mrs. Cressotti is present to answer any questions you may have.

Mrs. Cressotti stated that she and Mr. Sargalski presented to the Board's Curriculum Subcommittee on December 18<sup>th</sup> the 2014-16 Program of Studies.

Mr. Wawer applauded the members of the Curriculum Committee for the work they have done with the program of studies. He was curious about the foreign languages (Spanish and French) and wonders about the need for French instead of another foreign language. When he went to school, many different kinds of foreign languages were offered to students.

Mr. Neville stated at one time we had 4 or 5 foreign languages that were offered to students. They were cut due to budget constraints and declining class sizes.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2014-16 Program of Studies as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 5-0-0** passed unanimously.

**c. APPROVE CAPITOL COMMUNITY COLLEGE EMT-PARAMEDIC PROGRAM RESOLUTION**

Dr. Schumann reviewed our past involvement with Capitol Community College EMT-Paramedic program.

Mr. Neville asked if there is any liability to us regarding insurance.

Dr. Schumann is not sure about that. The Town's liability coverage is extremely broad and would be available if needed. He will look into this for the Board and will include this information in an update.

Mr. Neville stated he believes if we approve this, we would own it.

Chairman Sirard asked if Mr. Neville would like to hold off voting on this until the administration can confirm liability coverage. Mr. Neville does not want to hold off approving this item.

Chairman Sirard added this program has been available for 15 years and he does not have any concerns moving forward with this item.

Mr. Wawer moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves our participation in the Connecticut Capital Community College EMT-Paramedic Program as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 5-0-0** passed unanimously.

**d. ESTABLISH AN ENRICO FERMI FUTURE USE BOARD COMMITTEE**

Chairman Sirard stated this would be a temporary committee and would be dissolved at the conclusion. They would make recommendations to the Board regarding the future use of Fermi. The Board would then determine if there is an educational use for using Fermi as an educational facility.

Mr. Neville asked if a vote is needed or can the chair establish this committee. He believes you can establish a committee on your own. Dr. Schumann agreed with Mr. Neville.

Chairman Sirard stated we will setup a committee to look into the future use of using Fermi. He opens the floor up for any Board member comments regarding how this committee will look like.

Mr. Neville added that he would like to define the task by setting some parameters. The public needs to be involved.

- We need to establish if there is an educational need to maintain the Fermi building;
- What do we want from the charge;
- What will be the use of the building be (alternative school, a middle school, technical school, etc.);

Mr. Neville added without setting parameters, costs may be involved (like using this as a K-3 building) that we would not be aware of.

- We need to discuss when this use is needed by;
- Define if the new use will require any funding;
- If funding is needed, would it need a referendum (there is a dollar amount needed for a referendum \$2.5 million);
- If the new use would close another school, how long will the renovations take and when would we close the other school;
- A timeline would be needed.

Mr. Neville stated the public needs to be part of this along with a timeline and benchmarks. People would need to hear from the committee and would need to ask questions and receive answers. He does not want to see the committee members being thrown in many different directions. If we are looking at \$42 million dollar referendum, he does not believe it would be approved.

Mr. Neville stated that we currently have a waiver from the State of Connecticut regarding the OCR compliance issues at Fermi. We have been placed on hold and do not require any payments to be made at this time.

Dr. Schumann stated that is correct. Mr. Neville added the clock would start ticking again if we told them we are planning to use Fermi. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct also.

Chairman Sirard stated the amount needed for the referendum would equate to 1% of your total budget. We will be dealing with the public and a lot of information will be shared, he felt it would be appropriate to establish a committee to collect this information and they will make recommendations to the Board similar to what the EHS Building Committee is doing. He is open to the idea of having non-Board members on this committee and would like to discuss this further with the Board as a whole. He would also like to have a couple of Board members on this committee to help facilitate the discussions.

Chairman Sirard stated this would be a Board decision. The first priority is to define if there is

an academic use for the Fermi building. If there is an academic need, what would the use be? The previous Board voted to turn the building over to the town. We have been given a reprieve regarding the handicapped accessibility issues. Costs will be a major issue with this. This needs to be looked at in comparison to others.

Mr. Wawer agrees that the scope of the committee should be narrower than broader. The public needs to be part of this process. The chair can set boundaries of who should apply and we can look at these. He has watched how the Charter Revision process is moving forward. This is a process for us to look at the school system holistically. We had a systematic approach that we used 5 years ago that resulted in changes. This could conceivably result in similar changes.

Mr. Neville worries about the logistics. We are down a couple of Board members tonight. He has served on other demographic committees and time commitments are a real concern. He disagrees with looking at this as a system. We are not looking to redefine the school system. We have one topic on the table. We are looking to see if there is an education need to use Fermi. If we expand this more, we would be leading people on to believe they can make decisions. This is why he wanted to define the charge clearly.

Mr. Wawer redefined what he was saying to look at the programs within the building. We need to look at the kind of programs that could be inside of the building.

Chairman Sirard would like to continue this discussion at the next Board meeting. He had every intent to establish the Fermi Future Use Committee tonight. He would like Board members to put serious thought into what you would like the committee to address and we will address this at the next meeting. We will then have a definitive plan for this committee.

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS - None**

Mr. Neville reported that the Curriculum Committee met in December and reviewed the Program of Studies. That item was placed on the agenda for the Board's approval tonight. We also discussed the Promotion/Retention Policy and will bring this item to the Policy Committee for their review and recommendation to be presented to the entire Board for a first reading. The Curriculum Committee minutes were included in your Friday packet.

Mrs. Unghire stated that she will attend a CREC meeting in Hartford on Wednesday. She will share any information she receives with the Board.

Mr. Wawer stated CABA has several meetings planned for February and March that he will attend. He will also bring back any information he receives to the Board.

## **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Wawer that the Regular Meeting minutes of December 10, 2013 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Wawer that the Special Meeting minutes of December 17, 2013 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-0** passed unanimously.

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

## **15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

## **16. AUDIENCES - None**

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2014.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Vincent M. Grady  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary