

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 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 February 14, 2017.

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: Rich Regnier, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Walter Kruzel, 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. **JFK Pre-Referendum Chair**

Mr. Rutledge reported that they received a draft report from Dean Petrucelli about structural repairs. The repairs needed are estimated at \$16 million. We will review this report at our next meeting along with program and educational needs. We will also be looking into receiving estimates for an environmental assessment of the building. We are still working towards our deadline for 70% reimbursement rate from the state for the project. The project would need to be submitted in early June.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mr. Rutledge for his report.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. President's Day & Staff PD – as presented
- c. Special BOE Meetings – as presented
- d. February Events – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES** - None

9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Kruzel stated the Buzz Robotics program will hold a Pasta Supper on February 24th at St. Bernard's from 5-8:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 and \$8. This is a great fundraiser event. The turnout last year was great. He urged everyone to attend. You will get a chance to meet the kids before their first competition.

Mr. Neville reminded everyone about KITE's Workshop on February 17th being held at Fermi in the café at 8:30 AM. He thanked everyone for their kind words and cards regarding his sister's passing. He deeply appreciated hearing from you.

Mr. Regnier congratulated the students, staff and administration for their 100th day of school. The Enfield First Readers will hold a Trivia event fundraiser on February 25th at Mt. Carmel from 7-11 PM. You can register as a team or come as an individual.

Mr. Regnier stated with the K-2 reorganization, the parents have questions that need to be addressed. He would like to see a transition plan presented to all of the stake holders involved. He would like them to get this information from us and not through social media. He also asked about tours for the K-2 students.

Mrs. Unghire stated that Hazardville Memorial will hold a fundraiser event at Red Robin on February 16th starting at 5:00 PM. She urged everyone to support them if you are eating out that night.

Chairman Sirard wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day. He welcomed our new Board member Rich Regnier to his first regular Board meeting. He thanked Mr. Peabody for all of his hard work he has done on our budget.

Chairman Sirard will address the State Appropriations Committee on February 21st. We passed our 100th day and are almost there. He wished the students continued success throughout the remainder of the year.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Transition Update

Dr. Schumann reported the students are now able to use the Music Wing at EHS. The technology for the collaborative spaces has been put on hold due to Apple only working with schools and not municipalities. The purchase order is coming from the Town. We now need to get a waiver from the municipality guaranteeing the merchandise will be going directly to the school. The Town Attorney is reviewing the waiver so we should receive the technology items soon.

b. Continue Discussion and Action if any, Regarding Adopting the FY2017-18 Budget

Dr. Schumann distributed copies of the presentation from the last meeting.

Mr. Neville would like to receive class matrices for JFK and EHS. He asked about the 30 science computers and charging cart. Dr. Schumann stated they need a certain kind of computer that will work with the software.

Mr. Peabody added that certain applications will only perform on a certain platform. He asked about our three year technology plan. We need to look at this and our curriculum needs.

Mr. Neville asked about the SPED Professional Students item. Is this for professional development for students? Dr. Schumann stated this is for the work stipends for the ETLA students and contractual services for the students. He can get additional information on this.

Mr. Neville stated he is assuming some of these services are from an outside provider that we would go out for a bid. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct, they are on the State bid list. Mr. Neville added the legal line item seems to fluctuate based on the needs.

Mr. Neville asked about the SPED transportation line item and the percentage of students needing transportation and if we are sharing the costs with other districts for SPED transportation. Dr. Schumann stated Smyth Bus transports our SPED students in and out of district that require special transportation. Smyth will check to see if any buses currently being used can accommodate additional SPED students. They are always looking to save us money.

Chairman Sirard asked if we are transporting any Choice SPED students that are outplaced. Dr. Schumann stated the Choice students are transported by Hartford and they pay for their transportation.

Mr. Neville would like to know if we could possibly share these expenses with other districts.

Mr. Neville asked about USD/Hospitalization. Dr. Schumann stated this is for State placements. We are the NEXUS and are responsible for providing the students with education while they are hospitalized.

Mr. Neville stated there was an article in the newspaper about how Enfield and another town have the highest number of kids for SPED costs. Dr. Schumann believes the article referenced Enfield was among the top 10 for outplacements. We currently have 41 outplaced students. Out of the 41 outplaced students, 11 were placed by the state. The overall cost for some of these placements is around \$200-240K. The total number of outplaced students is relatively small for our district but when you average the daily rates, the cost is rather significant. We have done a good job with our outplacements. There are only 3 students that are driving our daily rates up.

Mr. Neville stated there are some costs we have no control over. Having this discussion is important so people understand the outplacement costs.

Chairman Sirard stated the increase in SPED transportation is understandable when you factor in the outplaced students. Dr. Schumann stated some of these cases have been arbitrated and we have no choice since we are the NEXUS.

Chairman Sirard stated it is a \$30K increase in SPED transportation from the previous year. Dr. Schumann stated there are unknown costs.

Mr. Neville asked about the EXCESS costs. The funds come back to the town. Dr. Schumann stated and they are they given to us. We never know what this amount will be. The state uses a formula. Next year this is subject to change.

Mr. Neville asked if the transportation grant is factored into this. Dr. Schumann stated no.

Mr. Peabody appreciates the work that has been done on the budget. Breakdown on the data is needed regarding certified staff, counselors, paras, etc.

Dr. Schumann stated certified staff is only teachers, administrators are only administrators, and non-certified are clerical and nurses. Para's are found under non-certified Special Education.

Mr. Peabody would like to be able to explain this. He would like this broken down per building. We need to be able to explain this to our constituents.

Chairman Sirard stated we have two fixed costs – insurance and benefits costs. This is an area we have no control over. Do we have any better understanding on this yet? Dr. Schumann

stated not yet. This is still being discussed by the Insurance Committee. No recommendations have been made yet.

Chairman Sirard stated the SPED cost increase is higher than every other district. Dr. Schumann stated we are trying to budget conservatively for EXCESS costs.

Chairman Sirard asked about the increase in elementary behavioral support. Dr. Schumann stated we have received an equal amount of crises response calls from last year's total already this year. We are seeing the need for assistance at earlier ages.

Chairman Sirard stated these are behavioral concerns. Dr. Schumann stated other districts are experiencing the same things.

Mr. Peabody stated there are times when the students are placed in a protective hold and are not being transported.

Chairman Sirard stated the PC's are for the most extreme cases which brings our baseline up. We are seeing more extreme cases.

Mr. Neville stated we do not place students in protective custody, the police do. PBIS is a proactive step. He commends us for doing this. Crandall is our pilot school. Dr. Schumann added it is a positive method to change the culture in a building.

Mr. Neville added this is a valuable piece in our education. PC's are extreme and our staff has done a great job. Addressing this need at the elementary level is a good thing.

Chairman Neville asked which schools this program will be used in. Dr. Schumann stated in our K-2 schools. Dr. Schumann stated we have noticed an increase at the K-2 and 3-5 schools.

Chairman Sirard stated our preschool programs are getting our kids ready for kindergarten. Are the behavioral issues because the students are not ready for school? Dr. Schumann does not believe that is the reason. We are looking to open another classroom with another grant.

Mr. Regnier stated he is concerned with the increase of instruction time and the decrease of extra-curricular time. Instruction time is important but exercise is also needed.

Mr. Peabody added that art and music are other ways for kids to blow off steam. We need to keep these programs in place for our kids along with recess time. This might be contributing to the behavioral problems we are seeing.

Mrs. Thurston asked if the students that are having behavioral problems, can they go see a specialist, like a safe haven. Dr. Schumann stated we would use the school counselor for this. Each school will now have a fulltime counselor.

Chairman Sirard asked about the Stowe Preschool Principal. Dr. Schumann stated this is already in the budget. Ms. Middleton is waiting to hear about another grant for this. Chairman Sirard stated the grant will pay for this position. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct.

Mr. Neville asked about the girl's coding program at JFK. Will this fall under title IX? Dr. Schumann stated there are other areas for coding for all students like the LEGO League and Robotics. This particular program is to entice girls and is being offered this spring. Mr. Neville stated the stipend for this position is \$2,800. Dr. Schumann added the ETA has a MOU agreement for this stipend position.

Mr. Neville would like to see the matrices for the students in grades 9-12. It is hard to break down the team sizes. We are concerned when we hear additional teachers are needed. Dr. Schumann stated they will be used in AP Computer Sciences I & II. The position is for another math teacher at the high school. Mr. Neville stated we were told during a Curriculum meeting that another person was not needed for these courses.

Chairman Sirard added for clarification, the opportunities for coding is open to all students. This particular program is to entice females into coding.

Mr. Neville asked about the need for the 5 iPads for data collecting during PE. Dr. Schumann stated this is for student use during PE. They will input fitness information.

Mr. Peabody asked why we are including facility issues in our budget for future issues. Dr. Schumann stated it is listed because the programs require certain items that are currently not available.

Mr. Neville stated under library services, each bullet item is the same. This will need to be corrected.

Mr. Neville asked about the Family and Consumer Sciences breakdown per building. It doesn't make sense to him. Matrices will help him know how many students are taking these courses. Chairman Sirard stated this is for materials and supplies.

Mr. Neville would like to see the matrices to know how many are for JFK and EHS.

Mr. Neville would like a breakdown by school/semester. He would like to know how many students are enrolled in each program. We need to know where the money is going.

Mr. Neville asked about music equipment repairs. Repairs cost a lot if they are not maintained properly.

Mr. Peabody stated instead of buying instruments, parents should lease them. He added up all of the instruments at \$102,500K. Dr. Schumann stated this is for future needs and are not included in the budget.

Mr. Neville added we have a lease program now for students.

Chairman Sirard stated if they qualify for free/reduced lunches, there could be a lease available.

Mr. Peabody asked for Board members to send their questions to Dr. Schumann.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of Officer – Vice Chairperson of the Board of Education

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Neville to nominate Walter Kruzel as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Education.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville stated that Mrs. LeBlanc also supports Mr. Kruzel being our Vice Chairman.

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

Mr. Kruzel thanked everyone and will try to fill the shoes left behind.

Chairman Sirard stated we need to replace our Policy Committee chairperson. Mr. Neville stated we need to do this relatively soon. We have items that need to be addressed.

Dr. Schumann stated we can place this on the February 21st special meeting agenda.

b. Approved 2017-18 School Calendar

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2017-18 calendar as presented.

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

c. Approve Enfield High School 2017 Safe Grad Contribution

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education approves donating \$1,000 to the Enfield High Class of 2017 Safe Graduation.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Building Committee

Mr. Kruzel stated that we have not met due to the snow.

b. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on February 15th.

c. Finance Committee

Mr. Peabody reported the Finance Committee will meet on February 21st

d. Leadership Committee

Chairman Sirard stated the Leadership Committee has not held any meetings since our last Leadership meeting.

e. Policy Committee

Mr. Kruzel reported the Policy Committee needs to meet again. We have several policy changes to review and need to appoint a Chair for this committee.

f. Facilities Joint Committee

Mr. Neville reported we will meet on February 23rd. We will be looking into asbestos, roofs and exteriors. He will update everyone at our next Board meeting.

g. Any Other Committee Reports

Insurance Committee

Mr. Kruzel reported the Insurance Committee met. Mrs. LeBlanc will update us on this.

Opening Ceremony Committee

Mrs. Unghire reported we will meet again.

Mr. Neville asked when this will take place. Mrs. Unghire stated the tentative date was May 4th. We are now looking at May 13th. A Saturday date would be better for more people.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Special Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2017 A & B be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-1** passed with Mr. Regnier abstaining.

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-1** passed with Mr. Regnier abstaining.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-2** passed with Mr. Regnier and Mrs. Thurston abstaining.

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 Mr. Kruzel to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2017.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary