

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 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 April 8, 2014.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, David Wawer, Timothy Neville, Stacy Thurston and Tom Sirard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vin Grady and Tina LeBlanc

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgiver and EHS Student Representative Christine Luksic Representative Katie Saltzgiver

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Representatives from Enfield Kite**

Board members welcomed Karen Weseliza, Enfield Kite Chair and Chris Gomeau, Enfield Kite Coordinator.

Ms. Weseliza stated that William Casper Graustein has been Kite's major benefactor since 2001 by providing us grants. We are looking for the Board's permission to apply for a grant that can give Kite up to \$50K. We will need to raise \$25K on our own and they will match the funds up to \$50K. We will go out into the community to raise funds. We are looking for the Board's permission to go out to the community to solicit funds.

Mrs. Gomeau stated that Enfield Kite has presented our Early Childhood Community Plan to the Board. This is the third year of the plan implementation. The Graustein Fund has supported our community work since 2001. We started our community planning in 2010 and were awarded a planning grant from the Graustein Fund. We will start our third year of planning in July 2014. The grant we are applying for is a one year grant. This grant is the same grant that we have applied for and received for the past two years.

Mr. Neville stated he attended a Kite meeting. He believes this is the last grant Kite can apply for under this cycle. Ms. Weseliza agreed with Mr. Neville. This is the last time we can apply for a grant under the discovery category. We are not sure what Graustein will develop next for funding.

Mr. Neville added that Kite would be looking for a number of resources to use over the next couple of years. Ms. Weseliza stated we will be looking for sustainability options besides what

Graustein offers Kite. She believes Graustein will stay involved in Kite to some degree. They are spread out throughout Connecticut.

Mr. Neville added that William Casper Graustein has been a tremendous benefactor to Kite.

Ms. Weseliza agreed with Mr. Neville that Enfield Kite has benefited from tremendously from Graustein's generosity.

Mrs. Gomeau stated the Graustein Memorial Fund is in the process of appointing a new executive director. We are not sure about the funding for next year and what the funding will look like. We have been assured that the Graustein Memorial Fund will not walk away from the work they have been doing in Connecticut communities. There are 54 discovery communities in Connecticut. We have grown with Graustein through the years with the different stages. Enfield is looked upon highly by Graustein Memorial Fund. It is our hope that we can continue to grow with them past FY2014-15.

Ms. Weseliza stated the work Enfield Kite has done has been hi-lighted by Graustein at their Stone Soup Conference and National League of Cities. Our work is far reaching in our community and is used as a model in other communities. We are proud of what we have accomplished.

Mr. Neville agreed with Ms. Weseliza and is also proud of Enfield Kite. This grant is for the 2014-15 year. Ms. Weseliza stated that is correct.

Chairman Sirard thanked Ms. Weseliza and Mrs. Gomeau for everything they do for the Enfield community.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives Report– as presented
- b. Family Science Fair – as presented

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Neville stated the Mark Fenton "Building a More Active Enfield" workshop will be held on Thursday, April 10th at the Enfield Town Hall at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers. This event is being co-sponsored by the Board, Town Council, Park & Recreation, Kite and several other town committees. He encouraged audience members to attend this event.

Mr. Neville thanked the students for the cards and notes he received at the last Board meeting honoring Board members. He was really impressed by what the students wrote. He also thanked Prudence Crandall for your support. He is the liaison for Prudence Crandall. He thanked all the schools for their continued support of the Board. It is truly appreciated.

Mrs. Thurston wished the students the best of luck at the spelling bee that is being held tonight at the middle school.

Mr. Jonaitis wished the students good luck with the State testing they will all be undergoing. He congratulated the UCONN men's team for being the NCAA Champions and wished the women's team good luck at tonight's game.

Mr. Peabody met with Mrs. Beaulieu at Nathan Hale and attended a spirit assembly. It was a wonderful experience seeing the students and the teachers. They also have their one book –

one school program going on. He really enjoyed himself at Nathan Hale and was extremely impressed with the students.

Mr. Peabody stated he then went to Henry Barnard to see the dinosaur exhibit. He was quite impressed with the work of the grade 2 students. Their writing skills were phenomenal. Job well done!

Mr. Peabody stated that he attended the arts festival at Enfield high school. We have some really talented students in our school system. He was quite impressed with their work. Mr. Fahey and his art teachers did a great job putting this together.

Mr. Peabody gave a shout out to some graduate students from 2010 – Patrick Cotnoir, Jack Shaughnessy and his son Alexander.

Mrs. Unghire stated the Fermi Science Fair will be a hands-on event. Students will be able to see chemistry up front where you can learn how to make gak and work with magnets. She encouraged everyone to attend this event on Thursday night. She attended the Fermi talent show. The students did a great job and are quite talented.

Mrs. Unghire attended the open house at JFK for all grade 5 students. Over 300 people attended this event. The teachers and staff did a bang up job at this event. Kudos to everyone involved in this program.

Mr. Wawer stated he attended the Buzz Robotics pasta supper and thanked Mary Lynn Osborn, Suzanne Toohey, Nan Blair and Leigha Boyer. This was a very successful fund raising event for Buzz robotics.

Mr. Wawer also attended the dinosaur exhibit at Henry Barnard. The kids and instructors are very creative. The kids did a great job. He attended the Barnard PTO meeting. He thanked Bethany Ouellette for all of the great work she does.

Mr. Wawer was also impressed with the work displayed at the arts festival at Enfield high school. Our students are extremely talented. Mrs. Ouellette's daughter had an item displayed at the arts festival that was very colorful.

Chairman Sirard also congratulated the UCONN men and wished the woman good luck tonight.

Chairman Sirard stated that he recently attended a CABA Board Chairman round table meeting. Enfield is having the same problems as the towns surrounding us. We are facing all of these challenges. The State is proposing to cut our excess costs. He encouraged residents to contact your legislatures and ask them to change their minds about this.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. BOE Endorsement for a Graustein Memorial Trust Fund Grant

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Wawer that the Enfield Board of Education endorses the Graustein Memorial Trust Fund Grant as presented.

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

Chairman Sirard thanked Ms. Weseliza and Mrs. Gomeau for everything you do for Enfield

Kite.

a. Approve the Simcovitz Resolution

Mr. Drezek stated the previous resolution had former Board member's and employee's names on the resolution. Per our legal counsel, they are requesting us to change the names on the resolution to reflect three (3) positions rather than specific names. The change to the resolution will include authorizing the Board Chairman, Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent to authorize any financial matters with respect to the estate of Abraham Simcovitz on behalf of the Board of Education. This has been discussed with the members of the Finance Committee previously and they also approve this change to the resolution.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Wawer that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Simcovitz Estate Resolution and authorizes the Superintendent or his designee to sign the appropriate paperwork with a financial institution on behalf of the Board as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis asked if we foresee anything happening with the Simcovitz estate. Mr. Drezek stated there will be a final release of the funds. We need to change the names on record in order to receive any funds. This is the only change being made. The approved resolution will allow us to move forward.

Mr. Jonaitis stated this is just a formality to accept the funds. He would like to know what the final amount the Board will receive from the Simcovitz estate. Mr. Drezek will get this information to the Board. He believes the estate was around \$7 million and the Board will receive around \$2 million.

Mr. Jonaitis asked how much did the attorneys receive? Mr. Drezek stated that he is not sure. The Finance Committee did receive a settlement amount. He will send this information to the entire Board.

Mr. Wawer stated the Finance Committee discussed this thoroughly.

Mr. Jonaitis is curious where all of the funds were dispersed to. This amount is much smaller than what was previously discussed with Board members.

Mr. Neville stated the funds received from the Simcovitz Estate will go to a managed account to be used for our Talented and Gifted program at John F. Kennedy middle school. It was designed for us to use the interest earned so the program will be self sustained each year. He wanted to share this information with the public so they will know that parameters have been set for this program.

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

Chairman Sirard read the Simcovitz Resolution so it will be included in the minutes.

The Enfield Board of Education authorizes the chairperson of the Enfield Board of Education; the Superintendent of the Enfield Public Schools or the Deputy Superintendent of Enfield Public Schools to sign on behalf of the Enfield Board of Education with respect to any matters affecting the estate of Abraham Simcovitz.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Kite Committee

Mr. Neville reported that both he and Mrs. LeBlanc attended the Kite meeting. Kite is required to conduct a community self assessment each year for the Discovery grant. It is quite impressive going through the assessment to see what we are doing and have done. Our community is doing a lot. The Graustein members are also impressed with the Kite members. Our principals are active participants to Kite as well Board members, Town Council members, Town Manager Matt Coppler and Superintendent Jeff Schumann.

Mr. Neville added that Kite is working collaboratively to collect data which will help them when it comes to making decisions. This data collection will also help us. Mr. Bourassa will discuss this with them. He would like for Kite to give the Board brief quarterly updates with the data collection and student success. Kite would also like to provide the Board with updates.

b. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville stated he attended a Curriculum meeting with Mr. Peabody, Mrs. Thurston and Mr. Jonaitis where we discussed technology and our curriculum. Ms. McKernan presented a three year technology plan that is currently being used. Technology and curriculum is something that needs to be discussed together. We were all impressed with Ms. McKernan's knowledge and wished we had taped this meeting for public viewing. We asked her to put together a power point presentation about what we discussed. Committee members were able to view this presentation. He would like for this presentation to be viewed at an upcoming budget workshop.

Dr. Schumann will include this power point presentation in the Friday update to the Board.

Mr. Peabody stated that Ms. McKernan is ahead of her three year plan which is phenomenal. What Ms. McKernan has done in several months, it would take any enterprise several years to accomplish. This is truly amazing.

Mr. Peabody added that Ms. McKernan was recently awarded a grant from 3M for \$20K which will be used for STEAM. This is another positive thing the Curriculum department is doing. Ms. McKernan is making positive changes. She is reaching out to other school districts trying to share costs for conferences. These are things the public needs to hear about. The public views the school district as a money eating monster. We need to show them that we are changing to be a more cost effective organization.

Mr. Peabody stated that he was approached by a community member regarding the pace of the changing school system. They need to know why we are changing things. We are moving forward but need to make sure we are not too ahead of the curve.

Mr. Neville added that we are looking outside of the box and are coming up with creative solutions. The Board is looking for efficiencies and Ms. McKernan is doing that.

Mrs. Thurston stated she was overwhelmed at the first Curriculum meeting. Now she understands Ms. McKernan's vision. She is spot on. She commends Dr. Schumann for hiring her.

Dr. Schumann agreed with Mrs. Thurston.

Chairman Sirard would like to share this presentation with the public at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Neville agreed with Chairman Sirard.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Wawer stated that he attended a Policy Committee with Mr. Grady, Mr. Jonaitis and Mr. Drezek. We will bring several policies before the Board for first and second readings at the next regular meeting. The policies discussed were Use of Physical Force and Child Abuse/Neglect. We have asked for the Curriculum Committee to review the Retention/Promotion policy. This policy will also be placed on an upcoming meeting for Board approval.

Mr. Jonaitis added the Use of Physical Force policy is in regards to special education students.

Mr. Wawer agreed with Mr. Jonaitis. The minutes have been posted on the website for public viewing.

d. Use of Fermi Advisory Committee

Chairman Sirard stated the Use of Fermi Advisory Committee have been meeting and are working hard. The administration is diligently answering some tough questions from the committee members. We have toured both Enrico Fermi and John F. Kennedy. The committee would like to present to the Board a status update and some of their findings at an upcoming meeting. He will keep the Board informed of their progress. The committee will meet on Wednesday, April 9th at 7:00 PM in the Board conference room. All meetings are open to the public.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2014 be approved. A vote by **show of hands 5-0-2** passed with Mr. Wawer and Mrs. Unghire abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2014.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary