

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 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 22, 2014.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber (arrived at 7:45 PM) and EHS Student Representative Christine Luksic

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Sean Crane, EHS/FHS Social Studies Department Chair**

The Board welcomed Mr. Crane, EHS Teacher and Social Studies Department Chair and Mr. Allegro, FHS Teacher to the Board meeting.

Mr. Crane stated that the Enfield and Fermi students were the first to register to vote online. Secretary of the State Denise Merrill visited both schools during the voter registration that was held. Both Mr. Crane and Mr. Allegro explained the voter registration process for students held prior to the November 2013 election and their plans to continue student voter registrations during the spring, in some of the English classes, at graduation practices and in the fall. They encountered a few computer glitches during the online registration process. Some students preferred to register by paper and some registered online. They registered 58 students at EHS and 68 at FHS. Out of these numbers 19 students registered online at EHS and 23 students registered online at FHS.

EHS student Shelby Brennan stated the Youth Vote program is a great opportunity for students to get involved. Most students were happy to participate and register to vote. Statistically, 18-25 year old adults are the lowest area for voter participation. They are hoping to change this statistic.

Mr. Crane stated the students that ran the Youth Vote were primarily juniors. This is a great opportunity and experience for the students. This plays into our mission statement to foster learning experiences and making students into life-long learners.

Mr. Crane thanked Mr. Newton, Mrs. Krieger, Mr. Wawer and the students who helped to make the voter registration and Student Youth Vote programs a huge success. This program allowed the students learn about their civic obligations.

Mr. Allegro distributed a picture taken during the student voter registration with Secretary of the State Denise Merrill. This photo was in the Hartford Courant on March 16, 2014.

Mr. Crane thanked the administration and the students for making this program work.

Mr. Neville applauded everyone involved with this program and appreciates all of your efforts. Teaching good citizenship and getting our youth to participate is important. This would not have happened without your support and dedication. Thank you for doing this.

Mr. Peabody thanked everyone involved in the student voter registration program. He suggested that during the next voter registration process, you give the students an absentee ballot since most of the students will not be here during the next election. A lot of students will be away at college and may not have the opportunity to come home to vote.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked how students can get involved with this program. Mr. Crane stated the Youth Vote program is open to any student. Usually sophomores, juniors and seniors participate. They are the ones that write-up the questions for the student debates that are held at both high schools. It is an interesting process for students that learn about the electoral process.

Mr. Crane added that he likes Mr. Peabody's suggestion about absentee ballots.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the students do a great job during the Youth Vote debates. She was not able to attend the Youth Vote Debate due to the snow storm during her first term. She attended last year and was quite impressed with the students. This is a good program for the students and the community. She likes seeing the students getting involved.

Mr. Crane stated we like working with the candidates and the students. We see the questions they craft for the debates. The questions they develop are tough but fair.

Mrs. Unghire thanked the students for getting involved. It is great for you to become civic minded. We might end up with some future politicians from this process.

Mrs. Thurston stated the debates are always nerve wracking, even if you have gone through them before. She thanked the students for what they are doing.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mr. Crane, Mr. Allegro and Ms. Brennan for coming tonight. You should all be commended for the great jobs you are doing with our students. Thank you.

Chairman Sirard stated there is a need to change an item on the agenda. We need to change Item #17a Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining to Matter(s) Related to Personnel.

Motion to Suspend the Rules:

Mr. Neville moved seconded by Mr. Grady to suspend the rules and change Item 17a from Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining to Matter(s) Related to Personnel.

A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives Report– as presented
- b. Preschool & Childcare Fair – as presented
- c. TC Budget Public Hearing – as presented
- d. JFK NJHS Induction Ceremony – as presented
- e. EHS Building Renovation Ground Breaking Ceremony – as presented
- f. Grants Report – as presented
- g. Personnel Report – as presented

Dr. Schumann added that Board Listen & Learn Events for staff members will be held on May 14th at 2:30 PM at Enfield High and May 21st at 4:00 PM at Parkman.

We will hold a Board Listen & Learn Event for administrators on May 22nd at 4:30 PM in the Board Conference Room.

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Peabody stated he has requested information from the administration regarding unfunded mandates. Excluding special education, we have an encumbrance of \$4.2 million for unfunded mandates. Data capture will cost us \$2.3 million. We need to let our legislatures know that this is not acceptable.

Mr. Peabody stated we previously discussed the 42 non-renewals which equates to \$2.7 million. We asked for a \$1.9 million dollar increase and we are still looking for efficiencies.

Mr. Peabody stated that he spoke to several parents over the spring break and they are interested in parental involvement with the Curriculum Committee. They also discussed their interest for a Citizen's Audit Committee.

Mr. Peabody appreciates the administrations quick attention to some traffic and transportation concerns.

Mr. Peabody shouted-out to Fermi graduate Alton Kenney who is now a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army. You have done us proud.

Mrs. Unghire stated that Hazardville Memorial will hold a grandparent's breakfast on April 29th and the JFK students will put on a production of the Little Mermaid on May 2 & 3rd.

Mr. Wawer stated we were the first to register students online to vote in the State of Connecticut. We are striving for many firsts in Enfield. We are fortunate to do this kind of program for our students. We have received many calls regarding this. He congratulated Mrs. Krieger, Mr. Newton, Dr. Schumann, Mr. Drezek, Mr. Allegro and Mr. Crane for our outstanding Youth Vote program.

Mr. Wawer stated the Board met last night and we discussed external tuitions. We have received some very interesting mandates from the Governor. We provided busing for students that attend Cheney Tech and the State picks up the cost for their education. This is not the case with any of the CREC magnet schools. CREC provides the transportation and we are paying for the education costs. Mr. Peabody has made a request to our legislators asking them to remove the burden of paying for these tuitions from local towns and have the State pay for the tuitions. Our property tax payers did not ask for this burden and they do not want it. We are waiting for a response from them regarding this unfunded mandate which costs us around

\$1.3 million.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that she attended the Kite meeting in April. She shared the following upcoming events with us: April 24th will be the 5th Earth Day Celebration at the Freshwater Pond from 4-7 PM which is sponsored by the Town of Enfield, and Enfield Tames the Tube will be held on May 5th – 9th. Various activities will be held during the week and you can contact Amy Witbro for more information.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated Shannon Grant, EFFE founder for receiving recognition from the Enfield Rotary Club as a 2014 Paul Harris Fellowship Recipient. They will hold a recognition dinner on May 16th.

Mrs. LeBlanc is looking forward to the JFK production of the Little Mermaid being held on May 2nd and 3rd.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the EHS/FHS girls' softball game. It was a lot of fun and the girls played really well. Fermi won the game. She hoped everyone had a great April break.

Mr. Neville stated that Nick Margolfo, a former Enfield student will participate in the Special Olympics competing in the butterfly competition. He will represent us well at the Special Olympics. There is an article in the Hartford Courant about this.

Mr. Neville stated the fence concerns at Hazardville Memorial have been corrected. There are also some concerns with the parking lots and parent drop-off areas. The principals are working on this long-standing issue. He would like the Superintendent to continue to look into this and what our options are. He would like a report to be given to the Board regarding this.

Mr. Neville stated we have whittled the budget down and continue to look for efficiencies. If our budget is cut any more, we will need to make changes to staff and programs that could impact us giving Enfield students a quality education.

Mr. Neville stated we have one additional budget meeting set for April 28th. He would like the administration to produce a document letting us know what cuts would need to be made at different percentages if we receive any additional cuts to the proposed budget that was submitted to the Town Council.

Mr. Neville is concerned with class sizes if cuts need to be made and what the educational impact would be. He is also concerned with the staff evaluations and if we do not receive a waiver from the State. How would we conduct these evaluations if we do not receive a waiver?

Mr. Neville would like us to inform the parents about these possible areas before they find out about them on May 15th. They have the right to know about the impact of any cuts. This will help us to be as transparent as possible to the public. He would also like to have the April 28th Special Budget meeting publicized so the public and press will know what potentially could happen.

Mr. Jonaitis does not want to see any increases with class sizes. He wants the parents to know that their child will be in a manageable class size.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to know if the administration has looked into conducting exit interviews with our retiring staff members. Dr. Schumann stated that they have not done anything with this area yet.

Mr. Jonaitis asked Dr. Schumann if he anticipates conducting any exit interviews. Dr. responded that he does not plan on holding any exit interviews. He has done this in other

districts and has found that they are not really useful.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about his request for legal fee costs for the Simcovitz Estate. Mr. Drezek stated that information was sent to all Board members in the Friday update packet. There is a copy of that information at your seat for you to review.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if Dr. Schumann has spoken to Building and Grounds regarding mowing procedures during school hours. This can be very disruptive to classroom teachers.

Mr. Jonaitis added for the Enfield Times the Tube Week, you can just DVR your shows and watch them later.

Chairman Sirard hoped that everyone had a wonderful Easter and enjoyed your quality family time. He thanked the Mount Carmel Auxillary Society for holding an Easter Egg Hunt. He was also glad to see Two Moms on a Mission hold their Easter Egg Hunt on the Town Green. Both events were wonderful and thank you.

Mr. Peabody stated that he did not include in his comments the costs for magnet schools as part of the unfunded mandates. The total number of unfunded mandates is approximately \$5.4 million dollars.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Proposed New Policy #5144.1 Use of Physical Force – Second Reading

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed new policy #5144.1 Use of Physical Force as a second reading.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgiver arrived at 7:45 PM.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Employee Technology Purchase Program 2014-15

Dr. Schumann explained the 2014-15 Employee Technology Purchase Program to the Board. He added that there is no cost to the Board.

Mr. Neville asked if certain parameters would be in place for employees to use their computers in our buildings. Dr. Schumann stated they would connect to our system wirelessly and would use the guest network.

Mr. Neville asked if they could use all of the programs we currently offer like E-School, HAC or TAC, etc. Dr. Schumann stated they could access any web based program currently being offered.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Wawer that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2014-15 Employee Technology Purchase Program as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Grady asked if a clause is in place if an employee is terminated or quits. Dr. Schumann stated yes. We are entitled to deduct from their paycheck any remaining balance that may be owed.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated if the employee needs to get approval from us prior to purchasing any device? Dr. Schumann stated that is not necessary.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if it is up to the Business Office to see if we would reimburse the employee or not. Dr. Schumann stated no, we will reimburse them for any technologies they would like to use. We are allowing them to borrow against their salary to purchase technology of their choice.

Mr. Neville added that we did something like this before. We had great participation and it helped to increase employee technology skills.

Mr. Peabody asked about security software. He has concerns with viruses. Dr. Schumann stated the IT Department has reassured him that as long as users are going through the guest network, we will not be compromised to any computer viruses.

Mr. Peabody has concerns with this and would like to talk to our IT staff about this.

Chairman Sirard asked Mr. Peabody if he would like to discuss this item later. Mr. Peabody stated he is ready to vote on this item and does not need to table this item.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if staff can get discounts from Apple. Dr. Schumann stated yes. They can also get discounts from Microsoft as well.

Mr. Peabody asked if staff purchases a device, will we still give them a device to use. This might be a duplicate effort. Dr. Schumann stated we have provided staff with desk tops and lap tops to use. It would be up to the employee if they wanted to bring their own device from home to work.

Mr. Neville stated he would prefer to use his own device. This may be a matter of preference to each employee.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she supports user preference. Whatever makes the teachers lives easier, she supports.

Mr. Peabody stated we supply teachers with laptop and we allow them to purchase a laptop. If they want to purchase a laptop, let them. This is an area where we could save some money. He thinks we need to procedurally look into this further.

Mr. Neville stated this is a good starting point for us.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

b. Policy Review - #5140.1 Child Abuse/Neglect – First Reading

Mr. Wawer explained to Board members that this policy needs to be reviewed. No changes are being made to this policy.

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education approves policy #5140.1 Child Abuse/Neglect as a first reading as presented.

Discussion:

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

c. Policy Revision - #5123 Promotion/Retention – First Reading

Mr. Wawer reviewed the proposed changes to the Board.

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education approves policy revision #5123 Promotion/Retention as first reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville stated we have taken the word assignment out of the policy and made changes to the grade levels

Mr. Wawer stated we made changes to section III on lines 62-64 and added information to lines 74-80.

A vote by **roll-call 8-1-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Use of Fermi Advisory Committee

Chairman Sirard stated the Future Use of Fermi Advisory Committee met before the spring break and we will meet on April 29th at 7:00 PM in the Board Conference Room. The public is invited to attend.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Special Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2014 be approved by **show-of-hands 7-0-2** passed with Mr. Jonaitis and Mr. Wawer abstaining.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Wawer that the Regular Meeting minutes of April 8, 2014 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-2** passed Mr. Grady and Mrs. LeBlanc.

Mr. Jonaitis added that he would like to see more added to the meeting minutes. He wants to see who said what. He does not want to see general discussion synopsis.

Mr. Neville stated the regular meeting minutes reflect this. It is the special meeting minutes you are referring to.

Chairman Sirard would like to suspend the rules to allow the Fermi Student Representative to give her report to the Board.

Motion to Suspend the Rules:

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Wawer to allow the Fermi Student to give her report. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

FHS Student Representative gave her school report to the Board.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. An invitation to attend the June 12, 2014 Adult Education Graduation Ceremony at 7:00 PM in the Fermi Auditorium.

16. AUDIENCES - None

Mr. Jonaitis asked what the amount was that was paid to the attorneys for the Simcovitz Estate. There are 50 pages here. He would just like to know how much they received from the settlement.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this was reviewed by the Finance Committee. The attorneys for the Simcovitz Estate received approximately \$2.4 million dollars.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Board enters into Executive Session for:

- a. Matter(s) Related to Personnel

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed with Mr. Grady and Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

Mr. Drezek and Dr. Schumann joined the Board in the Staff Lounge for the Executive Session at 8:03 PM. No Board actions occurred while in Executive Session.

The Executive Session ended at 8:19 PM.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of April 22, 2014.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary