

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013**

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 September 10, 2013.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Neville.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Joyce Hall

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Joyce Hall

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

5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vin Grady, Tom Sirard, Joyce Hall, Jen Rancourt, Tina LeBlanc, Kevin Fealy and Timothy Neville

MEMBERS ABSENT: Donna Szewczak and Peter Jonaitis

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; EHS Student Representative Christine Luksic and FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgiver (arrived at 7:20 PM)

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. ERfC

Chairman Neville welcomed Larry Dube from ERfC (Educational Resources for Children) to the Board meeting.

Mr. Dube thanked the Board for this opportunity to showcase the student's projects. He introduced Program Director and Head Teacher Sarah Moriarty from the JFK center and two students from JFK Sam Betancourt and T.J. Fountain that were present.

Mr. Dube stated that last year, the students took part of the Afterschool Matters Public Service Announcements Campaign. You will hear two public service announcements (PSA) made by the students at the JFK ERfC program. They are titled "Catch and Disappear". These PSA's came in second and third place.

Mr. Dube added that we are extremely proud of the students and their accomplishments.

Chairman Neville stated both he and Dr. Schumann were present when the students at the JFK ERfC program received their award. We wanted to share this with the Board.

Mr. Dube stated the students were able to put on this production from a Digital Media Grant that ERfC received. We have received numerous grants to assist the students.

Chairman Neville stated you have put the students on the stage and they are great little actors. We appreciate everything you have done.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that ERfC is an excellent program. She has seen what you are doing at Eli Whitney. Everyone is always so happy. You should be commended for the great job you are doing with our students.

Chairman Neville thanked Mr. Dube and the students.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives, Welcome & Reports – as presented
- b. Rachel's Challenge – as presented
- c. Special Request – as presented
- d. Open House Nights – as presented
- e. Listen & Learn Events – as presented

Added Item:

- f. Timeline for BOE Decisions on H.S. colors & Mascot and School Security – as presented

Mrs. LeBlanc asked why the Board was receiving these timelines on Board decisions.

Chairman Neville stated during public comments it has been brought up several times that more time was spent discussing the high school colors and mascot than the school security guards. It is a misrepresentation of the time that the Board spent on both of these topics. Mrs. Szewczak raised this question and stated the facts are the facts and she wanted us to share this information with the public.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that we discussed the high school colors and mascots at regular meetings so it seemed like it was a much longer time. The school guards were discussed at special meetings that were held in executive session and not in open session at regular meetings so the process seemed to go more quickly.

Chairman Neville added the issue was regarding the time spent on the topics. It really wasn't an accurate assessment. Mrs. Szewczak felt it was a misrepresentation.

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Action if any, Regarding Cancelling the September 24th BOE Meeting

Dr. Schumann stated the community event for Rachel's Challenge will be held on the same night as the September 24th Board meeting. There is a conflict with these two events. He will not be present for either event. It would be appropriate for Mr. Drezek to attend the Rachel's Challenge community event in his absence.

Chairman Neville stated there is nothing pressing on our calendar that cannot be pushed back until the first meeting in October. He would like to attend the Rachel's Challenge community event. He recommends postponing or cancelling the September 24th Board meeting.

Mr. Sirard stated since this is listed as an agenda item, he would like us to vote on this item.

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education cancels the September 24th BOE meeting.

A vote by **show-of -hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgiver arrived at 7:20 PM.

b. Discussion and Action if any, Regarding BOE Two-Year Goal Setting Process

Chairman Neville stated the Board will need to discuss goals for the next year. We will also need to look at items the Board addressed over the past two years as part of a post-mortem process mentioned by Mrs. LeBlanc in order for Board members to see what worked and what didn't work and how we can improve on items.

Chairman Neville stated that he started to look at dates and realized he was rushing it a bit. Dr. Schumann asked for us to look at this as a two year process. We can look at items mentioned by Mrs. LeBlanc and look at goals for us to accomplish each year. He does not want to set goals for the new Board. He asked how the Board feels about this process.

Mr. Fealy agrees with the timing of the elections. Holding the post-mortem process prior to elections is a good idea. Planning the two year goal setting process will depend on the next seated Board. The new Board may have different opinions and ideas.

Chairman Neville stated the new Board will look at setting goals. They would be the new Board's two year goals. Having two year goals and measurable objectives on how the Board will get to these goals is a good process.

Mr. Fealy agrees with the timing to include the new seated Board. Will we include the new curriculum coordinators and the cabinet when the Board meets?

Chairman Neville suggests that we include the Superintendent and his cabinet when we meet. This way they can understand where the Board is coming from and we can question them on the direction they want to go in. The Board can decide who will attend. There is a timeline that the administration is aware of. Technology is an item that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Fealy stated these are the Boards goals and we will need input on the goals and what the administration is trying to achieve. We might need additional input in order to support the administrations goals. He would like the Board to also hold a workshop on the Board's specific goals. The Board might need a workshop to discuss their goals prior to meeting with the administration. This way the Board can see where both set of goals will merge and what will need additional work.

Dr. Schumann agrees with Mr. Fealy. The Board may give the administration specific goals and a direction they would like us to move the district in. The Board may also may their own personal goals.

Mrs. Rancourt stated the last time we did this we received information in the morning and then worked on goals in the afternoon. We also did this at Johnson Memorial Hospital where items were placed on the wall.

Chairman Neville stated we have never done this the same way. We have not had any measurable goals. It is up to the Board to make a decision on this. We can have several meetings on goal setting. We need to be involved in the process of goal setting. We are trying to lock in some dates.

Mrs. Rancourt would like us to set a date to hold the post mortem session before this term ends.

Chairman Neville stated we can hold this in October on either 8th or the 22nd before our regular meetings. One of the meetings in October will be to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation. Board members agreed to hold a special meeting on October 22nd at 5:30 PM thru 7:00 PM at the Town Hall prior to the Board meeting and they would like a light dinner to be included.

Ms. Hall stated we will not hold a meeting on Saturday, September 28th in the morning.

Chairman Neville stated that is correct. The October 22nd meeting can be held in place of this.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Rancourt stated that Eli Whitney held their Back-to-School picnic last Friday on September 6th. Intermediate schools open houses will be held on Wednesday, September 18th. Family day is being held on the Town Green on Sunday, September 15th. There will be many different kinds of activities and the PTO's will also hold fundraisers. EEFE will hold their Cleats for Feet's tag sale. It should be a good day for everyone if the weather cooperates.

Ms. Hall stated Family day is very entertaining and the PTO's will hold many different fund raising events. She referred to a study that was conducted looking at the trends in International Mathematics and Science for students in grades 4 and 8 around the world. Our nation has been criticized for our low scores in the past. If we looked at the United States as a whole, we scored above the international average. So in spite of what we have been told, we have some students that know what they are doing.

Mr. Fealy welcomed our student representatives and all of the students back to school. It is the beginning of another fun filled year. He asked everyone to remember September 11th. It is a solemn day for remembrance.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated JFK will hold the Grade 6 open house on Wednesday, September 11th and the Grade 7 open house on Thursday, September 12th. She will attend the JFK Rachel's Challenge Chain Reaction programs on September 18th. Family Day will start at 11:30 AM. She reviewed some of the events being held during the day. She hopes that all the students have a good start to the year and have worked out all of the kinks and have a safe school year.

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgiver thanked the Board and welcomed back the Fermi students. All sports have started and we had a smooth start to the school year. School pictures were held on Friday last week.

Chairman Neville stated he will also attend the Rachel's Challenge event at JFK on September 18th. He along with Dr. Schumann, Mayor Kaupin and Mr. Coppler has been involved with the business forum. We are looking at internships for students in the business fields. The first business forum will be held on September 27th. We are looking for students and staff to participate. We will keep you updated on this topic.

Chairman Neville stated at one of the quarterly Town Meetings it was mentioned that staff members were not allowed to sign any petitions or the petition regarding the security guards because they would lose their jobs. This is not true. When staff members are not in school, they are private citizens. He does not like this kind of a rumor. Please let either Dr. Schumann or himself know if any tells you differently. Staff members are prohibited for political activities during the school day only.

Chairman Neville added that Dr. Schumann will be participating in a Triathlon in London, England. He wishes him good luck.

Dr. Schumann stated he is leaving on September 11th and the first competition is on Friday, September 15th and then on Sunday afternoon. They will use the same course as the 2012 Olympics. There are around 5,000 athletes competing in this competition. It is pretty exciting and he is looking forward to this. He has been training for this his entire life.

Chairman Neville stated you are representing the United States and you needed to qualify to enter this competition.

Dr. Schumann stated that is correct. He qualified last year at a national event that was held in Burlington, Vermont. He has a red, white and blue Team USA uniform. He will bring the uniform for Board members to see.

Chairman Neville stated this sounds great. Most of us go to the beach for a vacation. We wish you good luck and you will represent us well. You will also visit Denmark.

Dr. Schumann added he will then go to Denmark and visit Lego Headquarters. He will tour Lego Land and will also interact with some of the executives. He will also meet their Board members and Town leadership. He will go to one of their schools to talk with the administrators to see how they have incorporated the Lego program into their curriculum. He will try to face-time with our schools on Tuesday.

Chairman Neville added we will be rooting for you.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Regular Meeting minutes of August 27, 2013 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- a. Matter(s) Related to Personnel
- b. Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining

A vote by **show-of-hands 6-1-0** passed with Mr. Sirard in dissent at 7:47 PM.

The Board reconvened to the Staff Lounge for the Executive Session. Joining the Board in Executive Session were Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek.

The Executive Session ended at 8:19 PM. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2013.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Donna Szewczak
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary