

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13, 2016**

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 December 13, 2016.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Walter Kruzel, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Mike Ludwick, Tina LeBlanc, Tim Neville, Stacy Thurston, Vin Grady (participated remotely) and Tom Sirard

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffery Schumann, Superintendent and Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent

Chairman Sirard stated that Mr. Grady will participate remotely at tonight's meeting per BOE Policy #9341.8 Participation at Board Meetings by Remote Methods.

6. **BOARD GUEST(S):**

a. **FIRST LEGO League**

Dr. Schumann introduced John Dague, our K-12 STEAM Coordinator to the Board.

Mr. Dague introduced John F. Kennedy grade 6 students Sabrina Juhasz, Anna Bemiss and Ty Kickham to the Board. The students gave the Board an overview of the FIRST LEGO League JFK Robotics program. They discussed the competition they attended at Tolland High School on November 19, 2016. They explained to the Board about their team missions – Shark Tank, Blind Man and PIG. They reviewed the programming used and about their project presentation: Galapagos Penguin. The students discussed the outcomes they have learned from being a part of the FIRST LEGO League.

Mr. Peabody thanked the students for their presentation. He asked them about the programming language they use. The students are using the Lego EV3 Programming Software.

Mr. Peabody added this is really cool. He asked the students who mastered the robot first. They said they did it all together and worked together as a team and were able to know each other's strengths.

Mr. Neville congratulated the students for a job well done. This is all done afterschool. He asked the students if this helps them to work together in your classes. The students stated it helps them to work with other students, how to meet and talk with other people.

Mr. Neville asked if this helped with you problem solving and math. The students stated yes and it teaches you to listen.

Mr. Neville would love to attend their afterschool program and see what you are doing.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked the students for their presentation. You all did such a great job presenting this to us in front of so many people. You are only in sixth grade – she is so very proud of all of you. She is sure your parents and teachers are very proud of you also. Merry Christmas and enjoy your time off from school.

Mrs. Unghire also thanked the students for the presentation. You all work together very well.

Mr. Kruzel is extremely proud of all of you. You speak so very well publicly – great job.

Chairman Sirard congratulated Sabrina, Anna and Ty for a great presentation. You are awesome and keep up the good work.

b. JFK Pre-Referendum Chair

Mr. Rutledge reported that the JFK Pre-Referendum Committee will meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at JFK in the Library at 6:30 PM. The meetings are open to the public. We are looking to replace a committee member. If you are interested, please fill out an application located on the Town website. We have a recording secretary and minutes will be kept from each meeting. Committee members met with Dean Petrucelli and discussed the process and FCA report. We look forward to putting together our presentation for the referendum. There is a lot of work that still needs to be done.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mr. Rutledge for this update.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. Thanksgiving Break – as presented
- c. December/January Events – as presented
- d. Grants Report – as presented
- e. Personnel Report – as presented

8. AUDIENCES -

Judy Kilty, Abbe Road – Mrs. Kilty thanked the Board for the questions and answers. The Board needs to plan for the unknown. She has questions about busing costs. The Town Council will not pay for moving costs. She still has concerns about lunchroom staff coverage. She would like a true plan to include true numbers. This plan is irresponsible and is not ready to be implemented.

Elizabeth Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis thanked Dr. Schumann for the 2 hour delay. She reviewed Board members campaign promises. You were elected to be our voices. We went through the reorganization and she has not seen were any savings that have been made. She appreciates the information being posted on the website. Now we need to see a detailed plan like what was done for the previous reorganization. What is going to happen to the time capsules at Hale? There is a lot of history in this building. She does not believe you have enough information to close this school. We have a petition with 1,100 signatures on it. Education is the most important thing for our kids. She wished the Board a happy holiday.

Akua Nimo, Thistle Lane – Mrs. Nimo is here about her daughter at EHS. She has been sent to

the hospital many times due to an allergic reactions. Students are eating all over the school. She wants her children to learn and succeed. She is looking for help from the guidance department about filling out college application forms. She met with the counselors and still has questions about class rankings. Her daughter works very hard for her grades. She is looking for help.

Linda Leander, Wallop School Road – Mrs. Leader distributed a memo to all Board members. She watched the news where Glastonbury is closing a school. They are respectfully answering questions from the parents. She still has many questions about the building capacities memo. Statistics show that children learn better in smaller class sizes. She does not believe that any savings will be seen from closing Hale. She hopes that any additional cuts that will be needed will come from the high school. We are paying for a lot of things we do not need like the eagle hour at the high school. Cuts can be made to sports. Closing Hale will not get rid of us.

Marcy Taliceo, Coolidge Drive – Mrs. Taliceo urged Board members to listen to our concerns. She believes that the Enfield students that graduate and go onto college are not ready. CREC school's is another option for many parents regarding education for their children especially students with special needs. We have a petition and would like a public hearing to be held urging the Board to postpone closing Hale based on state statute 10-238. Closing Hale will be a temporary fix. You are only putting a band aide to this problem. Consider the negative effects from closing Hale. Present us with a plan that we can support.

Suzanne Thoelen, Edgehill Street – Mrs. Thoelen feels we are not being told the whole story. Board member questions have not been answered. We don't have money to pay for this move. The Town Mayor feels extensive renovations will need to be done at Alcorn. This is very frustrating. The new building capacities concern her. Is there a plan to make this work with the town? Alcorn will need work to accommodate C/O moving there. She finds this very frustrating that this is not being discussed. What is the cost of moving and renovations costs? Building capacities do not help us plan for the future. What are the recommended maximum class sizes? Why aren't we discussing this? She wants to move to a town where education is valued.

Jessica Cuscovitch, Hunter Lane – Mrs. Cuscovitch has a special needs child that will not do well in an overcrowded classroom or bus. Her child deserves more. The staff at Hale has helped her child out greatly. She understands cuts need to be made. We are a family at Hale and look out for each other. Do not close Hale and ruin our kid's lives. There must be other options.

Mary Scutt, Yale Drive – Mrs. Scutt still has questions especially with the building capacities. She would like the Board to put off closing Hale and do it right with a plan. We buried a time capsule at Hale. No one is looking towards the future. We are adding more students at Memorial without a plan. This decision is being rushed. We are failing our students. She is fighting for our kids. Closing Hale is a quick temporary solution to a long-term problem. She urged Board members to hold off voting until we have accurate numbers.

Judy Kilty, Abbe Road – Mrs. Kilty stated we are urging Board members to vote no. The Town Council will not pay for this. This is very irresponsible.

Colleen Leander, Wallop School Road – Ms. Leader does not want the Board to close Hale. Students will be going to Enfield Street and it will be packed. She loved Nathan Hale when she was there and had fun.

Charlotte Riley, Jondot Drive – Ms. Riley does not see how you will save money by adding more students at other schools. She was at Hale today when the nurse was dealing with a student emergency. Another student got sick so a parent helped out. We are going to need more

nurses with more students and needs at our schools.

Christina Tatro, Green Manor Road – Mrs. Tatro asked about Title I funds. She would like to know what the percentage will be at each of the schools when Hale closes.

Annmarie Bartlett-Rattell, Kimberly Drive – Mrs. Bartlett-Rattell stated Mrs. Nimo works with her child and is wonderful. She discussed the Board being sued at a previous Board meeting. Mrs. Nimo's child is a prime example of what can happen. You are looking at many lawsuits.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kruzel wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr. Peabody replied to audience members that it takes guts to talk at Board meetings. We have heard about situations with the nurses. Times are different now and students are coming to school now with many different needs. We don't know what is going on in our K-2 and 3-5 schools. He would like to know how many students are getting medications. He appreciates your thought provoking discussions.

Mr. Peabody congratulated several past graduates that have gone on to outstanding careers. He congratulated Mr. & Mrs. Reese for everything they are doing for our students with the Lamplighters.

Mr. Peabody wished everyone a great holiday season and Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Unghire attended the Lamplighter play "The Night at The Wax Museum". The kids were great and did such an amazing job. She also attended the Torchlight parade. This is such a nice event and was well attended. She urged each other to attend the Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast on Saturday at 8:00 AM.

Mr. Ludwick stated Mrs. Nimo came to a Board meeting in September regarding allergies. He would like a report from Mr. Longey on this.

Mr. Ludwick enjoys seeing all the Christmas lights in our town. We have really great holiday spirit in Enfield. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. LeBlanc purchased an EHS onesie from Mr. Crane. The EHS girls Basketball team won their season opener in the new conference. The JFK Gr. 7 Band concert will be held on Thursday at JFK.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she will vote no to close Hale. She thanked Dr. Schumann for thinking out of the box. He was looking for a proactive approach to what will be a tough budget again this year. Closing a school is a community decision that will affect the town. We need open dialogue about all costs associated for closing a school. The number of students at Memorial scares her without additional support staff. She has additional concerns with nursing and medical coverage. Our staff employees have a strong work ethic that we should champion and not take advantage of. She has a responsibility to the community, as a Board member and needs to see the entire plan. East Glastonbury voted to close a school. The process has bothered her. She tries to be a positive voice and feels defeated. She cannot support this decision.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished everyone a Merry Christmas and God Bless America.

Mr. Neville asked if we can discuss the building capacity memo. We have maximum number of classroom sizes in a Board policy. The Board has fought hard to keep class sizes down. This

will help us plan.

Mr. Neville would like to get out detailed information to the public about the bond money owed at Hale. He would like to put this information out to the public and put it on the website. Chairman Sirard stated we can look into this.

Mr. Neville would like us to address the Title I issue tonight. These items keep coming up and he would like to put this to rest tonight. He thanked the audience members for coming. He thanked them for your questions and urged them to continue to come to Board meetings. We need to hear from you.

Mr. Neville added that we have all wrestled with this decision. This discussion started after the budget process last year. The projected budget deficit is \$1.6 billion dollars. We wanted to start discussing the budget earlier with the public. We have looked at everything. Closing the school was discussed to save money. It was discussed quickly due to the time sensitive decision that needs to be made. He can see saving money from the principal and secretarial cuts. He would like to see an additional counselor at the elementary schools. He has serious concerns with cutting nursing services and lunch-aides. K-2 students need additional services and supervision. The role of a school nurse has changed. He would like to keep a nurse and have them float between the schools. The savings for closing Hale does not add up to him. He cannot vote for this now. At some point, we may need to do this.

Mr. Grady wished everyone a Merry Christmas. The Wreaths Across America truck will come to Parkman on Wednesday. He urged everyone to attend.

Mr. Grady stated he cannot support voting to close Nathan Hale. If the town can come up with the bond money, he would like them to appropriate the funds towards education. We will save \$250K by closing Hale and will need to pay \$810K to the State. He would rather see them put it towards our schools. Our kindergarten students are walking to school. The \$810 outweighs this decision.

Mr. Grady wished everyone a happy holiday season and to enjoy your Christmas with your family.

Chairman Sirard thanked everyone for speaking. He understands your concerns. We have discussed this at several meetings and he would like to make some things clear. He feels the true savings from closing Hale would be around \$175K instead of \$250K.

Chairman Sirard stated the bond owed for Nathan Hale is the responsibility of the Town and they would be on the hook for this if we do not have any educational needs for the building once it is closed. He thought he made this clear but if he didn't, he apologizes.

Chairman Sirard stated the cost for additional expenses for moving the entire district when we reorganized was \$15K. We can use our custodial staff for the move and can move over time. We have a MOU with the Town for custodial services. He apologized for not making this clear. When we make the moves, there may be some costs associated with it.

Chairman Sirard added that we have been discussing reorganizing the K-2 structure for 2 months. The Board voted and approved the reorganization of SPED department and STEAM curriculum at our schools. These changes were done without adding to our operational costs. These changes will increase our educational offerings to all students, IEP/504 SPED offerings and to make us more competitive with other school districts. These are all in-line with the Board goals. We will be creating true sister schools. The cost savings have only been the focus of these discussions. The Board will work with the Town Council if we chose to move forward with closing a school. We will work with the Town Council to best meet the needs of our

community as a whole.

Chairman Sirard stated the Board has educational decisions they will make. The Town will make the financial decisions. He has faith that the Town Council will work with us. The closing of a school should not have been the focus of our discussions. There are other opportunities for this building. This discussion was started in part by Dr. Schumann who is recognized nationally as a superintendent. When we follow the superintendent's advice, we will do well and when the Board questions his advice we end up with egg on our face. He understands the budgetary concerns but this is also an educational concern.

Chairman Sirard wished everyone a Merry Christmas and joyous holiday season.

Mr. Peabody misquoted by stating a school in West Hartford was closing. That was a mistake he wanted to clarify.

Chairman Sirard would like Dr. Schumann to look into Mrs. Nimo's concerns.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Transition Update

Dr. Schumann reported that the collaborative spaces at EHS were completed in the STEAM wing. These collaborative spaces are similar to the ones in the innovation lab at JFK that were obtained from a grant Mr. Bourassa received.

Dr. Schumann presented a video with the new collaborative spaces at EHS. Mr. Bourassa has redesigned the costs by using Apple products that will reduce the overall costs for technology. This video will be presented to the Building Committee this week. The monitors have been ordered and the laptops will be considered for purchase by the Building Committee.

Mr. Neville asked about the work stations. Dr. Schumann stated they were paid by the Building Committee and there will be close to 100 workstations.

Mr. Neville asked who will pay for the monitors. Dr. Schumann stated the Building Committee will also pay for this. Purchase orders were done. Mr. Daigle will go before the Building Committee this week. Mr. Neville thought this was all taken care of.

Mr. Neville asked who will install the monitors. Dr. Schumann stated the vendor will install the monitors and our IT department will take care of everything else.

b. Continue School Consolidation Discussion and Action if any

Chairman Sirard stated the decision to consolidate our K-2 schools has emotional, educational and fiscal components. We owe it to the community to take action tonight and to bring this issue to a close tonight.

Mr. Ludwick moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education to consolidate our K-2 schools from our current configuration to 3 locations at Henry Barnard, Hazardville Memorial and Enfield Street.

Discussion:

Mr. Grady stated we are looking at \$810K the state will demand once we close the school and the town is going to pay this. He would rather them appropriate this money for education instead of working on our roads. He is not supporting closing Nathan Hale.

Chairman Sirard asked if any renovations are needed at Barnard. Dr. Schumann stated we will not do any renovation work at Barnard.

Chairman Sirard asked about the move to Alcorn. He thought we were planning to move on the cheap. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct. The previous Town Manager asked us to look at Alcorn for office spaces three years ago. There was a plan to renovate and update the HVAC system. That plan was cost prohibitive. We would move there using current rooms and would use partition walls as room dividers to meet our needs.

Chairman Sirard stated the \$210K staff savings was a conservative number for the principal, secretary and some staff. We were going to try to keep the nurse. Dr. Schumann stated total savings for all of the positions is around \$280K. The Board desired keeping some of the positions bringing the amount to \$210K. He feels \$210K is a conservative and doable number.

Chairman Sirard asked if this is an educationally sound move for us to make. Dr. Schumann stated yes. We will have true sister schools and the alignment will be better for us in the long run.

Chairman Sirard asked about Title I. Dr. Schumann stated we receive a set number from the federal government for Title I. This amount will not change and it doesn't matter how many schools are at the 40% mark for free and/or reduced lunch and are identified as Title I schools. We will use the funds to set off staffing fte. costs at some of the Title I schools. We decide how we allocate the funds to the Title I schools.

Mrs. Leblanc stated until she can see a list of educational benefits for closing Hale, she cannot support this. We showed the educational benefits when we reconsolidated before and for the high school consolidation. She is not seeing this now.

Mr. Peabody asked about the SPED realignment and how this matches up. Dr. Schumann stated we had 2 directors in pupil services. One director was responsible for PK-5 students and the other was responsible for 6-12 students. One person will now be in charge of the entire SPED department for consistency. Skills will be carried out more efficiently now and we will be able to utilize our services more affectively.

Mr. Peabody asked about the K-5 STEAM curriculum. Dr. Schumann stated with the consolidation, specialists will spend less time traveling to and from schools and will spend more time in the schools.

Mr. Peabody has concerns with keeping the same number of our staff, teachers and paras. We haven't replaced 129 teachers over the past few years. He is concerned about maintaining our staffing levels. Dr. Schumann stated no part of this consolidation plan removes the teachers.

Mr. Peabody asked if the space at Central Office will be used for specials at Henry Barnard. Dr. Schumann stated the space at Central Office could be used for small group instruction instead of using large classroom space at Henry Barnard. Small space instruction of 6-8 students for related services that are needed can be held in the office spaces.

Mr. Neville stated the savings do not add up. He would like to know when the numbers would be definite. He wants to know what this will actually cost us. There is a lot we do not know. Will we need a nurse or not. Lunch-aides are needed in the K-2 schools. When will we know how many lunch-aides we will need in this proposal? How much will this cost us? We are doing this to save money. He does not see this saving us a lot of money.

Mr. Peabody agrees with Mr. Neville. We have always cut counselors. Times have changed.

We will need more counselors, nurses and paras. Do we have enough para's?

Mr. Grady agrees with Mr. Peabody. We have cut staff over the years. We are now down to the bare bones. He knows we have problems with the state budget. The Town Council needs to fund the education budget not the roads in Enfield. What is more important?

Mr. Peabody stated when we cut these positions before we did not know everything. We need to look at our nurses and counselors. He is not putting programs vs. programs. High school students have different needs. Our high school is growing and working. K-5 works and he believes in this system. We have one budget in our town. We work well together with the Town Council. He expects a conversation of give and take with the Town Council to continue and to grow. We have a good relationship with them and our teachers. We need the appropriate number of teachers and counselors in our buildings. Our principals are asking for additional counselors. Please respect our decisions. He also believes we should join the Town Council with their quarterly meetings with the public. He respects the audience member's passion.

Mrs. Unghire agrees with Mr. Peabody about the nurses and counselors. There are educational benefits like the sister school concept, maintaining class sizes and STEAM Curriculum. This is a really hard decision for us. She appreciates everyone's passion.

Mr. Peabody added that we are not here to fight. We are here to make the best decision we can. We do not have all of the information but we have enough.

Chairman Sirard asked if we can amend the motion to add \$10K from this year's budget for uncovered moving costs. Would this be feasible?

Dr. Schumann stated he believes there should be a surplus from the magnet school line item and from personnel line item and the Board could allocate this towards moving costs.

Chairman Sirard asked about the class sizes from the presentation. Dr. Schumann reviewed the projected class sizes with the consolidation. Memorial class sizes will increase slightly.

Chairman Sirard stated this information is on the website. The employees that helped to write our curriculum used to be employed by CREC. Dr. Schumann stated Ms. McKiernan and Dr. Faulkner both were former CREC employees.

Chairman Sirard added that these employees were some of CREC's best and brightest that helped to design our curriculum. This is a continuation of the curriculum. Dr. Schumann agreed and that is why we hired them.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that both of these employees do not work for us anymore. She would rather use this money for textbooks. She would support this idea.

Chairman Sirard asked what the projected savings will be from the principal and 2 secretaries. Dr. Schumann stated \$127K plus benefits for the principal.

Chairman Sirard asked what the cost would be for secretaries. Dr. Schumann stated approximately \$190K for the principal and 2 secretaries.

Chairman Sirard added that this is assuming these are the only positions we do not replace.

Mr. Neville does not see us doing this now. He would like us to bring up these numbers at the next meeting with the numbers in front of us to look at.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that \$197K is a lot less than the \$810K that is needed for the bond.

Chairman Sirard stated this is something we need to discuss with the public. These numbers are conservative. We are looking at 3 positions. We are looking at around \$197K. This would be a one-time moving cost. If we decide to hire an additional nurse or counselor, we could do this. The question was about the projected savings. The potential savings is around \$197K.

Mrs. LeBlanc thought the question was to put \$10K towards moving costs.

Mr. Neville asked what happened to the moving being done by the Town.

Chairman Sirard asked the question. We are trying to anticipate moving costs. This was an idea he thought of. The only thing we know for sure is we will not have a principal and two secretaries. The superintendent said this is doable. We will have lower class sizes and equal opportunities across the district. This will address Title I issues. We have an obligation to do this and to provide an equal opportunity across the district. Money is only part of this.

Mr. Neville stated we are talking about money for moving.

Chairman Sirard withdraws his suggestion for moving costs. We will save \$197K.

Point of Order:

Mr. Peabody stated we are going off topic.

Chairman Sirard stated there is no additional motion. The motion is if we will consolidate the schools.

Mr. Grady asked about the overall benefits of doing this and do you feel it is okay to add to the class sizes with the number of special needs at this school. Dr. Schumann stated class sizes will be equalized over the district.

Mr. Grady asked that we still do not know what our busing costs will be. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct. We will need to re-negotiate our transportation contract at the end of the school year with Smyth Bus.

Mr. Grady added the costs could increase because of additional bus runs. Dr. Schumann stated the bus costs could increase due to rising transportation costs. We will be busing fewer students. Our buses will not be crisscrossing all over town.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated any savings from staff is supposed to help fill our budget shortfall from the state. The money won't be reinvested back into our school system.

Chairman Sirard stated the Board has not decided what we would do with any potential savings.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we started this to be proactive with the budget shortfall coming from the state. This was to help with the budget shortfall.

Chairman Sirard stated that was a possibility. The Board would need to prioritize this. Mr. Neville is looking at nurses as a priority.

Mr. Neville stated he is confused. For the past several months we have been discussing the State's budget shortfall and we were looking for ways to save money. We are spending this money twice. He would like to table this discussion until the next meeting. We need real numbers and specifics.

Mr. Ludwick stated we need to be clear. We are going to have a budget problem whether we close Hale or not. The State budget is now at \$1.6 billion dollars. He is not spending any money until the Board fully discusses it. We have been discussing this to save money. We discussed money that is going directly to CREC. We are off track. We are trying to be proactive. This is going to be a tough budget year.

Mr. Grady agrees with Mr. Ludwick. We are looking at \$197K. The town will pay for the bond of \$810K. How are we saving anything in our budget? Please try to help him understand this. He will not vote for this school closure. We are being foolish instead of being proactive. This does not make any sense.

Chairman Sirard agrees with not advocating to spend any more money. There are possibilities. The \$197K can go towards our priority. The town will save on energy costs plus custodial costs for around \$294K if the town does not want to maintain the building. There are costs avoidances if the town decides they do not want to get rid of the building. The Town will save money long term if they do not keep the building. These are conservative numbers. The town has not guaranteed anything. This decision is only about taking education component out of Hale. The town can figure out what they will do with the building.

Mr. Neville asked about the motion. Are we tabling it?

Dr. Schumann stated there is a motion on the floor.

Mr. Ludwick stated we cannot keep pushing this decision off.

Mr. Neville would like to clarify the discussion. He was just asking if we could do it.

Chairman Sirard stated it was just a discussion about moving costs.

Mr. Ludwick stated if we table this, what else is needed in order for you to be ready to vote.

Mrs. LeBlanc needs to see the bigger picture. She needs to see the educational benefits for doing this. She would like to see the savings. She cannot expect the town to absorb the budget shortfall from the state plus the \$810K. She is not sure that what she is asking for can be done before the next meeting. She is looking for answers.

Mr. Ludwick stated you will not receive a guarantee from the Town Council. What are the items that we can control?

Mrs. LeBlanc understands that but the \$810K dictates a lot. She does not know what the town will do. This would be irresponsible. The Town Council is in the same boat as us.

Mr. Ludwick stated if we wait, we will be taking this off the table and we will need to look at programs and jobs. We all need to be clear about this. He does not want to be forced to make cuts. We will be looking at full day kindergarten vs. sports. We were trying to avoid this kind of discussion. He will never recommend cutting sports. We were trying to avoid this kind of a discussion. He wants you to understand what we are dealing with.

Mr. Neville stated we put the cart before the horse. We may need to do this. The state numbers are real. We need to look at the whole picture before we start making cuts to our budget. We need real numbers. This is a community issue and the town needs to be involved with this discussion. How can we make a decision without doing this first? We need to present this to the Town Council.

Chairman Sirard asked what additional numbers are needed.

Mr. Neville would like to know all of the moving costs. Buildings and grounds should be able to answer this. The town has moved us before. Mayor Kaupin thought major renovations would be needed and that would be on our dime. We need to know the true numbers on savings.

Mr. Ludwick stated sometimes ballpark numbers are the best you can give. Mr. Neville stated the number should not be different. What are the real savings for closing a school? There is real confusion out there. We need to clarify this information. If they need to pay \$810K, where are the real savings?

Chairman Sirard stated \$1.2 million over 10 years besides operating costs. This is just for energy and personnel.

Mr. Ludwick asked if we could get this in writing before the next meeting.

Mr. Peabody would like to see a staffing model with or without Hale. That would help us out. He would also like to know how long it will take us to get back the \$810K. He would like this in writing.

Mr. Peabody would like to talk with the Board. He would also like to know what line items we are targeting. This could be done through the Finance committee to look at building and grounds projections for moving costs.

Mrs. LeBlanc appreciates the Board looking at what information we need. Holding off the vote will not change the outcome of the vote. Dr. Schumann expressed the timeline he needed and we are now going beyond that. She is asking for more of a process change and more discussions are needed. She will not take this away from you. She does not believe more time will change her position.

Mr. Peabody is looking for a staffing model. He is looking for a timeline for the Bond. It is a process change that is needed.

Chairman Sirard asked if we can table this motion. Dr. Schumann stated it must be removed.

Mr. Ludwick asked if we will have the information they have requested before the next meeting. Dr. Schumann stated the next Board meeting will be in 4 weeks. Some of the information he does not believe we can get. The Town Council has indicated they will make their decisions when they are ready. We can ask them.

Mrs. LeBlanc does not believe they are as focused as we are. One Board member may change their vote. She will respect each Board members opinion on this topic. It has been agonizing for all of us. We know what we are financially facing at the state level.

Mrs. Thurston asked when the next meeting will be held. She would like us just to vote now.

Mr. Grady asked for the motion to be reread. Chairman Sirard reread the motion.

Mr. Ludwick moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education to consolidate our K-2 schools from our current configuration to 3 locations at Henry Barnard, Hazardville Memorial and Enfield Street.

A vote by **roll call 5-4-0** passed with Mrs. LeBlanc, Mr. Neville, Mrs. Thurston and Mr. Grady in dissent.

Mr. Grady left the meeting at 10:20 PM.

11. NEW BUSINESS - None

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Building Committee

Mr. Kruzel reported we met two weeks ago and toured the building. We are 33 days away from the CO for the music wing. We will meet this Thursday. The paving has been completed. We met with the police to discuss parking concerns. We will meet with them again before the football season starts.

b. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on December 14th.

c. Finance Committee

Mr. Peabody reported the Finance Committee will meet on December 20th

d. Leadership Committee

Chairman Sirard stated that Leadership has met to discuss the closing of a school and to review questions.

e. Policy Committee

Mr. Ludwick reported the Policy Committee will meet again in the New Year. We have been looking at the transportation policy. We are still waiting for busing costs.

f. Any Other Committee Reports

Joint Facilities Committee – Mr. Kruzel reported the Joint Facilities Committee met last week with town liaisons. We looked at the graphs that Mr. Neville and Mrs. Szweczak have been working on. We will be looking at roofs next.

Mr. Neville stated we are making good progress and will meet on the December 27th.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston moved that the Special Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2016 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 22, 2016 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Special Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2016 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Circle – Mr. Jonaitis commented that the Board has made some good points tonight, but your timeline is too short. When the reorganization was done before, we took our time and proved what we were doing. This was a hard decision for the Board to make also. He didn't see any savings from the reorganization because we added programs. You have nowhere to cut from. You are looking at raising class sizes and cutting programs. The Board cut sports before and added students to older buildings. This doesn't make any sense. He could see doing this if it was to benefit academics. This should have been at the same time we closed Fermi. Renovating JFK will cost money we do not have. The superintendent had a good idea but we cannot afford his ideas. EHS is still working through the consolidation kinks. He would like the Board to extend the Hale decision another year. List the positives. Discuss the bond repayment with the Town Council. This is an educational issue. Finances made you do this. He urged the Board members that voted in favor of closing Hale to reconsider their vote. Get the answers that are needed.

Susan Thoelen, Edgehill Street – Mrs. Thoelen made several suggestions for the Board to save money. Half day kindergarten hurts children. They are not ready to succeed and need a full day. Increasing pay for play cost will save teacher jobs. Many parents are paying for their children to participate in dance, karate and music lessons and would jump at the opportunity to save sports. If layoffs are needed, class sizes will increase and they will not be what was presented to us. We need to go to Town Council meetings and she hopes that many others will join us. We still need to address the need for a nurse, lunch-aides and paras. She reviewed the percentage of the Town budget that goes to the Board of Education. Enfield receives 52%. Somers receives 70%, Suffield receives 56%, East Windsor 59%, Windsor Locks 64%, Ellington 71 %, Windsor 68% and East Granby 74%. We need to speak about the value of education in Enfield with the Town Council.

Extend Meeting:

Dr. Schumann notified the Board that per BOE Policy #8341 Meetings, the Board will need to make a motion to extend the meeting to continue past 10:30 PM.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Ludwick that the Enfield Board of Education extend the December 13, 2016 Regular meeting past 10:30 PM.

A vote by **show of hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Judy Kilty, Abbe Road – Mrs. Kilty stated 5 republicans voted to close Nathan Hale. There are 2 open positions on the Town Council. She assumes that the Board members that voted to close Hale will stay on the Board of Education to see this decision through. Quite a few years ago, there was a decision that was made to close a high school without proper planning and information. We forced them to rescind the decision. We are not done yet.

Marcy Taliceo, Coolidge Drive – Mrs. Taliceo has spoken to several attorneys at the state level about our petition and according to State Statute 10-238, they are petitioning the Board of Education for a public hearing. They have signatures for 1% of the elector votes in Enfield for the Board to postpone this decision.

Peter Jonaitis – Farmstead Circle – Mr. Jonaitis questioned the legality of one of the Board members votes. He challenges the chairman and superintendent to look into Roberts Rules of Order. You should not be saying affirmative. You should be voting with a yes or no, for or against. The Board needs to follow the rules.

Chairman Sirard stated that affirmative or yes is a correct response.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis spoke on the behalf of the PTO. We would like to have a new Board liaison appointed to Nathan Hale. Our liaison is not representing the staff, families or the children. She thanked the Board members who voted against this. If there was enough information to do this, we could have accepted this decision. We want someone else to represent us at Hale.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-2-0** passed with Mrs. Thurston and Mrs. Leblanc in dissent.

Mrs. LeBlanc left the Board meeting at 10:36 PM.

Board members remained in Council Chambers for the Executive Session. Both Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek joined the Board in Executive Session. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ludwick moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2016.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 10:50 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary