

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 9, 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 May 9, 2017.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rich Regnier, Lori Unghire, Walter Kruzel, Tina LeBlanc (participated remotely), Tim Neville, Stacy Thurston, Vin Grady and Tom Sirard

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffery Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; EHS Student Representatives Abigail Bosco and Meghan Connery

Mrs. LeBlanc will participate remotely per BOE Policy #9341.8 Participation at Board Meetings by Remote Methods.

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

a. **Buzz Robotics**

Dr. Schumann welcomed Buzz Robotics Advisor Suzanne Toohey. Mrs. Toohey introduced EHS seniors Alessa Manzi, Kurtis Kallagher and Kaitlyn Chappell. They prepared a video for the Board to view.

The students gave an overview of the 2017 Buzz Robotics build season and competitions. They thanked the Board for their space at Enrico Fermi. They also thanked their advisors Mrs. Toohey, Bob Scagni, Pete Polis, Steve Olson, Jim Morin, Bob Russato, Earl Bahl, Stu Karlstutcher and Chris Kennedy. They also thanked Dr. Schumann for being part of Buzz Robotics.

Mr. Kruzel congratulated the students for a great job. He attended some of your competitions and they were phenomenal! He agreed that the space at Enrico Fermi gives you much needed space. Keep up the good work.

Mr. Neville was equally proud of you. He wished they had something like this when he was in school. He asked them how being a part of this team has affected your choices for college.

Mr. Kallagher stated he will attend Springfield College and is looking to become a biology teacher. He would like to be a mentor for Buzz Robotics down the road. They have affected him in such a positive way.

Ms. Chappell stated she will attend Bridgewater State University and will be studying geology. There is a lot of technology involved in this major. Being part of the robotics team has helped her with more of an understanding about programming.

Ms. Manzi stated she will attend Endicott College and will major in elementary education. Many of our mentors are teachers and they have inspired her to follow them in this direction.

Mr. Neville stated you have learned many valuable life skills, programming skills and technology being part of this group. Working together takes teamwork. Congratulations to all of you. We look forward to you coming back as mentors.

Mrs. Unghire thanked all of them for their hard work. She enjoyed listening to them and seeing the competitions.

Chairman Sirard also thanked them. He has been one of your biggest fans throughout the years. You do us proud and you represent Enfield well. It is not about winning, but you are all winners in our books.

Mr. Kruzel added a special thank you to all of the mentors for everything you have done for our students. You all volunteer your time so freely and should be commended.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. EHS Opening Ceremony – as presented
- c. LEGO Event – as presented
- d. May Events – as presented

Dr. Schumann added that they have started the graduation discussion. The event will be twice as big. We believe if we are inside due to inclement weather we will be able to place everyone in the auditorium, gym and café and will live stream the event.

8. AUDIENCES

Jeff Larson, 1617 King Street – Mr. Larson introduced himself to the members of the Board of Education. He is the principal at the CREC Public Safety Academy. He has been the principal for 2 years. He invited Board members to come to the school for a tour at any time. He also shared a community service project all of the students at PSA will be doing in each of the participating communities on May 24th. We are trying to instill a sense of community with our students. We love our communities and want to give back to them. He will send the superintendent the schedule for this event. The work the robotics team is doing is great. He would love to attend the ice cream social. Thank you.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Neville thanked the Buzz Robotics members for everything they are doing. We are very proud of you. You represent Enfield well. He thanked the mentors for everything you have done for our students. Doing this is a fulltime job. Our kids could not do this without your help. Thank you.

Mr. Neville reminded everyone to attend the EHS Opening Ceremony event on Saturday, May 13th at 11:30 AM for the ribbon cutting ceremony and the concert at 7:00 PM. This building is a tribute to our town. We are all so proud of this accomplishment.

Mr. Regnier also congratulated the members of Buzz Robotics. Great work and great team work. He also recognized our teachers for everything they are doing.

Mr. Regnier stated the K-2 reorganization is moving forward. Parents will be informed about the transition to new schools within the month.

Mrs. Thurston stated the Enfield community lost Kayla Pokorny. She was a true inspiration to many and her loss has impacted many. Our hearts go out to her family. Kayla will be missed.

Mrs. Unghire also echoed Mr. Neville about the May 13th Dedication Ceremony event. There will be events happening all day. She urged everyone to attend the event that starts at 11:30 AM and the concert starts at 7:00 PM. She hopes everyone will attend.

Mr. Kruzel stated KITE meets every Wednesday at 5:30 PM at the STOWE Early Learning Center. The meetings are open to the public. This is a great organization. We completed a self-assessment. For more information about this organization, you can go to their website at enfieldkite.org.

Mr. Kruzel added the FOI Workshop will be held tomorrow night at 6:30 PM at the Enfield Senior Center. This event is also open to the public.

Mr. Kruzel stated Town Employees can attend a biometric screening on May 11th at 2:30 PM at JFK. This event is important for all town employees to help keep insurance costs down.

Chairman Sirard thanked the members of the Buzz robotics. You all do us proud. He also thanked the mentors for everything you do. Without you, this all would not be possible. Thank you.

Chairman Sirard wished our students taking tests good luck. He urged everyone to attend the EHS dedication ceremony on May 13th at 11:30 AM.

Chairman Sirard stated that Connecticut has some of the highest ranking high schools. Enfield has been ranked 26th by US News and World. There are some areas in this report he questioned. There is some good news out there and Buzz robotics is part of this.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve 2017-19 Head Start Grant

Deb Clement and Melissa Lavasseur gave an overview of the Enfield Head Start program and parent engagement program. They are looking for the Board to approve 3 grants they are applying for.

Mr. Neville asked if they see any problems with funding for any of your grants due to the State budget problems. Mrs. Clement stated we have received some partial grant funding from the State. Once the budget has been set they will make adjustments. The Federal grants will be fully funded.

Chairman Sirard asked if the Enfield Head Start outperforms national trends. Mrs. Clement stated the Enfield Head Start program is known in the community, State and region as one of the best Head Start programs around. She is very proud of the work they have done. Class scores are part of our Federal review. The money you receive is contingent on this. This is another area that we do very well in.

Mrs. Unghire moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Enfield Head Start Enhancement Grant, Head Start Services Grant and Head Start Link

Grant as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. Clement thanked the Board for their support.

b. Action if any Regarding Matter(s) Related to Personnel

Chairman Sirard stated Item 11b. will be addressed after Item #17.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Building Committee

Mr. Neville stated they will meet on May 19th.

Mr. Kruzel added they will also meet on May 13th to cut a ribbon. We are still ahead of schedule and under budget.

b. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on May 17th.

c. Finance Committee

Mr. Kruzel reported the Finance Committee will meet on May 16th.

d. Leadership Committee

Chairman Sirard stated the Leadership Committee met on May 2nd regarding matter(s) related to personnel.

e. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Policy Committee will meet on June 1st at 5:30 PM. Members from CABA will be present.

f. JFK Pre-Referendum Committee

Mrs. LeBlanc reported the committee has approved the conceptual designs by Silver Petrucelli. They are moving forward to get everything to the State.

Mr. Neville asked if this design has been placed on the website. Mrs. LeBlanc stated not yet, but it will be posted.

Mr. Neville added the committee will meet on May 10th.

g. Opening Ceremony Committee

Mrs. Unghire reported we will hold the EHS Opening Ceremony on May 13th at 11:30 AM rain or shine. If it is raining, we will be inside.

h. Insurance Committee

Mr. Kruzel stated the Insurance Committee met today and we reviewed the draft policy and made changes. We will vote on this May 25th. The Town Council will approve this and we will

bring to an upcoming BOE meeting. We made a change to the charge of the committee and will now meet in March and in October. The hard work has been done. We will only meet 2 times a year.

i. Joint Facilities Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Joint Facilities Committee has been attempting to meet but with everything else that has been going on we haven't been able to set any dates. We are planning to meet on May 25th.

Chairman Sirard thanked all Board liaisons for their hard work on these committees. Keep up the good work moving us forward.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-1** passed with Mr. Grady abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION -

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matters Related to Personnel.

A vote by **show-of-hands 6-1-0** passed with Mrs. Thurston and Mr. Grady in dissent.

The Board 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.

11e. Action, if any Regarding Personnel

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education approves the employment contract agreement for the superintendent elect effective on July 1, 2017.

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

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 9, 2017.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

