

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 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 January 8, 2013.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

Chairman Neville welcomed Tom Sirard back to the Board. He is replacing Chuck Johnson who resigned on January 4, 2013.

6. **BOARD GUESTS** - None
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. Joint Security Committee – as presented
 - b. Parent Leadership Academy – as presented
 - c. Superintendent's Book Club – January 9th – as presented
 - d. Special BOE Meetings – January 12th & January 15th – as presented
 - e. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 21st – as presented
8. **AUDIENCES** – None
9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Superintendent's FY2014 Budget Presentation**

Chairman Neville stated that Dr. Schumann will present his FY2014 Budget Presentation to the Board tonight. He has worked with the administration on this presentation.

Dr. Schumann thanked the Board for this opportunity to present his budget. He recognized several Council Members present – Mr. Bill Lee, Mr. Greg Stokes, Mrs. Cindy Mangini, Mr. Thomas Kienzler and Mr. Thomas Arnone and Town Manager Matt Coppler. He also welcomed all the administrators and cabinet members and those watching on at home.

Dr. Schumann presented his proposed spending plan for FY2014. He reviewed the Board's mission,

his responsibilities, items to be considered, how he prepared the budget, many accomplishments in our district, challenges we are facing and our responsibilities to the students. He reviewed the Board's goals, priorities, budget development process, salary requests and new position requests. He reviewed his recommendations for new positions, non-salary items and reductions, non-salary increases, special education costs, class sizes and his total budget request for FY2013-2014 or \$66,918,094 (\$5,002,072 or a 5.98% increase).

Dr. Schumann stated the administration is prepared to work with the Board and Town Council to come up with a creative budget for next year.

Chairman Neville thanked Dr. Schumann for his presentation. You have given us a lot to consider during the next couple of months. He also thanked the Town Manager and Town Council members for attending tonight's meeting to see the beginning of our process. As mentioned by Dr. Schumann, we are more than happy to work with you as we work our way through the budget. If you require any information from us, please let us know.

Chairman Neville asked if the Board could receive a hard copy of the presentation. Chief Information Officer Guy Bourassa stated we will provide the Board with a compressed copy of the presentation.

Chairman Neville asked about a timeline being provided by goal areas. This information is needed so everyone will know what will be discussed and when each goal will be discussed. Dr. Schumann stated that information will be provided. We will start the discussion on full day kindergarten at next Tuesday night's Special BOE meeting. We will provide you with a timeline so the Board can make some final decisions so you can finalize your budget appropriations.

Chairman Neville asked if this can be published on the website for public viewing. Dr. Schumann stated we will post this information on the website and will send out information about the meetings and the goals that will be discussed.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Dr. Schumann for his detailed presentation. She appreciates this information. Board members will be able to review this information and educate ourselves with the needs of the district.

b. Discussion Related to Consolidated High School Mascot and School Colors

Dr. Schumann stated as part of the process to consolidate both high schools, the Board will need to discuss some important topics relatively soon. The architect may need some of these items to move forward with some of the plans. Enfield has two very strong traditions with their high schools that have served the community well. As part of the consolidation process, we would like to include both schools traditions so nothing is lost. This will be a challenge to merge the traditions. Mr. Drezek will address some of these issues tonight. Some of these pieces may be incorporated into the designs by the architect. The Board will need to make some decisions about these items at some time.

Mr. Drezek stated this item was placed on the agenda tonight as a discussion item. We are bringing forward the administrations recommendations for the Board to deliberate on. We would like the Board to consider putting together a time line or drop dead date on some of these items. The Building Committee is in the process of selecting an architect and we would like to have some of this information available for them. Based on our conversations with Dr. Pongratz, we thought the end of February would be a date that some of these decisions would need to be made by.

Mr. Drezek stated per BOE Policy #9610 The Naming of Schools under section D, the school function has not changed and the school name will remain the same – Enfield High School. This is a question that many community members have been asking. The administration is recommending the name for the new STEAM wing be named the Enrico Fermi STEAM Wing. This way we will continue the 40 year tradition from Enrico Fermi High School by bringing the name to the new wing of the building. The Board will need to make the decision on this. As we go through this process, we would like to include this name of the STEAM wing in the plans. There is another new building being built on King

Street and we would like to let the members of this community know about our own crown jewel of a high school being built. The sooner the name and color has been decided, we can start to incorporate this in the materials that will be shared with the community.

Mr. Drezek stated the next question is the school colors. The architects may need to incorporate some of the school colors into the plans. The Board will need to decide on the school colors. The FHS/EHS hockey team has combined the school colors to include green, black, white and blue to keep the traditions of both schools intact. He showed Board members the hockey team shirts with the combined school colors. The Board will also need to make a decision on the school colors. The administrations recommendation is to incorporate these colors being used by the hockey teams.

Mr. Drezek stated the final question is regarding the school mascot. As the Building Committee and the architect move forward, they may want to incorporate a school mascot in the plans. We are asking the Board to discuss this also as we move forward. When the hockey teams combined they were known as Enfield/Fermi. The members on the combined hockey team wanted to be identified as something and took a vote. The members decided to call themselves the Enfield/Fermi Falcons.

Mr. Drezek stated that some other towns have gone through similar changes like East Hartford High School and Pinney High School. Their Board of Education members decided to continue the tradition by keeping the name of East Hartford High School and took the colors and the mascot from Pinney High School. Their colors are yellow and black and their mascot is the hornets.

Mr. Drezek stated the administrations recommendation is to keep the mascot from Enrico Fermi High School and the combined schools will be known as the Enfield High School Falcons. We would name the STEAM wing as the Enrico Fermi STEAM Wing and both schools would be recognized by using all the school colors.

Mr. Drezek stated if the Board endorses these concepts we would like the students to design the school logo. This is their school and we have some very talented students. These decisions ultimately reside with the Board. These are the administrations recommendations.

Chairman Neville asked if the Baseball, Basketball teams, etc. jerseys would be different. How do you propose to deal with these designs? Mr. Drezek stated we are looking at different types of uniforms. We also have band uniforms. Home uniforms need to be white. We can provide other examples of uniforms as we go forward at a later date.

Mr. Jonaitis likes the idea of keeping this as Enfield high School. He also likes the idea of the Falcon mascot. Maybe we can incorporate some of each school colors in the designs like adding gold to the Falcon's feathers.

Chairman Neville added the students can incorporate that into their designs.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if we knew what the other choices were when the hockey team made a decision. Mr. Drezek believes the choice was either Raiders or Falcons.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked what will happen if Enrico Fermi is used as a school down the road as a middle school. Would the name of the building be changed because we would be changing the function of the school? Mr. Drezek stated the function of the building would be changing and a new name could be used for the building. If the building was used as another high school, it would need to be named as Enrico Fermi High School.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the consolidation of the sports teams. Mr. Grady added that would be dictated by the leagues if we can or can't consolidate them. Mr. Drezek stated the hockey team was combined due to lack of enrollment.

Dr. Schumann stated Mr. Bernstein our Athletic Director is present and may be able to address these concerns.

Mr. Bernstein stated the hockey team is a cooperative team with a certain number of players per the CIAC. The membership from both teams last year fell below the recommended numbers and we formed a cooperative team comprised with students from Fermi/Enfield/Stafford. Merging EHS/FHS teams would not be allowed per the CIAC.

Chairman Neville stated at one time they were discussing combining the teams early until the one high school is opened.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that has not been addressed in the committee meetings. They were thoughts for providing unity with the schools. This is a question many parents are asking.

Mr. Bernstein stated combining the Freshman students into one school was discussed. The students would be learning one school system and when the schools combined they would need to learn another system. There would be limitations with this. The students would only be able to participate as Freshman athletes and could not play on a junior or varsity team. Mrs. LeBlanc stated this plan is not going to happen thankfully.

Chairman Neville stated only cooperative teams will be formed due to low participation numbers.

Ms. Hall stated she would like to name the music wing after Paul Robeson. He lived in Enfield and was a world known musician and actor. Mrs. Szewczak stated we will have an Arts and STEAM wing.

Chairman Neville stated we can add that to the list. He asked Board members if they have any additional suggestions regarding the school colors and school mascot. We will ask the students from the both schools to come up with a logo. These are the items we need to look at.

Mr. Drezek stated the administration is looking for the Board to endorse these suggestions. Community members would like us to maintain the traditions in Enfield at the combined high school. We would like some direction as to a timeline for making these decisions from the Board. We believe the end of February would be a prudent timeline for the Board to endorse these suggestions.

Chairman Neville would like to continue this discussion at another meeting. He asked both Mrs. Szewczak and Mrs. LeBlanc when the Building Committee would need an answer by. Mrs. Szewczak stated by the end of February. The architect will be chosen by the end of February also. They have been short-listed and we are moving forward. Mrs. LeBlanc added there is a special legislation they are hoping to start with. If it passes, they can start the construction sooner by almost one year. Mrs. Szewczak stated this legislation was included in the RFQ.

Mrs. Szewczak stated the art department should start the lead for the logo but all students should be encouraged to submit a design. We have some really talented students and encourage all of them to participate. She would also like to hear from the public on these topics.

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber stated she has heard from many students that do not like the combined colors. She could not see herself running in a cross country uniform with 4 colors. Maybe this should be more of a student decision. This is a decision that affects the current and future students directly. She believes a vote for the school colors, mascot and uniforms is needed. This will be the student's legacy and traditions. She believes the freshman and middle school students should be included in this decision. They can vote and will not be as torn as upper classman. The middle school students do not have ties to the high schools yet.

Mr. Sirard agrees with Mrs. Szewczak about hearing from the public on these topics. He suggested using a new color and a new mascot for the combined high school. Reach out to the middle school students. This is their legacy and we should reach out to them for their input. We are moving into the 21st century and should consider this.

Mrs. Rancourt stated since we are using a new architect will we definitely have a new STEAM and music wing? Will the plans be similar to what they are now? Mrs. Szewczak stated the Board will

decide what is in the building and a STEAM wing is our vision. The Building Committee will abide by the Board's recommendations.

Mr. Grady agrees about public comment. By bringing in the middle school students will we be able to get this done by the end of February?

Mrs. Szewczak suggested we should ask the current grade 8 students for their input. They will be the first graduating class from the combined high school. Mrs. LeBlanc added they will be the incoming freshman students at both high schools next year. Mrs. Szewczak stated the students are together now at JFK and could look at this as a graduation project.

Chairman Neville stated we need student input. We have traditions here in Enfield and a lot of students, families and residents that have strong feelings about this. We need to solicit input and we need to suggest options. Middle school students are not as tuned into colors and mascots as high school and college students are. We need to figure out an efficient way to do this with a timeline and need to address our budget at the same time.

Chairman Neville would like the administration to put together some options and bring them back to the Board to continue the discussion with a timeline so we can inform the public of what will be discussed.

EHS Student Representative Brandon Andexler agrees with Ms. Saltzgeber about the colors. It is a good idea but it is hard to please everyone. Coming up with a new mascot and school colors are a good idea. We have a lot of history and cultures in Enfield. We have the carpet mill and gun powder from the civil war. He is sure Dr. Taylor would love to come and discuss some of these historical items. Mrs. Szewczak added there were also the Shakers from Enfield.

Mr. Bernstein stated white is need for home jerseys. He also suggested that black and green would make a nice uniform after discussing this with the vendor today. He has some mark-up jerseys for Board members to look at.

Chairman Neville stated representatives from JFK, EHS and FHS can meet with the principals and discuss the options and ideas. The principals can discuss this with their parent advisory groups and come back to us with colors and design options. The uniform companies are willing to do just about anything we ask them to do.

Mr. Fealy thanked the student representatives for their contributions. He would like a suggestion box where all students that are interested can be selected to participate by widening the playing field for all students to be included this process.

Mr. Jonaitis likes the middle school students being involved in the process with the high school students. The Board will make the final decision on the colors and mascot. Does the architect need the colors and the mascot right away? We may be rushing this a bit

Mrs. LeBlanc graduated from Fermi and powder blue is important. Green is an Enfield color. Enfield Soccer and the Ramblers use green. She wore powder blue proudly.

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber asked about ballots with colors and mascots being given out during homeroom for students to complete.

Chairman Neville stated we need options and some general consensus. We need subsets from each school. Once we get some ideas we can discuss that here. We can get uniform samples with the colors.

Mr. Jonaitis asked what is the rush for the school colors? Mrs. Szewczak stated the architect will incorporate the colors into the design of the building and the school mascot.

Mr. Fealy stated we can shorten the timeline and chose the mascot first. Then look at colors for the mascot and school. Mrs. Szewczak stated that is a good idea.

Chairman Neville stated at one time they were looking at putting the mascot on the gym floor with the school colors. We need to involve the students at the three schools and need to be consistent with what we are doing with the three principals. We can get a wide range of ideas allowing kids from all groups be involved in this process. We would like the principals to come back to us with input from the students.

c. Action if any regarding additional Science Graduation Requirement

Dr. Schumann stated that Ms. Anne McKernan our Chief Academic Officer is present and has met with the Curriculum Committee about this additional science graduation requirement.

Ms. McKernan stated the Curriculum Subcommittee has met and has reviewed an additional science graduation requirement. This additional requirement would change our current Board Policy #6146 Requirements for Graduation. The subcommittee worked with both high school science department chairs and has drafted the proposed change to include a science performance standard similar to the numeracy and literacy standards. The Curriculum Subcommittee is looking for the Board to approve a first reading on this policy and to approve the additional science graduation requirement. This additional science graduation requirement would affect the current grade 9 students – the class of 2016.

Ms. Hall stated the students at both high schools are tested annually in science. It seems that more emphasis should be placed on science. This is one way to do this by adding a science requirement in additional to the numeracy and literacy requirements. This will provide an emphasis on what is being learned in STEAM.

Chairman Neville stated we are basically adding the science graduation requirement to the current policy. This work was completed over the past summer and is now being added to the policy.

Ms. McKernan stated that is correct. We feel this is an important requirement for assessment. With STEAM, we felt this would be wise to require this requirement. The high school science department chairs believe the science based knowledge is being diminished by not have a science graduation requirement standard.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the State is requiring this kind of testing for science. Ms. McKernan stated we test grade 10 students in CAPT. It is not currently a requirement for graduation.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about the proposed policy changes. Ms. McKernan stated the proposed changes are on lines #78-93.

Mr. Fealy stated he thought the standard for passing was not failing a class. We now have numeracy and literacy requirements. It is very important that we require proficiency for our academics including science. As we continue to compartmentalize the education requirements and the test scores, we are teaching children to perform toward a test or a process. He would like more time to look at this and discuss it. All our curriculums are important. Eventually will we have other performance standards that will need to be passed?

Ms. McKernan stated presently we only require students to take 2 science credits required for graduation. This is another area we should look at. The State of Connecticut is recommending increasing this number.

Mr. Fealy stated we should increase the number of courses needed to pass in science instead of the performance standard. Ms. McKernan understands what you are saying and perhaps we should look at the number of credits that are required for graduation. A perfect time to do this is when the two high schools are consolidated as well as what standards do the students need to perform at to

demonstrate an understanding.

Mr. Sirard stated this is a self imposed requirement. The State is not mandating this requirement. Ms. McKernan stated a number of districts have science graduation requirements.

Mr. Sirard asked if this can be classified as a pre-empted future State science mandate. Ms. McKernan stated we have seen this as a plan for the secondary school reform. There is a greater emphasis on science.

Mr. Sirard asked if it will increase the value of our diplomas by adding a science standard requirement. Ms. McKernan stated we would be demonstrating that our students are competent by passing a certain requirement.

Mr. Sirard asked if a student fails, is there a plan for remediation? Ms. McKernan stated there are a variety of options for students to meet the science requirement standard starting with the grade 9 science test.

Mrs. Rancourt asked if this new science graduation requirement will affect all current grade 9 students starting with this year's students. Ms. McKernan stated that is correct.

Mrs. Rancourt added when the Science Department Chairs met with the Curriculum Subcommittee members, they mentioned that many of the other districts are already doing this. She believes this will increase the value of our diplomas. With the secondary school reform, more tests will be required in order for a student to pass a course.

Ms. McKernan stated the secondary school reform has been put on hold for now. The grade 10 CAPT will continue.

Mrs. Rancourt understands Mr. Fealy's concern of teaching to the test. There will be a performance task if a student cannot pass the class. Ms. McKernan stated 50% of the CAPT is a science inquiry test and the other 50% is science content. We are teaching our students a skillset.

Ms. Hall stated when the graduation requirement policy was developed there are several ways for a student to pass the State mandated requirements and for them to succeed. We will utilize the CAPT in some way towards graduation. By adding science requirements, we are acknowledging the value of science, the knowledge students will be gaining along with scientific methods. Adding this requirement to the graduation policy makes sense.

Ms. Hall would also like to add to the policy when this will go into effect. She believes it needs to be included in the opening paragraph line #12 - Beginning with the graduating class of 2016 a science performance standard shall be required.

Mr. Jonaitis stated this room is filled with educated people and just about everyone has graduated from college. You currently need 2 credits in science to graduate. He is concerned with the need that everyone needs to go to college. By doing this, we are neglecting the vocational areas. College is not for everyone. Some students will benefit from a better automotive, shop, electrical and woodworking program. We have students that will not care about taking a third science class. We need to look at the students that will not go to college and want to learn a skill they can use when they get out of high school.

Mrs. Szewczak agrees with Mr. Jonaitis, but the automotive class is a science. She asked Ms. McKernan if she knows how well our students do on the CAPT. Ms. McKernan believes our CAPT scores are at goal but would need to look into this. There is room for growth. Skills and knowledge for career readiness and strengthening our science with development of the inquiry process can be obtained.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated students are learning how to solve problems with science. They are learning

strategies to help them learn. By enhancing the science requirements, you get the students interested in vocational fields. It covers a wide spectrum of students, not just college bound students.

Ms. McKernan reviewed what industries are looking for when they hire. They are looking to hire machinists with a higher level of understanding. They are looking for a well-rounded student. All of our students need to be college ready. College ready students will be ready for the workforce when they graduate from high school.

Mr. Sirard stated he is a skilled tradesman with an extensive science background. Science teaches you how to analytically problem solve. This is something he looks at when he is hiring skilled and unskilled labor.

Mr. Fealy stated the conversation we are having is exactly why he joined the Board of Education. He values the debate and encourages this discussion to continue. He would like the Board to not take any action on this item and to continue our discussion. He would like to know more about the frameworks behind this.

Chairman Neville stated this is a first reading of the policy. The discussion will continue at the next meeting. We would like Ms. McKernan to come back to the next meeting to continue this discussion. He agrees with Mr. Fealy about this discussion. He is also recommending the same recommendation made by Ms. Hall about adding a line to include beginning with the graduating class of 2016 a science performance standard shall be required.

Mr. Jonaitis stated that he did not know that automotive was considered a science. What else is in the vocational area is considered a science? A carpenter will require scientific problem solving. What other sciences are available to the students. Some kids come to school for these kind of classes or sports. He does not want to drive our kids away by making the standards too high.

Ms. McKernan will bring that information from the program of studies to the next meeting. She will also share information from the secondary school reform with the Board.

Chairman Neville would entertain a motion for a first reading which will allow us to continue this discussion.

Mr. Fealy moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak that the Enfield Board of Education approves a first reading with the additional changes to line #12.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis stated he still has questions and would like to continue the discussion. Chairman Neville stated we should have made a motion after Ms. McKernan discussed the changes for a first reading. We will have a second and final reading at the next Board meeting for this policy.

Mr. Jonaitis stated there is nothing that precludes us from continuing this discussion at this meeting or the meeting after that. Chairman Neville stated this will just facilitate the discussion process.

Mr. Jonaitis does not want to vote on this without the additional information. Ms. McKernan is going to get this additional information for us to look at.

Chairman Neville stated our intent is to have her attend the next Board meeting and to bring the additional information for Board members. If the Board is not ready to approve the second reading, we can send it back to the committee to work on it. The first reading will allow us to start the process.

Ms. Hall stated some of the confusion may be because of the two closely related items on the agenda – Item 10 c. Action if any regarding additional Science Graduation Requirement & Item d. Policy

Revision #6146 Requirements for Graduation – First Reading. This may have led to some confusion.

Chairman Neville agreed with Ms. Hall.

Mr. Sirard stated we have always had the option between the first and second reading for policy revisions if we haven't received the response we are looking for, to table the second reading. There are plenty of options on the table and does not believe this will limit us in anyway.

Chairman Neville agreed with Mr. Sirard. Items 10 c. and 10 d. should be combined. Board members agreed with Chairman Neville.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we will be able to pass the first reading and can continue the discussion prior to the final reading. Chairman Neville agreed with Mr. Sirard. If the Board is not ready to approve the second reading of the policy at the next meeting we can table it and send it back to the committee for further work. This is just a process.

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

Chairman Neville invites Ms. McKernan back to the next Board meeting to continue this discussion.

d. Policy Revision #6146 Requirements for Graduation – First Reading

This item was addressed as part of Item 10 d.

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Building Committee met last Thursday and formed a subcommittee to review the list of architects and would come up with a shortlist on Saturday. The subcommittee will recommend the shortlist at the next Thursday Building Committee meeting. The architects will conduct presentations on Saturday, February 5th to the Building Committee. The meetings are open to the public.

Mrs. Szewczak stated she attended the evaluation program for the shortlisting. There are 4 architects that have been shortlisted. The Building Committee will vote on this Thursday night. We used the State's QBS for the evaluations and are looking at partnerships and like work processes. It was very interesting and she learned a lot. The subcommittee did an excellent job with the shortlist.

Chairman Neville reported that he is on the Joint Security Committee. He along with Dr. Schumann, Mr. Grady and Mr. Fealy met last week and will met again on Wednesday, January 9th at 9:00 AM in the Board Conference Room. The meetings are conducted in Executive Session. Minutes will not be published for obvious reasons. He can update Board members during an Executive Session for a discussion.

Chairman Neville and Mr. Drezek attended a Safety and Security meeting at the Aqua Turf Restaurant in Southington. The meeting was well worth attending. He will send out a copy of the presentation along with several links to Board members to view. This can be discussed at a later time.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

EHS Student Representative Brandon Andexler also acknowledged the passing of EHS student Aileen Fearon. She united the students at EHS and will deeply be missed. We extend our deepest regards to her family. He is happy that Buzz Robotics has started up again. He invited Board members to come to the kickoff program being held this Saturday at Fermi. He is also a member of this hidden club. He uses his experiences from this club in his daily routines.

Mrs. Rancourt is missing the Eli Whitney PTO meeting tonight. They will hold a McEducator night

next Wednesday night from 4-7 PM at the McDonalds on Hazard Avenue. She helps out a lot at Eli Whitney and feels very safe at the school. Mrs. Ingalls is doing a great job and commends her. Parents need to understand the new security measures. It is important to leave your ID in the office.

Mrs. Rancourt would like Dr. Schumann and cabinet members to talk with some of our former graduated students that are home for the college break about being prepared for college. A lot of these freshman college students are saying that they were not as prepared as they should have been are a bit overwhelmed by the work. She would like to see if the principals could reach out to some students that have recently graduated about being better prepared for college.

Ms. Hall thanked New England for living up to our reputation. She just came back from Georgia and was happy to see the snow when she came back.

Mr. Sirard stated it is good to be back on the Board of Education. He thanked the Town Council Members for their unanimous support and all of the kind comments he has received from Board Members. He looks forward to working with all of you and accomplishing what is best for the town and the school system.

Mrs. Szewczak wished everyone a happy New Year! She enjoyed the holidays and time spent with family and hopes everyone else has enjoyed their holidays as well.

Mr. Fealy stated as a member of the Joint Security Committee we are working for the safety of our kids in all of our schools. He welcomed back Tom Sirard and looks forward to working with you. He has been extremely impressed by our two student representatives. He wished the EHS rep well with Buzz robotics. He gives both of you credit for speaking your minds. Thank you.

Mrs. LeBlanc also welcomed Tom Sirard back and looks forward to working with him. She is the liaison to JFK and they held their geography bee yesterday. The JFK lady and guy Patriots are doing well with basketball this year. The games are fun to watch. There are cheerleaders and a lot of students stay after school to watch the teams compete.

Mr. Jonaitis commented on the horrors that took place in Newton. It deeply touched his heart. We are in the process of making our schools even safer. He does not want us to go into a panic reality. Some people are unbalanced and can snap at any time. There are evil people out there. He would like trained personnel to have access to firearms in our schools that are in a secure location. He believes police should be able to get to our schools within 2 minutes. Doors are locked at a reasonable time once the students have entered the schools. We need to continue with our lock down and fire drills. Teachers will be there to protect your children from harm's way. Teaching is a labor of love and teachers will be there in times of crises to protect your child. We cannot turn our schools into prisons and fortresses. We make our schools as safe as we can.

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber thanks the police department for the increase police presence in the schools. The students appreciated this. We are as safe as can be at school. The pep rally that was held was a lot of fun. The attendance was low. She thanked Mr. Newton for addressing the students about the rumors. She also thanked Dr. Schumann for his SchoolMessenger messages.

Chairman Neville echoed the comments about our student representatives. He attended the EHS/FHS Basketball game and was impressed with the Rachel Challenge presentation at the half time to the 3 different charities. He thanked the students and staff for all they did. They raised over \$5K for these charities. We are extremely proud of you with your act of kindness.

Chairman Neville also thanked the police department and fire department for working with us to make our kids safe working on this Joint Security Committee. We will be a better community because of this joint effort.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Regular Meeting minutes of December 11, 2012 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mr. Sirard abstaining.

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak that the Special Meeting minutes of December 18, 2012 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-2** passed with changes mentioned by Mr. Jonaitis and both Mr. Sirard and Ms. Hall abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

a. For the Month of November 2012/13

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education accept the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of November, total expenditures amount to \$10,205,816.89, broken down between payroll totaling \$6,113,490.72 and other accounts totaling \$4,092,326.17. All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented."

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

b. Line Item Transfers, if any - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Neville stated the Board does not need to enter Executive Session at this time.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2013.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Donna Szewczak
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary