

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 13, 2015**

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 13, 2015.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Vin Grady, Timothy Neville, and Stacy Thurston

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Sirard, Peter Jonaitis, David Wawer & Tina LeBlanc

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent and EHS Student Representative Christine Luksic

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)** - None

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. Academic Office Update – as presented

Dr. Schumann introduced the new Chief Academic Officer Michelle Middleton and Interim Humanities Coordinator Meghann Burr to the Board. He added that Ms. McKernan will be leaving us for a new job working for the State of Connecticut Department of Education.

Secretary Grady presented Ms. McKernan with a gift from the Board. He thanked her for her hard work and tremendous impact she has made in Enfield. We wish you good luck in your new position at the State.

Ms. McKernan thanked the Board, Administration, Cabinet Members, Parents and Students. She has learned a lot from this community coming from a RESC. Enfield is a great community and there is nothing stopping us from being the best.

- c. January Events – as presented
- d. Special BOE Meeting – as presented
- e. Preparing for the Kindergarten Transition – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES** - None

9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Peabody was asked a couple of questions over the holiday break about the Suffield Vo-Ag seats that we were able to bring back for this fiscal year. This was accomplished by good fiscal management ending up with a surplus at the end of last year. The Town graciously allowed us to move this funding forward to fund the additional Vo-Ag seats.

Mr. Peabody would like to receive an update on the High School Transition. Are there any identifiable one-time costs? We need to keep these one-time costs out of the operating budget. A number of Town Council Members would also like to see this.

Mr. Peabody thanked the Town's Building and Grounds crew for their efforts and handling of the burst pipe at Enfield High over the Christmas break. There were some concerns that communication was not conveyed properly. The timeline that he was shown proves that we were informed in a timely manner and communication did go out to the EHS parents about the asbestos removal.

Mr. Peabody thanked Ms. McKernan for your service to Enfield. It has been greatly appreciated. You led us through Common Core and based on what he has seen, our approach was top notch.

Mrs. Unghire thanked Ms. McKernan for her time, energy and enthusiasm she shared with us. It was very contagious. She looks forward to working with Ms. Middleton and welcomed her.

Mrs. Thurston wished Ms. McKernan the best of luck. She also congratulated Ms. Middleton for her new position.

Mr. Neville stated we learned a lot from Ms. McKernan. You have taught us a lot about curriculum and brought high expectations to us. Your high level of energy was appreciated. You expected high expectations from us. You also aired on the side of the kids and he has held this in high regards. You have always showcased our students. Thank you for what you did for us and thank you for what we learned from you.

Mr. Neville would like the members of the Board to receive a copy of an article that was in the JI and Courant about magnet schools. They discussed the effectiveness report that is 4 years overdue from the State and a moratorium for building any additional magnet schools. He would like to see this report so we can discuss this with our legislators.

Mr. Grady thanked Ms. McKernan for your service to Enfield. He welcomes Ms. Middleton. You have great staff around you and a lot of dedicated employees to support you. He is sure you will do a good job. Thank you again Ms. McKernan for everything you did for our students.

Mr. Grady asked for your understanding during inclement weather days. There have been several comments made about the decisions made by the Superintendent. He is making a tough decision very early in the morning. He is looking out for the well being of all of our kids and staff. Please be a little bit more tolerant and understanding.

Mr. Peabody stated that he previously challenged Ms. McKernan to obtain grants that would offset the costs for her staff and she did this. He is now challenging Ms. Middleton to do the same thing.

Mr. Peabody stated we have a \$250K shortfall due to CREC tuitions. He would like this to be placed on the next Finance Committee agenda. He would like to see how we are going to address this shortfall so we do not need to go to the Town Council for additional funds.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Superintendent's FY2015-16 Budget Presentation**

Dr. Schumann presented his FY2015-16 proposed budget to the Board. He reviewed our vision, mission, spirit statement and promise for the Enfield Public Schools along with our values. He explained our 5 domain areas: Finance, Personnel, Technology, Academics and Students.

Dr. Schumann explained to run our district, the cost is \$68,212,989. We receive 51% of this amount from local support, 43% from the State and 6% from grants.

Dr. Schumann stated that our staff has determined that 40.3 new positions would enhance learning for our students in the next fiscal year. He reviewed the recommended new positions. We would need an additional \$2.2 million dollars to accomplish this. He identified the transitional items needed. We are only recommending one item from this list or \$57K for staff for the new culinary kitchen at EHS and supplies to open this up in September 2015. To fund this, it will increase our budget .09%.

Dr. Schumann explained why we will not be able to support any of the other items on their list of wants for next year. He reviewed the necessary contractual obligation increases for salaries, retirements, benefits, workers compensation, special education costs, magnet tuitions and ITPC. All of these items would increase the budget by 8.75%. We are only recommending filling one position in the culinary kitchen. It would be a shame to leave this position unfilled.

Dr. Schumann reviewed the cultural diversity and ALICE in Enfield. We are finding that more families are struggling. We can change this with education. He reviewed the pay scales with the different levels of education. We are working to give our students a greater chance for success with education. We are working to change gender earning gaps for female students.

Dr. Schumann added the administration is ready to work with the Board on the budget to move this budget for the Town Council's consideration. We know the process will be challenging but the future of our students needs to be what motivates us.

Dr. Schumann stated that each Board member will receive a copy of the presentation and a budget book.

Mr. Grady thanked Dr. Schumann for the presentation.

**b. FY2015-16 Budget Discussion**

Mr. Grady would like to defer this item until the next meeting since four members of the Board are not present tonight.

Mr. Neville likes the idea of the dates being laid out for the public for our budget discussions. He is assuming this is posted on the website. He does not want us to cancel any of these meetings. This way the public will know where we will be and can attend if there schedule permits. We want them to see the transparency of our budget discussions.

Mr. Neville would like Board members to make all requests to the Chair for additional items needed for the budget discussions. This way we will all receive the same information in a timely fashion.

Mr. Neville would also like to bring back our Legislators during this budget process so they can hear some of our concerns.

Mr. Peabody stated in order to streamline communications, when asking for information e-mail all Board members with the questions. He would like to know how soon we can setup the Budget Workshop schedule.

Mr. Neville stated we are booked every Tuesday for either a budget workshop or regular Board meeting.

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **a. Building Committee**

Mr. Neville reported the Building Committee will present an update to the Board at our February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Neville stated there were two separate items that occurred at Enfield High over the Christmas break that caused some confusion. One item was planned to remove asbestos and the other wasn't. Additional funding was required to accomplish this. We needed to remove the asbestos tiles from the pipe burst.

Mr. Neville stated there is a two week delay. We will also need to remove an old fuel tank that will add some costs to the budget. Currently they are hitting ledge which is also causing additional work. The Steele is up and the flooring is being poured. In mid February, we will have a presentation on FF&E. The transition committee has been very involved in this process. We are hoping the surprises we encounter will be minimal.

## **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2014 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Special Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2014 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-0** passed unanimously.

## **14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None**

## **15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

## **16. AUDIENCES - None**

## **17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

## **18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2015.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Vincent M. Grady  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary