

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 29, 2013**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at John F. Kennedy Middle School Cafe, located at 155 Raffia Road, Enfield, CT on January 29, 2013.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Chairman Neville.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Neville
3. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Neville announced the fire evacuation announcement.
4. **ROLL CALL:**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peter Jonaitis, Kevin Fealy, Jen Rancourt (arrived at 6:33 PM)

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

5. **STUDENT PRESENTATIONS:**

Dr. Schumann stated tonight you will hear two presentations that Board members have asked about. The Talented and Gifted Program at the middle school (TAG) and information about the iPad Consortium. We will start with Mr. Zawodniak.

a. **Tag (Brian Zawodniak)**

John F. Kennedy (JFK) teacher Brian Zawodniak stated he is here tonight with some of his JFK students and they will tell you what they have been doing with the TAG program. They can also be found on Facebook.

TAG students Zach Healy, Rose Garrow, Alania Santos, Sydney Nash, and Brian Ruel, Alex Krawiec and Julia Radziewicz spoke about the recycling program at JFK; problem solving; history day competition; iPads and using them as a research tool. They also have used the iPads for the energy convention and the invention convention.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked the students when they are recycling and problem solving, is this something the group decided to do? JFK Student Mr. Healey stated they had a set goal. Some students were working on anti bullying. Grade 6 students wanted to work on recycling and to beautify the school campus. Mrs. LeBlanc thanked the students for their choice.

Ms. Hall asked about the energy expo and what you will be doing there. Several JFK students stated they will visit solar panel companies and see if they would like to donate any materials to help them with alternative energy sources.

Mrs. Szewczak stated you can be found on Facebook. JFK students stated you can like us on Facebook by searching for "JFK Middle School Talented and Gifted Program, Enfield, Connecticut".

Chairman Neville asked the students about the grant they are applying for and the green house plan. JFK students stated they plan to place the greenhouse in the back of the school. We will search the internet for funds to purchase a greenhouse. If we get a greenhouse, we will donate most of our profits "food" to the Enfield Food Shelf.

Chairman Neville stated that sounds like a wonderful idea. He would like to have them come back and update the Board on their progress. Board members congratulated the students.

b. iPads (Matt Gaffney)

Dr. Schumann stated we will now hear about iPads in the classrooms and will see a demonstration on Apple TV. He welcomed Mr. Gaffney and students.

Mr. Gaffney stated we have 28 iPads and a cart along with Apple TV. He reviewed the apps/programs they are using.

JFK students, Morgan Pierce, Zach Hallquist, Charles Fields and Kyle DeWitt reviewed using Educreations. They reviewed using a digital whiteboard, video lessons, and classroom use. They showed how to use the E-Clicker and the immediate feedback with the E-Clicker, class results that ensures student understanding about the materials taught. They reviewed the Math Studio, Full Graphing Calculator and the tool for explorations into functions. They reviewed Quick Graph, the ability to graph three dimensional functions with rotation. They reviewed TenMarks on-line homework, video lessons, on-line assessments including midterm, amplifiers and additional practice. They reviewed preliminary results and changes with scores.

Mr. Gaffney stated by using these programs students have doubled their understanding of materials. We will compare the results to other classrooms that do not have TenMarks.

Mrs. Rancourt thanked them for the presentation. She is a math geek and loved seeing the presentation. She asked what classes are you using TenMarks with. Mr. Gaffney stated Algebra I and II. Mrs. Rancourt stated the E-clicker is just being used in the classroom.

Mrs. Rancourt asked if students have the Quick Graph program they would not need graphing calculators. Mr. Gaffney stated this program can do more than the graphing calculators currently do. This could be equivalent to a TI-89 or a TI-Inspired than to a TI-83 or TI-84.

Mrs. Rancourt stated with TenMarks, do they need to bring their iPads home or can they connect to the website to work on homework. Mr. Gaffney stated the students will bring the iPads home at times.

Mrs. Szewczak stated this was part of the iPad pilot program. Are these part of the requirements for the program? Mr. Gaffney stated there are no requirements to the program. We need to collect student data on some of the applications to show student growth and report the gains made by the students.

Chairman Neville stated all students in the TAG program are using iPads. Can the students show their work using the whiteboard for the entire class to view? Mr. Gaffney stated they can but it is password protected.

Chairman Neville asked about the homework data that is collected and will it go right to their grades. Mr. Gaffney stated TenMarks will collect all the data for you and can give you information on grading, scores, student progression, reports on the strands the students are working on with subsets. We can see how the students are progressing with the common core. It can be loaded into our grading program. If students are out sick, they can log into TenMarks and see what is being done in the class and work from home.

Chairman Neville stated you could send them the assignments to work at home. Do you find a difference when teaching your Algebra classes using TenMarks and regular teaching in a classroom? Mr. Gaffney would rather use TenMarks. Students love to use iPads. Using Apple TV you can teach from anywhere in the room and help students at the same time.

Mrs. Szewczak asked if there is any problem with buffering? Mr. Gaffney stated no. Currently he is the only person using Apple TV. IT is in the process of upgrading the service. Apple TV is also password protected.

Chairman Neville asked how long have they been using Apple TV? Mr. Gaffney stated one month. It is available at Fermi and JFK. They are in the process of adding this across the town for the other schools to use.

Chairman Neville asked the students which math class do they prefer? The students agreed they like using the iPads better. You do not need to bring math books home. This is more interactive. Sometimes it can be confusing without the math books because you cannot ask questions when you are home. Once we are in class, Mr. Gaffney addresses our concerns.

Chairman Neville asked if grading is more or less work. Mr. Gaffney stated it is less work. The students will know the grades immediately. He would then transfer the grades.

Mrs. Rancourt asked if another teacher could use this program even if they were not familiar with Algebra? Mr. Gaffney stated anyone could use it. There is a teaching tool that is built into the amplifiers.

Mrs. Rancourt asked if the curriculum with TenMark goes along with the Common Core State Standards. Mr. Gaffney stated the curriculum used with TenMark starts with grade 1 through grade 12 in algebra through pre-calculus. If a student is having difficulties with a particular task, he can assign the student to work on material used in a prior grade to help with the problem area.

Chairman Neville asked Mr. Gaffney if he would like to use textbooks? Mr. Gaffney would prefer using the iPads.

Chairman Neville thanked Mr. Gaffney for his presentation and also asked him to come back again.

6. AUDIENCES: - None

7. 2013-14 BUDGET DISCUSSION CONTINUED:

a. Discussion Related to Goal #1 – Implementing a Rigorous Curriculum

Dr. Schumann stated Ms. McKernan will review new Board Goal #1 and implementing a rigorous curriculum and Board Goal #4 expanding data use capacity. Dr. Schumann explained how the budget books work. Additional materials will be added as we go through the budget process.

Ms. McKernan stated Goal #1 is to develop a rigorous core curriculum, implement highly effective research based instructional strategies and make instructional decisions based on the close analysis of student performance data. She reviewed our theory of action – if Enfield Public Schools adopt rigorous curriculum standards, provide effective professional development opportunities to educators to enhance their instructional practice and use student achievement data to inform decision making, then student outcomes will improve and students will be adequately prepared for college and career success.

Ms. McKernan reviewed components to Goal #1, rigorous curriculum; highly effective instruction and professional development and assessments that inform instruction. She reviewed curriculum writing and alignment for English/Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Math Assessments and Performance Tasks in all disciplines. From the feedback she has received, an elementary writing program is needed. They have expanded the Great Books program in grades 2-8. They need to increase novels, informational texts, e-Readers and supplies to align with the Common Core State Standards.

Ms. McKernan reviewed highly effective instruction for external professional learning opportunities,

in-district professional learning opportunities, great books program, on-line learning laboratory, targeted instructional opportunities, student support academy and unit/credit recovery program, expand the iPad Consortium II program and e-Reader Solution Program. She reviewed assessments that inform instruction with computer adaptive testing environment, and expand e-Reader Solution program.

b. Discussion Related to Goal #4 – Expand Data Use Capacity

Ms. McKernan reviewed Board Goal #4 – to research, design and implement an integrated solution for collecting, warehousing and analyzing student performance data. She reviewed our theory of action – if all educators develop the skills to access and analyze student performance data, then instructional decisions will be informed by student performance data and educators will be able to target the specific needs of every student.

Ms. McKernan reviewed a Data Warehousing System. It will provide educators the ability to track all students across all assessments; aggregate student data across schools; disaggregate data into subgroups, schools, and by group; look at individual questions and strands to understand student strengths and weaknesses; track effectiveness of tiered intervention; and use student performance data to meet requirements of the state's new teacher evaluation system.

Ms. McKernan reviewed the budget impact for Great Books, training and materials for \$25,000; e-Readers for \$21,000; Computer Adaptive Testing for \$14,400; On-line Professional Development Lab for \$50,000; new Elementary School Writing Program for \$88,000; iPad Consortium II for \$100,000 (200 more iPads); Data Warehousing System for \$23,900 for a total of \$322,300K.

Ms. McKernan reviewed the benefits for Goal 1 & 4. Our curriculum will be aligned to the Common Core; performance tasks will be aligned with the Smarter Balanced Assessment expectations; create on-line professional development lab; build teacher capacity; expand our resources to meet CCSS expectations; establish a district-wide writing program; provide targeted support for students; increase use of iPad technology; provide students experience with Computer Adaptive Testing environments and support teachers to use data in making instructional decisions.

Mrs. Rancourt asked what will be purchased for the e-Readers? Ms. McKernan stated there are several products like My Own Reader, Benchmark Universe and Big Universe that are subscription programs that can be available in all classrooms. We can bring our classroom libraries up to the levels they need to be at. Students can access them on other devices besides iPads and tablets.

Mrs. Rancourt asked about the computer adaptive testing. Ms. McKernan stated she would like to pilot a program next year in certain grades. Students would take 3 benchmark tests during the year so we could benchmark the scores. This is similar to what the smarter balanced assessment testing environment would be like.

Mrs. Rancourt asked if the data warehousing will be software or a web based cloud program. Mr. Bourassa stated it would tie into our programs.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about expanding the Student Support Academy and a Credit Recovery Program. Her child is in grade 3 and is one of the participants in the Support Academy. He loves the program. This program can give the students additional support beyond what she provides. She is happy to hear the support is there with student participation.

Ms. McKernan thanked Board members for allowing them to pilot this program. It will let us see if it will work and appreciates the support.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the on-line learning support helps the students. Learning libraries are needed. Will this becoming out of our Technology accounts? Ms. McKernan stated this would fall under instructional items and programs. This is tied to Goal #1. We have a great deal of knowledge in our district.

Mr. Sirard asked about the student's academic records being stored in a cloud storage account. Will parents have access to this? Ms. McKernan is not sure if the program we will be using will have a parent portal. Our e-School program allows for parents to access it.

Mr. Bourassa added it also depends on how much the school district wants to share with the parents. The district can decide on what to show them.

Mr. Sirard would like to see everything that his child is doing. He wants to know what they are being taught, how they are being evaluated by the teacher and what the curriculum is. As a parent, he does not want to be restricted.

Ms. McKernan stated as we build our on-line learning library, we can expand as we move forward.

Mrs. Rancourt stated we have HAC and parents can view their children's grades. She does not need to know every benchmark her children make. She wants to see the grades. There are two different things.

Mr. Sirard stated he watches everything his children does and talks to their teachers on a regular basis. He does not want a wall between him and his child's teacher. He wants to be able to access everything the teacher can so he can communicate with the teacher before it becomes a problem.

Chairman Neville stated looking at on-line data and particular strands is helpful. HAC allows parents to see the grading for their children. As this process evolves and the data we collect may not be necessary for everyone to access.

Chairman Neville addressed some of the budget items like, Great Books, e-Reader Program and Computer Adapted Testing and asked if these are one-time expenditures or annual expenditures. Ms. McKernan stated the Great Books would be on-going for professional development. The e-Reader Program is a subscription that would be an annual cost. The Computer Adaptive Testing would be a bridge to the Smarter Balanced Assessments. The On-Line Professional Development Lab will be a higher cost to start and the fee would be lower for on-going costs. The iPad Consortium is something we will continue to expand upon. The Data Warehousing System costs will continue. It will start higher and will drop down for upkeep costs.

Chairman Neville asked about the iPad Consortium. He is pleased by what he is seeing. We are not using textbooks as the primary source. Are you looking at on-line subscriptions for textbooks? Ms. McKernan stated we are looking at e-Readers. There should be a library of books for students to access. E-Readers can bring in more books at a lower cost. We are looking at more on-line solutions and will continue this process.

Chairman Neville stated e-Readers are saving us time and money. There are some efficiencies gained by doing this. Even if we bring this in gradually, we can pilot this and see how it works. Ms. McKernan stated she introduced Mr. Gaffney to TenMarks. We are receiving data from the teachers from the iPad Consortium I and will compare the data to see the efficiencies and costs saved.

Chairman Neville stated he is glad to see the Graphing Calculator Program. He spent \$100's of dollars purchasing calculators for his 4 children. Ms. McKernan stated this is a perfect example of the cost savings by using this graphing program. The new Smarter Balanced Assessments will also have calculators for student access.

Mr. Sirard stated he is all about efficiencies. He asked about the long-term history with Apple. Some of their products had a short-term shelf life. He grew up with Apple Computers. He has seen this with similar applications. The machine is only as good as its support. His concern is with subscription fees. He is looking for academic accountability. He does not want to see applications becoming obsolete. TenMarks is working now and does not to see it become obsolete in a few years.

Mr. Bourassa stated the Smarter Balanced Assessment is projecting to be in place 7 years from now. Windows XP will be the next item to become obsolete. They are encouraging people to use Windows 7. If you can get 7 years from any product you are doing okay.

Ms. McKernan stated the teachers will be looking at the data per application. We are also looking at free applications.

Mrs. Rancourt asked about software packages. She looked at another school district and they offer a snow package. She would like to utilize programs like this when she is at home so she can work with her children. She asked if TenMarks is an application or a website program?

Ms. McKernan stated TenMarks is a program that we have a subscription to access. There is a free version of TenMarks you can use. She looks forward to showing these programs to the Board.

Mrs. Rancourt stated she downloads programs and has her child do additional work at home. If this is something we can do for parents she is all for it.

Chairman Neville thanked Ms. McKernan. It is nice to see the teachers using the piloted programs. Ms. McKernan thanked Board members for supporting the pilot programs.

8. FY2013-14 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Dr. Schumann stated you have two calendars before you - our current Board calendar and the 2013-14 calendar. We are in the process of discussing the proposed calendar with the bargaining units. He reviewed current professional development days and the proposed 2013-14 professional development days with Board members. We are proposing to continue professional development throughout the school year monthly with seven (7) half day PD days. We will be able to work with staff on many different topics monthly. If full day Kindergarten is approved we will remove some things from the proposed 2013-14 calendar that are high-lighted in red and yellow. This will increase instruction hours for students.

Dr. Schumann asked Board members to look at the proposed calendar and we will place it on a February agenda for Board approval.

Mrs. Szewczak asked if Election Day would be a staff in-service day. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct. Since it will not be a presidential election we can use JFK for a staff in-service day.

Chairman Neville asked Board members to review the proposed calendar and we will place this on the February 26th agenda for adoption.

9. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS:

Ms. Hall stated that both she and Dr. Schumann will attend the Legislative Breakfast on February 7th. If any Board member is interested in attending, please let us know.

Mr. Sirard stated he will attend the Enfield KITE Trivia Night on February 2nd to support the Enfield First Readers. The event will be held at Mount Carmel and starts at 7:00 PM. He hopes to see you all there.

Mrs. Szewczak stated the Building Committee will conduct interviews for the short-listed Architects on Saturday, February 2nd at Enfield High School in Room B105. The interviews will be televised.

Mrs. LeBlanc supports the Support Academy and is thrilled that her son is participating. She stated the benefits are worth the time. EHS and FHS will hold their program of studies night for grade 8 students. Enfield High will hold theirs on February 4th. Enrico Fermi will hold theirs on January 31st.

Chairman Neville read a letter he received from CREC regarding the preschool tuitions being waived for this year only. The costs for these tuitions is \$64K. There is a bill regarding this at the State Department of Education. He believes we will need to pay for these tuitions next year.

Ms. Hall stated that is not necessarily true. It will depend on what happens with the legislature.

Chairman Neville thanked all of the presenters tonight and the students. It was fun to watch the students. We look forward to seeing the progress continue.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION - MATTERS RELATED TO SECURITY:

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Board enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Security at 8:07 PM

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

The Executive Session ended at 8:57 PM. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard to adjourn the Special Meeting of January 29, 2013.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Donna Szewczak
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary