

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 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 March 10, 2015.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Raymond Peabody
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Raymond Peabody
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Sirard announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Timothy Neville, Stacy Thurston and Peter Jonaitis

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Wawer, Vin Grady & Tina LeBlanc

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent and FHS Student Representative Eric Barnes

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **JFK Student Athletes**

John F. Kennedy Middle School Housemaster Connell Clark stated that this year's boys and girls basketball teams were both undefeated. He added that the average GPA for the girl's basketball team was 10.21 which is the equivalent to an A- average and the boy's GPA was a 9.37 which is equivalent to a B+ average. He introduced the girl's basketball coach – Kim Nadeau. She is also a Guidance Counselor at JFK. The boy's basketball coach Katie Hardy who is also a grade 6 teacher was not present. Each student was presented with a certificate from the Board recognizing their accomplishment for this year's undefeated basketball seasons.

JFK Girls – Undefeated 2014-15 Season (10-0)

Jessica Marcotte; Morgan Ludwick; Holly Jutras; Kaitlyn Blethen; Madison Daly; Shelby Bedard; Cassandra Urso; Victoria Grigaitis; Samantha Langan; Samantha Ferrato; Kaitlyn Bourque; Tori Geaglone; Olivia Mannette ; and Jasmine Kopacz

JFK Boys – Undefeated 2014-15 Season (10-0)

Jadon Archer; Kyle Bak; Alexander Krawiec; Kyle Menaker; Matthew O'Connell; Christian Pasini; Lloyd Rowland; Kevin Wilson; Matthew Bourque; Vincent Delano; Devon Edwards; Owen Lawler; Brandon Smith; Cameron Hicks; Dylan Hurlburt; and Carina Filippa, Manager

Chairman Sirard congratulated the students for their hard work and dedication. You do us proud – thank you.

b. Enfield Legislators

Chairman Sirard stated our Enfield Legislators are unable to attend tonight's meeting. They were called into a Special Legislative Session. They have been invited again to attend the April 14th meeting.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. March Events – as presented

Mr. Neville asked if the March 11th and 12th meetings will be broadcasted live on E-TV from the Enfield Room. He knows the Town Council meeting on March 16th will be broadcast live from Council Chambers.

Dr. Schumann is not sure but will look into this. He added that he believed the meetings in the Enfield Room would be taped and shown on E-TV at a later time.

8. AUDIENCES

Shannon Grant, Yale Drive – Ms. Grant stated she is here about the budget. During the last budget session, a 7th grade team was cut at JFK. She has a daughter in grade 7 that is also in the honors program. There are 30 students in the honor classes. The students were asked to write about why they should remain in the honors program. Next year they cannot safely have 30 kids in the science program. She urged the Board to add an additional team or add a block schedule format for the honors classes. Any cuts from the honors program will affect our kids negatively. Thank you.

Maurice LaRosa, Litchfield Drive – Mr. LaRosa stated he is here about safety of our students that walk to JFK. The Superintendent's office has been made aware of this situation. The school is offering a winter bus for the students that live along Raffia Road. His grade 6 daughter walks to school from the Litchfield Drive area. We are just under the required distance for transportation to/from school. We have had a bad winter and the kids are walking in the streets. The snow banks are extremely high and now the snow is melting and will freeze overnight which is causing dangerous walking conditions. The buses are going by the students. There are 12 kids that walk to school in his neighborhood. He is not looking for door-to-door service. All of our student's safety should be a concern, not just some of the students. He would like the Board to allow the buses to stop and pick up these walkers during the winter months. Thank you.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Peabody thanked the audience members for their comments. We will follow up on these items.

Mr. Peabody congratulated the Enfield/Fermi Hockey Team. He wished the EHS girls basketball team good luck. He added that all of our students should be supported while going after their dreams.

Mrs. Unghire stated that she attended the First Readers Ceremony and thoroughly enjoyed the awards ceremony. She thanked the community for attending the School Security Officer forums and for the e-mails the Board and Town Council members received. She also congratulated the Fermi-Enfield High Hockey Team.

Mr. Neville congratulated the John F. Kennedy students for their athletic and academic

achievements. He attended the Kite meeting last week and would like to share the 12 page document Dr. Schumann presented to the Board at the February 17th Special meeting and would like the codes to be added to the document for further clarification. The minutes clarified the codes. He would like this added with the Chairman's permission

Mr. Neville asked about the security issue requiring parent volunteers to be fingerprinted. This issue is still a concern. It has been sent to Mr. Wawer to review the Board's policy at the next Policy Committee meeting. He would like to see us expedite this as soon as possible. There is a lot of concern about this within the community.

Mrs. Thurston congratulated the First Readers. She attended the awards ceremony and the kids were so proud. She is very proud of all of the students.

Mrs. Thurston added that she has also received phone calls about the finger printing of parent volunteers. We need volunteers in our schools for programs like Read Across American. Some parents were not allowed into the buildings because they were not fingerprinted. This is something we need to get on top of.

Mr. Neville stated the Future Use of Fermi Committee still needs to give the Board a summary of their findings. He has also received phone calls about this. He would like to add this to the next Board meeting so we can have some closure about this.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the grade 6 and 7 honors classes are usually very large and the numbers will decrease in grade 8. You start to see a change with the students as they move through the grade levels. Some of the student's ability level will change in most subject areas.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to see us stop and let the students that are walking ride the bus during the winter months providing there is enough room. He does not see this being a problem.

Mr. Jonaitis agreed with Mr. Neville that the Board will need to make a decision regarding the Fermi building. This has been dragged on way too long.

Mr. Jonaitis agreed with Mr. Neville and Mrs. Thurston regarding the fingerprinting policy. He is against fingerprinting our volunteers and we have gone way overboard on this item. He would like to see the Board stop requiring volunteers to be fingerprinted.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he looked at the elementary school report cards. The K-2 report cards are very detailed. They look more like a guide for parents for conferences. The grade 3-5 report cards are vague.

Mr. Neville added the Curriculum Committee will look at the elementary report cards at their next meeting on March 23rd. You are invited to attend the meeting to share in our group discussion with parents.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if teachers will be included in this discussion. Mr. Neville stated their input was received. There are concerns from parents and teachers about the report cards. Ms. Middleton will share her findings with the Curriculum Committee on March 23rd at 5:00 PM. Board members are invited to attend the meeting.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the student transports to area hospitals are costing the district any money. Dr. Schumann stated there is no cost to the district for any of these transports.

Mr. Jonaitis asked Dr. Schumann to explain to the audience why the Board cannot be part of any personnel issues in the beginning. He added that we cannot receive any of the details regarding the personnel matter while the investigation is going on.

Dr. Schumann stated in most cases, the Board will not be part of any matters related to personnel with our collective bargaining units in the beginning of any investigations. Part of the process starts with the administration. If the person being investigated is not satisfied with the administration, the next process will go through the collective bargaining unit's grievance process. If the Board is involved in the first process, they would need to excuse themselves from the grievance process causing us to use an outside arbitration panel. The administration will attempt to resolve the matter with the bargaining unit. The Board will ultimately have the final say for with any grievance hearings brought to the Board level.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked Dr. Schumann for the explanation. It is not that the Board does not care, but is being left out of the beginning process for a reason. He urged community members to stop with the negative comments about the Board not caring or doing our jobs.

Chairman Sirard also congratulated the Fermi/Enfield Hockey Team and the student athletes that were recognized tonight. You make the Enfield Public Schools look very good.

Chairman Sirard stated we will look into your concerns about the safety of our students. He understands your safety concerns. We have a strict policy in place and we will look into this.

Chairman Sirard stated he personally likes background checks. Fingerprinting will be addressed by the Policy Committee. Volunteers can be with the students providing they are with staff members that have been fingerprinted. Our volunteers should not be turned away. He feels fingerprinting should be done but not every year.

Mr. Neville stated the Policy Committee will discuss this topic and if needed, they will make any necessary changes to our current policy that addresses fingerprinting. He feels we should hold this discussion until the Policy Committee reviews the policy.

Mr. Peabody stated you can get the same background check without requiring fingerprinting.

Chairman Sirard stated the way he is looking at this is as long as you are not alone with any student and are being supervised by a certified staff member, you should be okay. He has a pistol permit and is required to be fingerprinted every 5 years. You can be escorted into our buildings in accordance with our current Board policy and providing that you will not be alone with any student. He also added that you cannot just show up at a school to come for a visit. You need to have a purpose to be allowed in our buildings.

Chairman Sirard stated the Use of Fermi Committee was waiting to receive information. We now have that information and will set up a time for the committee to meet before our next regular Board meeting. Unfortunately, we are in budget season and most of our meetings have been consumed by this. He also does not like to hold meetings unless we have something to discuss.

Chairman Sirard added the Invention Convention will be held on March 21st at Enrico Fermi High School from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM. He encouraged everyone to see the great ideas from our JFK students. They are also looking for judges for this event.

11. **NEW BUSINESS** - None
10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None
12. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - a. **Building Committee**

Mr. Neville reported the Building Committee met last week and will attend the March 24th Board meeting. They will give the Board an update and will need Board approval. Everything is going as scheduled and he will send the Board a list of their monthly activities. If you have any questions, please contact him.

b. Curriculum Committee – already addressed

c. Future Use of Fermi – already addressed

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Special Meeting Minutes A of February 17, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire that the Special Meeting Minutes b of February 17, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel.

A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

The Board remained in Council Chambers for the Executive Session at 7:45 PM. Mr. Drezek and Dr. Schumann joined the Board in Executive Session. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

Open Session:

The Board ended the Executive Session at 8:03 PM.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2015.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary