

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 26, 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 March 26, 2013.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Neville.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Joyce Hall
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Joyce 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, Joyce Hall, Tom Sirard, Jen Rancourt and Timothy Neville

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent and FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

- a. Special Recognition

Dr. Schumann stated tonight we are recognizing our Board members as part of Board Appreciation Month. Students from Henry Barnard, Prudence Crandall, Enfield Street, Nathan Hale, Hazardville Memorial, Edgar H. Parkman and Eli Whitney Elementary Schools, wrote letters, thank you cards, notes, drew pictures and made banners thanking Board members for everything they do for the students.

Students from John F. Kennedy Middle School, Enfield High and Enrico Fermi High School each thanked the Board for everything they have done and presented them with gifts and read letters from Leadership Academy, Girls of the Future Group, Young Professional Campaign, Rachel's Challenge and gift bags from both high schools were given to each Board member including letters thanking the Board for everything they have done.

Also present at the Board meeting to recognizing the Board are Principals Mrs. Cox-Blackwell, Mrs. Ingalls, Mr. Van Tassel, Mr. Newton, Assistant Principals Mrs. Cressotti, Mr. Longey, Mr. Clark and Town Council Members Mr. Kienzler and Mr. Nelson.

Dr. Schumann thanked the members of the Board for dedicating countless hours to the students by volunteering your time. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated by all of us.

Chairman Neville thanked everyone for the recognition Board member's received. We volunteer our time for the students. Hearing about all the great things the students are doing is the gravy on top of our day. Thank you.

Mrs. Leblanc thanked everyone for the surprise. This has made her week. Her reward is seeing the students in school and at school sponsored events like athletic contests, band and chorus concerts. Seeing the student's succeeding and being happy means the world to her. Thank you.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked the students. He also stated he was really impressed with the JFK students.

Mr. Fealy also thanked the students for everything. He truly cares for the students and wants you to have all the tools that are needed for you to succeed.

Mr. Grady was deeply touched by this. He wants the students to have the tools that are needed for them to succeed whether you go to college or a vocational school to make you successful. Our job is to get you there. He believes we have done a good job so far. We are in our budget season and he hopes the budget will reflect this. Thank you.

Mrs. Szewczak stated she is overwhelmed by your thanks. This job can be overwhelming at times. We hope that we are making a difference. Listening to the students expressing their feelings tonight was rewarding. Keep up the good work.

Mr. Sirard stated he has never been thanked before. He is shocked and thanked the students. He is very proud of the students especially those that spoke tonight. He is extremely proud of you. Thank you.

Ms. Hall stated this is the first time that she has ever been thanked as a Board member. Reading the notes from the students and the gifts we received are outstanding. Thank you.

Mrs. Rancourt thanked the students for the gifts. She visits the schools every week and enjoys seeing the students. She loves to attend sporting events. Thank you.

Chairman Neville thanked the students for their acts of kindness that were started by Rachel's Challenge. He thanked everyone that contributed. Thank you.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. School Closings – as presented
- b. Security Community Conversation – as presented
- c. Consolidated High School Colors – as presented
- d. CREC Board of Directors – as presented
- e. Grants Report – as presented
- f. Personnel Report – as presented

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Sue Braun, Light Street – Mrs. Braun cannot attend the Security Conversation tomorrow night but wanted to express her concern for guns in the elementary schools. Guns do not belong in our schools. Police can carry guns while in our schools. Our SRO's are trained police officers that drive a vehicle that is visible in the parking lot for everyone to see. Her children are taught to not fight or resort to violence. Weapons do not belong in our schools. She was very upset by what happened at Sandy Hook. Students go outside for recess and gym. Who will protect them when they are outside? She would rather see the money that is being spent for security guards used for an alternative high school.

Jennifer Moncuse, Booth Street – Mrs. Moncuse is here in support of full day Kindergarten and hopes the budget presented by the Town Council will support this. New Common Core State

Standards and new testing are all part of a 21<sup>st</sup> century education. We cannot continue with 19<sup>th</sup> century tools. The surrounding towns are also going with full day Kindergarten. She supports increasing our mill rate to have full day Kindergarten. We need to be creative and support this. Parents appreciate the hard work being done by the Board and next year the full day Kindergarten students can write letters thanking the Board for full day Kindergarten.

April Mattoon, Cross Street – Ms. Mattoon thanked Board members for everything you do. She stated she also cannot attend the Safety Conversation tomorrow night. She likes the idea of having security guards and does not feel our schools are safe enough. She went into a school after hours and there was no one there to check her. She supports full day Kindergarten and would pay to have her child attend like they are doing in Massachusetts.

Tom Walsh, Rosanne Street – Mr. Walsh has grandchildren in our schools and they need to be safe. The schools were designed years ago and enhancements are needed. He is not sure what a security guard will do. The money could be used to make our schools safer. What will be done when the kids are outside playing on the playgrounds? Who will protect them? What happened in Sandy Hook was horrendous. You are trying to do something to make everyone feel good. One security guard will not help. Bullet proof glass and doors that can be locked from a central location are needed. Our police patrols can go through the schools. A SSO will be of no help. Better security will be included in the new high school. Moving the students from JFK to Fermi and moving more grade schools into JFK would help. This would be easier to keep them safer if they were in one location. Thank you for listening.

Bernadette Fleming, Church Street – Ms. Fleming has 5 children from Head Start up to high school. Her older child would have benefited from full day Kindergarten. He is doing better now but is behind his peers. Her other child was in the reading program at Barnard and has benefited from the support and he is now a First Reader. She is opposed to armed guards in our schools. All the schools are checking ID's when you come into the schools. Head Start does not have this capability to check ID's. She would rather see us use the funding to train the staff and make the schools more secure and to know what to do if a situation arises. She is against having SSO in our schools.

Jen Stone, Webster Road – Mrs. Stone has 4 children in our schools. The oldest is at Fermi and the youngest will be in Kindergarten in the fall. Education is important to her and her family. She hopes the Town Council will support the Boards request for the budget and full day Kindergarten. The new state standards will require our children to know more. Kindergarten is more than just play time. Our children deserve full day Kindergarten. She cannot attend the Security Conversation tomorrow and is not sure how she feels about armed guards. She does not want to see our children become afraid and urged Board members to consider this.

Nick Ide, Fairview Avenue – Mr. Ide stated some of you may be in favor of SSO's. He reviewed statistics from the CDC. It is more of a gamble to have guards in our schools than to not have them. A guard can accidentally discharge their weapon while in a school, more than a guard shooting an intruder. There have been plenty of other school shootings where they had armed guards present like at Virginia Tech and Columbine. Things can always go wrong no matter how many security cautions you have in place. If someone has the intent to go to a school, they will probably shoot the SSO. This will not create a good atmosphere in the schools. It will be more like a prison. Thank you for listening to him.

Ronald Deskee, Quaker Lane – Mr. Deskee does not want armed guards in our schools. The money can be used for other security precautions making our schools safer. It will not prevent a scenario from happening. He supports what Mr. Ide has stated.

Jill Krawiec, Town Farm Road – Mrs. Krawiec stated tonight is a great night to be here. You all

do a great job and she voted for you and trusts your decisions and will respect your decision. You have received the information and guidance needed to make the correct decision. She is here about the security guards in our schools. We need to do something. A gun can create a problem but it will be a deterrent. If we could secretly have our guards carry squirt guns without anyone knowing would not be reasonable. The deterrent is the SSO. This scares her but it is one extra level that is there to protect our children. She does not like this but we need to do something. She voted for the Board and backs you up. She is also in favor of full day Kindergarten.

John Fox, Sandpiper Road – Mr. Fox is glad to see so many people here in support of education. He has high hopes. He is optimistic with the Board and the New Superintendent and getting some of these things that need to be addressed. We closed a school due to lower enrollment numbers. We live in different times and this is worth addressing. He would like us to take our time and step back like Board member Ms. Hall has stated. We can put guards in our schools and it may deter someone. We need to look at the State recommendations. We cannot afford this. If we received grant money to support the security guards, that would be okay. You need to provide the best education for our students. He would like us to look at what other towns are doing. We can do other measurable things like an alternative school to address the students that are dropping out. There are other things we can be doing. Let's take our time and put together a plan.

Ray Gwozdz, Moody Road – Mr. Gwozdz stated schools should be a sanctuary. Armed security guards will not make our schools safer. He read statements from several sources regarding gun safety. Innocent bystanders can be hurt by stray bullets. Bullet proof glass would be better served. Increasing lock down drills and training would be a better use of our money than SSO's. He commends the students that spoke tonight and that addressed the Town Council about this. These students have a voice that should be heard and hopes they do not become disillusioned.

Stephany Post, Green Valley Drive – Ms. Post is against SSO's in our schools. She will not attend the Security Conversation tomorrow. Where does the protection stop? She is a bus driver. Should we arm our buses? Students are outside waiting for the bus, they are outside of the school waiting for the school to open. Who will be there to protect them? Parkman's playground is by the road. Some of our schools do not have fences. We could do so many other things to improve the safety of our students with the money being used for the SRO's. We should be addressing textbook needs and suicide protection instead of this. We have more pressing issues to address. She thanked the Board.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Approve Safe Grad Donations**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education approves \$500.00 to the Enrico Fermi Safe Grad Committee and \$500.00 to the Enfield High School Safe Grad Committee.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Jonaitis asked how many students participate in the Safe Grad activities. Mr. Grady stated quite a few of the graduating students participate.

Mrs. Szewczak stated there is a good turnout around 90%. The numbers have increased over the past few years.

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

**b. "Receipt of and Action upon Recommendation of Superintendent of Schools Concerning Teacher Contract Non-Renewals in Accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 10-141"**

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education that the contract employment of Anthony Allegro; Heather Aselton; James Barrett; Melissa Bergeron; Christopher Colburn; Linsey Eslinger; Courtney Gearing; Mackenzie Griffin; Charles Guerrero; Matthew Harrington; Lynn Marie Heelan; Marcie Hittleman; Lisa Hunter; Kimberly Jacques; Alexa Kulinski; Matthew Murray; Daniel Paradis; Dawn Parker; Leigh Scordato; Joel Senez; John Unghire; Mary Kate Walsh; Elizabeth Whitely; Laura Wisnesky not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2013-2013 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to advise such person in writing of this action.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Jonaitis added this is something we need to do by law every year by a certain date and for the most part they are usually brought back.

Mr. Fealy stated we need to understand that we may not be able to bring all the teachers back. We should also be prepared that we may lose these teachers.

Ms. Hall stated these are not tenured teaches. This is a shorter list than in previous years. This is never positive and we have for the most part have always been able to bring these teachers back and sometimes we have had to hire additional teachers due to the non-tenured teachers finding employment elsewhere. This is something we do not like doing.

Chairman Neville stated this is never a pleasant issue. We are budget dependent if we can call them back. We hate to lose any of these good teachers and will try to bring them back as soon as we can. Unfortunately, this is a rite of passage and it is something we do not like to do.

A vote by **roll-call 8-1-0** passed Mr. Grady in dissent.

Chairman Neville stated before we address Item 10 c. there is a note on the agenda that the Board will enter into Executive Session prior to addressing this item. The Board has the need to Discuss Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Concerning Proposed Security Measures. The Board will have another Executive Session at the end of the agenda to address Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining.

Ms. Hall would like to postpone any actions related to security until the public has time to address this at the community conversation tomorrow night. We discussed this two weeks ago. This is unfair for us to discuss this and vote on this prior to the Security Community Conversation tomorrow night. She does not approve having armed security guards in our schools.

Ms. Hall added that she is in favor of holding a special meeting to address this after the community conversation is held.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education tables the discussion regarding School Security until the next meeting.

Chairman Neville stated there is no discussing on a motion to table an item. Mrs. Zalucki

confirmed that this item is non-debatable and a vote is needed.

Chairman Neville asked if a majority or 2/3's vote is needed. Dr. Schumann stated majority vote is needed.

**Parliamentary Procedural Question:**

Mr. Sirard asked if an item can be tabled prior to it being discussed. Nothing has been discussed yet.

Ms. Hall stated the motion was to table the discussion.

Mr. Sirard believes we need to be at that point on the agenda before it can be tabled for discussion.

Chairman Neville stated this is a valid question.

Dr. Schumann stated the information we have before us is from Shipman and Goodwin is a bit contradictory. It applies only to an issue that is pending before the agency. Such a motion is improper if it is taken with the intent to void consideration of the matter at issue. He believes Mr. Sirard is correct. If the Chair has called to address that item, a motion could be made at that time to table the item.

Chairman Neville stated no decision will be made in Executive Session by the Board. We will address this item and would come out to discuss this in public session.

Mrs. Szewczak stated a motion needs to be made before it can be tabled.

Ms. Hall would like to table the discussion that was to be held in the Executive Session.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated what she heard from the audience members tonight is they have questions just like we had questions that were addressed during our Executive Sessions. They need to hear the same answers we heard. We have inside information that they are not aware of or privileged to hear.

Mr. Sirard stated we are discussing what we are going to be discussing and this is against parliamentary procedures. We cannot be discussing what the Board will potentially be voting on or the delay for voting. We cannot table this item until a motion to discuss security measures is made. We are violating our own rules.

Dr. Schumann stated we can contact our Board Attorney regarding this matter.

Mr. Jonaitis asked what happened to the Roberts Rules of Order that we were supposed to be using. Dr. Schumann stated what he read was from that book. We would be better served by contacting our Board Attorney directly about this.

Chairman Neville would recommend a brief recess so we can confirm with our Board attorney regarding this question.

**Recess:**

Board members agreed to take a brief recess at 8:25 PM. The Board returned from the recess at 8:51 PM.

Chairman Neville stated we are now back in public session. He asked Dr. Schumann to

provide a brief summary regarding the rules.

Dr. Schumann stated regarding the information he read regarding the rules can be applied only to an issue that is pending before the agency and has been interpreted to mean the motion must be made and seconded. Then the motion can lay on the table is in order as long as it is to postpone the issue to be discussed at a later time. A motion to address Item 10c was never made.

Dr. Schumann added the Chairman asked the Board to consider moving Item 16a before 10c so the Board could enter into Executive Session. No motion was made to this affect yet. This motion would require a majority vote. A motion would also be needed in order to go into Executive Session. This motion would be to discuss Attorney-Client Privileged Communication concerning Proposed Security Measures would require a 2/3's vote in order to go into Executive Session.

Dr. Schumann further added when the Board returns from Executive Session it would be appropriate at that time to table Item 10c for a postponement until a certain amount of time as mentioned to hear input from the community conversation being held tomorrow night. That motion would require a majority vote.

The previous motion to lay on the table would be out of order.

Chairman Neville asked for a motion to move Item 16a out of the agenda's order of actions.

**Suspend the Rules to Move an Item Out of the Agenda's Order:**

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education moves Item 16a before Item 10c.

A vote by **roll-call 8-1-0** passed Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

Chairman Neville asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session for a Discussion Regarding Attorney-Client Privileged Communication concerning Proposed Security Measures.

**Executive Session:**

Mr. Fealy moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for a Discussion Regarding Attorney-Client Privileged Communication concerning Proposed Security Measures.

A vote by **roll-call 8-1-0** passed Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

The Board reconvened to the Enfield Room for the Executive Session at 8:55 PM. Joining the Board in Executive Session were Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek.

The Executive Session ended at 9:34 PM. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

Chairman Neville stated we are now back in public session. He added that a motion is need to extend the meeting past 10:00 PM and asked if a motion should be made at this time.

Dr. Schumann stated he believes the Board approved the end time for Board meetings is 10:30 PM. We will check the Board policy regarding this.

**c. Action, if any, Regarding School Security**

Mr. Fealy moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding Regarding School Safety and Security Initiatives between the Enfield Board of Education and the Town of Enfield, and the accompanying job description for the position of Armed School Security Officer in the form finalized by legal counsel for the Enfield Board of Education and legal counsel for the Town of Enfield as of March 26, 2013 and moved further, that the Enfield Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute the proposed Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Enfield Board of Education.

**Discussion:**

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education tables the motion as presented.

**Point of Order:**

Mr. Fealy asked if the motion to table is proper when there is a motion on the floor.

Dr. Schumann stated the motion to table while a motion is pending is in order.

Chairman Neville asked for a roll call vote on the motion to table and added this requires a majority vote in order to pass.

A vote by **roll-call 3-6-0** failed with Mr. Jonaitis, Mr. Fealy, Mr. Grady, Mrs. Szewczak, Mr. Sirard and Chairman Neville in dissent.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Fealy thanked the audience members for their opinions expressed tonight regarding armed security guards. As a member of the Joint Security Committee, we have had many discussions in Executive Session regarding this topic. We have looked at a comprehensive security plan that is included in the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to secure our buildings and protect our students and staff while providing a safe learning environment. Deterrents are proven to keep people safer. He teaches gun safety and reviewed statistics for an active shooter. He supports the MOU. It is not okay to take no action to protect our students.

Ms. Hall is against going forward with this. She believes having SSO's will provide a false sense of security during the school day. We have many afterschool programs in our schools and there will be no one there to protect them. Students will be outside during the day for recess and the SSO will be inside. No one will be outside to protect them. No one will be riding the buses to protect our students. They will be out in the public without anyone guarding them. Having armed SSO's will only provide a false sense of security. We can continue to harden the buildings to make them safer instead of having someone standing there with a gun.

Mr. Grady stated times have changed and we need to do something differently. This is something the entire Board has struggled with. We need to go back to the recommendations made by our Police Chief and our Public Safety Director. This is what they are recommending. It is not just a SSO. We are hardening our buildings. The Joint Security Committee will address safety on the playgrounds, riding on buses, after hours, etc. This is just the first big step. This is just a start. We need to give this a chance. He hopes we never need to use any of this.

Mr. Sirard stated this is a comprehensive plan. The FBI backs this plan to deter an active shooter or a mad man. This will not be perfect right away. You don't throw away good for

perfect. He has also struggled over this topic but does not want to be in a place where he second guesses. He must live with this decision if something does happen. Many people will not understand this. This is about the safety of our kids and he supports this comprehensive plan.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this is a personal decision. If she votes no and if something happens she would feel responsible. This is one of those things that keeps her awake at night and she has struggled with this decision as a Board member and as a parent. Having an armed SSO in the elementary schools is scary. She has heard the plan. There are other parents on the Board and this is a hard decision for us to make.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we are faced with choices of having no guns in our buildings, armed SSO's using retired police officers in our buildings or using police officers and part time police officers working together in our buildings. He would prefer no guns. He would prefer using police officers in our buildings and having a cruiser parked outside of the buildings is a deterrent. Placing someone as a greeter drives him crazy. We are placing them there as a target and does not believe this is a good plan and it is flawed. He does not believe the Chief of Police and the Public Safety Director are experts in this area. They may be good at what they do for us in the Town of Enfield. This is a new area and this is new territory. The county is reacting differently depending on where you are from. He believes we are overreacting and is not in favor of the MOU.

Mr. Fealy reviewed some additional statistics with Board members regarding active shooters. He believes doing nothing would be irresponsible. He supports the motion for the MOU and the recommendation made.

Mr. Sirard stated he feels the Chief of Police and Security Officer are the experts. Most of the fears have been proven as untruths. The President of the United States also supports SRO's in our elementary schools. Many other towns have also voted to do the same thing. We are not alone in our discussion.

Chairman Neville agreed that this is a personal decision. Things have changed since Newtown and we need to adapt and protect our children. Are we willing to take a chance and gamble on this? His vote will be reluctant. He wished we didn't need to worry about this. He thought the State and Federal Government would have addressed this sooner especially some of the mental health issues that have gotten us to this point. This is not a gun decision. The Joint Security Committee has come up with a reasonable approach that will delay someone from gaining access into our buildings allowing the police to arrive to handle the situation. We have agreed to look at this plan to access it and make any changes after two years. He does not see this as a forever plan. This is a tough decision and he has also lost sleep over this. He is not ready to take a chance with our kids. This is a reasonable solution.

Mr. Jonaitis does not want to argue. Did we ask them if they are the experts? He believes they will say no and that this is new to them. He is not trying to demean them or what they do for us. He respects them and what they do.

Mr. Fealy stated they are more experienced in this area. They are better trained to address active shooters than any other department that he is aware of. They have trained for this for years. This is what has given him the confidence regarding the recommendation that was made.

Chairman Neville added he appreciates the comments made by audience members tonight and the e-mails he has received regarding this topic. Many of the ideas mentioned tonight have already been done by hardening the buildings, use of technology and cameras. The SSO is part of three steps. We have hardened the buildings. Next we will hire and train the SSO and

our staff and students. Parents have seen that entering our buildings is now more difficult. The hardening will delay someone from getting into our buildings. We are adding multiple levels or layers. We will discuss the playgrounds and continue this comprehensive process. He shares the anxiety and hopes you can attend the Security Community Conversation tomorrow night and ask your questions to the Chief.

Mr. Fealy re-read the motion made by him and seconded by Mr. Grady.

A vote by **roll-call 5-4-0** passed Ms. Hall, Mrs. Rancourt, Mr. Jonaitis and Mrs. LeBlanc in dissent.

## **11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Hall stated the CREC Council consists of 35 school districts. Out of the 35 school districts, 10 represent the Board of Directors. The letter we received from CREC is looking for school districts interested in being on the Board of Directors. We were not on the Board of Directors this year. She has held a position as an officer on the Board of Directors. We are being asked if we would like to become a member of the Board of Directors. We are not identifying the Board member that will represent us.

Chairman Neville thanked Ms. Hall for the clarification. Ms. Hall added that CREC will require us to send a Board member to represent us if we choose to participate. Ms. Hall has enjoyed doing this for the past few years.

Chairman Neville asked if Ms. Hall would like to continue representing us and would like us to continue this past tradition. He would like to reappoint Ms. Hall to represent us.

Ms. Hall believes it is time for someone else to represent us.

Chairman Neville asked about the timeframe for this. Ms. Hall stated it is needed by the end of the week for the nominating committee.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the Board will first need to decide if this is something we would like to do.

### **Suspend the Rules and an Item to the Agenda:**

Mr. Fealy moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education suspends the rules and adds CREC Board of Directors to the agenda for a discussion.

### **Discussion:**

Chairman Neville stated this is just to place this item on the agenda.

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

Mr. Fealy moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak that the Enfield Board of Education sends a representative from Enfield to be a member of the CREC Board of Directors.

### **Discussion:**

Mr. Jonaitis stated we are not appointing someone we are voting to see if we want to do this.

A vote by **roll-call 8-1-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

Chairman Neville asked if any Board member is interested in this position, to please let him

know.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked when the meetings are held. Ms. Hall stated CREC Council meets once a month on the second Wednesday of the month from 11:30-2:00 PM at CREC Central located at 111 Charter Oak Avenue, in Hartford, CT. If you choose to be part of the subcommittees, there would be additional meetings to attend.

## **12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Jonaitis stated that he has requested information from Central Office and waited several weeks to receive that information. He asked for general information regarding the afterschool academy and it took well over 2 weeks to receive that information. He also asked for information about school employees and after 2 weeks he asked Mr. Martin, Interim Chief Personnel Officer for the information and received it within a couple of hours. He feels if certain people are requesting information they are made to wait.

Chairman Neville stated that he was not aware that this was going on. He would be happy to intervene on your behalf regarding this issue.

Mr. Jonaitis does not need any help with this. He is addressing his concerns publically. If you were to ask for something you would get it right away. When we ask for something it will go out to the entire Board.

Mr. Jonaitis is also put off with the school colors. It is his recollection that the architect needed the school colors for the plans right away and now they can wait.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to know who the Superintendent has spoken to when he states he has spoken to the teachers. He talks with a lot of teachers and has not heard that you have spoken to them looking for their ideas and opinions. He may have spoken to the administrators for their input. Mr. Jonaitis would like for this to stop.

Chairman Neville asked Mr. Jonaitis if he has spoken to Dr. Schumann about this. It is not fair to do this at a public meeting. Mr. Jonaitis stated he has spoken to Dr. Schumann privately once and tried to express some of his ideas to him.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she was sad to see the Student Support Academy end. Her son loved attending. She also saw a remarkable improvement with his progress with reading and writing. CMT's have also ended.

Mrs. LeBlanc read an e-mail she received from Tammy White, an Enfield parent regarding the high school consolidation and school colors. She likes the Eagle mascot for the combined high school. She felt the survey needed more adult input and was unsure why the Raiders were not included on the survey. She believes the school colors need to be different than black and gold. These are the colors from East Windsor. Red and White are Somers colors and Purple and Gold are Ellington's colors. She likes the Dark Blue and Gold colors but her choice for Enfield would be for Green and Black. She feels it is time for the adults to make the choice for Enfield.

Mr. Fealy stated everything going on regarding the security in our buildings is for the kids. He is honored to receive these personal notes and gifts. He is available to speak to anyone regarding any of his decisions. Thank you.

Mr. Grady thanked all of the students for the gifts and cards. Parkman will hold a fundraiser event Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the McDonald's on Hazard Avenue from 4-7:00 PM.

Mrs. Szewczak attended the Arts Festival and was impressed with the student's work. Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> is the Scantic River Spring Splash. It is a fundraiser for the Enfield Food Shelf. She also wished everyone a nice safe holiday.

Mr. Sirard thanked the kids that were here and for the cards, notes and gifts. He has received some e-mails regarding the school budget. Our budget shortfalls are due to unfunded State mandates. Our teachers do not have to pay for their own supplies and he wanted to clarify this misunderstanding.

Ms. Hall stated she was at the Head Start regular meeting last week and she learned that the students were celebrating STEAM in all of the classrooms. The students added Mentos to soda and learned that the spray from Coke goes farther than some of the other sodas.

Mrs. Rancourt thanked Mrs. LeBlanc for reading the e-mail. She agreed with many of the points mentioned. She thanked everyone for the cards, notes and gifts. She loves her gift from Eli Whitney. CMT's are completed so she will be back in Mrs. Tarbox's classroom for accelerated math.

Chairman Neville thanked all of the students for the letters, notes, cards and thank you's. It is a pleasure for us to see how you feel about the programs we are supporting like Rachel's Challenge and the Leadership Academy and that they are making a difference. He thanked everyone that has e-mailed them about school security. There is no perfect plan. This is very personal and we are trying to do what is correct. Our hearts are in the right place. The decision made tonight was not taken lightly. We felt it was the correct thing to do for our kid's safety.

### **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Regular Meeting minutes of February 19, 2013 be approved. A vote by **voice-vote 9-0-0** all ayes and passed unanimously.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Special Meeting minutes of February 26, 2013 be approved. A vote by **voice-vote 9-0-0** all ayes and passed with the changes made by Mr. Sirard.

Mr. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Special Meeting minutes of March 12, 2013 be approved. A vote by **voice-vote 8-0-1** passed with Mr. Fealy abstaining.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Special Meeting minutes of March 20, 2013 be approved. A vote by **voice-vote 9-0-0** all ayes and passed unanimously.

### **14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL**

#### **a. For the Month of February 2012/13**

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accept the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of December, total expenditures amount to \$5,703,613.74, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,051,242.18 and other accounts totaling \$1,652,371.56. 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 **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

#### **b. Line Item Transfers, if any - None**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak that the Board enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining.

A vote by **roll-call 6-3-0** passed with Ms. Hall, Mr. Jonaitis and Mrs. LeBlanc in dissent.

Dr. Schumann stated the Board will not have enough time to get to the Enfield Room to start the Executive Session before the meeting will end at 10:30 PM. The Board needs to come out of Executive Session and extend the meeting past 10:30 PM.

**Return to Public Session:**

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Fealy to return to Public Session and to extend the meeting past 10:30 PM.

A vote by **voice-vote 6-3-0** passed with Ms. Hall, Mr. Jonaitis and Mrs. LeBlanc in dissent.

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Fealy that the Board enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining.

A vote by **voice-vote 6-3-0** passed with Ms. Hall, Mr. Jonaitis and Mrs. LeBlanc in dissent.

Mrs. LeBlanc left the meeting at 10:27 PM.

The Board reconvened to the Enfield Room for the Executive Session at 10:28 PM. Joining the Board in Executive Session were Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek.

The Executive Session ended at 11:18 PM. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Fealy to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 26, 2013.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 11:19 PM.

Donna Szewczak  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary