

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 9, 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 April 9, 2013.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Jonaitis, Tina LeBlanc, Kevin Fealy (arrived at 7:04 PM), 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 and FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber

6. **BOARD GUESTS**

a. **Enfield Public Schools Exemplary Award**

Dr. Schumann stated tonight we have Mr. Bob Nilsson from Enterasys and Mr. Paul Russell our Technology Director. The Board and the Town will jointly receive an award.

Mr. Nilsson thanked the Board for allowing him to attend tonight. He stated our business works with K-12 school systems and he is here to acknowledge Enfield's exemplary school district for implementing a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment. Enterasys looked at school districts across the country and awarded the top in each region for their advances using technology. The award is based on three areas which Enfield has done.

Mr. Nilsson presented an Exemplary Award to the Enfield Public Schools and the Town of Enfield.

Mr. Russell thanked the Board for their commitment to the technology needs of the town. You have played an important part with us rolling out the technology for the school district to allow multiple devices to be used for learning for the students and staff in our district.

Chairman Neville thanked both Mr. Russell and Mr. Nilsson. We are looking forward to using our technology with more mobile devices in the future for our students. The consolidated high school will give us an opportunity to expand and grow our technology needs. Thank you for this award. We truly appreciate it.

b. **Enfield Legislators**

Chairman Neville stated the Enfield Legislators were unable to attend tonight's meeting. We

will try to reschedule them to attend our next meeting. Mrs. Zalucki stated that Senator Kissel has confirmed his availability to attend the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting and she will follow up with the Representatives.

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

### a. SBAC Pilot Testing – CAO, Anne McKernan

Chief Academic Officer Anne McKernan gave an in-depth presentation regarding what the next generation of assessments will look like for our students and how we are preparing them. Students will be assessed using the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career).

Ms. McKernan stated there is a system of tests including a library of resources that will be given to students during the last 12 weeks of school. The assessments require students to demonstrate skills and knowledge learned through a variety of questions. She reviewed CAT (Computer Adaptive Testing); Fixed Form Tests; English/Language Arts Claims; Math Claims and Assessment types.

Ms. McKernan stated we will pilot in the Spring 2013 using SBAC Scientific Pilot and SDE Aligned Practice Assessment (APA). She reviewed the schools and grade levels that will participate in the pilots. She reviewed the lessons with technology readiness and lessons with experience in the environment.

Ms. McKernan stated you can view samples by going to either website at [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org) or [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

Ms. Hall stated students will be tested using SBAC the last 12 weeks of schools or the last 3 months of school. Currently we are only spending one month on State testing. Will all of the tests be used during this time frame?

Ms. McKernan stated testing will take place the last three month of school and students will need to take all parts of the tests. Some of the tests are 190 minutes each. We will need to look at student stamina. These tests do not need to be completed in one day. The students can continue the tests at another time.

Ms. Hall asked if the student will need to sign-on at one computer to continue. Ms. McKernan stated they do not need to use the exact same computer to continue the test. Students will sign-in using their SASID number.

Ms. Hall asked about the results from the pilot. Ms. McKernan stated we will get some results from the State pilot. We will not receive any results from the SBAC pilot. Students will gain experience from the SBAC pilot program. Both pilots will give us something back for student learning.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if this will replace or will be in addition to CMT and CAPT testing. Ms. McKernan stated this will be additional testing while we wait to hear from the state about CMT and CAPT testing for next year.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if all students will take 190 minute tests. Ms. McKernan stated all students would take a test for 190 minutes that would be broken up and taken on several days. We would develop a schedule for students at each school.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this is very different than the CMT's. Ms. McKernan stated students started taking the CMT's back around 1987 and the CAPT around 1994. This is a change and a great opportunity for our students.

Mr. Jonaitis stated this is insane the amount of testing students will undergo. There are other ways to see what the students know. It is a lot of time, effort and money to do something the same way. This is insanity gone wild.

Mr. Fealy is concerned with the content of the tests and would like for the administration and the Board to be able to view the materials. Ms. McKernan stated practice tests will be available on May 29<sup>th</sup> to view. Student tests would not be available ahead of time.

Mr. Fealy is concerned about the content of the materials. Chairman Neville does not believe we would be able to look at the tests before they are given.

Mr. Fealy added this test is something he would not be in favor of administering digitally. He has concerns already about content of materials in our schools. He has already addressed books that he had concerns with and as a Board of Education Member he cannot support this.

Ms. McKernan stated she will need to look into this further. She will find out what will be available and when it will be available. The test would be invalid if we were to view them prior to administering them. She is sure we can view similar tests that will be given.

Mr. Sirard stated as a parent who is very involved with his children's education and learning, he would want to be able view a completed exam.

Ms. McKernan stated we do not control the release of the items. The State would release a set of questions on the CAPT and CMT for parents. She will look into this to see what will be available for viewing.

Mr. Jonaitis asked who will make the tests. Ms. McKernan stated the SBAC test will be made by the Smarter Balanced Consortium and the Federal government. You can visit their website to learn more about this. Mr. Jonaitis is concerned about what happened in Texas with testing from the government.

The State aligned tests are made by Measurement Incorporated. They are the same company that has created the CMT and CAPT tests.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she does not gage the progress her children have made based on these tests. She gages progress based on class work and conversations with her children's teachers. Not all children test well on the CMT's. She is hoping the SBAC can detect this for the students that do not test well. Student assessments will continue to evolve over time. This testing is being done for the State.

Ms. McKernan stated this pilot is very similar to the CMT's. This one piece of information does not tell the complete story about a student's progress and is important to note.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked what would happen if we didn't do SBAC. Would there be consequences for the school district? Ms. McKernan stated in two years from now we will be testing like this. Paper and pencil will not be an option. The more information we have about this will help parents and students understand where we are headed. There is a wide acceptance with the pilots. We need to make our students more prepared.

Mrs. Rancourt asked when this pilot will start. Ms. McKernan stated a letter will go home with students. They have come up with unique testing schedules. They will identify the date range.

Mrs. Rancourt is glad that Mr. Russell is still here. If our computers crash, that will impact our testing. Ms. McKernan stated this testing will give our system a good test to see if it can hold up with on-line testing. Next year we will be testing more students this way.

Mrs. Rancourt asked if we will only be administering the tests in the labs or will you be using iPads also. Ms. McKernan stated we will start by using the computer labs for testing. We did have a class at Fermi piloting iPads for testing. We need to make sure the wireless environments can be quick for administering these kinds of tests.

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber stated her class took the State assigned test a few weeks ago using iPads. It was different not using paper to do your work. You can't use your scientific calculators. The calculators available on-line are different than what we are used to using. She was only able to complete 6 out of the 11 questions on the test in the hour allotted time frame.

Ms. McKernan stated Ms. Saltzgeber brought up good points with on-line tests. CAPT testing were never really looked at by colleges before. Colleges may be looking at this in the future. We need to make sure our students are truly prepared.

Mr. Jonaitis is concerned about the last 90 days of schools. Learning and programs are ending and learning tends to slow down. He does not see the need to do this. He would like to see the teachers finish teaching.

Mrs. Szewczak asked about the on-line testing. Can you go back and make changes or is there no going back to make corrections. Ms. McKernan stated on the SBAC you can pause your test and go back within 20 minutes and you can still make changes to previous questions. After 20 minutes you will go forward from the point you left off at.

Mrs. Szewczak stated maybe it times you out after 20 minutes.

Chairman Neville stated when we piloted the CMT tests we were not sure about the questions. He is glad to see the practice tests. There have been 4 generation tests for the CMT's. What is the time frame for administering the CMT tests? Ms. McKernan stated it was around 8 hours to administer the CMT tests.

Chairman Neville likes that the students can test at their own level. He believes this would be streamlined after the pilot is concluded. Ms. McKernan agrees. We will get the results back sooner than the CMT tests. It will help us plan better for the next year.

Chairman Neville is concerned with the reports the teachers will get about the students. Ms. McKernan stated she is not sure what the results will look like at this time. She is sure the reports will be more helpful and will have lots of information.

Chairman Neville asked if the report will be brought into the data warehousing. Ms. McKernan believes it will. Chairman Neville would like to be able to compare the information as the students move from grade to grade. Ms. McKernan believes this will be able to be done.

Chairman Neville would like to have you come back and let us know how the students are progressing with this new testing.

Ms. Hall agreed with Ms. Saltzgeber about using a pencil. Her granddaughter is panicking about taking on-line tests. This is putting a constraint on some students and is scary for those who have never tested this way. Theoretically, we are teaching them the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so they can go forward.

Ms. McKernan stated there are many computer tests being done now in the real world. This is how it is being done. We will give them the experience needed.

Chairman Neville thanked Ms. McKernan and added Mr. Russell will be very involved in this

process. He would like board members to receive a copy of the presentation. This is a culture shock and he is glad we are getting our students prepared.

- b. TC Budget Community conversation – as presented
- c. Family Science Fair – as presented
- d. Spring Vacation – School Closings – as presented

Dr. Schumann acknowledged Fermi sophomore Lauren Pierce for winning the Youth Awareness Scholarship for the State of Connecticut. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and will move on to compete at the National Level. We received notice about this scholarship from the Thompsonville Moose Lodge. We wish her luck as she competes at the National level.

**8. AUDIENCES - None**

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. Continued Discussion and Action Related to Consolidated High School Colors**

Chairman Neville stated we discussed this several weeks ago. Mr. Drezek reviewed the process to date regarding the consolidated high school colors and mascot. He added that this discussion was tabled on February 26<sup>th</sup> and will need to be placed back on the table for further discussion.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak that the Enfield Board of Education to continue the Discussion and Action Related to Consolidated High School Colors that was previously tabled.

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

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education approves the consolidated high school colors as black, green with gold accents.

**Discussion:**

Ms. Hall stated she would like the numbers on the jerseys to be edged with gold. She understands that the jersey will need to be white, but she would like gold to be the accent color around the school colors.

Dr. Schumann stated the home jersey will need to be predominately white.

Mr. Jonaitis stated you are suggesting we go against what the students asked for. Mr. Grady stated we are using black and gold which is what the students wanted with green.

Chairman Neville stated we asked for their input and the communities input. This is different with what the students asked for.

Mr. Fealy asked if this will cost more for the three colors. Mr. Drezek stated we have not priced out the costs for the uniforms yet and is not sure of the costs. The more elaborate the uniform, the more it will cost. We can look into this.

Mrs. Szewczak stated there is no gold at Enfield High in the building. The tiles are green and white. The colors of Enfield High were green and white.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we are not going with Enfield High's colors. Black is from Fermi and Green is from Enfield. As far as cost effectiveness, the equipment from Enfield High gets filtered down to the youth sports like the Ramblers. They would need to have everything

repainted and would not be cost effective.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated Enfield High just played East Windsor for softball and baseball yesterday. Their colors are black and gold. There are other towns that we compete against that would use the same colors. We heard from a parent that the Raider was not included on the survey the students were given. She supports what the students did but maybe neither school colors should have been on the survey. That would have given us a fresh start but that was not the case.

Mrs. LeBlanc would like to keep some of the traditions in Enfield by supporting green, black and gold accent colors.

Mr. Sirard stated green would be the primary color with white. Mrs. Szewczak stated black would be the primary color. Mr. Sirard stated with green and gold accents. The uniforms will have a green border to the Enfield name with gold around the numbers. Ms. Hall stated any combination of what was mentioned can be used. Mr. Sirard is having a hard time envisioning what the uniforms will look like. The jersey will need to be white per league rules.

Ms. Saltzgeber stated three colors will be too many colors. Both East Windsor and East Hartford use black and gold. The new high school will be in a different league and we will play teams that are totally different. Uniforms will be changed every 4 years and will not be that big of a concern. She is not sure why the color tiles will matter. The mascot matters more to Chairman Neville. To the students, the colors matter more than a mascot. The students like the eagle as the mascot. She would like the Board to reconsider the colors the students have picked.

Mr. Jonaitis does not like the colors of black and green. We are building a new school and a new wing.

Mrs. Szewczak stated she has been spending time in the media center and those colors will not be changing.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she had hoped the student survey would have been more focused on the students that will be attending the consolidated high school not the students that will be leaving. It should have been more focused on the middle school students. We should have excluded current school colors and mascots. She respects what Ms. Saltzgeber has said. She does not want other schools to mistake us for another school district based on our school colors that are the same as another schools' colors.

Chairman Neville stated when we started this process he did not believe that any of us thought this would be this big of a deal. More people have made comments about the schools colors than academics. He likes the mascot. The most important thing is why we are doing this. We are combining our high schools to provide our students with 21<sup>st</sup> century programs. Colors are not the most important thing to him. His children all went to Fermi. We did not get into details when the survey was done. We need to agree upon something that will represent our town the best.

Mr. Sirard stated he will go with what the students asked for. We asked for their opinions and he will do them justice by voting for the colors they have chosen.

Mr. Jonaitis agrees with Chairman Neville about the colors. He would like to see us go with new colors for our new school and new leagues they will play in.

Mrs. Szewczak stated that she also was not concerned with the school colors until she heard that people were equating that the schools colors representing Enfield. She will miss Fermi's colors. She went to Enfield high and her children went to Fermi. She will also go with the

students recommendations.

Mr. Grady stated we are incorporating gold accents into the school colors. It is not that we are not listening to the students.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated black and gold would be more a Fermi color than an Enfield color. The predominant color at Fermi is black. Green is the predominant color at Enfield high. Enfield and Thompsonville Little League wear green proudly just like the Enfield Ramblers do.

Mr. Fealy also does not care about colors. He does not have a problem supporting what the students chose for school colors. We are not going to support that our town's colors that are blue and gold. He would like the consolidated high school colors to represent our town.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the eagle is a great mascot. Surrounding towns use blue. She wants our neighbors to see our colors and know they are from Enfield. She is trying to preserve something from both of our high schools. Black and green will encompass both schools.

Mr. Fealy does not believe black represents anyone in Enfield. It is more an accent color. Keep the colors simple and go with green and gold. We will never satisfy everyone.

Mrs. Rancourt stated she graduated from Fermi and her son will graduate from Enfield high. Her younger children are happy to graduate as an Eagle. She understands the travel soccer color of green and believes we need to keep green as a color. The students from Somers wear red, the students from East Windsor wear black and gold, the students from Tolland wear blue. She supports the motion made by Ms. Hall.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the colors at Kosciuszko were red and white, the colors at JFK are red, white and blue. When students left JFK they wore black, white and blue at Fermi and never wore green again. It is just a change of colors.

Chairman Neville would like for there to be some kind of a consensus here. He does not want to see a split vote for the consolidated school colors. We have a motion on the floor. Color is not the most important thing to him. He understands where Ms. Saltzgeber is coming from.

A vote by **roll-call 5-4-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis, Mr. Fealy, Mrs. Szewczak and Mr. Sirard in dissent.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Approve FY2013-15 Head Start State Grants**

Head Start Director Mrs. Clement and Education Disabilities Coordinator Mrs. Levasseur gave an overview of the programs at the Enfield Head Start and the two State grants requiring Board Approval.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about the class sizes. Mrs. Levasseur stated the class sizes are around 17-18 students. Mr. Jonaitis asked if the teachers were certified. Mrs. Clement stated the teachers are certified. There are also literacy aides.

Mrs. Rancourt asked how many students are attending Head Start and do you have a waiting list. Mrs. Clement stated we have 104 students and usually have a waiting list of around 30-40 students. We are currently recruiting for next year.

Mr. Sirard asked if the grants you are applying for will allow you to expand the Head Start program. Mrs. Clement stated these grants we have had for years. This is nothing new.

Mr. Fealy stated he has looked at information regarding the ABC project. The advantages gained from attending Head Start disappear by the time students get to grade 4. Mrs. Clement stated she has information that supports students attending Head Start or any quality education program are more likely to graduate from high school, less likely to drop-out of school, require services, commit crimes, etc. In Enfield, we have the Early Childhood Community Plan and one of the focuses is 3 to 3. We look at exactly what you are referring to and look at quality preschool training through grade 3.

Mr. Fealy thinks you are doing a great job. He is concerned with rising costs and at what point will the parent begin to interact with their children.

Mrs. Clement stated our Kindergarten curriculum is quite strenuous and the students entering Kindergarten must know many things. Students need a quality preschool experience or they will struggle in Kindergarten.

Mr. Fealy added soon we will not be able to look at the Kindergarten curriculum. Mrs. Clement added you can look at our curriculum to see what we are doing.

Mr. Fealy asked about the long term affects. Mrs. Clement stated success is learning that will follow them all the way through school. Parental involvement is also important including community collaboration. Children deserve to learn and have a quality education. She encouraged Mr. Fealy to come to Head Start and see this.

Mr. Fealy asked why can't parents do this at home with their children.

Mrs. Clement stated socializing with other children and adults is an important skill students learn at Head Start. They need to be able to listen, follow directions, sit and learn. If they were at home they might not learn these skills as easily as in school. Students need to start Kindergarten ready to learn. Mr. Fealy thanked Mrs. Clement for the information.

Mr. Jonaitis stated you have had a waiting list for several years. Mrs. Clement stated yes. We also have parents over the income limit that would like to pay and send their children to Head Start.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if we still have space available on the bottom level of Alcorn? Chairman Neville believes the space is being used by Adult Education.

Mr. Drezek stated there are other programs at Alcorn like the ETLA (Enfield Transitional Learning Academy) program and Adult Education. The rooms have been reconfigured. Mr. Drezek would need to look into this.

Mrs. Clement stated she does not have the funding to support more students at this time but could look into this further if needed.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to follow the kids that have had Head Start or pre-school experience from the high school level down. Mrs. Clement stated Manchester is doing something like this. This is very interesting to follow the students and is willing to work with IT on this.

Mr. Jonaitis added this might be another project for Mr. O'Connell's students.

Mr. Sirard stated based on an impact study he read, the Head Start program is not working. Mr. Fealy has also mentioned this. He is not saying the program is not working in Enfield. Grant money is tax money and it affects us all. How are we doing this differently?

Mrs. Clement stated you have good programs and stellar programs. Enfield is known as one of the best programs. They consider us a model program around the nation and the Enfield Head



Start is referred as that.

Mr. Fealy asked if we are tracking our Head Start students. Mrs. Clement stated that is what Mr. Jonaitis was referring to. We haven't been tracking our students and it would be interesting to do this.

Chairman Neville would also be interested in doing this and collect this data so we can have that information available. He has visited Head Start several times. Our Enfield Head Start is a quality program and understands the good work you are doing with our students. Pre-Kindergarten experience is now a prerequisite. He knows what it was like when we didn't have Head Start. He is in favor of your goals. Enfield is lucky to have a quality program and has supported Enfield Head Start. He would like to see data tracking the quality Head Start experience.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2013-15 Head Start Enhancement Grant, Head Start Link Grant and authorizes the Affirmative Action Plan as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 7-2-0** passed Mr. Fealy and Mr. Sirard in dissent.

**b. Approve Expansion of the K-5 Breakfast Pilot Program**

Dr. Schumann stated Mrs. Edwards our Nutrition Services Director along with the elementary principals are supporting to expand the K-5 Breakfast Pilot Program. The pilot at Enfield Street School has been quite successful. They would roll the program out starting in May 2013. There would be no additional costs to the Board.

Mr. Fealy asked for expenses that may be absorbed by the Board or the Town. Dr. Schumann stated information regarding this is included in your packets (Item 10b).

Mr. Fealy stated on an average the participation is 54 students per day, 45 students are free and 7 are paid. Are there any expenses to the town. Dr. Schumann stated the program is self contained and will not cost the Board or the Town any money.

Mrs. Szewczak stated parents can purchase this if they chose to. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct.

Chairman Neville asked what schools will this program be expanded to. Dr. Schumann stated Memorial, Barnard, Whitney, Crandall, Parkman and Hale. This would be started in May and would be in place at all of the elementary schools by 2014.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we are looking at having a breakfast program in all of our K-5 elementary schools by January 2014. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education approves the expansion of the K-5 Breakfast Pilot Program starting in May 2013 as presented.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Jonaitis stated the people that qualify for free or reduced lunches probably qualify for other kinds of assistance. Can they double dip like this.

Chairman Neville does not know that answer.

Mrs. Rancourt stated they had some problems with the supervision of the breakfast program at Enfield Street. She wished that Mrs. Edwards could have been here to address this and have

her available to answer our questions. Maybe a survey could have gone out. Students may need to get to school earlier. There is not enough information about the program. More depth is needed.

Mr. Jonaitis is not sure who will pay for the supervision with this program. Chairman Neville stated that will come out of the program costs.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he believes we are intruding on what the parents should be doing and is getting out of hand. Parents should feed your children breakfast and supper. We will feed them the free or reduced lunches.

Mrs. Szewczak stated we are losing focus here. This is isn't a free breakfast program. It is an extension of the lunch program for students to participate in. We need to see why we are doing this. This is an expansion of our nutrition program which is child based nutrition program.

Mr. Fealy understands why we are doing this but it is not okay for parents to make the State or the Town be responsible to raise their children. This is a responsibility of the parents. He cannot sit here when we approve item after item and not say anything to the parents. It is your responsibility to be responsible for your children. There are state agencies that can intervene if needed. We have fail-safe's in place. It is not our responsibility to do the job the parents should be doing.

Chairman Neville disagrees with Mr. Fealy. He has spent many years in school and kids need to be fed. He wished things were better and will not judge any parent. He has seen many circumstances and our economy has not always been good for all families. He has been blessed in his life. There is no cost to the Board. Any parent can take advantage of the K-5 breakfast program or our lunch program.

Mr. Fealy stated we have welfare programs that are in place to give parents a helping hand. Now we are providing services from cradle to grave. If a child is malnourished we should get them the help that is needed. We are here to teach the students curriculum. He does not have a problem with nourishing our children. His problem is with the rippling affect that needs to be fixed. We will have universal Head Start, Pre-School, and Kindergarten and at some point we will collapse our economy. We may not be paying for this, but someone is. Is it okay for us to intervene in the personal lives of these families? He does not believe it is.

Chairman Neville stated a breakfast program was not available when he was teaching. They tried to do this several times but it did not work out.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we are helping out the kids not the parents in her opinion. Kids should not have to pay for what is going on at home. When she was a PTO president at the elementary school, many kids would come to school without snacks. It seemed to be the same kids we were helping out. Kids should not have to pay for this.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he would give students money to buy lunch just like a lot of teachers do. This is not the role of the school system.

Mr. Fealy stated it is not our place to fill in for the parents. Your heart rips for the children just like his does. We need to educate the children and need to stop this.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the children's day starts before they walk in the door of the school. If they can look forward to having breakfast and lunch at school with their friends. We are not going out of our way to provide this service to them. As a public school we are offering a service that is available.

Ms. Hall stated the main reason teacher's buy food for children is because of education.

Children that are feed will learn better. Providing nourishment to the students and breakfast is the most important meal of the day. If they come to school without breakfast for any reason, breakfast will be available for them.

Mrs. Szewczak stated we have gone away from neighborhood schools when students would walk home for lunch. She would make breakfast and lunches for her children. We are expanding a program for the students while they are in school. She does not want to take care of everybody's kids. We are provided a program for students to participate in. She wished people would take more accountability of taking care of their children and do the things that you need to do in order to be a good parent.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we are going full circle. We educate our kids earlier, feed our kids earlier, and finish school earlier so they can get into the best colleges. When they go to college what is the one meal they sleep through that you pay for – breakfast.

A vote by **roll-call 6-3-0** passed Mr. Jonaitis, Mr. Fealy and Mr. Sirard in dissent.

## **11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mrs. Szewczak stated the High School Building Committee has shortlisted the Construction Manager at Risk and will interview 4 on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We looked at 8 possible designs for the new high school. We look at program space. They have gone back to the administration. This is pretty exciting time and can start to see how everything will flow.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the drawings we looked at before are not what the building will look like. Mrs. Szewczak stated what we will get will be very similar. There were some things that were missing and need to be added into the drawings. We are working out the fine points now. There will be small differences and we will work within the financial parameters we were given.

## **12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. LeBlanc wished everyone a safe and fun April vacation.

Mr. Fealy stated he brought to the attention of the Board educational materials being taught in our schools. Another example has been brought to his attention. His requests that the Board and the Administration is seriously take a look at the curriculum and materials. He discussed this with Ms. McKernan on his way into the meeting tonight. He had concern regarding a book from Fermi back in November and another parent had a book from Enfield high. He was assured it was an oversight. What have we done to improve that condition? When are we going to get around to doing what we should be doing by overseeing what is going on in our buildings? Our priorities are backwards and we are not ensuring the level of education is what we want. No one seems to have a good grip of what is going on. We are talking about data mining and test scores. We can't even view the materials. My challenge is to the Board and the administration. He wants concrete answers and does not want to be told we will look into this.

Mr. Grady stated Parkman will hold an ice cream social on Thursday and will showcase the student work from the school year.

Mr. Sirard has some reservations with common core and policies issued by the government. He reviewed HIPA and FERPA laws and urged Board members and parents to do their homework regarding common core. There are some weaknesses with common core. Go to the office of Education Technology and look at the information they have available. If you have any questions contact your State Legislators about it. This is part of an override from No Child Left Behind. We rejected Race to the Top and he has issues with this. This concerns our children.

Ms. Hall stated our Legislators have been busy and the committees have finished. Some of the bills are being pushed forwards. She reviewed HB6347 and HB6624 with Board members. She found this very interesting regarding high school graduation credits and Carnegie credits that can be waived with a competency evaluation.

Mr. Jonaitis stated they will waiver high school credits. Ms. Hall stated school districts can request that Carnegie credits be waived with a form from a competency evaluation. You could take a test at the beginning of Algebra I and if you did well enough you would pass and get the credit.

Mrs. Rancourt stated she is missing the Whitney PTO meeting tonight. She joined the PTO Presidents and they met with Dr. Schumann at the president's meeting. They are a powerful group of women and keep our schools going smoothly. They will be recognizing our teachers when we get back from spring vacation for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Chairman Neville thanked everyone from last month's meeting. He truly enjoyed it and wanted to publically thank them. This is the first time he has seen this. Sometimes this can be a thankless job. We are all here for good reasons.

Chairman Neville stated we held the community conversation on security. One of the comments that came up was not knowing about our meetings and that bothered him. We share the information with the newspapers and are trying to get the information out in many different ways. There was no intent to hide this. We are sending information out to around 20 different venues. We encourage you to sign-up for Q-notify. We are looking for ways to get this information out. The website has been updated and sent out messages on SharpSchool and Twitter. We want people to participate.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we can send out reminders using our SchoolMessenger system. Chairman Neville stated if you have any other ideas let us know.

Chairman Neville stated the other concern was with meeting conflicts. There are outside groups that use our schools like the Women's Club and the Spelling Bee they are holding. He recently met with the mayor and they are going to look at a ways to be more efficient.

Ms. Hall added our meetings are not listed on the Town Calendar. Chairman Neville stated you are correct. They are looking at a way to put in some hyper links.

Ms. Hall stated it is official on the Hartford Courant website that Enfield's school colors will be green and black. UCONN is ahead of Louisville at half time 48-25.

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

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the March 26, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Jonaitis left the meeting at 9:27 PM prior to the approval of accounts and payroll.

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

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

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education accept the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of March, total expenditures amount to \$6,272,769.12, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,115,886.52 and other accounts totaling \$2,156,882.60. 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 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

**b. For the Month of March 2011/12**

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 March, total expenditures amount to \$5,309.31, broken down between payroll totaling \$00 and other accounts totaling \$5,309.31. 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 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

**c. Line Item Transfers, if any - None**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Board enters into Executive Session for:

- Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining
- Matter(s) Related to Personnel

A vote by **show-of-hands 6-2-0** passed with Mr. Fealy and Ms. Hall in dissent.

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 10:31 PM. No board action occurred while in Executive Session.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Rancourt to adjourn the Regular Meeting of April 9, 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