

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 23, 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 23, 2013.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Neville.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Vincent M. Grady
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vincent M. Grady
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; FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgiver and EHS Student Representative Brandon Andexler

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Student Athletic Awards**

Mr. Bernstein, our Athletic Director recognized the following student athletes:

2012-13 CIAC Scholar Athlete Award Recipients from Enfield High School – Ian Lempitsky and Rachel Kaliff and from Enrico Fermi High School – Conor Glettenberg and Olivia Baillargeon.

Special Recognition Awards were presented to:

Enfield High School – Mr. Paul Lima – 2012-13 All State Class “M” Team Boys Basketball. Mr. Lima also scored over 1,000 Career Points and his name has been added to the banner.

Enfield High School – Mr. Kevin Camidge – 2012-13 Academic All State Class “M” Boys Basketball.

Enfield High School – Mr. Avery Boissy – 2012-13 All State Division II Hockey 2nd Team.

Enfield High School – Mr. Michael Crowley – College Hall of Fame and National Football Foundation Northern, CT Chapter, Scholar Athlete Award.

Also present to recognize the students were Enrico Fermi Principal Mr. Newton, Enfield High School Assistant Principal Mr. Sargalski, Enrico Fermi Boys Soccer Coach Mr. Russell.

Board members congratulated the student athletes and presented them with certificates and plaques.

Chairman Neville added this is something the Board likes to do recognizing our outstanding student athletes. You represent us well and congratulations on your awards.

b. **Enfield Legislators**

Dr. Schumann stated we have been trying to schedule a time when all three of our legislators could attend but unfortunately, Representative Kiner is unable to attend. He will stop by to address the Board when his schedule permits. We welcome Senator Kissel and Representative Alexander to tonight's Board meeting.

Chairman Neville welcomed Senator Kissel and Representative Alexander.

Senator Kissel thanked the Board for the invitation and enjoyed seeing out student athletes receiving awards. He gave an overview of the work going on in Hartford. The car tax bill has been pushed back and will be addressed down the road in 2018. He spoke with Representative Kiner who wished he could have been here to address the Board and stated the Kindergarten entrance age bill has been turned into a study.

Representative Alexander thanked the Board for the invitation and the open dialogue is important and critical. He gave an overview the work he is involved with in Hartford and the items he will keep in mind during the budget process. He knows there are a lot of task forces in place and he senses the Board's frustrations with the Kindergarten Entrance Age study.

Ms. Hall wished Representative Kiner was here since he is on the Education Committee and the Appropriations Committee. She asked if there is any rational for cutting the school transportation fees.

Senator Kissel believes it is because they do not have enough money. This is a recommendation. It may be put back into the budget. Governor Malloy wants to do a lot of things and has kind of boxed himself into a corner. The money needs to come for somewhere. There are many things that are influx.

Representative Alexander stated the budget process is fluid. There were many interesting unique proposals made like cutting transportation. He cannot support that. He would prefer a more controlled simplistic budget. The Appropriations Committee does a lot of good work and he has been briefed about what is going on. We are trying to build a more efficient government in Connecticut and because of this, reforms are needed.

Ms. Hall asked Representative Alexander about regionalization and is this something you have been discussing.

Representative Alexander stated they have discussed this. You can gain some good things from regionalism and he also has some concerns that make him hesitant with this. We have several meeting setup and are drafting policy recommendations. We have discussed magnet school tuitions for the students that return.

Ms. Hall added they have also discussed evening out the car taxes across the State. There are many proposals that are being discussed. Representative Alexander does not believe it is fair to try to get the taxes from the municipalities that are already being squeezed.

Mr. Jonaitis hopes Representative Alexander makes the tough vote when it comes to the ECS formula, reduction in transportation and the spending cap. He has a list of unfunded mandates that he will give to both legislators.

Mr. Sirard has concerns with regionalization where they are doing away with local Boards of Education and are using a regional Board of Education. He sees this as a way for the State to ruin school systems more than they have already done. It is ok to use parochialism. What are your opinions with regional Boards of Education?

Senator Kissel believes in local control for education. You know what to spend the money on in Enfield more than someone who spends most of their time in Hartford. This is a practical matter because you are closer to the people you represent. Enfield is a great place and we have our historic

ways of doing things. Some things work better than other things. There are many things you can do like purchasing items in bulk like you are already doing in Enfield to save money. He has some concerns with the new high school consolidation, the security guards and what the State may or may not offer. He does not want to see us having to play catch-up on State funding.

Senator Kissel stated he has spoken to Representative Kiner who believes we will receive some kind of a large package this year because of the school safety issue and the Governor's willingness to bond a lot. He does have concerns with over borrowing.

Representative Alexander stated he stands up for what he believes in and has voted that way on the tough votes. He is working on a Veteran's bill. The spending cap and the Affordable Care cost bill will be reimbursed for the Affordable Care bill on the backend. Unfortunately, that will dig into the spending cap. He hopes we can all work together on the spending cap otherwise more cuts will be needed. He would like to see us work bipartisanly. He has concerns with regionalism and is hesitant. It might work for small communities. What works in Enfield might not work in other places in Connecticut. More engagement is needed. Just because we have done things a certain way for years is not a good enough reason to continue doing it the same way. We are making policy recommendations that are submitted through the legislative process.

Representative Alexander stated he is also concerned like Senator Kissel with over bonding and borrowing. This is on his radar.

Mr. Sirard asked if anyone has produced any bills in legislation or an amendment to a bill protecting education funding.

Senator Kissel has put in several bills to legislation for education but they have been turned down. There is a process for funding bills. He has also made several suggestions. When you make suggestions or propose a bill you are expected to explain where the funding will come from. The media does not cover everything that is going on in the legislature. He does not want to see funding cut from municipalities. Municipalities are being forced to balance this out. This is a concern for not only Enfield, but the surrounding towns. He has concerns with the spending cap. This forces us to make difficult decisions.

Representative Alexander stated he has submitted several bills as a first year legislator. The gun issue this year has taken up a lot of time and he feels we are a couple weeks behind schedule. The spending cap for the Affordable Care Act will be 100% refundable by the Federal Government. He is in favor of the spending cap and it serves as a purpose. Some of the Federal program items are excluded from the spending cap because they are 100% refundable. He does not want to see cuts made to municipalities. He will look into ECS funding.

Mrs. Szewczak stated we are hopeful that we will receive our bonding funds in 2014. Representative Kiner has received all of the necessary paperwork from the Town of Enfield to help move this forward for us. This is something the Building Committee has done a lot of work on. You can look at our busing contract anytime. Smyth Bus is wonderful. She is concerned with the Kindergarten study. You have all of the resources available but now you will need to conduct a study committee. This does not make any sense.

Mrs. Szewczak stated the Town of Enfield was very conscientious when we reorganized our elementary schools. We were no longer considered racially disadvantaged. Now we have lost Title I Funding because of this. Title I Funding is only available if you concentrate poverty in one school. We still have the same need throughout our district but are not receiving the resources to address it. We are caught in this catch 22 scenario.

Mrs. Szewczak stated Mr. Jonaitis has a list of unfunded mandates. She has two unfunded mandates – the High School Reform and Teacher Evaluations. We need to lay-off teachers so we can evaluate them. The teachers are there to teach the students. We need to get back to a more simple way of life. She would like you to bring that back to Hartford and let them know we do things simply

in Enfield and we want to do it our way. Thank you.

Mr. Fealy asked Representative Alexander about funding for guns that will affect funding that goes to each town. He hopes you will be able to explain that to the parents that want full day Kindergarten why we will not be able to afford it. In the fairness of by partisanship, maybe a study would be better served. We would be better off with the money in our pockets and know exactly how to spend it instead of the 100% funding for the Affordable Care Act. He would like you to find useful ways to spend the money that has already been taken from us.

Mrs. LeBlanc echoed Mrs. Szewczak's feelings towards the Kindergarten Entrance Age study. You can ask all of the BOE's in CT about this and they will tell you what is best. She has heard from several parents that would like us to do what they are doing in Massachusetts.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated if Towns are held to the MBR shouldn't the State be held to the same MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement)?

Representative Alexander believes in that in theory. He will discuss this with Representative Kiner.

Senator Kissel stated MBR is an insurance policy. Enforcing MBR prohibits us from providing quality education. He did propose a bill regarding MBR. MBR is being reformulated. Mrs. LeBlanc added maybe we should conduct a study on MBR.

Mrs. Rancourt stated she watched the Town Council meeting the other day. In Enfield last year, we had over 400 residents that were put under protective custody. We have already placed 146 in protective custody this year. She is concerned about how many children are placed in protective custody. She wished the State would look at these numbers and compare them from Town to Town. The Enfield Chief of Police is concerned about this.

Mrs. Rancourt asked what you think about Enfield being so pro-active with security in our schools. Do you think any financing will be coming out in the future for this for the towns that are responding to this issue first?

Senator Kissel believes there will be provisions made for the security guards to carry guns in the schools. There are some glitches in the bill that he voted against that Representative Alexander voted for. He believes additional bills will be made regarding this. Communities are torn on this issue. Funding for this is a concern for many towns. There does not appear that funding is going to be available. A competitive grant will be available but there are no guarantees. He has concerns with funding for mental health being cut. He has concerns with this bill.

Representative Alexander stated that he voted for this bill and stands by it. He agrees with Senator Kissel that more regulations are needed. He believes background checks are needed when purchasing ammunition and limits on the ammunition rounds are needed. He feels the bill was done bipartisanly. Guns in schools will need to be looked into. He felt the decision made for security guards should have been done slower. He also was not happy that the Parochial Schools were excluded from this.

Chairman Neville stated the SEED program has value but it is jeopardizing our budget. He is in favor of teacher evaluation program. If the State cannot pay for this unfunded mandate, we certainly will not be able to afford it. A study on this should have been done first. Imposing this Statewide hurts everyone. This is something we have not been able to plan for and wonders if this is worthwhile. He knows you understand the pain we are going through. Is there a way for you to involve us more in this process?

Senator Kissel stated that he has heard from several other Towns that this mandate frustrates you professionally and financially. Everyone is asking us to go slow. He will look at this later tonight long and hard before he makes any decisions. He will decide if he is going to propose an amendment to this. Everyone needs the best teachers. He does not know who is pushing this bill. He might be

able to get support from other Senators. He does not want to see any more mandates being imposed. He is sure other Towns do not have MOU's for the gun bill like Enfield does.

Chairman Neville added please do whatever you can for us. This is a huge undertaking.

Representative Alexander is also in agreement with the concerns regarding teacher evaluations and other unfunded mandates. Maybe this can be done more effectively and practically. He applauds Senator Kissel for looking into this. He would also be supportive of this.

Chairman Neville thanked them for coming and answering all of our questions.

Senator Kissel will also look into the protective custody orders mentioned by Mrs. Rancourt. He would like the student representatives to ask questions the next time we are here.

EHS Student Representative Brandon Andexler stated he would ask questions the next time the legislators are here.

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber stated she will save her questions for the next Youth Vote.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the teacher evaluation system that is being proposed is nuts. We went through the student suspensions a few years ago. A pilot or a study is not needed – it is just plain crazy.

Mr. Jonaitis stated Mr. Smyth does a phenomenal job for our school district with his bus company.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the State will come up with any funding regarding school security. You mentioned bullet proof glass and different ways to harden buildings.

Senator Kissel stated recommendations will be made for different school sizes based on the Town sizes. Simple solutions will be offered like solid doors, hardened glass entry ways but they are expensive. There will be a tool kit that they offer for quick easy changes for schools to make. There will be a competitive grant for Towns to apply for.

Representative Alexander will contact the Public Safety Committee Chair tomorrow to see what is available.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she is not sure if this is something the Education Committee has discussed. During our budget talks, we discuss many things like Choice students. It seems that the State is always trying to up the ante regarding Choice students. It is very frustrating because they have these brand new state of the art buildings that entice students and it ends up costing us more when our kids go to these magnet schools. They are willing to give you money and are dangling a carrot in front of us. They are taking services away from our kids. We need the money.

Chairman Neville thanked Senator Kissel and Representative Alexander for being here. If you receive any additional information we would like to hear from you.

Ms. Hall asked if you are in favor of the proposed increases for the judges. Senator Kissel is not in favor of that. There are so many other areas that have needs. He is very hesitant to support this.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Kindergarten Registration Week – as presented
- b. TC Budget Public Hearing – as presented
- e. Grants Report – as presented
- f. Personnel Report – as presented

8. AUDIENCES

Jen Moncuse, Booth Road – Mrs. Moncuse is supporting full day Kindergarten. It is a good idea and would like us to find a way to pay for this. She would be willing to pay for it as well as many other parents. There is no way students can do all of the required work that students will need to do in a half day Kindergarten program with the new State standards. We need to prepare our kids about the security guards in our schools. She would like the school counselors to address this with the children in an age appropriate way. She needs to prepare her children so they will not be fearful next year. Children are not fearful of firefighters. We need to address this before school starts next year. Parents need to know how to explain this to our children so they are not fearful. She needs our help.

Chairman Neville asked Mrs. Moncuse to contact Mr. Drezek about this. Thank you for addressing the Board.

Mrs. Rancourt asked if the student representatives can address the Board now so they do not need to stay here any later tonight. Chairman Neville and Board members all agreed to allow the students representatives to make their comments now.

EHS Student Representative Brandon Andexler stated the Junior Prom was held and the students had a really good time. It was held at the Sheriton Hotel in Windsor Locks and the students really liked the new location. Enfield High School hosted a blood drive today. The turnout was very good. The Lamplighters will put on their spring production of "FAME". Buzz Robotics is headed to St. Louis and he wishes them well at this competition.

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber stated Fermi held their Family Science Night and the turnout was good. Lamplighters hosted their spring production of "A Pirates Life". The Strings Festival will be held on Thursday this week at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium. The Senior Prom will be held on May 10th. We also have coming up a Band and Orchestra Concert on May 15th and the Fermi Idol Competition.

Chairman Neville stated you are welcome to make comments and ask questions at any Board meeting. Tell the Board members sitting next to you and they will get our attention.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Continue FY2013-14 Budget Discussion

Dr. Schumann distributed updated documents for the 2013-14 Budget Development Chronology. He reviewed the document with Board members and noted the revision date on the bottom of the document. These potential budget cuts are not something that we want to do but they will balance the Board's budget to the Town's proposed budget allocation.

Dr. Schumann stated that he met today with the Mayor and Town Manager and at this time there are no additional cost savings available for IT services. The administration will continue to monitor SPED tuition costs/services and magnet school tuition costs.

Dr. Schumann added that out of 320 Enfield students that applied to attend magnet school in 2013-14, 104 students have been accepted for next year. We will continue to monitor to see how many of the 104 students will actually attend magnet schools next year.

Dr. Schumann stated we will also continue with the CCSS and SEED mandates since we have not learned anything different from our legislators regarding this.

Mrs. Rancourt asked about SPED costs increasing and laying off 3 special education paras. Would this increase be due to outplacement costs? Dr. Schumann stated we reviewed the SPED IEP's and are making reductions with SPED paras based on needs. If we are going to meet the Town Manager's budget, we will need to make reductions in all areas. We will make more efficient use of those para's. The increase in SPED costs are due to tuition costs increasing based on the amount of students

requiring services that we currently know about.

Mrs. Szewczak asked why we are using the \$50K amount when we lay off teachers. We will also need to pay for their unemployment compensation costs. Dr. Schumann stated that is the number we budgeted for those particular individuals for next year. We have already budgeted \$240K for the retiring teachers. The additional \$50K per staff member would account for the teachers being laid off.

Mr. Fealy stated we budget \$20K per year for being members of CAFE. He would like to see us make this reduction in the budget to try to save some teaching positions or paras that service the needs of our children.

Mr. Sirard left the meeting at 8:46PM.

Mr. Grady asked with teacher retirements and layoffs, what program areas will suffer?

Dr. Schumann stated that is a really complicated area that the Board will need to look at. He distributed a document titled Potential Reduction Areas for the Board's Consideration. He reviewed the document with Board members by discussing class sizes, additional impacts, cuts at JFK and impact of the JFK cuts; cuts at the high schools and impact of the high school cuts.

Mr. Grady asked how the potential cuts will impact our accreditation, AP classes, and graduation requirements. His concern is that class sizes will increase. There will be fewer elective classes for students to choose from at the high school and the number of credits needed to graduate will increase.

Dr. Schumann stated we will find a way for the students to have enough credits in order to graduate. If we fix the problem with the budget we will not have to worry about the NEAS&C. We would need to notify them immediately if we reduce the librarian and the counselor hours. NEAS&C will be here in 2017 to certify the accreditation at the new combined high school. We would most definitely be placed on a warning status prior to 2017. The chances are we will be given a lot of latitude since we are closing one high school.

Mr. Grady stated he is worried that once these positions and programs are cut we will never get them back. This has happened in the past. Dr. Schumann stated these are valid worries.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if the 320 students applying to magnet schools is in addition to the students already at magnet schools. Dr. Schumann stated this is in addition to. Now the 104 students have received offers and will need to decide if they are going.

Mrs. LeBlanc added the number of students applying to magnet schools is a negative reflection on our school system. We are also going to lose 23 quality teachers due to budget cuts. We should be ashamed of ourselves. Quality teachers are not going to want to come to Enfield because no one will ever know from year to year if they will have a job or not. She hopes a lot of people show up to the budget meeting on Wednesday night.

Mrs. Szewczak asked if we know how many of the 104 students are pre-school students. Dr. Schumann will get that information to Board members. We do have a breakdown on that.

Mrs. Szewczak asked Dr. Schumann to explain why there are no administrator layoffs. Dr. Schumann stated in order to implement SEED, the administrator needs to evaluate teachers will increase by 300% based on the new mandate. We asked the Board to consider adding 7 assistant principals at the K-5 schools. We can reduce that request to have one assistant principal for 2 schools. We will struggle to meet the requirements at JFK and both high schools with our current number of administrators. We will use complimentary evaluators to assist our administrators or we can use other teachers with the proper certification and training to assist with the evaluations. There is really no room to reduce any of our 20 administrators if we are to continue with the mandated

SEED requirement.

Mrs. Szewczak thanked Dr. Schumann for that information and added this is a tremendous burden that we must carry since there is no funding coming from Hartford for this State mandated requirement.

Mr. Fealy asked Dr. Schumann about the perception of lack of quality in our school system. With all the cuts that have been made over the past few years, our students still seem to be performing very well in our ERG/DRG. How can we change that perception about our school system or is he seeing things incorrectly.

Dr. Schumann stated you are correct and believes Mrs. Rancourt will acknowledge that we have outstanding educators in our school system. Our students are extremely talented as we saw tonight. He believes Mrs. LeBlanc was inferring to students leave at transition stages to take opportunities at bigger brighter schools. CREC is building big bright new schools and they are recruiting aggressively to entice students from all communities. They are being very successful with their campaign. We need to tell people about our school system and market our schools. This is a goal of his for next year. He has met with a graduate of Fermi that has done marketing for the Hartford Public Schools. We want people to know about our new high school and he cannot wait until it is opened. We need to publicize this information.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated her children go to school in Enfield and she is happy with the education they are receiving and the teachers they have. People are still not happy with the reorganization. Every year we struggle with the budget. Some parents have lost faith and are jumping ship. Some parents are sending their kids to magnet schools and have found that the grass is not always as green on the other side. We need to deliver on the education side to go along with our new high school. Everything has a snowball effect. It comes with a bill. She supports full day Kindergarten but does not know how we are going to do this financially.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we have good teachers in Enfield. Teachers are going to want to teach in Enfield because we are paying them very well. Our teachers do the best they can with what they have. All Towns are going through this. This is not just unique in Enfield. Salaries and insurance costs are constantly increasing. Most people that live in Enfield are paying a lot for their benefits. This is something we are up against every year with the budget process. He would like to see what it costs the Town of Enfield before we spend \$1 on any kid that lives here. That would be an interesting number. Unless the unions work with us or the Town Council wants to increase the mil rate, this will be hard to do. He would welcome the teachers and administrators to sit down with us. The CEA has an ad they are running asking for the teachers to be included in the solutions. This is not just our problem, it takes a village. This is not an easy process. We will need to do things differently.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated if she is looking for a job she would look at a company that has longevity and is more stable. That is why she believes people do want to stay in Enfield. She may be looking at this differently.

Mr. Fealy agrees with Mrs. LeBlanc about looking for a stable company or a more solvent State. Education is why people are leaving Enfield. His children go to our school system. People are leaving the State because they cannot afford to live here. Some people may leave because they do not like what is going on in our schools. Everyone has ideas for the budget. He supports full day Kindergarten. If we support everything that everyone wants, we will need to keep adjusting the mil rates and we will end up in a ghost town because no one will be able to afford living here.

Mr. Fealy does not want to see us increase our Choice students attending schools in Enfield. He does not want to see us increase any of the class sizes.

Mrs. Rancourt stated that our budget proposal was for 3.98%. The Town Manager cut our budget proposal to a possible 1.78%. This is not guaranteed and may be cut further. In order to get to the 1.78% we will need to cut full day Kindergarten and reduce our staff by 30 positions. She wants

people at home to understand this.

Chairman Neville stated this information is public record and he would like the two sheets presented by Dr. Schumann placed on the website. Mrs. Zalucki will post this on the website on Wednesday.

Mrs. Rancourt stated families are moving to towns like Somers, Ellington and Suffield. They are not moving to towns in our ERG like East Windsor and Windsor Locks. Our numbers may look really good that is not what parents are comparing us to when they move away.

Mrs. Rancourt stated she knows most of the students that received awards tonight. These students are so brilliant. They are at the top of their classes. They are the students taking the AP classes. They are going on to attend wonderful colleges like UCONN and Stonehill College. We need more AP classes not fewer classes. We have over 300 students that want to attend magnet schools and this does not include the students that are already at magnet schools. Parents need to attend the public hearing tomorrow night and say something. We are getting robbed.

Chairman Neville stated based on his experiences, we cannot have only one nurse at the middle school. Mrs. Rancourt mentioned the number of protective custody cases we are dealing with in Enfield. A majority of them involve children. Our nurses are dealing with these students first hand. He would not be voting to reduce the number of nurses at the secondary level based on the problems we have seen.

Chairman Neville stated that we worked hard to get our elementary class sizes where they are. Why did we do all that work to go back to where we were. He questions the number of classes at JFK being reduced in a team. Were you including a SPED teacher in that number? Dr. Schumann stated that would include half a guidance counselor position and a half special education position or some other combination of special subject area teachers.

Chairman Neville stated with these proposed reductions you will see your average class sizes spike. This is where problems will exist like discipline issues. He would also like to see projected class sizes at the high school. Some of the AP classes will only have 10 students in a class but they can also be combined with another class utilizing a teacher's time. The Portfolio Art class by design is a smaller class and could also be considered for reduction. The librarian will be split between the two buildings. Dr. Schumann added that is our thought for possible reductions.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about on-line classes. Chairman Neville stated you would still need someone to supervise the students. They are using on-line classes at Adult Education. CREC is also doing this with their virtual learning academy. There are costs with this program. Mr. Fealy added this could be a viable option. Ms. Hall stated Suffield is currently using this. Chairman Neville would like Ms. McKernan to explore this option further.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about a credit recovery on-line program and wonders if we should be doing something like this. We could look at our upper world languages classes and AP classes. Students can take a test to see if they pass the course. Dr. Schumann stated that Ms. McKernan has discussed the on-line recovery credit program. You would still need a certified teacher in the room. He will have her prepare something about this.

Mr. Fealy asked Representative Kiner about some of these concerns and funding. Chairman Neville will reach out to him about this also. Mr. Fealy added he may have some additional information about the mandates. Chairman Neville is concerned with the transportation issue as well. He is not sure how this would play out for us in Enfield and how much of a cut we are looking at.

Ms. Hall stated it could cut out the private school transportation grant altogether. They are discussing a competitive grant which really is not a good thing at all. It is a big problem altogether. This could potentially create another gap in our budget that we have not discussed.

Chairman Neville agreed with Mrs. Rancourt that the Town Manager's budget is just a proposal and

we are not sure what the Town Council will allocate to us. We could receive less than what was proposed. We all believe in full day Kindergarten and want it. The question is where will we find the money to fund this. The mandate issue is a huge concern for all of us. We offer our students a good education in Enfield. Every student that goes to a magnet school costs us money. We are actually paying for this cost twice. We still need to keep a teacher on board and need to pay for the magnet school tuition for each student.

Chairman Neville commended the administration for looking at possible reduction areas in the budget. We need to sit down and work together just like we did with the reorganization and the consolidation to see if there is some middle ground for us to get here.

Mr. Fealy stated we can start with our State Representatives to start the conversation. Chairman Neville is concerned because they will not have a lot of power in that conversation. Mr. Fealy added the Town Council will be in the same position if they are short funded. Chairman Neville added that we all want the same thing but may disagree on how to get there. We need to find a balance to provide what is best for our students.

Mr. Jonaitis stated that full day Kindergarten is not his number one priority anymore. He would like to see an alternative education provided for our students that are on the verge of dropping out or being expelled. He would also like to see some kind of a vocational education program in this area. We need to start discussing what will be done with the Fermi building. We could use the bottom level of Fermi for a vocational and alternative educational program. Then he would like to see us have full day Kindergarten.

Chairman Neville would like these documents placed on the website so people can address concerns about this at the public hearing on Wednesday.

10. NEW BUSINESS - None

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Szewczak stated the Building Committee met and discussed the original building plans. They have made the necessary changes and will use the original square footage that was approved. The Building Committee approved scheme 3.1. There are a few minor modifications to the building. Everyone is pleased with the progress. She will have them update the webpage with the changes. If anyone has any questions you can e-mail Mr. Daigle or Mrs. Szewczak.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Rancourt stated Eli Whitney will hold a book fair next week and on May 2nd there will be a PTO Family Night with Bingo. Mrs. Ingalls sent parents a great spring events calendar. She will see if this can be placed on the Whitney website for parents to view upcoming school events.

Mrs. Rancourt would like some clarification regarding beverages students can bring to school. They can only bring in a beverage like juice or water that will only be consumed by them during lunch. If you are bringing in items for a birthday you can only bring in water. Dr. Schumann believes that is correct. Mrs. Rancourt stated the Parkman students came home telling their parents they could no longer bring in juice.

Mrs. Rancourt would like us to hold a community conversation for the parents of students in grades K-2 and 3-5 in May or June with the school counselors and discuss how to talk with your child about the school security officers being in our schools. She would also like some talking points placed on the website for parents to use about this.

Mrs. Rancourt stated the public hearing on the budget will be held at Enfield High School. The Board held a conversation several years ago at Hazardville Memorial and there were many teachers that vocally spoke about the affects of increased class sizes and how that will impact the children.

She hopes that many teachers will again come out and express their concerns with increased class sizes and student learning.

Ms. Hall echoed Mrs. Rancourt's comments. We need the community to attend the public hearing tomorrow night at 7:00 PM in the EHS Auditorium and make your positions known about the education budget. We need you there more this year more than any other year.

Ms. Hall stated she re-read some of the notes we received at the Board appreciation night. She is even more impressed by what we received. These items are wonderful. Thank you.

Dr. Schumann stated we will take the Board appreciation items currently being displayed at Central Office down on May 1st. If any Board member would like to stop by and take some of these items please do so. Thank you.

Mr. Fealy stated we have received far less funding in the past years and our budgets were much smaller. We need to be careful how we spend our money. Throwing money at a problem does not fix the problem. He would like to see the Board work together to get there. He does not want to see our taxes increase. He is a proponent of Education and is a proponent of what we can afford. The budget process is painful. The bottom line has to dictate our ability to pay at the State level and at the municipal level. States are going broke. We need to pay for what we can afford and not exceed our budget. The best intentions and how we feel about it is not going to make it any better. He hopes that community members on both sides of the budget issue will attend the public hearing tomorrow night.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated JFK will host the production of "Annie" on May 3rd and 4th. The Jr. National Honor Society Induction will be held on May 8th. Both the JFK Softball and Baseball teams have started and are off to a good start.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she has roots in Enfield and is not ready to give up on our school system or the Town even though she does not always agree with what is happening. She urged parents to get involved and attend the budget public hearing.

Chairman Neville stated the date for the spelling bee was changed several times. This bothered him and we have discussed this previously. The spelling bee is important to the town. This event was held on the same night as the "First Readers Ceremony". Something needs to be done about these kinds of conflicts. He would like Dr. Schumann to look into this and reach out to the Town about scheduling events.

Chairman Neville stated we are looking at the possibility of cutting 30 positions in our budget. We all ran for office because we care about education. We need the community to let us know what is important to them. We need everyone to come out to the public hearing. We need to hear from you. We have been very patient and have been doing with less and have tried to make this work. The past Boards have done a good job. We are to a point where we are doing with less and less. We all feel these items are important to us. These proposed budget cuts are unconscionable and will dismantle us. These cuts will discourage people from coming to Enfield. He is proud of Enfield and his kids received a great education. We have an obligation to take care of our kids.

Chairman Neville added that his suggestion is that we need to sit down with the Town Council and figure out a medium course to take.

Ms. Hall stated at the First Readers Ceremony last night, we celebrated 182 students that can now read. They received a t-shirt, pencil, bookmark and many handshakes.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Special Meeting minutes of April 8, 2013 be approved. A vote by **show of hands 7-0-1** passed with Mrs. LeBlanc abstaining.

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Regular Meeting minutes of April 9, 2013 be approved. A vote by **show of hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

Chairman Neville stated the Board does not have the need for an Executive Session as indicated on the agenda.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak to adjourn the Regular Meeting of April 23, 2013.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:49 PM.

Donna Szewczak
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary