

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 13, 2014**

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 May 13, 2014.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Chairman Sirard
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Sirard
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Sirard announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Jonaitis, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, David Wawer (arrived at 7:08 PM), Vin Grady, Tina LeBlanc, Timothy Neville, Stacy Thurston and Tom Sirard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Chris Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; EHS Student Representative Christine Luksic and FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgeber (arrived at 7:12 PM)

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)** - None

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives Report– as presented
- b. School Readiness Grant – as presented

Mrs. Pam Brown, Social Services Director and Mrs. Chris Gomeau, KITE Coordinator gave an overview of the School Readiness Grant to the Board. The grant is submitted jointly by both the Town of Enfield and Board of Education. This grant will increase our reimbursement for 3 additional pre-school slots.

Mr. Neville stated this is the second year of the 2-year grant. Mrs. Brown stated that is correct. This is the second year of this grant.

Mr. Neville asked about the tuition. Mrs. Brown stated we have a sliding fee scale for families that is set by the State. The scale is based on the parent's income.

Mr. Wawer arrived at 7:08 PM.

Chairman Sirard thanked both Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Gomeau for attending tonight's meeting.

- c. Technology Plan Presentation – as presented

Mrs. McKernan presented the Technology Plan that was previously presented to the members of the Curriculum Committee. The Technology Plan is for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

Ms. Saltzgeber arrived at 7:12 PM.

Mrs. McKernan reviewed the 5 goals and 25 action steps for the Technology Plan: 1) Engraving and Empowering Learning Experiences; 2) Assessment; 3) Connected Teaching and Learning; 4) Infrastructure for Teaching and Learning; and 5) Productivity and Efficiency. She is very pleased with the progress that has been made.

Ms. McKernan thanked the Board for your continued support by keeping our teachers and students current with our technology needs.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if the town is taking any initiatives to convert XP's to Windows 7.

Dr. Schumann stated the town is looking at all of our XP computers. Some of the computers can be updated and some can't. If they continue to use their XP's, they are safe as long as they are behind our firewall using our network. If they use the XP elsewhere they are not protected.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated they are in the process of converting XP to Windows 7 at her work.

Dr. Schumann stated one of our major concerns with XP is with our library catalog system. This system cannot be converted. Mrs. LeBlanc added that her company ran into the same situation where some of the programs cannot be converted.

Mr. Neville stated that a lot of companies and government agencies are in the same situation. Some programs can be updated and some can't. Microsoft has agreed to maintain the licenses for a fee. This is a huge issue that affects many. This is part of a long term plan. The IT Committee is looking into this. Everyone knew about this issue for years.

Mr. Peabody stated the challenge is with the vendors using the operating systems. ITPC will need to move toward leases. We have older operating systems that will need to be monitored.

Mr. Wawer thanked Ms. McKernan for her presentation. He asked about the SBAC testing costs. Is this cost underwritten by State Grants or by local taxpayer dollars? How did the testing improve student learning.

Ms. McKernan stated the SBAC testing was provided at no cost to the district. She is not sure if the State paid anything towards the testing this year. The tests were for a field test this year – a test to the test. The test would see if students across the 26 States could take the test at the same time and have the system support all of the users at the same time. We will not see the results for this test. We have gained knowledge and know how to prepare better for the tests in the future.

Mr. Neville added that SBAC is new to us. This was a test to see if our infrastructure was strong enough. We have always done testing. SBAC is new but this is not a new process for us.

Ms. McKernan stated in the past when students were tested for CMT or CAPT, they would also field test questions. There has always been a protocol for these test questions.

Mr. Peabody asked if there were any technology issues during the testing.

Ms. McKernan stated there were some issues but mostly we faired very well during the SBAC testing. They needed to reset 40 tests due to the April vacation. There were some glitches that needed to be worked out. Also the system crashed which caused us to reset some of the tests. There were 12 technical glitches and 42 resets that were reported.

Mr. Peabody asked how the student's reacted when the system crashed.

Ms. McKernan stated the students were able to get right back into the system. If they had saved their work, it didn't seem to affect them much. If the work was lost, they would need to start over. This caused some frustration. This did not happen to a lot of students, only a few. She does not have a total number of times when the system crashed.

Mr. Peabody stated this is web based architecture that he is not comfortable with. How did you contact them when the system crashed? Did you call their help desk or was our internal IT department helpful.

Ms. McKernan stated we used both. The teachers called her with any problems and she contacted them to report the issues. Most issues were rectified during that day and some took a couple of days.

Mr. Peabody stated this is just performance data using the application. Ms. McKernan stated they will look at the data received. We will not receive student data like we were used to getting. We will receive some data from the testing. We are not expecting to receive student level data this year. Next year we will receive this information from the testing.

Chairman Sirard asked if there was a grant for the SBAC test. Ms. McKernan stated no.

Chairman Sirard added that we did not receive any funding to implement this testing. The testing still cost us man hours to implement it. Ms. McKernan stated we also logged man hours with CMT and CAPT testing. We also logged errors with the CMT and CAPT testing.

Mr. Jonaitis asked how we became this great nation without all of the billions of dollars we have spent on testing.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked our lap tops, lab computers or desktops crashed? Ms. McKernan stated the majority of the issues were from the SBAC side, not from us. Our computers worked fine. We did have some issues with the Mac's.

Mr. Neville asked what students were tested. Ms. McKernan stated students in grades 3-8; all grade 11 students, grade 10 FHS students and grade 10 EHS students started the tests. We had issues with the testing at EHS and decided to stop the grade 10 tests. She was pleased with the number of devices we had to use for student testing.

Mr. Neville asked if there were different testing for SPED students. Ms. McKernan stated students took the skills checklist. The system has embedded accommodations for SPED students.

Mr. Neville added that he is impressed with the low number of issues we encountered. Ms. McKernan stated the principals and teachers did a great job with this.

Mr. Neville thanked Ms. McKernan for the presentation. We are making progress. Technology plays an important role as we move forward. He would like additional updates on our progress in the future.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated her grade 7 student did not mind the test but her grade 4 student did not like the testing.

Mr. Peabody thanked Ms. McKernan for the presentation. This is eye opening and refreshing to see our technology plan for a school setting. This is the future of how we can increase the

positive school learning for our students.

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgiver gave her report. She added that the Fermi Marching Band will perform in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC. The Fermi Trumpet Section has been asked to play Taps at one point during the parade. This was done from a nomination from Congressman Joe Courtney.

- d. National Honor Society Dinner – as presented
- e. Incoming Grade 3 Open House – as presented
- f. Lego Fair – as presented
- g. Memorial Day & Schools Closed

Chairman Sirard thanked Ms. McKernan for her presentation. He also thanked our student representatives for the good jobs they are doing for the Board. You both impress him with everything you both do.

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Colene & Samantha Ceniglio, Shannon Drive – Ms. Ceniglio stated she is here tonight regarding the dress code at JFK. She is in all high honors classes at JFK and has been recognized two times for a patriot pride award. She was stopped today by an assistant principal because her sleeveless top was considered to be distracting to the educational learning. Our job as students is to learn and do well on student testing. She would like the Board to reconsider the dress code at JFK. The current dress code is not fair because teachers can wear tank tops. If our parents feel our attire is appropriate, we should be allowed to wear what we chose. She thanked the Board.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Grady attended the JFK play the Little Mermaid. The audience was jammed packed. The students did a great job. Last week was teacher appreciation week. He thanked all of our teachers for everything you do for our students.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated both Katie Saltzgiver and Jeremy Hart for being Fermi's Scholar Athletes. This honor is well deserved for both students. She congratulated the Fermi Band and Trumpet players for being nominated to play at the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC. She looks forward to seeing this performance on video. She attended the grade 4 Whitney Assembly. She attended the EHS Groundbreaking ceremony. It was done very nicely. The bands from both high schools played and were represented during the ceremony. This is an exciting time for the town and our students. She was glad to be part of this process.

Mr. Neville congratulated Ms. Saltzgiver. You represent us well and this is such an honor. The Groundbreaking ceremony was outstanding. Next we will start to move the dirt and build the building. The public will see a fine building from start to finish. This is exciting for our town. He commends the Committee members, Mayor Kaupin and Dr. Schumann for putting this together.

Mr. Neville stated he is a member of the suicide prevention committee and a lot of good things have come from this committee like Rachel's Challenge. There are many offshoots from this committee. We are trying to make our community safer. He commended everyone involved trying to make this a safer place. This really is a positive thing.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the EHS Girls Softball team needs one more win to make it to the playoffs. This is an accomplishment for the team since last year they only had 1 win. She enjoys

watching the girls play.

Mrs. Thurston congratulated the JFK Junior National Honor Society Students that were recently inducted. She attended the ceremony and was quite impressed with the number of students being inducted. She also attended the Little Mermaid play at JFK. The auditorium was packed. The kids should be commended for the jobs they did. The play was really good.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the dress code at JFK has always been a concern and has been an ongoing issue for many years. This issue could be looked at again. This is a touchy issue for many.

Mr. Peabody congratulated Ms. Saltzgeber. He recently played in the Fermi High School Instrumental Golf Tournament and did pretty well. He thanked both Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek for their patience answering his questions and requests during the budget workshops that were held.

Mrs. Unghire also congratulated Ms. Saltzgeber. The Enfield Strings Festival was held for students in grades 5-12. This was truly amazing. She also attended the JFK play the Little Mermaid. She went Friday night and there were no seats so she went on Saturday. She congratulated the students for a job well done and to Ms. Fitzsimons for her direction of the play. It was hard to believe they are middle school students.

Mrs. Unghire thanked Mr. Coppler, Mr. Drezek and Dr. Schumann for the presentation they gave to the community on the budget. She attended the grandparent's breakfast at Hazardville Memorial where they served to over 300 breakfasts. She met with Mrs. Mazzoli who will be retiring at the end of this year. They will hold a retirement dinner for her on June 17<sup>th</sup> at LaNotte.

Mrs. Unghire stated she will attend a CREC meeting next week and will report back to the Board.

Mr. Wawer also congratulated Ms. Saltzgeber. He is looking forward to reading her name in the newspapers over the next 4 years listing her accomplishments. He also attended the JFK play on Friday. It was a great play and the kids did a great job. He spoke to the staff after the play Ms. Fitzsimons, Ms. Hayes and Mr. Jackson. They all did a good job. He was also very impressed with the middle school student's performances.

Mr. Wawer also attended the Pom Pom Zombies play at EHS. This was also a great show and they are moving in a nice direction under the new EHS Lamp Lighters director, Mr. Ferreria. They are planning to invest in some new plays for next year.

Mr. Wawer stated the State Legislatures have adjourned. CABA sent us a list of new items that came from this Legislative Session. There is not much good news to share except there are some new mandates that will be coming. There is no relief for CREC tuitions, and no relief for Teacher Evaluation or Common Core.

Chairman Sirard also congratulated Ms. Saltzgeber. You rock and do us proud. He attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony and it was great. He has been involved in the process from the beginning and is very proud of the new building. The new school will go up and the old Higgins building has come down.

Chairman Sirard announced that Kathleen Cookie Bromage, the EHS Field Hockey Coach was honored last year from the Connecticut High School Coaches Association and was inducted into the Hall of Fame. This year she has received the highest award given out from this organization - the Thomas Monahan Award. She has been inducted into their Hall of Fame for being our Field Hockey Coach for 47 years. I hope to see her at the Awards Recognition

Program we will hold at a future BOE meeting so we can thank you properly.

Chairman Sirard wished everyone a happy mother's day.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. Policy Review – 5140.3 Child Abuse/Neglect – Second Reading**

Mr. Wawer reviewed the policy with the Board.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5140.3 Child Abuse/Neglect review as presented for a second and final reading.

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

**b. Policy Revision – 5123 Promotion/Retention – Second Reading**

Mr. Wawer reviewed the policy revision with the Board.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the policy #5123 Promotion/Retention revisions as presented for a second and final reading.

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

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Approve School Readiness Renewal Grant for FY2014-15**

Dr. Schumann reviewed the need for the School Readiness Renewal Grant for FY2014-15 with the Board.

Mrs. Wawer moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield board of Education approves the School Readiness Renewal Grant for FY2014-15 as presented.

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

**b. Action if any, regarding Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining - ESAA**

Board members agreed to address Item #11a after Item 17.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Use of Fermi Advisory Committee**

Chairman Sirard reported the Use of Fermi Advisory Committee has requested the Board for permission to ask the Town Council for an architect to review the JFK site for possible addition(s) or to update the site.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about updating the site. Chairman Sirard stated JFK is a valuable school and it looks well. The committee is looking into the possibility of eliminating the trailers by adding another spoke to the existing school between red and black wings.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if there are any tanks that they would need to deal with at this location. Mr. Neville stated that he did not believe there were any in that location.

Chairman Sirard stated the committee is looking for either Board liaisons Mr. Peabody, Mrs. Thurston or himself to make this request to the Town Council for an architect to be assigned to look at JFK. Per our policy, no single Board member can request this without prior approval from the Board. Therefore, we will need a motion to accomplish this request from the Future Use of Fermi Advisory Committee.

### **Approve Recommendation to hire an Architect for JFK**

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves the recommendation from the Future Use of Fermi Committee to ask the Town Council to hire an Architect to evaluate JFK.

### **Discussion:**

Mr. Grady asked why we are looking at JFK. The Fermi Advisory Committee was to look at Fermi to see if it is a viable building for a school. Why are we involved with looking at JFK?

Chairman Sirard stated the committee would like to know where the middle school should be located. They would like to look at the numbers for JFK. They are requesting this from the Board.

Mr. Neville remembers how much it cost when the Town hired GM2 to evaluate Fermi. If the Town Council says no, what would be the next step?

Chairman Sirard stated if the Town Council says no, this would be addressed by the Fermi Advisory Committee before they make their final recommendation to the Board.

Mrs. Thurston stated the Fermi Advisory Committee has information about Fermi. They would like the same information about JFK. This way the committee will have all of the information they need to make their recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Grady questioned if this was part of the scope for the Fermi Advisory Committee.

Chairman Sirard stated the scope of the committee was to determine if there was an educational need to use Fermi. From the discussions held by the Fermi Advisory Committee, they would like to know where will the middle school be located – at JFK or at Fermi. The committee has decided in the direction they wanted to go in. They are trying to do their due diligence as a committee.

Mr. Wawer stated the request has merit. It is up to the Town Council to decide, not the Board. All we would be doing is presenting a request to the Town Council. The Town of Enfield owns all of the buildings. He would also think the Town of Enfield would want to do their due diligence for all of their buildings just like bringing down the Higgins building. The Fermi Advisory Committee is doing their due diligence.

Mr. Jonaitis stated JFK was not part of the original scope. Can we use someone to give us an unofficial opinion? There seems to be a number of architects involved that possibly could give us an opinion without it costing the Town anything. If the committee decides that they would like to use Fermi as a middle school, we would then need to hire an architect. He believes the lower grades have fewer students that would impact the middle school down the road. JFK is bursting at the seams now. He remembers the days when both JFK and Kosciuszko had over 2,000 students each. There might be enough architects in town that could give us an unofficial opinion.

Chairman Sirard stated the committee is looking for a rough estimate. By requesting this to

the Town, it does no harm or foul. We can amend the motion for a rough estimate. The Board will make the final decision.

Mr. Peabody stated the proper due diligence of the project is to not just look at the uses for Fermi. In order to give an apples-to-apples comparison, we need to have an architect look at JFK. There is work that needs to be done.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the committee has looked at Fermi for a vocational or technical school. Chairman Sirard stated the committee has looked at using Fermi for alternative education programs. The meetings that have been held have been very lively and a lot of technical questions have been asked and answered.

Mr. Peabody stated we need an architect. A lot of the materials received are data driven. We devoted one meeting to looking at vocational and alternative education programs.

Mr. Jonaitis asked for the motion to be read again.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves the recommendation from the Future Use of Fermi Committee to ask the Town Council to hire an Architect to evaluate JFK.

A vote by **roll-call 7-2-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis and Mr. Grady in dissent.

**13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that Regular Meeting minutes of April 22, 2014 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Invitation to attend the EHS Academic and Scholarship Night on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium;
- b. Invitation to attend the FHS Academic Awards Program on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM and to attend the Scholarship Reception at 5:45 PM in room D206.

**16. AUDIENCES - None**

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Wawer moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for:

- Matter(s) Related to the Superintendent's Evaluation
- Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining - ESAA

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-1-0** passed with Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

The Board relocated to the Staff Lounge for the Executive Session. Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek joined the Board. No Board action occurred while the Board was in Executive Session.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**b. Action if any, regarding Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining - ESAA**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Tentative Agreement between the Board and Enfield School Administrators Association as presented.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Jonaitis stated that he is opposed to the changes to the call back language. He wanted total elimination of this clause.

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

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2014.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Vincent M. Grady  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary