

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 28, 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 May 28, 2013.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Neville.

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Fealy that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Attorney Related & Attorney Client Privilege and Matter(s) Related to Personnel.

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously. The Board remained in Council Chambers for the Executive Session.

Both Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek joined the Board in Executive Session.

**Return to Open Session:**

The Board returned to open session at 8:44 PM. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

Chairman Neville apologized for the delay while the Board was in Executive Session.

3. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Timothy Neville

4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Timothy Neville

5. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Neville announced the fire evacuation announcement.

6. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Jonaitis, Tina LeBlanc, Kevin Fealy, Vin Grady, Donna Szewczak, Joyce Hall, Tom Sirard and Timothy Neville

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jen Rancourt

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

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

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. Student Representatives & Alternates – as presented

Board Members agreed to have the high school principals recommend junior and seniors as student representatives and alternates to the Board for appointments.

- b. EHS/FHS Scholarship/Award Nights – as presented
- c. Enfield Gets Ready for Grade One – as presented
- d. Grants Report – as presented
- e. Personnel Report – as presented

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Sue Braun, Light Street – Ms. Braun stated full day Kindergarten was discussed 15 years ago and instead we expanded all of the schools. By adding full day Kindergarten cuts will be made at the high school. The proposed cuts will affect her children. Full day Kindergarten will benefit some of the students. What educational benefits will be made for the other 12 grades? The reorganization has not been what she thought it would be. It has not enhanced education for the students. One of her children needs resources and her other child needs to be challenged. Thankfully his teacher does that. Standardized tests will now be taken on computers. Not all children are familiar with computers or have the appropriate skill sets needed. High school students will need 22/23 credits to graduate. Behavior is becoming a major concern. She was told by Town Council last year not to worry about all of the children in Enfield. She would like to see her children and all the children in Enfield to be educated not just the Kindergarten students. Regarding guards in our schools, if we cannot afford books, don't buy guns.

Gina Sullivan, Guild Street – Ms. Sullivan asked if full day Kindergarten is implemented, what can we expect at the K-2 schools. How will this work. She was under the impression that all the rooms were being used after the reorganization. Do you have a plan in place? Will services be taken away from the other elementary students? She is aware of the proposed cuts at the high schools. She is for full day Kindergarten but not at the expense of the other students. The public wanted full day Kindergarten and you listened to them. The public did not want armed guards in the schools and you chose not to listen to them. She was originally for guards but has since changed her position. The Board can use the money allocated to you as deemed appropriate. She received an audio recording of the Town Council meeting where they gave the Board money to implement full day Kindergarten. The Board needed to promise to use the funds for full day Kindergarten. She is disappointed to see how this works. Please consider the needs of all of the students in Enfield before you make the decisions for full day Kindergarten. Thank you.

Vinnie Weseliza, Deer Run – Mr. Weseliza is here to discuss the use of Fermi. He has previously discussed the benefits of moving JFK students to Fermi. The space issue at JFK is not a new concern. They are at 95-100% room utilization. Lunch waves start at 10:30 AM. Art and Language is being taught from a cart. Teachers are being very creative regarding room usage. We will need portable classrooms in 2013-14 or will need to expand classrooms. Fermi has more space and can address our space issues. There are ADA issues and they will still need to be addressed if Fermi is to be used. The Town Council has an architect looking at Fermi. They are currently looking to use Fermi as a community center. He would like the Board to conduct a feasibility study regarding using Fermi. He has a petition with 114 signatures on it without even trying. He knows he could get additional signatures. He would like the Board to consider using Fermi as an option for JFK.

Joshua Hamre, New King Street – Mr. Hamre asked the Board to consider adding a second audience portion to the meeting agenda. He thanked the school representatives for their service and encouraged them to continue your civic obligations. He congratulated them for the work they did. He does not believe armed guards belong in our schools. Guns do not belong in schools. He wished Board members Mr. Sirard and Mr. Fealy good luck with their entrepreneurship. He agrees with Mr. Weseliza regarding using Fermi for a middle school. This makes sense. He thanked the Board.

Mrs. Rancourt thanked Mr. Foxx for the work he has done on Post and Raffia Road. It looks fabulous. Thank you.

John Foxx, Sandpiper Road – Mr. Foxx stated the work he has done is at Woodside Park. This has come out of Rachel's Challenge. He was worried about the flowers and was watering them. He has fought hard for the Board with the Town Council regarding the budget. He hopes the Board is happy with what they received as an allocation. The deal the Town Council made with the Board regarding full day Kindergarten does not sound like fair play. They are micro managing the Board. The armed guards were required to have certain training if they are in a school. He believes the sun-setting provision should still be in place. He likes not using Fermi as a middle school. Once the enrollment declines, JFK will be suitable. It is more conducive for middle school students. Full day Kindergarten will inevitably happen either this year or next year due to another State imposed mandate. He hopes that the staff cuts will not be too dramatic. Thank you.

Both Chairman Neville and Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Foxx for the work he has done at Woodside Park. It looks great.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Continue FY2013-14 Budget Discussion and Action, if any**

Chairman Neville stated additional details and specifics are needed before the Board can make any decisions regarding the FY2013-14. The Board has come to a consensus regarding scheduling another meeting to approve the budget.

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education tables the discussion regarding the budget and hold a special meeting to address the FY2013-14 budget.

#### **Point of Order:**

Mr. Jonaitis asked if we are closing the debate regarding the budget. Chairman Neville stated we are tabling the discussion until we can obtain the information needed to continue the budget discussion. There is no discussion regarding tabling an item.

A vote by **roll-call 5-2-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis and Ms. Hall in dissent. Mr. Grady was not present for the roll call vote.

Board members agreed to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in either Council Chambers or the Enfield Room to discuss the FY2013-14 Budget. We will include public comments on the agenda.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. 2013 Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarship**

Dr. Schumann stated information regarding this year's 2013 Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarship recipients is included in the Board packet. Board members are asked to refer to the scholarship recipients as Student A and B so they will be surprised at the EHS scholarship night on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Hall moved seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education awards the 2013 Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarship to Student A and Student B from Enfield High School.

#### **Discussion:**

Ms. Hall stated that she has researched Mr. Bodley and found out that he was a Navy Veteran besides the information mentioned by Mrs. Ogonis.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we do not know who these students are. Chairman Neville added we have some idea but they would like to surprise the students.

Mr. Jonaitis added that you are asking us to approve the students without knowing who they are.

Chairman Neville stated we are accepting the recommendation from the Enfield High School administration.

Ms. Hall stated we know about their characteristics so we do know something about them.

A vote by **roll-call 7-0-1** passed with Mr. Jonaitis abstaining.

**b. Discussion Regarding the Use of the Enrico Fermi Building**

Dr. Schumann stated this topic has been discussed by Mayor Kaupin and Chairman Neville in our governance meetings. We are looking for the Board's input regarding this so they can continue the discussion with Town Council members. He presented the Board with the ADA compliance study dated 12-09-10. Since we would not be using Enrico Fermi due to the high school consolidation, we received a waiver from the Office of Civil Rights. If the Board decides to use Fermi as a school, we are obligated to notify them and would need to move forward with the ADA compliance issues with the building. We have an architectural firm that is working with us for the EHS consolidation. They have provided us with some preliminary work and utilization of FHS for many other purposes including Town offices and recreational facilities. We are ready to gather any additional information you may need in order to make a decision regarding the use of the Enrico Fermi building.

Chairman Neville stated that he asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. He believed a lot of this information was readily available and has since found out that it is not. He would like this information available for public viewing on our website and anything else that may be available for public viewing. Our intent is to conduct a thorough discussion and gain some data regarding this. This would be a first step.

Chairman Neville added that he believed Dr. Gallacher had some of this information regarding specific dollar amounts. He would encourage Dr. Schumann to reach out to either Dr. Schumann or Dr. Pongratz regarding this. He would like to see the dollar amounts attached to this. The Board may have some other information regarding this.

Chairman Neville stated he is in no rush for the Board to make any decisions regarding this until we receive the necessary information. The Town is looking at the facility structure for recreational use.

Chairman Neville stated that he would be interested in seeing how much we still owe on John F. Kennedy and Enrico Fermi. He would also like to see if there any educational concerns for moving the middle school to the Enrico Fermi building. If we were to fix the building, we would most likely need to go to a referendum. If we closed the school, would we be able to do another project without running into major compliance issues. He does not believe we could conduct two projects concurrently with another referendum.

Mr. Fealy asked if we were to renovate to new and keep the school open would this allow us more grant funding opportunities? This might make this more feasible.

Mrs. Szewczak stated we would need to go through the same process with a referendum. The reimbursement would be in the high 60% rate for a “renovate to new construction” than “new construction”.

Mr. Sirard added that we cannot touch the soil cap that was done during the soil remediation. The Town would be financially responsible if we break the 8” cap. We did not go with the complete soil remediation.

Chairman Neville would like Dr. Schumann to see the costs associated with the soil remediation. Dr. Pongratz may have something regarding this.

Mr. Jonaitis agreed with Mr. Sirard. We would be responsible for a huge amount. Chairman Neville would like to know what the costs were associated with this.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she has been inside JFK many times. They are using closets as rooms. The outside portable class rooms cannot be used. The café is crowded. There are fewer teaching stations in the gym compared to using Fermi. She feels that it was presumptuous for the Town to look at Fermi as a community center. We have not had enough time for a discussion about this. The Board should seriously look at using Fermi as a middle school.

Chairman Neville stated we are looking for data. Mrs. LeBlanc understands this but the Town has hired an architect and no one has made any decisions yet. Chairman Neville added that is out of our control.

Mrs. Szewczak stated a ball park figure would be around \$200 per square foot to “renovate to new”. It would cost around \$350 - \$400 per square foot for “new construction”.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if we would need to “renovate to new” based on space and the number of students at JFK. When we graduated from Fermi there were more students than there are now. Mrs. Szewczak added you will not get reimbursed unless you “renovate to new”.

Mrs. LeBlanc understands that we will receive more money to “renovate to new” but would we have to do that. Mrs. Szewczak stated you would need to do the ADA compliance issues and if you are doing that you would need to renovate the building that was built in 1970. It would be better to “renovate to new”. This way the Town would receive some reimbursement and you would have a brand new building.

Mrs. LeBlanc is concerned that within a few years we would be looking at another referendum to use the building as a community center or as a middle school.

Chairman Neville added you would most likely need a referendum either way. You could also renovate JFK.

Mr. Jonaitis asked who decided that we would not use Fermi as a school. Chairman Neville added the Board voted on this. The Mayor and the Town Manager are asking the Board to look at this. They would like us to let them know if we would not need to use Fermi as a school. This is our building. This is an educational building until we no longer need it.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the Town has hired someone to look at the use of the building other than a school. Both Chairman Neville and Mrs. Szewczak stated that is correct.

Mr. Jonaitis is glad to see the Town is telling us what to do again. Chairman Neville stated this topic been out there for a while regarding the use of Fermi.

Mr. Jonaitis asked who let the building fall into such disrepair. Chairman Neville stated this is an ADA compliance issue not disrepair issue.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we are not responsible for the building upkeep anymore. He likes the idea of using Fermi for the middle school. He would like to see us use part of the Enrico Fermi building for an alternative education and vocational educational program. Let's get something for the other kids.

Mrs. Szewczak has a problem with the interior classrooms at Fermi. The Building Committee refers to them as double corridor rooms. They were told by the architect to eliminate them because interior classrooms are not conducive to education learning. That is a problem at Fermi.

Mr. Sirard understands when the building was built they were built as institutional settings for less distractions. That was the trend back then. Open rooms and natural lighting is the trend now. Opinions will change from year to year. The soil at Fermi is a real concern and it can become expensive if touched. It would cost around \$4 million to remove all of the contaminated soil.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we need to look at all of the needs of the students at JFK. We have a lot on our plates. We need a vocational program for our students. We all receive the suspension reports.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the Stowe building will be available for us to use again. This could be used as an annex to JFK. A lot of school systems had neighborhood schools. Other schools have their buildings all in one area. Bus runs could be consolidated. JFK could eventually be turned in an Intermediate school for grades 3, 4 and 5.

Chairman Neville stated the Stowe building will be turned back to us in a year.

Mr. Fealy stated we would need to look at transportation costs that would be incurred.

Chairman Neville stated the educational needs for using Fermi as a middle school should also be considered. We would need to look at the physical needs for labs as well as curriculum needs.

Mr. Fealy asked about any additional State mandates for STEAM standards at the middle school level.

Chairman Neville would like to keep this item on our future agendas for further discussions before any decisions are made by the Board.

## **11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Hall attended the Head Start Policy Committee meeting. Federal grants have been reduced by 5.2% or around \$40K. Students have shown progress between fall and now in all areas. Our Enfield Head Start program is an effective program.

Ms. Hall reported that the Head Start Parents have volunteered to help with any room reorganization for the full day Kindergarten classrooms. They also believe they can have Target help with this reorganization.

## **12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

FHS Student Representative Katie Saltzgiver stated there is a lot going on at Fermi. We had

the Senior Prom, the Spring Instrumental Concert, Fermi Idol and the Senior Class Picnic. Coming up at Fermi will be our Honors Breakfast and Senior Class Night. Our Awards and Scholarship Night will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM. We will hold the Fermi Expo on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Jonaitis acknowledged the teachers in Oklahoma for what they did for their children. He does not believe anyone will amend the agenda tonight. He agrees with the speakers tonight regarding full day Kindergarten, the high school cuts and staff cuts. He agrees that the reorganization might have gone smoother. There were many positive things that have come out of the reorganization. One of the good things are the class sizes are in line. We have spent a lot on books over the past three years. There is a plan for full day Kindergarten. Resource room teachers will not be moved into the Kindergarten classes. We have a very detailed plan that we cannot discuss at this time should we have full day Kindergarten.

**Point of Order:**

Mr. Fealy stated Mr. Jonaitis is treading on very thin ice with his comments regarding personnel issues.

Mrs. Szewczak added you are discussing budget items.

Chairman Neville agreed. This topic will be addressed next Tuesday at 5:00 PM.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the Board has the authority to spend the funds allocated from the Town Council and agrees with the audience member that the agreement was rather obvious.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the grade 8 formal is on June 7<sup>th</sup>, the grade 8 class trip to High Meadow will be held on June 18<sup>th</sup> and the grade 8 breakfast will be held on June 19<sup>th</sup>. She has received a lot of feedback regarding full day Kindergarten. She is fighting for all of the students in Enfield not just what is best for her children. The Board needs some additional clarification regarding the budget before a decision can be made. We want to make the best decisions for all of the children.

Mr. Fealy thanked those that have served in the military, current and past. He agrees with Mrs. LeBlanc that more information was needed so we can do the jobs that we were appointed to. There is no gamesmanship going on.

Mr. Fealy would like to see the success of the Head Start students and would like to see if we can track them through grade 3 or grade 4. That would give us a true case study regarding Head Start. We would have accurate information about Head Start and its success.

Mrs. Szewczak responded to some of the comments made about the Town Council dictating how we should spend our money. Goal #3 started in September 2013 for the Board to establish a full day Kindergarten program. The Town Council's commitment to us is a sign of their support. They are not dictating to us. She urged everyone to read our goals again.

Mr. Sirard stated that full day Kindergarten is a priority of the Board. We made it a focal point of our presentation to the public. The public has made this a priority and the Town found a way to fund it. We have an opportunity to have this program without being mandated. It will help with our remediation rates and will make education better. We will be more competitive with the alternative schools. You will not see large class sizes as some people have mentioned. There will be some sacrifices. We are doing something good for our school system overall.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he believes Kindergarten is important but it needs to be prioritized.

Ms. Hall stated we have been tracking Head Start progress for many years or so she has been told this. She has never received a report regarding Head Start students and their progress through the grade levels. This idea is not new.

Ms. Hall stated that the State of Connecticut is being sued over education laws not fulfilling the educational needs of the students per the constitution and for adequate funding for adequate education.

Ms. Hall attended the Connecticut Superintendent's Leadership Summit in Cromwell. Information from this two day summit will be posted on the CAPSS website. It has been very informative. She attended two workout sessions on early childhood education and common core. They also discussed the focus for a common calendar.

Chairman Neville thanked the speakers tonight. There has been some misunderstanding regarding the proposed budget cuts. Dr. Schumann presented some possible impacts in order to get to the Town Manager's proposed budget. The Board will make the final budget decisions based on the allocations we received from the Town Council.

Chairman Neville stated lunch has always been served at 10:30 AM at JFK. It has been this way for the past 30 years due to scheduling. This time is not something new. The kids are very hungry at 10:30 AM.

Chairman Neville stated we did not beat the Town Council up asking for this money. We all want full day Kindergarten and needed to find common ground. We did get security and money for Kindergarten. No one will get everything in the budget process. They asked for a consensus and we gave them that. This has been one of his goals and the Boards goals for many years. They allocated this money for the Board to use as we see fit.

Chairman Neville attended a post intervention workshop concerning tragic deaths and untimely deaths. This was a two day workshop on how to deal with the aftermath from any tragedy. Rachel's Challenge was one of the positive offshoots from this. Mr. Foxx is also working on another offshoot from Rachel's Challenge. We have wonderful students and need to change the climate. He is pleased to see this kind of positive progress being made for our students that came from tragedy two years ago.

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

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Special Meeting minutes of May 14, 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**

Mrs. Szewczak stated we have 2 invitations to report:

- a. Invitation to attend the Adult Education Graduation Ceremony on June 13<sup>th</sup>;
- b. Invitation to attend the EHS World Languages Ceremony on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Sirard moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining and Matter(s) Related to Superintendent's Evaluation.



A vote by **show of hands 7-1-0** passed with Ms. Hall in dissent.

Both Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek joined the Board in Executive Session at 10:15 PM.

Both Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek were excused at 10:20 PM.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 28, 2013.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 10:45 PM.

Donna Szewczak  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary