

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 4, 2013**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at the Enfield Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on June 4, 2013.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM by Chairman Neville.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Neville
3. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Neville announced the fire evacuation announcement.
4. **ROLL CALL:**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann, Superintendent and Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent

5. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Jennifer Mancuse, Booth Road – Mrs. Mancuse stated she is a volunteer at Enfield Head Start and wears many different hats. She also conducts data analysis for Kite. Students that leave Head Start are better prepared for Kindergarten than students that do not attend Head Start. She would love to volunteer her time to track the progress of the Head Start students and conduct the data analysis proving that Head Start works. She believes students that attend a quality preschool program, will need less intervention and will be more successful. She is hopeful that full day Kindergarten will be implemented for next year. Enfield needs full day Kindergarten. We have been trying to make this one of the things that we need.

Randy Daigle, Redwing Road – Mr. Daigle stated he is here tonight as the Chairman of the EHS Building Committee. Also with Mr. Daigle is Dr. Pongratz. We are looking for the Board's approval of the EHS Building Committee's recommendation to hire Gilbane as the CMR (Construction Manager At-Risk). The Town Council approved Gilbane Builders last night and we are also looking for the Board's endorsement.

Mr. Sirard asked if they were the CMR for the CREC building project. Mrs. Szewczak stated they are not.

Chairman Neville thanked both speakers.

6. **CONTINUE FY2013-14 BUDGET DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY**

Dr. Schumann presented the Board with a document for the Board's consideration for the FY2013-14 budgeted amount of \$64,262,147. He reviewed the items listed on the document for net salary reductions, retirement salary reductions, post retirement pension adjustments and funds to be added to the information technology account.

Dr. Schumann stated class sizes will be impacted by the staff reductions and implementation

of full day Kindergarten. Kindergarten class averages will increase from 16.33 to 19.88. The overall K-2 enrollment will increase from 18.18 to 19.8. The overall enrollment 3-5 will decrease from 21.86 to 21.54. Enrollment at JFK is 21.26 and will increase to 22.17. Enrollments at the high schools will increase slightly in Math, Science, English, World Languages and Business. Guidance department case loads will increase from 250 to 270. The NEAS&C limits the number of guidance case loads to be no greater than 300 cases.

Mrs. Szewczak asked what percentage is our budget. Dr. Schuman stated the budget is 1.78% and is an increase from the Town Council.

Mr. Sirard stated the 1.78% does not factor in the IT budget monies. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if there is a final number for the security. This is money that the tax payers will be responsible for.

Chairman Neville stated they are in the process of hardening the buildings. Mrs. Szewczak does not know what the amount will be for hardening the buildings.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to know how much money is being allocated for hardening the buildings for the parochial schools and public schools.

Chairman Neville stated he is not sure of the exact amount but he believes it is around \$600K and was addressed for security in the Town Council's budget. He does not believe there is an MOU for the parochial schools at this time. I believe they were waiting to see what the outcome would be with the legislative budget.

Ms. Hall stated that house bill 1099 passed with the allowance for retired police officers to be used at the schools.

Mr. Jonaitis stated our budget is for 1.78%. Security is not part of our budget but tax payers will be paying for this. He is wondering what that figure will be.

Chairman Neville is not sure but will try to find out that information for him.

Ms. Hall added that the legislators have worked on expenditures for security reimbursement for school systems.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we will be stressing on writing at the high schools. Will cutting an English Teacher hurt this? Dr. Schumann stated that he spoke with the high school principals and they feel they can still meet the needs of the students with the proposed cuts.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if cutting a vice principal position at Fermi is a wise idea with everything that is happening at that school. Dr. Schumann stated the principal of that building feels he can work with the staff that he has based on the declining enrollment.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the two coordinator curriculum positions bother her. She would rather see more science electives and guidance counselor positions. We will now have a part time guidance counselor and one less assistant principal. She does not want to cut any positions. We should be saving the teachers.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Sirard that the Enfield Board of Education adopts the 2013-14 Budget in the amount of \$64,262,157 by authorizing the Superintendent to make the adjustments listed on this document to the Board's budget proposal of \$65,654,380.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis does not like robbing Peter to pay Paul. He does not like reducing staff, programs and support staff. He does not like adding the curriculum coordinator positions. With unfunded mandates, it is not a good idea to add additional programs at this time. We are adding full day Kindergarten. We are not adding a meaningful vocational education program. We are not doing everything we can for all of the kids in Enfield. We are keeping CABA. CABA supports the new evaluation program and common core standards. He does not agree with either. He does not want to transfer a vice principal into the HR position. Candidates should be brought before the Board for our input. We are trying to trim administrative costs. He does not want to lose teachers. We are set to have 1 consolidated high school and are moving too quickly. He will not support this budget.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Dr. Schumann for his presentation. We are going to get what we need, not what we want. She does not want to add the two curriculum coordinator positions. She does not want to see any teachers cut. We asked the tax payers to invest in our education and to vote for the high school consolidation. Now we are cutting teaching positions. This is a hard pill to swallow. Because of times like these, we will lose good teachers and it is hard to get them back.

Mr. Fealy stated every year we hear about teachers being cut due to the lack of town funding. The Town Council gave us the funds and we are looking at cutting staff and increasing class sizes. He is not for this budget. He is not happy that we are keeping CABA. People cannot afford to live in Enfield if they don't have jobs. He would rather see us protect our teachers and their jobs. He does not support this budget.

Mr. Grady stated that he does not like to lose teachers but the high school consolidation process has started. We are stuck between a rock and a hard place due to unfunded mandates. We have to implement SEED. He is not happy about adding administrator staff. Dr. Schumann did the best he could to get that organization started to implement SEED. He does not believe Dr. Schumann wants to eliminate staff either. This is something we must do to organize the system to get this program started.

Mrs. Szewczak stated no budget is perfect. Full day Kindergarten is part of the K-8 reorganization and is a win for Enfield. Reorganization of the high school staff is also part of the process. We are moving forward. Reduction of staff in one area may cause the need for staff in another area. STEAM will help with vocational program needs. The curriculum coordinator positions will help us with evaluations and they will be 092 certified and may reduce the need for the 7 assistant principal positions previously asked for by the Superintendent. We are addressing the needs of SEED. She is not happy with the increase in the CETO position. She would have preferred a stipend for this position. There is a need to reevaluate our IT needs in the future. She asked the Town Council for less money but we received more than asked for. With more money we can do more. She will support the superintendent's budget and work on the things we do not like in the future.

Mr. Sirard stated this will be a hard budget for him. He is a practical person. Full day Kindergarten is part of the reorganization. We fought hard to get the funding from the Town Council. The Town Council exceeded the amount we asked for. State mandates and evaluations are costing us money. He does not support the curriculum coordinator positions. He agrees what the other Board members have said and does not support CABA. We can still pay for some of the services CABA offers at a lower price than a membership would cost us. He does not support regionalism especially when it costs us money. The CETO upgrade is the cost of a para position and does not support this increase. The position is living up to what it is supposed to do. He has issues with the budget that are against his principles.

Ms. Hall stated that we have worked on this painful budget for 6 months. We needed to address Common Core and implement it. Staff are currently writing the units to be implemented in September. SBAC is also being used now. This is a mandate that everyone is complying with. The Teacher Evaluation mandate or SEED is a labor intensive plan. We have a waiver and will implement this in 60% of the schools. High school reform is another mandate looming on the horizon. These mandates came with no financial backing. None of us are satisfied with this. STEAM will be involved with many potential vocational education programs. This is one of the few areas where students can obtain good jobs with very limited post secondary education. We will provide vocational education programs as we move forward with STEAM. She will approve the budget recommendations.

Mrs. Rancourt stated the budget is not perfect as mentioned and has changed each week. This budget keeps a lot of positions. She is happy that we will have full day Kindergarten. Common Core is intense and full day Kindergarten is needed to get the students up to the level expected. We need to add the two curriculum coordinator positions for SEED. She hopes that once the consolidated high school is in place, they can assist the student's needs. She does not agree with the CETO upgrade and it is necessary now. She understands eliminating the 5 department chair positions.

Chairman Neville stated the Board has worked hard and every budget is a compromise. He is proud of the work done by the Board. He thanks the Town Council for supporting the high school consolidation and full day Kindergarten. He likes the consolidation of the high school department chairs. We will have a rigorous curriculum. We will have a first class high school once it is completed. We need to continue to plan for the consolidation. We need to look at class sizes at the middle school. We need to find a balance with class sizes. Unfunded mandates hurt everyone. He supports the Superintendent's recommendation to deal with STEAM. Having a STEAM coordinator is appropriate. He will support the budget. There are some things he would like to do differently but will support it.

Mr. Jonaitis does not see this budget as a compromise. He applauds the efforts and the turnout for full day Kindergarten. The majority of people supporting this had children going into kindergarten and the others were the silent majority. We are eliminating positions and this is not a compromise. Common Core is educational big business. This will cost us a lot. He thanks our representative that is on the Education Committee. He disagrees with Board members that believe Vocational Education is the same as STEAM.

Mr. Fealy stated this budget is not a compromise. Costs are going up, taxes are going up, unemployment is going up, administrative head count is going up and salaries are going up and he is fed up. We don't need coordinators at the expense of people teaching the lessons. We don't need data miners. We need teachers to facilitate the education for our kids. He is a parent first. He does not agree with this and is not okay with this budget. This is not a compromise.

Mr. Sirard stated that he understands the need for the high school consolidation and the consolidation of staff. He understands the obligation of a mandate. He has reservations regarding the curriculum coordinator positions. He does not agree with what the State is doing. We are all held responsible for what the State is telling us to do. He is struggling with his principles. Every business in America is asking their administrators to do more with the same pay. Responsibilities are changing by the State, not by us. He is not sure about the Common Core Standards. He is okay with STEAM. He does not like the evaluation process that is being forced upon us. He understands this but does not like this.

Chairman Neville asked for the vote.

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

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Hall stated the legislation passed the budget. The details are not available yet. There are some hints that education has been funded as promised. She is not sure what that means.

Mr. Fealy stated the legislators down in Hartford are not representing what is best for us in Enfield.

Mr. Jonaitis stated many people have moaned and groaned about the education in Enfield over the past few years. He wonders how many of you will say the same thing now when you can't afford the taxes in this town.

Chairman Neville thanked Board for their work on the budget. He appreciates your efforts. Let's continue to do what is best for the town.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fealy moved, seconded by Mr. Grady to adjourn the Special Meeting of June 4, 2013.

The motion passed with a **show-of-hands 8-1-0** with Mr. Jonaitis in dissent. The Meeting stood adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Donna Szewczak
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary