

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 9, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on July 9, 2013.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairman Neville.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Donna Szewczak
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Donna Szewczak
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Neville announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Kevin Fealy

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

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

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. iPad Update – as presented

Chairman Neville welcomed Ms. Anne McKernan, CAO and Mrs. Angela Foss, Elementary Math Consultant to the Board meeting.

Ms. McKernan and Mrs. Foss gave an in-depth presentation regarding student improvement. They reviewed results for the iPad Consortium Data Collection for 2012-13 for grade 3 and 4 students, student usage with math interventions and student improvement.

Ms. Foss showed Board members some of the math applications they are currently using and reviewed student reflections, percentile growth with M-Comp Tests and M-Cap Tests for students in grade 3 and 4.

Ms. McKernan stated the approach they used this year was successful based on student improvements and will be continued next year.

Ms. Hall asked if the students recognize the gains they have made. Mrs. Foss stated we have graphs showing the student improvements and the students are excited to look at the charts. They know they are making progress.

Ms. Hall asked when the students are working with the iPads by themselves or in groups and answer the problems correctly; do the happy sounds/cheers bother the other students? Ms. Foss stated the other students are equally as excited and happy for each other when problems and questions are answered correctly. They congratulate each other. Learning is so much fun

now.

Ms. Hall asked about the one student listed on report that did not make as many gains compared to the other students. Ms. Foss stated the student still made gains. This particular student started off at a higher level and the gains were not as great. She reviewed the benchmarks for this student. She will continue to work with these students again next year even though gains have been made.

Mr. Sirard asked if she had a control group. Ms. Foss stated she started off without a control group. She used the i-Excel and Splash Math as a comparison. The data you are seeing is from last year and is compared to this year. So technically she did have a control group.

Ms. McKernan added that they ask each teacher to identify a control group and to compare information from last year to see if the intervention is working. They will compare results from either last year or to a colleague.

Mr. Sirard stated he is trying to figure out a baseline determine the gains being made. Ms. Foss compared the gains from last year to this year for students in grade 4.

Mr. Jonaitis asked how many teachers are involved with this project. Ms. McKernan stated there were around 25 teachers involved with this iPad project.

Mr. Jonaitis asked when and where did you meet with the teachers? Ms. McKernan stated they would meet at Central Office after school. We would have an agenda and would review items. We would meet around 1 hour.

Mrs. Rancourt stated that she would meet with Mrs. Tarbox's accelerated math class once a week. The students could see the gains they were making.

Mrs. Rancourt asked how much time would the students use the iPad in a week in a classroom setting. Ms. Foss stated they would meet 3 times a week for 30 minutes. We would teach a new lesson on one of the days. The other two days the students would use the iPads or if the classroom teacher preferred that I work with certain students, we would work at the table. They would have more flexibility for iPad usage in the classroom.

Ms. McKernan stated she has seen some very different usages with the iPads during their academic walk-through in each building. She reviewed some of the schools usages.

Mr. Sirard stated this is the first year tracking students. This data would be beneficial to continue to track the progress of the same students. The results are promising but this is only the first year. He knows this is a tool and it is entertaining the students. He would like to see long term results. Ms. Foss stated she would like to see the next group make the same growth gains.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that both her son and Mrs. Rancourt's son have improved considerably by using the iPad with math. We also use iPads at home. The students want to do this at home. Learning needs to be fun.

Ms. Foss stated we are engaging the students and they are on target with the lessons and learning. The students are excited about learning.

Mrs. LeBlanc is also excited about student learning and the gains made during year one. She is looking forward to seeing the results from year two.

Mrs. Szewczak asked what other math computer aided programs were available prior to iPads.

Ms. Foss stated that used Mac's. It was hard for the students to use the mouse. It was a waste of time. It would take sometimes 5 to 10 minutes to log in. The iPads are much quicker and easier for the students to use.

Mrs. Szewczak added that the iPads are more consistent and easier for the students to access.

Mrs. Rancourt stated she would like the math applications being used listed on the website for parents to access for home use.

Ms. Foss stated in the summer math packets there are a list of activities and applications for the students to use.

Ms. Hall stated the first year was a success for a small group of students. We have other computers that can be used for students to use. How close are we to having this available for more students to use? Ms. McKernan will research this with Mr. Bourassa. We have a number of devices available in the district for student use.

Ms. Foss added the longer we wait to get these devices in the students hands, the less prepared they will be. The computer labs are used for students in 3-5 so the time in the lab is limited.

Ms. Hall asked if there is a loss of interest with the iPads because they are becoming too familiar with them. Ms. Foss stated no. The students enjoy what they are doing.

Ms. McKernan stated student learning can be done in many different ways. They like different ways of learning. This is a good start. There are all kinds of learners. We need to use other tools in our box. There is no substitution to forming good relationships with students.

Ms. Hall asked if any of our teachers are flipping their classrooms. Ms. McKernan stated Mr. Gaffney has been doing this. We have limited use of flipping at this time.

Mrs. Rancourt would like to see posted on the website the new way for multiplying and dividing with circles and stars. It would help parents when they work with their children. Ms. McKernan stated we can do that for the next school year.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked you for meeting after school. He is concerned with students taking a test using the iPads. Ms. Foss stated the students take an 8 minute paper and pencil test for the M-Comp. The instructions come from using the iPads.

Mr. Jonaitis asked what will happen to these students when they need to read, write and compute their answers. Ms. Foss stated she would like to use the Singapore math app next year. This app will help the students with word problems.

Ms. McKernan stated one of the most promising areas is elementary math. We need to look at where the iPad is useful and not useful. We will need to continue looking at these other areas.

Chairman Neville is pleased with the direction you are going in with a limited number of iPads. He is assuming that you are looking at what works and what doesn't work. What are the next steps you will be taking?

Ms. McKernan stated we have collected data 3 times this year. We asked the teachers to list the favorite application they used. She has extended the licenses on certain applications that are working and will not renew any apps that are not working. We will look at next year's consortium and the grade 5 students to see if they are retaining what has been learned.

Chairman Neville stated the big plan would be to get these devices in all students' hands. How

can we get more teachers involved? Can we collect the data from the devices to AimsWeb. Is there a more cost effective way to do this? Ms. McKernan stated we are collecting the data from the devices that were used and will enter this data into e-School. Companies are selling electronic versions of textbooks. We need to be savvy on how we approach this.

Chairman Neville asked if we get textbooks on-line. Is this the direction we are going in? We are looking at individual devices for students at the high school level. We need to get more of these devices. This is something he would like you to look into and report back to us at a later date.

Chairman Neville thanked Ms. McKernan and Mrs. Foss for their presentation.

b. Special BOE Meeting – 07-23-13 – as presented

c. Listen and Learn Sessions

Dr. Schumann stated he would like to hold listen and learn sessions with each Board member in the fall. He will send out e-mails about this over the next few days. He will meet with Board members one-to-one and get some feedback about your vision.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated debriefing meetings are not done as a Board and would be a good direction to review items. We have goals as a Board. This is a good direction for the Board to review what has transpired.

Chairman Neville stated we used to meet at a retreat and would review items as staff. This is a point well taken. Time would be the only constraint that he can see and could be beneficial.

**8. AUDIENCES** - None

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Action if any, Regarding Contract Renewal with Community Health Center, Inc.**

Dr. Schumann stated Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) is looking for the Board to approve a contract between them and the Board. In the past, the Board would approve a contract each year. We are proposing for the Board to approve an open ended contract that has been included in your packet. This contract can be terminated by either party at any time. We can have CHC come before the Board each year to update the Board on progress made during the year.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to have this brought before the Board each year due to the new Board members not knowing about this.

Chairman Neville agrees but CHC hires staff based on the need. He would like to approve an on-going contract and have them present to the Board with a progress report each year. They are providing services that we would not be able to provide. They are seeing students regardless if they have insurance. They are also available when a crisis occurs.

Mrs. Rancourt stated behavioral services are being provided at the high schools and JFK. They are not available at the elementary schools. Dr. Schumann stated when he met with CHC, they would like to provide behavioral services at the elementary schools. We also discussed the number of protective custody cases. We are in the process of putting together information

about these at-risk students for CHC to review. They are looking to bring a pilot program to one of the K-2 schools.

Ms. Hall stated the on-going contract makes sense and provides us with continuity. She likes the idea mentioned by Mr. Jonaitis having CHC update the Board yearly. Extending this program to the elementary schools also makes sense.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education shall continue the relationship with Community Health Center, Inc. with an on-going contract.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Sirard would like a caveat added that an annual report will be provided. He does not believe that is currently listed in the contract.

Dr. Schumann stated we can have them add this to the contract where they will come before the Board every spring with an update.

Chairman Neville would like that added to the motion. Both Ms. Hall and Mr. Grady agreed to add this to the motion as amended.

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady to amend the original motion that the Enfield Board of Education shall continue the relationship with Community Health Center, Inc. with an on-going contract and they will provide the Board with an update each spring.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Drezek stated on page 2 of the CHC contract, item #13 lists that statistical data and programmatic reports will be provided when requested. We will have them change this to every spring.

**11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Hall stated the Curriculum Committee met and discussed Project Lead the Way which is currently at the high school. This is something we would like to introduce at JFK. We reviewed the curriculum writing schedule for the summer. We also discussed technology in the classroom and what we accomplished over the year.

Chairman Neville asked if there is a list of the curriculum writing that will be done over the summer. Ms. McKernan will get that list to Board members

Mrs. Szewczak stated that a lot of work has been done with curriculum writing and the common core. The staff knows what our goal is and a lot of work has been done for this to be implemented in September 2013.

**12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Hall stated the bill for Consolidated High School has been signed by the governor.

Mrs. Szewczak stated that her daughter works in advertising and will be working with LEGO on their advertising for the Enfield/LEGO Consortium.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked the July Fourth Committee for all the work they did for this year's July Fourth Celebration.

Chairman Neville stated he met with Buzz Robotics along with Dr. Schumann and Ms. McKernan and discussed the program needs. Space was also discussed. This will be addressed with the Building Committee.

Ms. McKernan stated we have a staff member that will work as the Buzz Robotics advisor. We also spoke to Dr. Pongratz about the space needs. She thanked Mrs. Szewczak for her assistance with this. This program will tie into STEAM.

Chairman Neville stated this is too important of an issue. This will go along with our STEAM program. Mrs. Szewczak stated this item was slipping through the cracks and has been addressed. We are tying this to technology as well. Chairman Neville would like them to keep him informed of any upcoming meetings.

Chairman Neville would like Buzz to be a Board guest at an upcoming meeting. We can update the Board with a presentation about what Buzz can do.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if we pay a stipend for an advisor. Chairman Neville stated we do and we need a staff member to be the advisor.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if we can find a permanent home for Buzz. Chairman Neville stated that is one of the things we have been discussing. We have a committee that will look into this. We need a school that is open due to the hours they need when they are building Buzz and for the competitions. We have been using a high school. They also need to store equipment at the school.

Mrs. Szewczak stated they also do metal working and use our technology.

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

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Regular Meeting minutes of June 25, 2013 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-2** passed with Mrs. Rancourt and Mrs. LeBlanc abstaining.

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

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

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education accept the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of May, total expenditures amount to \$7,202,896.24, broken down between payroll totaling \$6,196,654.57 and other accounts totaling \$1,006,241.67. All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented."

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

#### **b. For the Month of June 2012/13**

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accept the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of June, total expenditures amount to \$4,399,459.78 broken down between payroll totaling \$2,667,909.58 and other accounts totaling \$1,731,550.20. All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented."

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

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

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS** - None

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc to adjourn the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2013.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Donna Szewczak  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary