

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2012**

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 October, 2012.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Neville.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Timothy Neville
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Timothy Neville
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Neville announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina LeBlanc, Charles Johnson, Vin Grady, Kevin Fealy, Joyce Hall, Jennifer Rancourt, Peter Jonaitis and Timothy Neville

MEMBERS ABSENT: Donna Szewczak

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

6. **BOARD GUESTS** - None

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Common Core Stated Standards – Review of Mathematics Standards – as presented

Dr. Schumann stated Ms. McKernan, our Chief Academic Officer is present to give us an overview of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

Ms. McKernan reviewed the key points for the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics; the K-5 standards; middle school standards and high school standards.

Mrs. McKernan reviewed Glossary; Table 1, 2 and Appendix A features. She reviewed Shift 1 – Focus; Shift 2 – Coherence and Shift 3 - Rigor.

Ms. McKernan reviewed the figure 4 mathematics topic that is currently being used in 21 states and why this is important. Students will start mathematic topics earlier in the elementary grades. This will allow students to understand the basics earlier. She stated this is a brief overview of the Common Core of Standards for Mathematics.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated starting rigor earlier with students is a good idea. They will need to know why and will now understand it. Ms. McKernan stated by using this process the teacher will know if the students know the material or if they are guessing. Ms. McKernan stated that she likes the shifts and the depth that is needed.

Mr. Fealy recently spoke with some Fermi students regarding CAPT preparation. What provisions are available for students that were successful at the middle school and are having difficulties with high school math. Ms. McKernan spoke with the high school math department chairs about the math teams and the approach they have been using. We are looking for ways to enhance the math programs at an earlier age. Both principals and department chairs have been looking at ways to

support students by looking at the student's strengths, placement and sequences of courses and how to go back and strengthen their positions by use with tutors and small group instruction that may address some of these concerns.

Mr. Fealy added some of these students are in AP classes and did extremely well at JFK. Geometry is generally the area where these students are struggling. He is seeing a general disconnect. Is there support for high school students? Ms. McKernan stated it is somewhat the same concern but is coming from a different approach. Our discussion on this will need to continue so we can find ways to support them.

Mrs. Rancourt stressed this is what we are currently doing. She wants parents to understand this is being done now and not in the future. Ms. McKernan stated we are underway with the new standards. As mentioned we are starting multiplication in grade 3 now.

Ms. Hall asked about word problems being a problem for students. Based on what has been discussed, word problems will be instituted from the very beginning. Ms. McKernan stated the CMT strands 9 and 25 have been concerns for years. We need to introduce word problems as early as possible and will need to teach the vocabulary words for success in this area.

Ms. Hall stated there is a group of teachers that focus on math by using personal experiences to connect with students. Is this something that will be done to help the students connect to something they are aware of? Ms. McKernan stated teachers are becoming familiar with Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) samples and as they become adept with the materials, they will be able to assess the word problems and make necessary changes. At a later date, Ms. McKernan will present information on the SBAC and the assessment questions.

Mr. Jonaitis stated this is an area that we need to be very careful with the changes. Some students will see it one way and some will see it in a totally different way. One shoe will not fit all. He would like to see us use the absolute mastery of mathematics. There are many students at the high school level that do not know multiplication. By the time the students leave grade 6 they should know this. We expose them to concepts and move on. If students master this, grade 7 is basically a review. If they master this by grade 6 we can start teaching them higher math levels. Many students take Algebra in JFK and struggle. If we made this a two year course or more selective, students might understand it better. By slowing this down they might understand it better. Ms. McKernan stated your comments on the mastery of mathematics are in-line with these standards. They are focusing on areas that will last with the students. Preparation for algebra in the middle school is a good question and not every student is ready for algebra in middle school.

Chairman Neville stated this is a process that is going on now like Mrs. Rancourt stated. We will be looking at the mastery. Will grading change with this? Ms. McKernan stated that is a possibility. We are making changes with the curriculum, assessments and instruction all at the same time.

Chairman Neville asked about the students that do not meet the mastery as they move through the grade levels? Ms. McKernan stated we will still work with our RTI (Response to Intervention) with tier level instruction and enhancements with students.

Chairman Neville asked how we will let parents know about the changes. Ms. McKernan stated we will start with parent mailings that will contain overviews and will follow that up with curriculum night presentations. We want to rollout the information in a way that parents can digest the materials. We will also listen to their feedback regarding the process. It can be overwhelming.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about tier III pullouts. Ms. McKernan stated this is done up to 4 times a week.

Mr. Jonaitis asked what the students are being pulled out from. Ms. McKernan stated there is built in time for students that need help in reading and math. The students that do not need additional assistance are reading for enrichment. Tier II students are meeting in small groups with their teachers and will receive additional guided reading and math support. Tier III students will work

with interventionists (math and reading consultants). Mr. Jonaitis stated they will not miss any academic work. Ms. McKernan stated that is correct.

Chairman Neville thanked Ms. McKernan.

- b. Playscapes – Status Update – as presented
- c. Youth Vote Events – as presented
- d. Transportation Update – as presented
- e. Enrollment – as presented

Mr. Jonaitis asked about the students in grade 6 going to magnet schools. Will we receive funds from the students that return back to us from magnet schools? Dr. Schumann stated some students have already come back but more are leaving to attend magnet schools.

- f. iPad Consortium – as presented
- g. Rachel's Challenge – as presented
- h. November 13th Meeting Conflict – as presented

Chairman Neville asked if we have any numbers regarding magnet students. Dr. Schumann stated we roughly have 400 students attending magnet schools. Chairman Neville would like this information be included in our update packet.

Mr. Grady would like us to compare the numbers from last year to this year.

Mr. Johnson would like know if any students have started to come back? Mrs. Zalucki stated the magnet numbers have stated to change from last week to this week. Dr. Schumann added the numbers are in still influx. We will try to include this in the weekly update packet.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the money we pay for magnet tuitions are for October 1st. Both Chairman Neville and Dr. Schumann stated yes. Ms. Hall stated the tuition for magnet students is prorated and if the Finance Officer asks for reimbursement they will comply. The full amount will be returned prior to October 1st.

8. AUDIENCES

Gina Sullivan, Spier Avenue – Ms. Sullivan stated she is here tonight in support of the high school consolidation referendum and will vote on November 6th. This is extremely important part of Enfield's future and is important for our children. She is part of Enfield's Future PAC and we are bipartisan citizens trying to educate residents about the high school consolidation. We can be found at www.enfieldsfuture.com for all the information about the referendum. Please help us spread the word. This is for Enfield's future. Thank you.

Pat Droney, 15 Bobolink Lane – Mr. Droney is the treasurer for Enfield's Future PAC. We are a bipartisan group supporting the referendum question. We have an opportunity to support the town and move us forward by supporting the referendum. We will have a 21st high school to support our students. This referendum will allow us to meet STEAM requirements and will show our students that they are important and come first in Enfield. This referendum will provide our children with an outstanding environment to learn with state of the art facilities. The community will have an icon that we can all be proud of. That is what the renovated to new high school will bring to Enfield. Both schools are in dire need of upgrades. If we do not renovate to new, the cost to taxpayers will be much greater. If we do not use the State funds another town will. He believes that we should provide a school system where all Enfield children can excel. He urges everyone to vote in support of the high school renovation on November 6th. We have an opportunity to tell our children that they are important and provide them with a high school where they can succeed to be anything they aspire to be. You can find additional information by going to www.enfieldsfuture.com.

Wendy Osada, Windmill Road – Ms. Osada is also here in support of the high school consolidation

and could not have said it any better than Mr. Droney and Ms. Sullivan. She is also part of Enfield Future PAC. She thanked Board members for your support. There will be some Q&A meetings on October 16th and 29th where Enfield residents can find out additional information on the high school consolidation referendum. They will also have an informational table at the Meet the Candidates Night. She is here to see if you can place this information in the newspapers. She has called the editor at the Journal Inquirer about the referendum. We need this information to get out there. The Town has sent out a press release on this. Please help us to get the word out so community members can make an informed decision.

Chairman Neville asked if the date for the 22nd has been changed to the 29th. Dr. Schumann stated he also noted the change in his calendar today also.

Ms. Osada stated the press release from the town needs to be corrected. The October 22nd date has been moved to October 29th. We also need to clean up some information on facebook about this also.

Pat Droney, 15 Bobolink Lane – Mr. Droney asked if this information can be sent home with students. This would be a way to get the information session out to parents.

Dr. Schumann stated the Board cannot promote or work against any positions. We can provide information regarding this.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if we can add this information to our youth vote flyers about information that is on the ballot. Dr. Schumann will need to look into this.

Mr. Fealy asked if the Board, the Town or Dr. Schumann can put something in the newspapers about this. Dr. Schumann is planning to contact the newspapers regarding the dates for these events. He will contact the Patch, JI and the Hartford Courant. Chairman Neville asked him to include the Reminder and the Enfield Press.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Policy Revision #9133 Committees of the Board – Second Reading

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the changes to Policy #9133 Committees of the Board as a second reading.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis asked for a brief overview to the changes to this policy. Mr. Johnson reviewed the changes to policy #9133 Committees of the Board.

Mr. Jonaitis does not want to eliminate the Personnel Committee. He would like a standing negotiating committee to be put in its place. Negotiations are important and changes happen too quickly. He believes we should be looking at these for the teachers and administrators contracts now.

Chairman Neville stated the negotiating piece will now be done in the Executive Committee. We had 6 or 7 Board members present to discuss the policy changes. By doing this we can discuss the changes early on. We are dividing the process up to the various committees. We are coordinating differently.

Mr. Jonaitis asked who will be on the Executive Committee. Chairman Neville stated the chair along with three other representatives from both parties (elected Board membership and one other Board member for bipartisan leadership). We worked long and hard to craft this language.

Mr. Johnson read lines 83-86 from the proposed changes to Policy #9133. Mr. Jonaitis asked if it has to be this way since the word “when possible” is being used. Mr. Johnson stated it doesn’t have

to be that way. Chairman Neville stated the chairperson is a definite member on the Executive Committee. The elected leadership would be the representation on the Executive Committee.

Mr. Jonaitis has concerns with this. There is too much centralization is going on. The Executive Committee is far too powerful.

Mrs. Rancourt read line 106 regarding the negotiating teams. Mr. Jonaitis added by the Executive Committee and he still believes the Executive Committee is too powerful.

Chairman Neville stated in the past, the chairman has appointed those committee appointments.

Mr. Fealy asked why are we restructuring this and dissolving the standing committees. The structure we had seemed to be working. Chairman Neville stated this is a proposal. The leadership committee was not a formal committee and changes needed to be made to formalize it. We were doing this but in an informal way previously. We are creating a new committee to deal with students. We can steer policies, student issues and parent issues that are related to students to this new committee. By doing this we are compartmentalizing the various responsibilities.

Mr. Fealy disagrees. Why would the Policy Committee need to be dissolved? Chairman Neville stated if a policy deals with curriculum and instruction it would be better addressed by the chair of that committee. The same applies regarding student issues. The only place for this to be discussed would be with the whole Board. The 5000 series needs to be discussed by the Students Issues Committee. We looked at how other districts divided up their committees. We have had a number of discussions on this.

Mr. Fealy stated we have a Policy Committee and the Policy chair meets and discusses policies and the subcommittee will present their findings to the entire Board. Due to his work and travel schedules he is unable to attend any of these meetings and does not feel that he is missing anything because the subcommittees are bringing this information before the entire Board. It sounds like we are marginalizing the voices of dissent. Since we are in a contentious relationship on this Board it is a way to minimize this.

Chairman Neville disagrees with Mr. Fealy. We are working to not have a contentious relationship. We had at least 6 or 7 Board members at this Policy meeting to discuss this. Everyone heard everyone's concerns and it helped us to have a discussion. Otherwise we will have had this discussion at a Board meeting. By hashing this out we were able to move forward.

Mr. Fealy stated with the new structure we will have more important discussions. Chairman Neville stated we will have more involved discussions at these committee meetings. He found this to be very helpful.

Mr. Fealy stated the goal is for us to have more discussions at these informal meetings. Chairman Neville stated the committee meetings are posted and are open to the public.

Ms. Hall stated the Executive Committee eliminates the power to one person. Before, the Superintendent and the Board Chair would set the Board meeting agendas. Now there will be four Board members on the Executive Committee that will do this.

Mr. Fealy asked what the benefits for doing this are. Ms. Hall stated we will make sure that our policies agree and we are allowing for a bipartisan committee to work with the superintendent. The Executive Committee will provide for a wider variety of information and opinions on what should be included on the agenda.

Mr. Fealy is assuming that the old leadership committee recommends establishing the Executive Committee. Ms. Hall stated the leadership committee was illegal. The leadership committee has turned into the Executive Committee with a definition.

Mr. Fealy asked if that bipartisan committee decided that this is best for the Board. Chairman Neville stated everyone that has been involved over the past several meetings has helped to establish this committee.

Mr. Johnson stated lines 69-73 are the key phrase regarding the Executive Committee. This gives the Executive Committee the authority and he believes this is beneficial for Board. This achieves what the leadership committee was doing. Mr. Fealy asked if Mr. Johnson believes the Board will benefit from this. Mr. Johnson agrees that the Board will benefit from the Executive Committee.

Mr. Johnson is not in favor of dissolving the Policy Committee. He believes this will overextend the Executive Committee. Mr. Johnson asked Mrs. LeBlanc if she will have time to rewrite finance policies if needed. Mrs. LeBlanc stated they could if it was needed. Mr. Johnson asked curriculum members the same question. Mrs. Rancourt also stated if it was needed, they would write curriculum related policies.

Chairman Neville stated the idea is to make the committees more efficient and they can meet as needed.

Mr. Jonaitis agrees that there is a contentious relationship. A couple of months ago both he and Mr. Grady had some words that never should have happened. This is not the same. The give and take and flow with the minority party is not there. He looks at what Mr. Stokes and Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches did and what Ms. Hall has said in the past. There was a lot better give and go then compared to now. The only way he can support the consolidation of power in the Executive Committee is if both sides appoint their people on this committee.

Board members stated that is what the policy says. Mrs. Rancourt stated each major party shall appoint their members to this committee. Chairman Neville stated you will also have a choice to elect the leadership for your party. That is one of the roles of leadership. Past practice has been that. We are looking to make it bipartisan.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to see the minority party represented. Chairman Neville stated both parties will be equally represented on the Executive Committee.

Mr. Johnson reread the statement from the policy regarding bipartisanship.

Mr. Jonaitis stated Mr. Johnson has a passion for policies. He did a lot of work with our policies. He does not want to see him be blocked out. Mr. Jonaitis added that he has a passion for negotiations.

Mrs. Rancourt stated the different committees will have specialists to deal with policies. You have a passion for negotiations. She has a passion for curriculum. This is not a CAFE model is it? Chairman Neville stated part of this comes from CAFE. Dr. Schumann worked with this kind of committee setup before. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct. He worked under a very similar structure before coming to Enfield.

Mr. Johnson asked if this is a CAFE policy. Dr. Schumann stated the policy was constructed by a CAFE attorney.

Mr. Jonaitis agrees with Mrs. Rancourt but bring the changes to the Policy Committee for a different set of eyes to review it. Mrs. Rancourt stated that is why we bring it to the Board to discuss. Mr. Jonaitis would rather it go before the Policy Committee before it comes to the Board. It would be discussed by the middle committee first.

Mr. Grady stated we are relying on the curriculum committee and the policy committee. We are not experts on policies. Why not let the committee deal with this first. Mr. Johnson stated the people on the committees should have a good understanding of the policies. If someone comes to us with a change we will know that a change in the 3000 policies will affect the 9000 policies and should both be changed. The individual committees might not know that.

Mr. Jonaitis stated no one is an expert on any of these committees. Mr. Grady is not claiming that anyone is an expert on any of our committees. Chairman Neville stated Board members bring a knowledge base to the committees. The idea is to make them more efficient. That is why we have two readings to bring it out in the public for discussion.

Chairman Neville asked for roll call vote.

A vote by **roll-call 5-3-0** passed Mr. Johnson, Mr. Fealy and Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

b. Policy Revision #8341 meetings – Second Reading

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the changes to Policy #8341 Meetings as a second reading.

Discussion:

Mr. Johnson reviewed the changes to Policy #2110.1 Purposes of Evaluation – Superintendent of Schools for a second reading.

Mr. Jonaitis likes the 7:30 PM start time. He also has difficulties getting here for early executive session meetings. He also wants to see his wife. He also has a concern with audience participation being moved on the agenda. He doesn't agree with starting at 7:00 PM because the Town Council starts their meetings at the same time.

Mr. Fealy also will have difficulties getting here for 7:00 PM. He would also like to see us changing the shutdown time for our meetings moved to 10:00 PM. Chairman Neville suggests ending the meetings at 10:30 PM.

Ms. Hall stated the reason why we had an end time for 11:00 PM was when we held the Board meetings at the schools, the custodians would leave at 11:00 PM or we would need to pay for overtime for them.

Mr. Fealy believes if we start earlier we should end earlier. Chairman Neville agrees that everyone would like to end earlier. A lot of these issues can be addressed by the committees. He also worries about our students staying at meetings late. We are trying to balance a lot of needs here.

Mr. Johnson stated by changing the start time will affect some of us by getting here for 7:00 PM. There will be some times that Board members will be affected by this change. Chairman Neville stated we would need to make this change officially for the start of 2013.

Ms. Hall stated the attorney that wrote the letter did not take into consideration that we would be changing the times of our meetings for the remainder of this year. Chairman Neville believes that we are not allowed to do that. If we made a change from now on they would need to be special meetings because the previous Board posted the meetings with the Town Clerk. We will make this policy effective for January 1, 2013.

Chairman Neville asked Dr. Schumann if this is correct. Dr. Schumann stated he indicated that and we did not push the attorney on this. We had the option to do this but since we have already posted the meeting times you would need to cancel the 7:30 PM meeting and move them to 7:00 PM for special meetings. He can address this with the attorney if the Board would like an opinion on this for rescinding the memo that was previously sent to the Town Clerk.

Mr. Fealy stated the hazard with that is you cannot add items to a special meeting agenda.

Chairman Neville stated we now need to change the location for November 13th and it will now be a special meeting. Chairman Neville added this fits in with what the attorney was saying. Ms. Hall

stated we are just changing the location for the meeting that is not a time change.

Chairman Neville asked if this only applies to time changes. Dr. Schumann also thought it was for location. We can add things but would need a 2/3 vote. Mrs. Zalucki stated she called Mrs. Olechnicki, the Town Clerk regarding this last week. This would be considered a special meeting since we are changing the location of the meeting. The meeting schedule that is posted with the Town Clerk has the location and time on the meeting schedule. Since a change is being made, the meeting would be considered a special meeting.

Mr. Fealy stated anything that contradicts the posted regular meeting schedule would be considered a special meeting. Mrs. Zalucki added this is like a legal document the Town Clerk has for our regular meetings. Both Mr. Fealy and Ms. Hall stated the 2013 regular meeting schedule will need to be effective for January 1, 2013. Chairman Neville stated that is what he believed also.

Dr. Schumann stated that would be the cleanest way to do this.

Mr. Jonaitis stated Mr. Johnson and Mr. Fealy will have difficulties getting here for 7:00 PM. There will also be difficulties for parents on the Board that have students that play sports particularly in the spring.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that is a concern for her also. We also leave here late at night and still need to get kids ready in the morning and go to work.

Mr. Fealy asked about ending the meetings at 10:00 PM. Mrs. LeBlanc stated if we end the meeting at 10:00 PM it will force us to hold another meeting for any unfinished business. Chairman Neville added you can vote to extend the meeting past that time.

Mr. Johnson stated if we change the time for the meetings it will affect another policy. Mrs. LeBlanc stated the word contentious has come up several times and she can see this being an issue if some Board members want to stay and some don't. Mr. Johnson stated we had a situation like this and did end the meeting in the middle of a motion.

Chairman Neville stated it is up to the Board as a whole to see if they would like to extend the meeting time or not.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the latest we should stay should be 10:30 PM.

Mr. Johnson stated that is not on our agenda but is part of the policy. Mr. Fealy stated we can amend the motion to end at 10:00 PM.

Mr. Grady stated you will be cutting the meeting time by a half an hour. It should be for 10:30 PM.

Mr. Johnson read the policy.

Mr. Fealy moved, seconded by Mr. Jonaitis to amend the original motion that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the proposed change to Policy #8341 Meetings with an ending time of 10:00 PM.

Discussion:

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the Executive session meeting time. We can adjourn the regular meeting and then go into Executive session.

Mr. Johnson stated this will not affect Executive session. Chairman Neville stated that would be past practice. Frequently the Executive Session is at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Johnson stated we have met until 2:00 AM in the past.

Mr. Grady stated when we leave the regular meeting and go into Executive session we do not adjourn the meeting. If we adjourn the meeting we cannot go into Executive session – everything ends.

Mr. Fealy stated we could take a vote to go into Executive Session to continue the meeting in Executive Session.

Chairman Neville stated we have an amendment to the original motion to end the meeting at 10:00 PM.

Chairman Neville asked for a roll call vote on the amendment.

A vote by **roll-call 4-4-0** failed with Mrs. LeBlanc, Mr. Grady, Mrs. Rancourt and Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

Chairman Neville stated you can amend the motion for a 10:30 PM end time. Mr. Johnson agrees to keep the meeting the same length of time and will make a motion to end the meeting at 10:30 PM.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mrs. Rancourt to amend the original motion that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the proposed change to Policy #8341 Meetings with an ending time of 10:30 PM.

Discussion:

Mr. Fealy stated this is strictly for the finish time of the meeting. Chairman Neville stated that is correct. If you vote yes, the meeting will end at 10:30 PM. If you vote no, the meeting will remain at 11:00 PM.

Chairman Neville asked for a roll call vote.

Mr. Johnson wanted clarification. Mrs. Zalucki stated this if for the amendment vote for a 10:30 PM end time.

A vote by **roll-call 7-1-0** passed with Mr. Grady in dissent.

Chairman Neville stated the main motion should include that this policy will go into effect on January 1, 2013.

Chairman Neville stated we can amend the original motion. Mrs. Zalucki stated the cleanest and clearest way would be to have both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Grady rescind the original motion.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we will not be doing this until the beginning of the year.

Chairman Neville stated if you both withdraw the original motion and make a new motion with the start and end time and include the effective date for January 1, 2013.

Both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Grady rescinded the original motion that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the changes to Policy #8341 Meetings as a second reading.

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the changes to Policy #8341 Meetings with a start time from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM and an adjournment time from 11:00 PM to 10:30 PM with an effective date of January 1, 2013.

A vote by **roll-call 5-3-0** passed with Mr. Johnson, Mr. Fealy and Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Policy Revision #5113 Attendance Policy: K-12 – First Reading

Mr. Johnson moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the changes to Policy #5113 Attendance Policy: K-12 as a First reading.

Discussion:

Mrs. Rancourt asked why we are revising this policy. Mr. Johnson stated the changes are needed to align our current policy with State legislation. Mrs. Rancourt asked if we need to do this. As a parent she objects to the lines regarding student illness. She does not feel this is appropriate. If her child is out due to asthma, she will now need a doctor's note.

Mr. Drezek stated the language is from the State Legislators.

Mr. Fealy stated we can vote against this. Mr. Drezek stated that State law will trump Board policies. We are proposing these changes to align our policy with the State.

Mrs. Rancourt stated doctor notes are needed for each absence. It will be deemed an excused absence if you will need to have a doctor's note for each absence.

Mr. Jonaitis stated as a local Board we should stand up to the State regarding this. The State does not understand what we are doing here in Enfield. If you are out three days you will need to produce a doctor's note. Mr. Fealy added this is common practice in businesses also.

Mr. Fealy stated common sense is needed. As a parent of students it is ridiculous that a student will need to go to the doctor for the absence to be excused. There is also the issue of lost credits down the road after so many illnesses. He will not support this.

Mrs. Rancourt asked if we can change the loss of credit requirements. Mr. Johnson asked for the line number Mrs. Rancourt is referring to. Mrs. Rancourt stated line 583.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated typically you do not bring your child to the doctor's for a stomach bug.

Point of Information:

Chairman Neville stated the law is currently in place. If we turned this policy down, we would need to get someone in here to discuss this policy and its ramifications. We need some further communication from legislators on what this means.

Mr. Drezek stated the notes Mrs. Rancourt is referring to on line 579 are for absences after ten. Item #2 (line 565) addresses absences a-f. They are considered excused when the student's parent/guardian approves such absence and submits appropriate documentation. Any absence after 10 is when a doctor's note would be needed.

Chairman Neville stated that only applies to the 10th absence and beyond. Mr. Drezek stated that is correct.

Mrs. Rancourt stated after the 10th absence you will need a doctor's note but should have also gotten one for absences 6-8. She does not agree with this. Her child almost lost credit. If a student can keep up with the work they shouldn't lose credit. She would like to see the policy be rewritten regarding loss of credit.

Mr. Johnson asked what would be the ramifications if we do not approve this. What are we up against with the State? Dr. Schumann stated you would be putting your administrators and students in a difficult position because your policy would say one thing and State law would say another thing. Administrators cannot violate State law and would need to follow the law until it is changed. You would have a policy that would be confusing to parents and students. When parents attend the attendance meetings, the administrators would be citing State law and it would be different from our policy.

Mr. Johnson stated if we say no to this, we will still need to follow State law. State law dictates after 10 absences you must have a doctor's note in order for your child to receive credit. He believes we are being put in a no-win situation. Chairman Neville added State law trumps policy. Dr. Schumann added this would only be for excused absences.

Mr. Grady asked when the deadline for this policy change is. If we delay the first reading of the policy tonight, is there a way to get additional clarification from the State on this or is there a way that we can make our own policy regarding loss of credits. Loss of credits affects many students and parents that need to attend these meetings. Can we get clarification on this?

Dr. Schumann stated this State law went into effect July 1, 2012. Administrators are currently working under the new law. This is a way for us to clean up our existing policy to match State law. You can delay this and clarify what is not defined by state law in your policy.

Mrs. Rancourt would like lines 613-620 changed and reviewed by the Executive Committee or Student Affairs Committee.

Mr. Jonaitis does not agree with the State law. No matter what we do, we will need to obey that law. By keeping our policy as is, we are making a statement to the State that we do not agree with them. Hopefully some of the other Towns will pick up on what we are doing.

Mrs. Leblanc agrees with Mr. Johnson that we are putting ourselves in a situation. Regarding semester courses, there is nothing that says we cannot pass a student. This should be read for a first reading and should go before the Student Affairs Committee for further review.

Mrs. Rancourt has a hard time regarding students losing credit. Chairman Neville stated that is a town requirement. Mrs. Rancourt would like this rewritten.

Dr. Schumann stated the State has defined what an excused and unexcused absence is. After 10 absences a doctor note is required. If a note is not produced it will then be an unexcused absence. If the Board was to change the 11th or 21st absence to another number, that would be up to the Board. This just determines the kind of absence. The administration understands when a student is home sick without a doctor's note and they are excused by a parent, that it is an absence.

Chairman Neville added from experience this will create a problem without remediation. There are ways to accommodate students that are legitimately sick and absent. A line is needed when it comes to attendance. The administration would need to be involved in this. When students are in the higher level classes, there are some real challenges here when the students are not in the class.

Mr. Jonaitis stated a lot of what is said in the classroom is not in the book. Your classroom experience is a vital part of the class. The more you are out the more you miss. Tutors are available. Teachers will send home work. There are students that cut classes or parents that take their kids out of school for vacation. Something is needed for just in case.

Chairman Neville stated the administrators are needed to discuss the credit issue. There are a number of students that don't come to school and do not make up the work.

Ms. Hall stated it is the 10th absence and not 10th consecutive absence which would make an extremely big difference. Are you sure this is what they meant? Mr. Drezek stated that is the result of the law. We took this directly from the State Statute.

Ms. Hall added this is something we need to discuss with our legislators.

Chairman Neville stated this is something we can discuss with our legislators when they come to a Board meeting. Board members took an oath to uphold all State and Federal laws when we were sworn in as Board Members. We should not go against this oath. This is something we can discuss

with our legislators. Mr. Jonaitis agreed with Chairman Neville.

Chairman Neville asked for a roll call vote on the first reading.

A vote by **roll-call 7-1-0** passed with Mrs. Rancourt in dissent.

b. Discussions/Approval of 2013 Regular BOE Meeting Dates

Chairman Neville stated we need to approve the 2013 Regular BOE Meeting Dates.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the 2013 regular Board of Education meeting dates as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis stated we will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Chairman Neville stated we will only meet once in November and December.

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

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

EHS Student Representative Brandon Andexler stated this was our first chilly day in school. The Youth Vote Committee is preparing for the US Congress debate that will be held at Enfield High on November 1st in the EHS Auditorium. We held our National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and 25 students were inducted. He will bring up the high school consolidation referendum question to the attention of the Youth Vote Committee.

Mrs. Rancourt stated she attended the Superintendent's Listen and Learn event at Eli Whitney. They will hold a monster mash. The grade 3 students walked to the library. It was quite informational and a wonderful experience. EFEE will hold a fundraiser event on October 19 from 5-7 at the Ninety-Nine Restaurant. She thanked Dr. Schumann for his support. Enfield High will hold its Fall Auction on November 10th. CMT results have been mailed home. She also received her phone call from SchoolMessenger on Friday.

Ms. Hall stated STEAM has been discussed by the Board for many years. The RI school of Design has started a campaign on this. She watched CTN and the subject of manufacturing were discussed. October is manufacturing month. If you would like information on this go to www.connecticutdreamittodoit.com.

Mr. Fealy would like information to go home with students about the referendum. He would like us to do anything we can do to get the word out. It is also Breast Cancer Awareness month. A change in the season is upon us. We need to slow down with driving.

Chairman Neville stated he attended a Board Chairman Round Table Discussion where we discussed unfunded mandates and costs to local Boards. They would like CABE to work with the legislators on this. They can advocate for us regarding our concern regarding unfunded mandates. This is just one of the examples. He also received a handbook from the Berlin Board of Education and would like it to be sent out to all Board members. This is tailored to the Board and is worth a discussion at a later date.

Mr. Grady stated Parkman had an author visit. They will also have a monster mash and the wreaths across America program. They have students reading the kindness links. He would like to congratulate our JFK library assistant Karen Casale that recently had a book published – Never Let a

Ghost Borrow Your Library Book. This was a long process for her. He also attended the EHS NHS Induction Ceremony with Deputy Superintendent Drezek. Mr. Grady read a statement regarding Breast Cancer awareness and the month of October. He urges your support.

Mr. Johnson thanked the audience members about speaking about the referendum. Please look at the ballot and vote for this. He also recognized Councilman Kienzler for being in the audience at tonight's Board meeting.

Mr. Johnson stated this is the first day for our new agenda format. The audience members spoke at 8:15 PM and it is now close to 10:00 PM and they have left the building. He would like to be able to address them during the audience portion of the meeting when they are still here.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she also received her SchoolMessenger message. It was very clear and concise. She also attended a Listen & Learn event and there were around 25 people there. The conversation was active and they discussed CMT's and standardized testing. JFK is selling pink shirts for \$6. They are also starting a robotics club. The JFK sports teams are doing very well. There was also an article in the Enfield Press about the cross country team. She thanked the PAC for the discussion on the high school consolidation referendum. She is pleased with the iPads proposal.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he is envious of Mr. Grady's pink tie and everything they have been through. He believes audience members want to hear our responses before they leave. He would like to see us split our Board members comments so they can hear from us right after the audience portion of the meeting. Everything else that Board members want to say can be said at the end of the meeting. The same will go for the Superintendent's report, if it is a hot topic let the Superintendent give his report first that deals with that specific topic and then let the people come up and ask questions on that topic. If we use some common sense with our judgment and split this up it could be done. Mr. Jonaitis would also like the student representatives give their reports earlier in the meeting after audience participation. He also believes that we should have the referendum printed up and send out the ballot for the students that will be voting. Spread the word on the referendum vote and most importantly, come and vote.

Mr. Grady would like the dollar amounts regarding the referendum if it fails, what it will cost tax payers if we do not renovate to new one high school. We need to get the word out to the public. He would like this included in the next superintendent update.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the cost to renovate Enfield High school if it fails will be around \$20 million plus for each school and would not be reimbursable by the State because we would not be renovating to new. We would just be putting a bandage over the problems at each school. The full amount of the high school referendum is \$103 million dollars but 72% of that amount is reimbursable from the State. The actual cost is approximately \$32-\$35 million dollars. We are taxpayers for Enfield and the State of Connecticut. Why not reap the benefit and have this money comes to Enfield rather than us paying for this going to another town.

Mr. Jonaitis would also like to see the exact numbers as mentioned by Mr. Grady.

Mr. Johnson would like a clarification. The cost would be around \$40 million dollars if the referendum fails. Mrs. LeBlanc does not have the exact numbers but it would be closer to \$50 million to renovate both high schools. That would bring the schools up to ADA compliance. There are roof issues and neither school can meet the new graduation requirements with the current science labs in both schools.

Mr. Grady stated the renovation part does not address the issues for the bandage concerns. So it may costs us even more.

Mr. Fealy added we would have two substandard high schools and will need to pay more for the renovation costs instead of having one high school that will meet all of our needs and will pay less for the one high school. Mrs. LeBlanc stated that is correct.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson that the Regular Meeting minutes of September 25, 2012 be approved. Ms. Hall would like the student representatives added to the meeting minutes as has been done in the past. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-2** passed with Mr. Fealy and Mr. Jonaitis abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

a. For the Month of July 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 July, total expenditures amount to \$470,729.42, broken down between payroll totaling \$420,782.23 and other accounts totaling \$49,947.19. 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 August 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 August, total expenditures amount to \$922,859.91, broken down between payroll totaling \$399,362.66 and other accounts totaling \$523,497.25. 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 Mr. Fealy to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2012.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 10:05 PM.

Donna Szewczak
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary