

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on October 14, 2014.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice Chairman Wawer.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Mr. Neville & Mr. Jonaitis
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Neville
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Vice Chairman Wawer announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Jonaitis, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Tina LeBlanc, Timothy Neville, Stacy Thurston and Dave Wawer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Sirard and Vin Grady

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Chris Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; EHS Alternate Student Representative Shelby Brennan and FHS Representative Thomas Vose

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)** - None
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Schumann welcomed Enrico Fermi Student Representative Tom Vose and Enrico Fermi Student Alternate Representative Eric Barnes to tonight's meeting.

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. Administrative Transitional Team – as presented
- c. EHS/FHS NHS Induction Ceremonies – as presented
- d. Jack-O-Lantern Festival – as presented
- e. Youth Vote Events

8. **AUDIENCES** - None

9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Neville urged community members to get involved with Youth Vote activities. This is a great opportunity to be good role models for your children. He will attend the Fermi NHS Induction Ceremony. These induction ceremonies are wonderful events that recognize our student's academic accomplishment.

Mr. Neville would like to see the Transitional Team establish a schedule or timeline so this can be completed as quickly as possible to ensure a smooth transition when we consolidate both high schools.

Mr. LeBlanc wished all of the student's good luck with the PSAT's. She attended an EHS/FHS Field Hockey scrimmage and was impressed with all of the athletes. It was a good close game

and Fermi won. Both she and Mr. Peabody spoke to several parents about the decision concerning the sports consolidation while we were at the scrimmage.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that the steel beams are in place for the Fermi STEAM wing. Seeing the progression for the building is amazing.

Mr. Jonaitis was glad to see everyone here at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Peabody stated the Field Hockey game was fantastic. These athletes run and play hard. It was wonderful to see this and learn about this sport. He recognized Fermi Boy's Soccer Coach Jim Russell. He is always reaching out to the families and players. He truly cares about all of his past and current players. He is more than just a coach.

Mr. Peabody attended the Nathan Hale PTO meeting. The Hale PTO parent's rock! The things they are doing to support the school are truly amazing.

Mr. Peabody also visited the ERfC afterschool program at several of the schools. This is a great program that is available for our students to attend before school and afterschool. It is a successful program that helps our students academically.

Mrs. Unghire attended a CREC Council meeting. CREC Director Bruce Douglas is stepping down. CREC opened up 2 new schools in Connecticut and one of the schools is in Enfield. She attended the CREC Public Safety Academy grand opening ceremony.

Mr. Wawer is looking forward to the students run the Youth Vote Events being held again this year. Mr. Crane, EHS/FHS Social Studies Department Chair has done a wonderful job overseeing this student event.

Mr. Wawer attended a Henry Barnard student assembly. He commends the staff involved with these programs. They are quite enthusiastic and really do a great job.

Mr. Wawer congratulated all of the incoming National Honor Society students at both Enfield and Enrico Fermi high schools. He appreciates all of the hard work they have done.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of the JFK NEAS&C Mission Statement

John F. Kennedy Principal Sarah Collins, JFK English Department Chair Jeris Griffin and JFK Guidance Counselor Melanie Kulpeksa reviewed with the Board about the NEAS&C (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation process and the mission statement that will require the Board's approval.

JFK Mission Statement

The mission of John F. Kennedy Middle School is to provide a secure, nurturing and academically rigorous environment that meets the individual needs of our diverse community. We prepare students to become college and career ready citizens who can contribute responsibly in a global community.

This mission empowers students:

- *To become compassionate, productive and ethical members of the community.*
- *To be resourceful thinkers who independently and cooperatively strive to solve complex*

- problems.*
- *To develop fluency in the use of technology in all disciplines.*

We recognize that this endeavor is the shared responsibility of students, home, school and community.

Mr. Neville stated that most of us are all pretty well versed with the process. The mission is a lens which you will view the report for everyone to see. You have articulated this well with your mission statement. He is glad to see technology being included with this process. This is something that is very near and dear to him and Mr. Peabody. He asked committee members to explain the process that you will go through over the next year.

Mr. Neville asked when the visiting team will arrive. Mrs. Collins stated they will arrive on October 25, 2015.

Mrs. Griffin stated the NEAS&C Committee is writing the curriculum. They would like all of the curriculum reports to be done in February 2015. Evidence is needed with this process. The visiting committee is made up with 12 individuals. The visiting team will visit each classroom and will look at everything while they are here. They will look at our curriculum and assessments. They will look at everything to see if we are what we say we are. We will need to put them up in a hotel and feed them. They will work extremely hard for us. They will critique us and make recommendations if needed.

Mr. Neville added you are being evaluated with the same assessments that are being used at other middle schools. This process will give you a nice roadmap of where you are at.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the perception at JFK has been changed. People previously did not want to send their children to JFK. Her experiences at JFK have been pleasant and it has been positive experience. The curriculum is rigorous and she feels you are what you say you are. She is looking forward to her next child to attend JFK. He enjoys music and is looking forward to the band and Buzz Robotics.

Mr. Peabody thanked them for the presentation. Your mission statement can easily be turned into a statement of commitment. This mission statement is very well written. The responsibility is being shared by the students and parents. This mission statement is spot on.

Mr. Jonaitis stated JFK has always been a good place to learn. Just have your kids come to JFK and you will see this.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that many parents believe their child will get lost in the shuffle because there are so many students there. That is not the case at all. There are so many good things happening at JFK like Rachel's Challenge and Turkey Trot. She loves JFK. Just like Mr. Jonaitis stated, have your kids attend JFK and you will see what we are talking about. The public opinion has definitely changed about JFK.

Mrs. Thurston agrees with Mrs. LeBlanc. The kids are doing so many good things for the community like visiting the residents at Parkway Pavilion, the National Junior Honor Society and Rachel's Challenge. JFK is the place to be at.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves the John F. Kennedy Mission Statement as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

b. Approval of the 2015 Regular BOE Meeting Schedule

Dr. Schumann stated the Board will need to approve the 2015 Regular meeting dates. Once this is approved, we will forward these to the Town Clerk for posting.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about November 24, 2015 and will this conflict with Thanksgiving. Dr. Schumann stated this would be the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and according to Board policy #8341 Meetings, you will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. The Board may choose to change the date and hold a special meeting instead like you did this year.

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2015 Regular BOE Meeting Schedule as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

c. Discussion Regarding the 2015-16 School Calendar

Dr. Schumann stated the uniform CREC Calendar legislation has been put off until 2016-17. We will present this Draft Calendar to the collective bargaining units for their input and wanted to share this calendar with the Board first. We will bring this back for the Board to formally adopt.

Mr. Neville asked when the calendar will need to be formally adopted by. Dr. Schumann stated Board Policy #6111 School Calendar(s) dictates this will need to be adopted by the end of February.

Mr. Peabody would like to know if we can align the calendar with the surrounding towns. We received several comments about this last year. Some of the families with students attending multiple schools in other districts are looking for time off to be the same.

Dr. Schumann stated we can look into this. He is not sure what other towns or districts have done with their calendars.

Mr. Neville asked if you are looking for professional development time or vacation time. We were also looking at aligning some of the professional development days with surrounding towns that could save us some money. Mr. Peabody stated he is interested with both items.

Mr. Peabody added this was discussed at a previous Curriculum Committee meeting with Ms. McKernan. We could share conferences and professional development costs that could potentially help us financially with our budget.

Mr. Wawer stated we have given Dr. Schumann some feedback and look forward the next presentation.

d. Discussion Regarding Suffield Vo-Ag Seats for 2015-16

Dr. Schumann stated during the budget process last year, the Board discussed Suffield Vo-Ag Seats considerably. Our agreement with Suffield Vo-Ag has expired. We have offered 10 seats in the past. Based on the complicated algorithm designed by the State of Connecticut if an existing agreement is not in place, we will need to offer at least 9 seats in 2015-16. He will notify the Suffield Superintendent with our decision so we don't end up with them offering more seats than the Board plans to fund.

Mr. Neville asked if the total number of students is figured into the algorithm. Dr. Schumann stated you need to offer a number that is at least equal to the number that was offered in the previous three years total and you must offer that same number equal to the total for the three years for Freshman seats. The average number of seats will be 32 and the average number of Freshman seats will be 8. We currently have 31 students at Suffield Vo-Ag. We have 8 grade

12 students that will graduate and offering 9 seats will give us the minimum number of 32 required seats.

Mr. Peabody would like to know the time line that is needed from Suffield. Dr. Schumann is not sure when they start the process at Suffield Vo-Ag. It is a very lengthy process the students must go through.

Mr. Peabody would like to see the Board avoid offering more seats than we can afford. He would like to know when the process starts so we can avoid what happened last year.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to know the cost per seat to send an Enfield student to Suffield Vo-Ag. Dr. Schumann believes it is around \$6,500 per student.

Mr. Jonaitis added based on what we went through with the budget process last year, we might want to start making a priority list now.

Mr. Neville would like to see the figures. Will the figures include the bussing costs? We will need this information to factor this in so we can set our priorities. We have a fiduciary responsibility with our budget. He thinks the cost is higher. Do we pay for the transportation for the students? If we do, what is the cost per bus? Mr. Drezek stated the cost is \$40K per bus.

Mr. Neville added the Board needs this information before our next meeting. He believed the State set the rates later in the budget process last year.

Mr. Jonaitis would like the figures per student with transportation costs. We need enough time before the recruitment process starts at Suffield Vo-Ag. We need to inform the parents and students in advance so we don't run into what happened last year. We need to let them know exactly how many seats will be offered.

Mr. Wawer asked who sets the rate for Suffield Vo-Ag and has the tuition rate ever changed. Dr. Schumann stated the rate is set by the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Jonaitis added that Suffield Vo-Ag pulls students from all of the surrounding towns.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. ITPC Committee

Mr. Neville stated that both he and Mr. Peabody are still waiting for this committee to meet. The initial meeting was held several months ago. This committee has budget ramifications and we need to start meeting.

Mr. Peabody stated we are still waiting for the Town Manager to set date for our next meeting. We need to complete a needs assessment. Technology is being infused throughout the school system. Support will cost us and we need to know what that will be. We need service level agreements. We need to know who is going to do what and for how long. This committee has a lot of work that will need to get done in a short amount of time. He would like Dr. Schumann to follow up with Mr. Coppler to see when the committee will meet.

Dr. Schumann stated that he will look into this.

b. Policy Committee

Mr. Wawer reported that the Policy committee met and reviewed new laws and mandates that will become policies. The mandates will require staff training. The staff hours are

contractually set. Additional time will be needed for this staff training in order to comply with these new mandates. This will impact teaching time and could also add to sub coverage costs.

Mr. Neville asked when will the new mandates need to be implemented by and what budget will they come out of? Mr. Drezek stated any policy changes would be implemented on July 1, 2015.

Mr. Wawer added that they will be included in our budget discussions that will be held starting in January.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2014 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-1** passed with abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis thanked the Board for everything you do for the students. She knows you are looking out for all of them. Suffield Vo-Ag is an important program for our students. The process starts in November. She hopes the Board will continue to send 10 students to Suffield Vo-Ag. The tuition price will not change during the school year once it has been set. We send 400 kids to CREC magnet schools. We are busing them one town over to attend Suffield Vo-Ag. This is such a great program. She thanked the Board.

Carrie Barnes, South Meadow Lane – Mrs. Barnes would like to know why we limit the number of students that can attend Suffield Vo-Ag and we don't do that for the magnet schools? What is the difference between these schools and programs.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- Matter(s) Related to Personnel – Superintendent's Evaluation & Contract

A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-0** passed with Mrs. Thurston and Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

The Board relocated to the Staff Lounge for the Executive Session at 7:50 PM.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2014.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

