

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 23, 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 23, 2012.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tina LeBlanc, Charles Johnson, Vin Grady, Donna Szewczak, Kevin Fealy, Joyce Hall, Jennifer Rancourt, and Timothy Neville

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Peter Jonaitis

**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**

- a. Wreaths Across America – Lori Gates

Dr. Schumann stated that Mrs. Gates is here tonight to talk about the Wreaths Across America Program.

Mrs. Gates stated that she has Parkman Principal Mrs. Sampl with her tonight. She thanked Board members for this opportunity. Mrs. Gates stated that she is on the local committee for Wreaths Across America Program. She reviewed the history of the program with Board members. They have established a non-profit organization and sell wreaths for \$15. Wreaths will be delivered to a specific cemetery. Each cemetery will hold a ceremony honoring Veteran's at noon, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Each year has a different theme. The trucks come from Maine and will stop at the different States along the way to cemetery in Arlington, West Virginia. Connecticut will have 4-6 stops. Last year Enfield was one of the stops.

Mrs. Sampl stated she knew nothing about this program until Mrs. Gates brought it to her attention last year. We donated the sales from the wreaths to the Enfield Food Shelf and will do this again this year. We held an assembly to kick-off the program and we sold over 100 wreaths. It was the most amazing thing she has ever seen. The entire school was there to welcome the truck. We will again hold another program on December 11<sup>th</sup>. She invited all Board members to attend. Students from JFK and the CREC Public Safety Academy welcomed the truck as it drove by them on the way to Parkman School. The students were all waving flags. It is truly an amazing event. This year students will write an essay. They will do research on deceased veteran's. They will bring the students to the cemetery and they will do rubbings from the veteran's tombstones. We are very excited about the program.

Mrs. Gates stated we have two Parkman students present that will tell you what the program means to them.

Sarah Wlodkoski stated she is a grade 5 student at Parkman. She read a statement about the Wreaths Across America program. She truly enjoyed having this program at her school. She learned a lot about the program and the sacrifices the Veteran's made for us. She thanked Board members.

Zack Healy stated he is a student now at JFK but was a student at Parkman last year. He read a statement about the Wreaths Across America program. He was glad that they stopped in Enfield. We must remember, honor and teach. He thanked Board members.

Chairman Neville thanked the two students and stated that they both represented their schools well.

Mrs. Gates put together a video of the Wreaths Across America program and showed it to Board members. Some of the pictures in the video are when they came to Enfield and to Parkman. This is a compliment that they are coming to Enfield again.

Chairman Neville stated that he attended the ceremony at Parkman last year, as well as many other Board members and Administrators and looks forward to this again. He thanked Mrs. Gates for everything she has done. The presentation was very moving.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### a. Leaders for the Future – as presented

Dr. Schumann stated that Mr. Van Tassel, Mrs. Collins and Mr. Clarke are here tonight to talk about a program – Leaders for the Future at JFK.

Principal Van Tassel stated this is our first presentation using our iPad. He thanked the Board of Education for giving them this device. Chairman Neville stated they are glad to see the new technology devices being used.

Mr. Van Tassel reviewed the leadership theory of action at JFK. He reviewed Step 1 – Rachel's Challenge and the JFK Chain Reaction. He thanked Board and Town Council members for the Rachel's Challenge program. It has made such an impact on the students at JFK.

Mr. Van Tassel reviewed Step 2 – Leaders for the Future – a student leadership development for service learning and character education. The program was designed for the students of JFK. He reviewed John Jay Bonstingl's program they will use and his credentials. He reviewed the Leaders for the Future program that will start on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Thirty students will work with their mentor/advisors and they will learn real life skills such as teamwork and collaboration. They will use problem solving, data collection and analysis, and will use critical thinking. They will develop the ability to listen actively, to make effective public presentations and to resolve dilemmas. We are looking forward to this. Promoting leadership with our students will help us to get them engaged.

Chairman Neville asked if representation from MassMutual and Lego will be at JFK for this program. Will they be part of the mentoring? Mr. Van Tassel stated that Dr. Schumann arranged for local companies to be at JFK. They will attend the initial kickoff event. The students will then work with the mentors for the next two days. They will decide on the project. At the conclusion of day two, the students will define the projects they will be working on for the next 4-6 weeks. At the end of the program, we will have a celebration around the end of December beginning of January.

Chairman Neville asked if the program will continue if it is successful. Mr. Van Tassel stated that he sees this as a great opportunity for the students at JFK. We will need to see how the program is going. Anytime we can get the students involved in ways to better the school is a good idea. We are giving the students a voice in the direction of the school. He can see this program continuing at JFK.

Ms. Hall would like to see you come back and give us updates on the program. Mr. Van Tassel stated we haven't been back since last year and he would like to come back and give the Board an update on this program as well as other things that are happening at JFK.

Chairman Neville thanked Mr. Van Tassel for the presentation and looks forward to them to coming back.

- b. School Closings for Election Day & Veteran's Day – as presented
- c. Youth Vote Information – as presented

Dr. Schumann added flyers will go to each resident in Town so they will be aware of the referendums. This was approved by the Town Attorney. We will also send home flyers with each student to share with their families. This is to raise awareness about the two referendum questions. There are contact numbers for any questions and will go out next week.

- d. Grants Update – as presented
- e. Personnel Report – as presented

Ms. Hall asked if having a support the school referendum sign would pose any problems for Board members. Dr. Schumann stated having signs on your lawns will not pose any problems. Board members and employees are not allowed to expend any public funds to promote or work against any referendum. You are stating a position of your belief and that is perfectly fine.

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Lynn Scull, Pinecrest Road – Mrs. Scull is here tonight to invite all Board members to attend the First Readers Ceremony on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM at Enrico Fermi High School, in the auditorium. This celebration is for 93 students in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 that have gained fluency in reading since the end of June 2012. Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek will attend the ceremony and will congratulate each student for this major accomplishment. The First Readers organization enjoys promoting this awareness that comes when students read their first book. Mrs. Scull thanked the Board for the information that has been provided about the referendum. She admires the Board's openness promoting the referendum. For additional information you can go to [www.enfieldsfuture.com](http://www.enfieldsfuture.com).

Gina Sullivan, Spier Avenue – Ms. Sullivan stated she is here as part of Enfield's Future PAC and supports the high school consolidation referendum. We need to get the word out. If we vote "yes" for the referendum, we will have a state of the art high school. If we vote "no" the money will go to another town. Some people believe since they do not have any children in the EPS schools system that this referendum does not affect them. This is wrong. This referendum will affect every Enfield taxpayer. If the referendum fails, we stand to lose the funding and will need to spend more to have two subpar high school buildings with declining enrollment and none of this will be reimbursed by the State. There are many Enfield taxpayers that cannot afford to have their taxes increased. This is why you need to know why the "yes" vote is so important for all the citizens of Enfield. Additional information can be found at [www.enfieldsfuture.com](http://www.enfieldsfuture.com). Please help us spread the word. This is for Enfield's future. Thank you.

Randy Daigle, – Mr. Daigle commended Mrs. Gates for the Wreaths Across America. He was fortunate to participate last year as part of the Patriot Guard. It was an outstanding memorable event. Mr. Daigle stated he is here regarding the high school consolidation. We now have around 30 students that need to travel between schools in order to take courses. We are losing around 410 Enfield students that attend magnet schools. We are paying for them to go to a magnet school and we are paying for them here also. We are only offering one A/P course each day. With the high school consolidation, we will be able to offer more A/P courses. The new State Graduation Requirements will mean that students will need to pass 25 credits in order to graduate. We currently do not have the facilities for this to be accomplished. Fixed income families will be impacted by this the most if the referendum fails. We will not receive the reimbursement from the State and it will cost more to partially fix two high schools instead of refurbishing to new one high school. The cost to refurbish to new is \$103 million dollars. The State will reimburse us 72% of the \$103 million dollars for an approximate cost of \$32 million dollars. The estimated cost of \$32 million dollars will not be

passed on to taxpayers based on projected cost savings and bonding. We will end up with a Twenty-First-Century state of the art high school building that residents of Enfield can be proud of. We will end up with a building that will be basically maintenance free for 20 years. If the referendum fails, we will be required to have another referendum. We will need to repair two high schools at a minimum of \$51-\$78 million dollars. None of this will be reimbursed by the State. Tax payers will see an increase of \$600-\$900 dollars. This will not address the State Graduation Requirements. If this referendum fails, we will be in dire-straits because we can lose our NEAS&C accreditation. Without high school accreditation, our students will not be eligible to go to any college (2 year or 4 year). Property taxes will plummet. It does not make sense not to pass this referendum. This is a wonderful opportunity for Enfield. Thank you for your support.

## **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

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

#### **Discussion:**

Chairman Neville asked Mr. Drezek to share any additional information he may have regarding the proposed changes.

Mr. Drezek stated the only required changes mandated by the State Legislature are the definition of an excused and unexcused absence. The policy is laid out in two sections, K-8 and 9-12. The definition for excused and unexcused appears two times in the policy.

Mr. Grady stated when students go past the 10 absences they will then need to attend hearings for loss of credits due to their grades being in jeopardy. This applies when students are sick or not going to school.

Mr. Drezek stated this applies to the tenth absence and additional absences. There are definitions on what is considered excused and non-excused absences. Anything beyond that, you are then considered truant. You would need to look at the type of absence. Is it a medically required absence? This is more than just cut and dry after 10 absences you will lose credit.

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

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Approval of School Readiness Quality Enhancement Grant**

Dr. Schumann stated that unfortunately the Director of Social Services Pam Brown was unable to attend tonight. Here in her place are Karen Edelson, Director of the Enfield Child Development Center and Chris Gomeau from KITE (Key Initiatives to Education) to answer any questions Board members may have regarding the School Readiness Quality Enhancement Grant. This grant requires both the Town and Board to approve. The Town Council has already approved it and the Town Manager, Matthew Coppler has signed the grant. They are looking for the Board's endorsement and the Superintendent's signature.

Ms. Hall asked what schools will benefit from this grant if they qualify. Mrs. Edelson stated anyone could benefit from this grant if they apply for it providing they are attending Asnuntuck Community College, any local colleges as long as they are pursuing a bachelor's degree. It is a scholarship for any early childcare provider pursuing a degree.

Ms. Hall added that any childcare provider in town is eligible for this grant. Mrs. Edelson stated as long as the childcare facility is licensed, they can apply.

Chairman Neville stated this is for adults pursuing a degree in early childcare. Mrs. Edelson stated that is correct. This is for scholarships that early childhood staff can apply for.

Chairman Neville asked if this grant is new. Mrs. Edelson stated we offered this last year for the first time. There is a chance that this grant will be available every year but there is no guarantee. We would need to apply for it each year as it becomes available.

Mrs. Szewczak asked if they need to be pursuing a degree or can it be for enrichment? Mrs. Edelson stated they need to pursue at least an associate's degree in early childhood or a bachelor's degree.

Mr. Fealy asked for a follow-up from last year's grant. Mrs. Edelson stated three adults applied for the scholarships and they took classes at Asnuntuck Community College in early childhood.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if the program at Asnuntuck is still being run by Mrs. Parker. She does an outstanding job. Mrs. Edelson stated she is still at Asnuntuck and is involved in the early childhood program.

Chairman Neville asked if Board action is needed on this tonight. Mrs. Edelson stated that is correct.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak that the Enfield Board of Education approves the School Readiness Quality Enhancement Grant as presented.

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 the Friends of Rachel Club meets weekly at Enfield High and they have started a chain of kindness. The senior advisory council has also been meeting with Principal Krieger where we discussed student college placement process.

Mrs. Rancourt thanked Mrs. Gates for coming. The presentation at Parkman last year was powerful and a wonderful event. She is looking forward to it again this year. She thanked Mr. Daigle, Mrs. Scull and Mrs. Sullivan for their comments and for all of their hard work. She also thanked Mrs. Witbro for everything she does for our students. She is a hard worker. She is responsible for many events like the Pumpkin Festival, Youth Vote, Family Day and so many more events.

Mrs. Rancourt stated Eli Whitney had a Monstermash and it was a lot of fun. They also held a bookfair that was quite successful.

Mrs. Rancourt asked for an update on the Hazardville Memorial playground. Dr. Schumann has not heard anything yet.

Chairman Neville stated some of the parts needed to be fabricated and they have been received. The grounds crews will schedule a date to repair the playground equipment.

Ms. Hall asked if Board members received the CABA Delegate booklet with the 2013 Resolutions. She will attend the Delegate Assembly the day before the CABA/CAPSS Convention. She asked Board members to look at the resolutions and let her know if there are any items they are concerned with so she can address it at the meeting. This also includes a consent calendar. She needs to hear from Board members so she can represent you and not just herself. Please let her know before November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Fealy wanted to let students know if you are taking on-line classes through Adult Education, you must still attend class each week. He thanked the administration for promoting Rachel's Challenge

and Mr. Van Tassel and his staff for their presentation. He thanked Mrs. Gates for everything you do for our Veteran's and the Wreaths Across America program. He also thanked Mrs. Scull, Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Daigle for all of the information you have delivered to the public regarding the referendum.

Mr. Fealy reminded teens that have recently turned 18 that you will need to register to vote. You have a right to use your voice in this election and everything that is going on in our community.

Mrs. Szewczak stated that she has attended several Listen & Learn events and has learned a few new things. People do not believe that we were ever reimbursed by the State. We did get reimbursement from the State for the athletic field's referendum. Our legislatures helped with the mediation of the fields which was not covered by the referendum funds.

Mrs. Szewczak stated FHS Principal Newton has been reassuring parents that our schools are still vibrant. The Board has discussed STEM and now the STEAM philosophy over the past few years. Mr. Newton wanted parents to know this and she wanted to share this with the community. We have a lot of great things going on in our high schools.

Mrs. Szewczak stated we used our end of the year funds to purchase iPads. The Visual Arts department has 8 new Mac computers. The future is the integration of technology everywhere.

EHS Student Representative Rachel Saltzgeber stated that Sophomores and Juniors took PSAT's. During that time, Dr. Schumann met with Freshman students in a Town Hall meeting and many Seniors visited colleges. Fermi will host their homecoming events this weekend starting on Friday night with our Fermi Fest. We will have our parade, homecoming game and a dance on Saturday. On Sunday, we will host a Rays of Hope Walk for Breast Cancer. Tuesday, will be our Youth Vote event. Our FHS NHS Induction Ceremony will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the Monstermash at Eli Whitney and it was a lot of fun. Many families attended, it was a huge success. She spoke with Mrs. Witbro about the Youth Vote Events and was extremely impressed with the number of teachers that are involved with this. She thanked the members on the PAC. So much work has gone into this. Last year she attended the Wreaths Across America program and was deeply touched. Our Veteran's did not care who was a republican or a democrat. They were a team and did what was best for our country. There is a lot going on now with the elections. It is all about team work and that is what we want our kids to learn. Mrs. Gates presentation was very touching.

Mr. Johnson stated he agrees with everything that has been said tonight. He has a question regarding the Wreaths Across America Program. Are the other schools involved with this program? Dr. Schumann believes it is just Parkman.

Mr. Johnson asked if the students from the other schools are involved with this. Mr. Van Tassel stated the student council at JFK last year went to the corner of the street as they drove by. They had banners and flags. We were part of it but were not at Parkman. All the schools were notified about this event.

Chairman Neville asked if the other schools were part of the fundraising event for the Wreaths Across America. Mrs. Rancourt added that Mrs. Gates will involve the PTO's for fundraising.

Mr. Johnson stated he did not believe Enfield Street was involved.

Chairman Neville asked Dr. Schumann to look into this for the Board. If Board members would like to be involved, you can contact Mrs. Sampl at Parkman.

Mr. Grady asked where the Rays of Hope Walk will take place. The FHS Student Representative stated that she would find out and would have Mr. Newton e-mail Board members with the information.

The EHS Student Representative stated it will take place at Forest Park in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

Mr. Grady echoed what has been said by Board members. Mrs. Gates is a key component for our local Veteran's Phillip Jordan and Phillip Johnson having the baseball parks at Mark Twain named for them. He thanked the PAC for coming tonight and for everything they have done.

Mr. Grady would like to receive an update on our TAG program. He knows the program has started at JFK. He would like to know the number of students participating.

Chairman Neville would like to add to our next Board agenda a discussion regarding the graduation start time. He is interested in moving the time from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. This is something that the Mayor Kaupin was also interested in. The SAFE Grad committees are anxious for our decision on this.

Chairman Neville stated that he along with Dr. Schumann; Mr. Coppler and Mayor Kaupin have setup monthly meetings to discuss various related topics. We met last Thursday and discussed energy efficiencies. They are looking for a member from the Board to be appointed to this town-wide committee. They will also have a maintenance committee to look at issues for long range plans. This way we can educate the public about the issues. We need to make our buildings more energy efficient. It was a positive collaborative meeting. He will bring additional information discussed at these meetings to the Board's attention periodically.

Chairman Neville stated he has looked at the membership for the standing committees of the Board. The Finance and Curriculum membership is fine the way it is. He discussed the Executive Committee membership with several Board members. We also have the Students Issues Committee. He has suggestions for the membership for these two new committees and has spoken to Board members about being on these committees. He will finalize the membership with Dr. Schumann and will send it out on Friday with the Superintendent's Update.

Chairman Neville is looking forward to the First Readers Celebration. He believes there is a lot of misinformation about the playscape at Memorial. Councilman Lee has been very helpful with this. He is glad that this is being resolved. He believes there is still one more school where the playscape has been closed – Crandall. Chairman Neville would like information on this. Dr. Schumann added that he will look into this and will include this in his Friday update to the Board.

Chairman Neville thanked the PAC for the work they have done. The entire Board thanks you for what you have done.

Chairman Neville also agrees with what Board members have said about Mrs. Gates. He attended the Wreaths Across America Program at Parkman last year and was deeply moved and impressed. It is a great learning experience. Mrs. Gates is not looking for any credit. She just does this because it is the right thing to do. He appreciates everything she has done.

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

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson that the Regular Meeting minutes of October 9, 2012 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-1** passed with Mrs. Szewczak abstaining.

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

#### **a. For the Month of September 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 September, total expenditures amount to \$4,907,861.99, broken down between payroll totaling \$3,821,827.27 and

other accounts totaling \$1,086,034.72. 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 September 2011/12**

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 September, total expenditures amount to \$90,969.21, broken down between payroll totaling \$.00 and other accounts totaling \$90,969.21. 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. Szewczak to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2012.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Donna Szewczak  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary