

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

An organizational meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at the Enfield Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on November 19, 2013.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mr. Neville.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Neville
3. **OATH OF OFFICE FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:**

Town Clerk, Mrs. Suzanne Olechnicki administered the Oath of Office for the 2013-15 Board of Education Members – David Bouley, Vincent Grady, Peter Jonaitis, Tina LeBlanc, Timothy Neville, Thomas Sirard, Stacy Thurston, Lori Unghire and David Wawer.

Mrs. Olechnicki congratulated Board members and wished them a successful term as Board of Education Members.

Mr. Neville congratulated all of the Board of Education Members.

4. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Jonaitis, Tina LeBlanc, David Wawer, Vin Grady, Timothy Neville, Thomas Sirard, Stacy Thurston, Lori Unghire and David Bouley

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent; and EHS Student Representative Christine Luksic

5. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Mr. Neville opened up the floor for nominations for Chairperson.

a. Chairperson of the Board of Education

Mr. Grady nominated Thomas Sirard as the Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Mrs. Unghire. Mr. Grady read a prepared statement regarding his nomination for Mr. Sirard.

Mr. Bouley nominated Peter Jonaitis as the Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Wawer. Mr. Bouley read a prepared statement regarding his nomination for Mr. Jonaitis.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Grady to close the nominations for Chairperson. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Neville called for a roll call vote for the Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education.

A vote by **roll-call 6-3-0** passed in favor of Mr. Sirard as the 2013-15 Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education with Mr. Jonaitis, Mr. Wawer and Mr. Bouley in dissent.

Mr. Neville congratulated Mr. Sirard on his appointment as Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education.

b. Vice Chairperson of the Board of Education

Chairman Sirard opened up the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Jonaitis nominated David Wawer as the Vice Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Grady.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Neville to close the nominations for Vice Chairperson. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously for Mr. Wawer as the 2013-15 Vice Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education.

c. Secretary of the Board of Education

Chairman Sirard opened up the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Mrs. LeBlanc nominated Vincent Grady as the Secretary for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Mrs. Thurston. Mrs. LeBlanc read a prepared statement regarding her nomination for Mr. Grady.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Thurston to close the nominations for Secretary. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously for Mr. Grady as the 2013-15 Secretary for the Enfield Board of Education.

6. SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS:

Chairman Sirard stated we will now present service recognition awards to the outgoing Board members.

Chairman Sirard, Vice Chairman Wawer and Secretary Grady presented Mrs. Szewczak with a plaque of appreciation from the Board of Education along with her name plate.

Chairman Sirard added that it has been a pleasure and honor working with you and wishes her good luck with her future endeavors.

Mrs. Szewczak thanked everyone for supporting her, listening to her ideas and changing Enfield Public Schools to the 21st century. She will miss Mr. Sirard the most. He has sat on her left and on her right for the past few years. He understands what I am thinking and translates it so it makes more sense. Ms. Hall is someone she calls a friend and has worked with for many years. She thanked everyone on the Board.

Chairman Sirard, Vice Chairman Wawer and Secretary Grady presented Mrs. Rancourt with a plaque of appreciation from the Board of Education along with her name plate.

Chairman Sirard stated it has been a distinct privilege to serve with you on the Board of Education. He knows you worked very hard and were very passionate with your beliefs. You were constantly looking out for the best interests of the students, teachers and town. He considers you a friend and you will be missed. You have always spoken what was on your

mind and he respected you for doing this.

Mrs. Rancourt thanked her friends and family. She especially thanked her family for putting up with the many late nights. Her boys are excited that this is her last meeting. She has gained many friends while being a member on the Board. She will miss you all a lot. Thank you.

Chairman Sirard, Vice Chairman Wawer and Secretary Grady presented Ms. Hall with a plaque of appreciation from the Board of Education along with her name plate.

Chairman Sirard stated that Ms. Hall will be missed. You have a wealth of knowledge about our school system and what is going on at the State level that is incredible. He respects you and called her a friend.

Ms. Hall stated that the Board of Education has a lot to be impressed about like Youth Vote, Technology Advancements, Full Day Kindergarten, AP Honor Roll, First Readers Program and LEGO Education. The new Board's primary goal will be student achievement, whether you are building your budget, reviewing curriculum or recognizing academic achievement. There is a significant learning curve of 2 years for new Board members. There are training programs that will give you the key notes of what you need to know as Board members. She encourages all new Board members to take advantage of these training programs. They will help you when it comes to legal issues and for making good decisions.

Ms. Hall asked the new Board members to remember during budget time, our teachers are the operating system of a classroom. Keep this in mind. Teachers are not inexpensive and they are essential and should be an important lasting part of our curriculum and budget. She urged Board members to not be hasty when making decisions. Think about it first and review what is being done elsewhere. Do not jump to the conclusion that common core is the worst thing in the world. Give it a chance to work and make it worthwhile because our children need a consistent curriculum. Thank you.

Chairman Sirard stated that Mr. Fealy is unable to attend tonight. He has a prepared statement that he will read from Mr. Fealy.

Mr. Fealy regrets that he is unable to be here tonight and to say good luck to the incoming Board. It is his sincerest wish that you all work together for the betterment of our schools and our children. He has served the Board to the best of his ability and it has been an honor. He started off as a concerned parent and leaves with a better understanding of our school systems education. Thank you for all of your support over the past two years.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mrs. Szewczak, Mrs. Rancourt, Ms. Hall and Mr. Fealy you will all be truly missed. Your service as a Board member will always be remembered.

Chairman Sirard presented Mr. Neville with a director's gavel that he used as the Chairman for the past two years. You did a wonderful job as our chair. You have earned my respect and hopefully I have earned yours. Thank you.

Mr. Neville stated as previously mentioned by Ms. Hall, this is a learning experience. We learn by listening to each other. This Board worked well together and we grew as a Board. We accomplished some of our goals like full day Kindergarten with two different administrations. Working with two different administrations was a task in itself. We accomplished this by working together. He hopes that the new Board will continue to work together. Thank you for working with him and your support. He respects all of the Board members as we have grown in our positions. Thank you.

7. COMMENTS, IF ANY, FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRPERSON:

Chairman Sirard thanked his wife and his family for their support. Without his wife's support he would not be able to do this. He thanked the voters for their faith and support. He hopes to continue to earn your respect. He will work hard for everyone and understands that we all need to reach the same goal together. The issues that separate us are not that many. We all serve for the same reasons. We care about the schools and our children and will try to do the best for Enfield. No one should forget this. He thanks his friends and the voters for their support. This is not about him. It is what is best for Enfield. He will try to do his very best and his object is to continue to earn your respect. Thank you.

8. COMMENTS, IF ANY, FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Jonaitis thanked everyone that worked on both campaigns. It can be time consuming. He is sure all of the candidate's thank you. The ten Board of Education candidates that ran for election were only separated by 105 votes. He thanked all of the voters that came out during this election. He thanked the Republican Party for trying to bring back some fiscal responsibility to the Board of Education. He congratulated Mr. Sirard and wishes him good luck as our Chairman.

Mrs. LeBlanc welcomed the new Board members Mrs. Unghire, Mr. Bouley and Mr. Wawer. It feels great not being the newbie this time. She knows what to expect. When she ran for the Board of Education 2 years ago, she received the lowest amount of votes. She wanted to show voters that she was worth their vote. She received a lot of phone calls today about what was being said. Mrs. LeBlanc read a statement regarding untruths being said. She thanked everyone that supported her and hopes that she will represent you in a way you can be proud of for the next two years. Thank you.

Mr. Wawer stated that is this is a strange new experience for him. He thanked his wife and his daughter for allowing him to invest his time in Enfield for the past 7 years. This is not an easy task. People are always questioning why you did this or that. He pledges to the student's administration and staff that he will work diligently for you as a Board of Education member. We will try to produce the best quality programs for our students and will work together as a consensus for the betterment of the students and the parents. We need to think about the children of Enfield first and not ourselves. Thank you.

Mr. Grady thanked his wife and children for standing behind him. One of his children asked him why he was running since they have all graduated from Enfield. You vote with your heart and what is good for the school system. He believes in the Enfield Public School System even though his children are no longer attending. He thanked Joyce, Donna, Jen and Kevin. It has been a pleasure and honor working alongside of you for the past two years. He wished you could have all stayed. It was an opportune time for us to get some items passed and was a good fit for the Enfield Public Schools. He is looking forward to working with the new Board members. We have a great new Board and he feels we will continue to work well together. He is grateful of the voters to have this opportunity to serve you again. He is looking forward to the next 2 years. Thank you.

Mr. Neville thanked the voters for your support. We are here because you believed in us and supported us. You are giving me a second chance and he appreciates the effort and support he has received. He has tried to collaborate and understands the reason that we are here. We are also here for the children of Enfield and their families. We are here to try to give them the best possible education we can. He is committed to work collaboratively with the new Board. That is the secret to success on the Board. He does not see Democrats or Republicans. He sees people with a common goal. He hopes that he can continue to live up to your expectations. He thanks his incredibly patient wife for her continued support during this

election and during his time on the Board. This is not what she thought my retirement would be. None of us could serve the town of Enfield without the support of our families and friends. He thanks his wife from the bottom of his heart for her support. We ran for office because we love Enfield and we care. We all want a quality school system and a quality education so they are prepared for that 21st century high school we are building. This takes collaboration working on measurable quality goals. We need to concentrate on achievement so our kids can be the best that they can be. He encourages all the Board members to work together and ask questions. Ms. Hall was correct – it takes a minimum of 2 years to learn this job. We can deliver quality education to all of the children in Enfield.

Mrs. Thurston stated that it feels good to be back here. She thanked the voters. She wasn't sure how everyone would feel about her taking 2 years off – thank you. She thanked her husband for his support. She is looking forward to working with the Board again and knows we will do a good job for the students and the community. Thank you.

Mrs. Unghire thanked her family and her husband for their support. She thanked the ERTC for their kind comments and helping her out along the way. She thanked Mrs. Turner, Mr. Wawer and especially Mr. Jonaitis for his instruction and guidance along the way. She is very grateful. She thanked the Enfield voters for their faith in her. She wants Enfield to continue to be a great place to raise your families and get a good education. She also looks forward to working with this great Board. Thank you.

Mr. Bouley thanked the voters, his wife and his children for their support. He does not presume to fill the shoes of any of the outgoing Board members by any means. We will do our best to create shoes of our own. Thank you.

Chairman Sirard thanked EHS Student Representative for attending tonight's special meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Special Organizational Meeting of November 19, 2013.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary