

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 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 December 9, 2014.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Jonaitis, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Vin Grady, Timothy Neville, Stacy Thurston and Tom Sirard

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Wawer & Tina LeBlanc

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent and FHS Alternate Student Representative Eric Barnes

Chairman Sirard stated we have the need to take Item #6a out of the agenda's regular order and place it before Item #6.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education place item 6a before Item #6.

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

6a. Academic Achievement Report – LEGO Partnership Update

Ms. McKernan, our Chief Academic Officer gave an overview of our partnership with LEGO. She introduced Michelle Middleton, our K-12 Humanities Coordinator. Ms. Middleton thanked the Board and stated how exciting it has been to see the program grow and to see how literacy is being reinforced through this program. She introduced Eli Whitney grade 5 Teacher Charlotte Zenzick and Eli Whitney grade 3 Teacher Carla Prayzner to the Board.

Eli Whitney Grade 5 students Hailie Genco and Patrick Kearney challenged the Board to build something that represents what your greatest accomplishments have been while on the Board of Education. Mrs. Zenzick stated you will have 3 minutes to build something using your LEGO's.

Board members shared their builds with the students and what they represented.

Mrs. Zenzick stated the Build to Express program inspires the students creativity and to help them communicate more effectively. We use this program in all areas of the curriculum including math, science, language arts and social studies. Students are asked to build something related to a topic and communicate about their build within a certain amount of

time. They will ask questions about each other's build. Teachers use this for pre-assessments of prior knowledge, formative assessments or summative assessments. The students enjoy using the Build to Express program. Thank you for providing this program for the students to use.

Ms. McKernan introduced Sue Superson from LEGO. She is in our classrooms everyday supporting the program. Ms. Superson stated she is the academic advisor that works with the teachers and students to help them feel comfortable about the programs they are using.

Ms. Superson introduced Cori Rolland, the Project Manager from LEGO and Cecile Anderson, the Director of Strategic Planning. Our hearts and minds are with you. LEGO Education teaches children to be creative thinkers while learning and retaining knowledge better. The students and teachers are our ambassadors for this program.

Mrs. Prayzner stated the Grade 3 students are working on a robotics program. Students will build items with motors and will use computer programming to move their builds in certain directions. The students will show the Board Lesson 3. Eli Whitney Grade 3 Students Kristen Morano and Tyler Laureano demonstrated to the Board their build using force and motion.

Mrs. Prayzner thanked the Board. The students use the LEGO build in science, language arts and math. The skills obtained using the build, helps the students develop their own individual writing. She is very proud of her student's success with the program and thanked the Board for allowing us to share these achievements.

Ms. Superson stated while Mrs. Prayzner was speaking, the students were shutting down the program and deconstructed their build. This is what happens during the LEGO build lessons. She thanked the students and the teachers for their demonstrations.

Mr. Jonaitis stated these are grade 3 students. We start to lose our students in grade 4. Ms. Superson added our grade 5 students are invested in the program as demonstrated tonight.

Mr. Neville asked what grades are using the LEGO build. Ms. Superson stated last year students in grades K, 2 & 4 used the program. This year we added grades 1, 3 & 5. Each grade level is now using this program in 116 classrooms and over 400 students.

Mr. Neville asked if the students work with assigned partners. Mrs. Prayzner stated they are assigned a partner that they work with for an hour each week. Ms. Superson stated that the 3grade students present tonight are not partners and volunteered to present to the Board tonight.

Mr. Neville congratulated all the students for their presentation tonight. He thanked the staff for their presentation and LEGO for giving us this wonderful opportunity. He asked the students if they like doing this once a week. The students responded that this is fun and we look forward to this every week.

Mr. Grady asked if they will use this program the entire year. Mrs. Prayzner stated they start this program in October and it will run through the rest of the school year.

Chairman Sirard and Board members thanked them for the presentation. He thanked LEGO for their community partnership with the students.

Dr. Schumann added that the LEGO partnership is extremely beneficial to the Enfield Public Schools. This is a win-win partnership.

6. BOARD GUEST(S)

a. Enfield Legislators

Dr. Schumann welcomed Representatives Kiner and Alexander to the Board meeting. Unfortunately, Senator Kissel was unable to attend tonight.

Chairman Sirard thanked them for accepting the invitation to attend. He reminded Board members to treat our guests with respect.

Mr. Peabody asked about CREC funding and how can we shift the costs from local towns back to the State. Part of this is from Sheff vs. O'Neil settlement and our property taxes are now funding magnet school tuitions. We are currently short \$250K for CREC magnet school tuitions. We are looking at cuts to fund this shortfall. We need your help. Other towns are also facing this. We are losing sight of our main stream students for the funding of magnet schools.

Representative Alexander agrees with your concerns. He is not in favor of any additional CREC schools. We are still working on some issues regarding the CREC Public Safety Academy. They produce a great product. The mission statement for Sheff vs. O'Neil is to allow for everyone to receive an adequate education. He is worried that we are missing the mark with this mission statement.

Representative Alexander added that he met with Dr. Bruce Douglas, the Executive Director for CREC regarding State funding. He feels we should have started off with more regionalism to address the problems. Parochial schools helped with this initially. We need to focus more on regionalism for bussing and food services that could lower some costs. Dr. Douglas is working on different ways to help reduce costs for towns to relief funding. If students come back to the public school from a magnet school, we are paying for this twice. This becomes a double jeopardy. They are not pro-rating the costs when students withdraw. Municipalities like Enfield are getting squeezed. The political agenda for magnet schools worries him. He also worries about traditional public education.

Representative Kiner stated he is on the same page with this and believes other legislators are also fighting for the money. Your example of \$250K is similar to what other districts are dealing with. He believes we will see some results in this area during this legislative session.

Mr. Neville appreciates you both attending tonight's meeting. He does not know if CREC is a good neighbor. We are at a disadvantage since they do not follow the same rules as we do. They are advertising and we can't. We don't know who is attending until October 1st. We don't get anything when the students come back to us. We need meet timelines for our budget and they don't. He would like to see them set their student body numbers by May 1st for the next school year before we set our budget. We should be able to receive a pro-rated amount of the tuition paid for students that withdraw from CREC.

Representative Kiner has discussed this on the Education Committee. He was amazed at how many of them were not aware of this. He will continue to bring this to everyone's attention.

Mr. Neville stated that he was not aware that this was being discussed by the Education Committee. Please let us know the progress that is made throughout the year. If any hearings are going to be held, please let us know and we will attend.

Representative Kiner stated that he would be happy to come back to give us any updates.

Representative Alexander would like to hold a meeting with CREC regarding this issue. This is a bipartisan issue. Most towns feel this way. Their advertising is amazing. He discussed this

with Dr. Douglas and he mentioned that they have to sell their product and they also have a mission statement they must follow.

Mr. Neville would like to be able to do that for us. He does not like them cherry picking our students. This is one of the reasons why we are bringing our students to our Board meetings to get the word out about the great things we are doing in our schools.

Representative Alexander would like to setup a meeting. Mr. Neville added we will be there, just let us know where and when.

Mrs. Unghire stated she would also like to attend this meeting. She attends the CREC Council meetings and would be very interested to attend.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked both representatives for coming. When our students apply for Suffield Vo-Ag, they need to do this the previous year. He would like to see the same concept applied for students planning to attend CREC magnet schools. This will show us what students are really committed to attend these magnet schools. We would also have a better idea of how many are interested to attend. He feels that we can match CREC's program. We are receiving less State funding and more costs are imposed on the towns and municipalities. This is killing our towns. He feels the cost for magnet students should be pro-rated if students withdraw.

Representative Kiner asked about the magnet costs. Mr. Neville stated we do not set the tuition. The State sets the tuition. Dr. Schumann stated the costs vary from \$3,500 to \$6,500 per student. The tuition at Suffield Vo-Ag is \$7,200.

Representative Kiner asked how many Enfield students are attending magnet schools. Dr. Schumann stated a little over 400 students. Our bill was for around \$1.5 million.

Mr. Jonaitis stated that he does not want to see us paying for any Pre-K students to attend magnet schools. Around 91% of students in Connecticut are attending public schools. He would love to know the percentage of money that we are spending on the public schools and the percentage that is being spent on magnet schools. Our Special Education costs are approximately 20%. He believes we are higher than the State average for SPED costs. All of this just adds additional financial strains on us and we are still being underfunded.

Mr. Jonaitis asked what relief the town of Enfield will see next year. What do you really believe we will get – not just your wish list items?

Representative Kiner stated we will see relief in unfunded mandates. Please send me a list of any mandates you feel that are unreasonable. He will not support any ECS cuts. Enfield has received an additional 1% that other towns haven't received.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we will start our budget process in February. Can you come back or let us know where we stand for a reality check. This would be appreciated.

Representative Kiner stated that he has presented legislation on this but does not believe we will know anything by this time. We will have an idea.

Representative Alexander stated that we set our budget later which affects many municipalities and Boards of Education. He does not believe the State really knows what the budgets will accurately be by this time. The General Assembly will not formulate a strong budget until April or May which is past your deadline. We need real reform in this area. He will look at the budget very closely and is not afraid to vote against it and will not support it until Enfield gets what it deserves. He will continue to fight for us on unfunded mandates, common core and teacher evaluation.

Representative Kiner added that when the governor proposes the budget, you will have a pretty good idea of what will be approved. There is not too much change from the general assembly. There might be some tweaks to the budget before it is adopted.

Representative Alexander added the Governor's historic budget is 75-85% accurate.

Chairman Sirard stated the State was picking up around 85% of the magnet costs when they first started with the municipalities picking up the remainder. Now they pick up around 60% and we are picking up 40%. Regarding Sheff, the Government was relying heavily on property taxes in order to afford a fair and equitable education to all. He understands the purpose behind this but local schools and districts are being punished. We are also losing out with our Excess Cost Grants. This is why towns like East Windsor have had real problems. At any time, we can have a special needs student move into our town and we would be responsible for associated costs that can bust your budget.

Chairman Sirard further stated that the Board would like to see the ECS reduced from 4-1/2% to 2-1/2%. The reimbursement level has dropped and we are being short changed.

Representative Kiner stated the Excess Costs comes from the State Department. He will give Chairman Sirard some information about East Windsor. He did a lot of research about the situation from East Windsor.

Chairman Sirard added the Burden of Proof during the process costs us a lot to evaluation the students that falls on the school system. If this is a health insurance cost, every student is mandated by the State of Connecticut to have health insurance.

Mr. Peabody added that the State can drop any student into our schools at anytime without informing us and we would be responsible for any associated costs. They don't tell us until the bill comes.

Representative Kiner asked for clarification regarding this. How can the State control where a person moves to. Mr. Neville stated DCF places the students and the last nexus will receive the bill.

Mr. Peabody expressed his concerns about county districts versus regionalism.

Representative Alexander stated there was a discussion on the direction we would go in originally. One discussion was for CREC and the other was for a regional school district system. We do not have county districts. He discussed this concept with Dr. Douglas. CREC is squeezing municipalities along with the State. We are looking at some regionalized areas that could save us money like bussing or food service. What might work in one part of the State might not work in another part of Connecticut.

Mr. Peabody stated you are discussing shared environment services.

Chairman Sirard stated we are being hit hard for ELL services. This provides services to non English speaking students. This criteria was removed from the Education Cost Sharing in 2013. This should be restored to the ECS Grant formula. We need to be able to afford the education that is being offered to all of our students. The State is the only one that can equalize the funding across the State. He would like you to look into this as a priority.

Mr. Neville stated we are all on the same page when we are talking about our students. We understand the value of all of the services we provide. The funding is not equal. This is something we need to fix. An example is we did not fund all of the students wanting to attend

Suffield Vo-Ag because of the CREC additional tuition costs. He is not sure if their product is good or not. We will work with you on this. The system is broken.

Representative Alexander agrees that the ELL services needs to be addressed. This should be factored into the ECS funding. This is a growing issue. We have received a number of families in our Town that do not speak English as a first language. The teachers are spending additional time on these students. This can be factored into this and we have trackable tangible information for this. This is something we can change based on the burden of proof during this legislative session.

Mr. Peabody would like to start the dialogue for CREC funding. We are \$250K short and this is really hurting us. He knows we are not the only school district in this situation. We really need your help and will work with you. He thanked both Representatives for being here tonight.

Chairman Sirard also thanked both Representatives.

Representative Kiner added they start their Legislative Session on January 7th. Maybe you can invite us back for your February or March meetings for an update.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Derrick Kennedy Honeywell Presentation

Dr. Schumann welcomed Assistant Town Manager Derrick Kennedy. He is here to discuss energy use efficiencies in our buildings.

Mr. Kennedy thanked the Board for placing him on your busy agenda. He is in the process of trying to update our facilities. This is a process that both the Board and Town Council should be involved with to assure that all of our initiatives are addressed. We are spending over \$4 million dollars in energy costs yearly. The buildings account for 72% of this cost. Natural Gas is our largest energy source with electricity being our largest expense. Schools are using 85% of the natural gas and 70% of the electricity.

Mr. Kennedy has used an independent consultant to evaluate our buildings. The energy performance in our buildings is well below what other communities are using. They looked at 7 schools. They have a good to high rating for energy use reduction.

Mr. Kennedy added that repairs can be done via capital improvements but funds are limited. We do not want to increase taxes to fund improvements. As an alternative, the Town is proposing to use an Energy Performance Contract. This would be a tool to reduce energy expenses. The project would be self funding. The energy saved over the term of the contract would save us money. They will guarantee cost savings and if savings are not made, they will pay us the difference.

Mr. Kennedy stated the Town would set up an escrow account for the services that would be provided. The lease payment would start at the overall completion of the project. The actual savings would be confirmed through a measurement and verification process. If the savings are less than predicted, we will receive a check for the difference.

Mr. Kennedy stated the contractor would be bonded. If energy prices fall during the contract, we would save additional money. They will guarantee a rate for the life of the contract. We are spending more on energy now than we should. By doing this, we would make all necessary repairs to our building without increasing taxes.

Mr. Kennedy distributed a handout to the Board that shows how an Energy Performance Contract works. After the consultant evaluates our buildings, he would come back to the Board to let you know what would be done to improve efficiencies. All of our capital improvement projects would be done at one time.

Mr. Kennedy stated that we would make improvements to all our buildings except for the two high schools and the waste water plant.

Chairman Sirard asked what will happen if there is an increase in energy costs. Mr. Kennedy stated there is a guarantee written into the life of the contract for our energy savings. We would receive a check for the difference.

Mr. Neville thanked Mr. Kennedy for the presentation. We recognize the need for efficiencies in our buildings. We have been piecing our building repairs. Siemens came in around 2008 and they would only make repairs to what would benefit them. That is one of the major reasons we did not buy into it.

Mr. Kennedy stated he knows that having an independent person that will work on behalf of the Town will present only what is needed. He has hired an owner's agent for this purpose. The only caveat would be for this to pass a referendum. If it doesn't pass, we would need to come up with the funds. Their role would be to make sure we are getting the best product for the Town. He is going through a State process and the independent person is making sure we will get exactly what we need. They will do an independent assessment of our buildings.

Mr. Neville asked what would be the length of the contract. Mr. Kennedy stated 15-20 years. He is trying to stay on the shorter end. He does not like 20 year contracts.

Mr. Neville asked about the financing. Mr. Kennedy stated that would go through the State. There is a lot to this process but by doing this, we will get a much better rate than if we did this on our own.

Mr. Jonaitis asked who will pay for the upgrades for labor. Mr. Kennedy stated that is included in the contract. This would also include any contingencies for any issues with the equipment.

Mr. Grady asked about energy costs. They would guarantee us what our savings would be and will reimburse us dollar for dollar back to us.

Mr. Peabody asked what would be the budget hit with this. Mr. Kennedy stated it would not cost us anything. We are already spending what the reduced rate would be now. There would be no impact on residents.

Mr. Neville stated if this goes past the referendum, the schools and town would work together on a timeline for this.

Mr. Kennedy added that we would know the timeline for the construction needs, lease term and payments. This would all be done prior to our acceptance for the Performance Contract.

Mr. Neville stated we do not always have control of our schedules. Schedule changes can happen with the project as we have seen with the EHS project. Mr. Kennedy stated the payment for the energy budget is already being done via the Town.

Mr. Neville is concerned with the use of facilities and scheduling the repairs. When they shut the boilers down, we may still have students in the buildings. Mr. Kennedy stated this would be done during the summer to minimize any disruptions to the students.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if this will be better or cheaper than going solar. Mr. Kennedy stated the initial proposal included solar but based on the payback he would propose this further down the road. We need to establish our facilities plan and upgrade our roofs. Currently our roofs are not solar ready. We will include solar power in the future as part of our energy conservation efforts.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about solar farms in our community. Mr. Kennedy stated solar rays mounted are limited with zoning regulations. Virtual net metering rays are being explored as an option for solar energy.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mr. Kennedy for the presentation.

- c. Boys' Tennis – Spring 2015 Co-op – as presented
- d. Student Representatives Report – as presented by Peter Jonaitis
- e. Listen & Learn Events – as presented
- f. December Events – as presented
- g. Grants Update – as presented
- h. Personnel Report – as presented

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Jonaitis would like to know if we are going to do anything regarding department heads and the number of classes they are teaching. Dr. Schumann stated he does not have anything planned now. Mr. Jonaitis added that the Board is not concerned if they all are teaching at least 3 classes per the contract.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to receive some financial numbers before we start the budget process on the amount spent for teachers attending conferences or out of their classroom. How much we are spending on subs for teachers attending meetings and conferences. He would also like to know how much we are spending for teachers on administrative leave and the costs for substitutes while they are not in the classroom.

Mr. Jonaitis commented about a situation in another school in Enfield. Things are sometimes said at the wrong time and place. Sometimes it is difficult for staff and administrators to try to quiet down a large group of students.

Mr. Jonaitis also commented about something found on an on-line paper regarding another teacher. Please let the process work it's self out.

Mr. Jonaitis stated some of our teachers are still stressed over the evaluation process. He hopes the administration is looking into this.

Mr. Jonaitis wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Peabody stated the Hale PTO is a great group of people. They are raising funds for the students. He attended the Barnes & Nobel fundraising. He also attended the Barnard PTO meeting and vendor fair for Mr. Wawer. The PTO has raised funds to purchase 20 iPads and covers.

Mr. Peabody would like to know how many other iPads have been purchased outside of the Boards budget via donations, PTO efforts, etc. He would like to let people know that the taxpayers are not paying for everything.

Mrs. Unghire attended the CREC meeting and they prepared a statement regarding the incident.

Mrs. Unghire attended the Enfield High Football game and was there to see the band perform at half-time. She congratulated the EHS Band for the award they received. She also attended the Enrico Fermi Safe Grad Auction that was held at the Elks. It was a great time and they were able to raise a lot of money for their Safe Grad event.

Mrs. Unghire also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and wanted everyone to enjoy your time off.

Mr. Grady thanked Lori Gates for the Cookies for Camouflage program she is running. This was the first year that he was able to participate. She does a lot for our armed services and the members of our community.

Mr. Grady wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Neville stated this is a busy time of the year for everyone. He wished everyone a wonderful holiday season and a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Neville would like to invite our Legislators to come back for the last meeting in January or the first meeting in February. They might be able to share some additional information. He would like to have Senator Kissel here for the next time our Legislators attend a meeting.

Mr. Jonaitis added that he would like to see either Chairman Sirard or Dr. Schumann to contact them. We don't want to have them attend too early before they know anything.

Mr. Neville added that March might be too late for them to attend a meeting.

Chairman Sirard would like Dr. Schumann to invite our Legislators back for the last meeting in January or the first meeting in February.

Chairman Sirard thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting, the LEGO presentation, Mr. Kennedy and our Legislators. Everyone has busy schedules and we appreciate your time at tonight's meeting. These kinds of updates are needed. We all understand the challenges we are facing and we are making progress.

Chairman Sirard echoed Mr. Grady's comments about Mrs. Gates. He thanked her as a veteran and for everything she does.

Chairman Sirard wished everyone a Merry Christmas especially his friends on the Board, staff members and the administration.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve FY2014-15 EHS/FHS Safe Grad Donations

Mrs. Unghire moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education approves donating \$500 to the Enfield High School SAFE Graduation Committee and \$500 to the Enrico Fermi SAFE Graduation Committee.

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

b. Approve 2014-16 Program of Studies Addendum

Dr. Schumann stated the Board has the need to approve the Program of Studies (POS). The Curriculum Committee has reviewed this and may add some additional comments.

Mr. Neville stated the Curriculum Committee members met, discussed and endorse the proposed Addendum POS changes from Mr. Sargalski and Mrs. Cressotti. An Addendum is done every two years in order to start the scheduling process. The staff did a great job on the POS. This will be published on our website digitally for students and parents to view.

Ms. McKernan stated the changes made to the POS Addendum were minor. Some of the changes were grammatical, course level changes, writing literature courses, prerequisite changes and technology education changes. There were no significant changes, just cleanups.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if a writing literature course for seniors is mandatory. Ms. McKiernan stated seniors have half year courses they can choose from. They will have choices for writing and literature.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about any writing workshops being provided for students. Ms. McKernan stated the schools made the recommendation for courses made to the committee. There is a heavy writing component being taught in the elementary levels.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2014-16 Program of Studies Addendum as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 6-0-0** passed unanimously. Mrs. Thurston was absent during the vote.

c. Approve Smart Start Grant

Dr. Schumann stated the Smart Start Grant is being offered through the State Department of Early Childhood and Development. If the grant application is successful, we can receive \$520K over a 5 year period. This can support our pre-school program that we are placing at Stowe. We previously discussed with the Board about placing seven (7) classrooms at Stowe. Five (5) of the classes would be for our special education students from Hazardville Memorial and two (2) of the classes would house students from Project Choice and Enfield. One of the Smart Start Grant requirements is for us to use Enfield students. This will allow us to fund 16 spots for Enfield students in one of the classrooms. The other classroom will have 8 Enfield Students and 8 Open Choice students. This grant will allow for 24 Enfield students to participate. We are currently writing the grant with KITE and are working with Mark Gahr from B&G to make the necessary site renovations.

Dr. Schumann added that we can use \$75K for renovation for the first year. If we are successful obtaining the grant, we can get an additional \$5K per student. The grant is due on December 19th. We would like to apply for the grant once it is complete. The grant requires the Board Chairman's signature, the Mayor's signature and Superintendent's signature. We are asking for a leap of faith so we can apply for the grant that will provide us with \$520K over 5 years.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Smart Start Grant and authorize the Superintendent and Chairman to endorse the grant as presented once it is completed.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis stated we will have 5 special education classes at Stowe. The other 2 classrooms

are not going to be used for ELL. Dr. Schumann stated we will open up the room for the Open Choice students and as a bi-lingual class for 3 and 4 year olds.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we will receive \$125K for the next 5 years. He asked if the teachers will be Enfield teachers. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct. We will also receive funding from Open Choice for the Choice students.

Mr. Jonaitis stated if we decided to continue this after the 5 years, it would our expense. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct. We are not obligated to continue this. We will apply for additional funding if it is available. The funding for Open Choice will continue unless the State changes this.

Mr. Neville asked if the 8 Open Choice spots are in addition to what we already are receiving. Dr. Schumann stated we will be taking the Choice students as 4 year olds. This way they will buy into our school system and will be part of our community.

Mr. Neville stated we receive money based on the number of students at each school. We will only be bringing students in as 4 year olds. We used to only bring the Choice Kindergarten students in at one of the schools. Dr. Schumann stated the 4 year olds will come to us with almost \$10K in funding from Choice. We now have full day Kindergarten at all of our schools.

Chairman Sirard stated we are bringing the Choice students in earlier to our school system.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the 4 year olds will be bussed here from Hartford. Who pays for their transportation costs? Dr. Schumann stated Open Choice will pay for the transportation for the students.

A vote by **roll-call 6-1-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

d. Action, if any Regarding Prospective Supply Contract(s) – Transportation & Copier

This item will be addressed after Agenda Item 17.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Building Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Building Committee met last Thursday. We are still on target and under budget and are now working on the FFE. There is funding in the budget to move the furniture from Fermi. Dr. Pongratz is looking to hire an outside vendor to do this.

Dr. Schumann added that Dr. Pongratz is working with the Transition Team and we have been discussing FFE. Mr. Neville complemented the Transition Team for their work.

Mr. Neville added the contractors have been hired and they are pouring the concrete floors in the Fermi wing. We will work on the roof for the Cafeteria over the Christmas break. We are moving very quickly on this project. These are all good signs.

b. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee met yesterday. We discussed the POS Addendum and Curriculum Revisions. We also discussed changes in our content areas for Social Studies, Science Frameworks for the next generation and Summer Curriculum.

Ms. McKernan added we are going to try to implement the practices before we make curriculum

changes.

Mr. Neville stated the Town Council complained about our scores going lower. We discuss scores all the time at the Curriculum meetings. The schools are always testing different students.

Ms. McKernan stated that both Mr. Neville and Mr. Peabody asked about the 2013 grade 8 math scores. In 2013, there were 8 different areas to look at for CAPT. We had double digit gains in many of the categories. We looked at 40 different areas in the 2013 CMT's and we went down. This was an isolation. If we saw a trend downward that would suggest a problem. Our 2012 CAPT scores were the highest ever received. We will continue to look at our scores for trends.

Mr. Peabody added that the Town Council had misconceptions about this. The assessments were not done fairly. Our prison population is added into this. Deputy Mayor Lee is working with the people that put this study together.

Ms. McKernan added that our district did very well compared to the State average. The CAPT did outstanding. The high school science scores were very good and the middle school scores were a bit flat. Our teachers are still transitioning from 2013 standards to the new curricular standards. It is a balancing act for them.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about the grade 8 scores being lower. Were they lower the previous year. Ms. McKernan stated there may have been some. She would need to look into this. The algebra standards are much higher now. There may have been some gyrations with testing.

c. Future Use of Fermi Committee

Chairman Sirard reported the Fermi Utilization Committee met on Wednesday. We are getting closer to making our presentation to the Board. We are still waiting for some additional information.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Special Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2014 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-1** passed with Mrs. LeBlanc abstaining.

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2014 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-2** passed with Mr. Sirard and Mrs. LeBlanc abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. 2015-16 Budget Basics Brochure;
- b. Fall 2014 inSights Brochure;
- c. Enfield High School Class of 2014 In Profile; and
- d. Enrico Fermi High School Class of 2014 in Profile.

Mr. Peabody added the Wreaths Across America will be held on Saturday at St. Patrick's Cemetery on Route 5. The Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast will also be held on Saturday.

Chairman Sirard commended the Administration on the Budget Pamphlet. This is an excellent way to communicate with our community members about the Budget process.

16. AUDIENCES - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Prospective Public Supply Contract(s) and Matter(s) Related to Personnel.

A vote by **show-of-hands 6-1-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

The Board relocated to the Enfield Room for the Executive session portion of the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Mr. Jonaitis did not join the Board in Executive Session. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

Open Session:

The Board ended the Executive Session at 9:53 PM

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education extends the Transportation Contract with Smyth Bus through June 2017 as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of December 9, 2014.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:54 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary