

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2015**

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 May 12, 2015.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Wawer

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent and FHS Student Representative Thomas Vose

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **BUZZ Robotics**

Board members welcomed members of the BUZZ Robotics program to the Board meeting. A video of their 2015 competitions was shown.

BUZZ Robotics Seniors from Enrico Fermi High School Zac Boyer, Alisa Donovan and Brian Toohey were available to address Board member questions.

Mr. Neville congratulated them for being around for 20 years. His son was a part of BUZZ and it amazes him how the challenges have changed and progressed over the years. He asked if being part of this has helped them with school work. Collaboration and team work is a big part of this program.

Mr. Boyer stated it is a lot of work keeping up with everything including class work. They have learned more from the robotics and from our mentors.

Mr. Peabody thanked the students for their work with BUZZ Robotics. He asked if they use algebra or geometry. Mr. Boyer stated they use more geometry.

Mr. Peabody asked them what the biggest challenge was for them. Mr. Boyer stated figuring out the design for the robot. It was a lot more challenging than they originally thought it would be. You are stacking and moving items which created challenges to the design.

Ms. Donovan added that a defense component was also added to the competition.

Mr. Peabody appreciates their outstanding work. Keep up the good job of having our Town

recognized nationally.

Mr. Jonaitis likes the color of the BUZZ Robotics team shirts. You are very recognizable. He congratulated them for their outstanding teamwork.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that she is friends with some of your parents and has kept up on your accomplishments via Facebook. Her younger son is very interested in this program and will be at JFK next year. She is glad to see females in this program. You should all be very proud of your accomplishments – congratulations for a job well done.

Mr. Grady also congratulated them for a job well done. Balancing school work and extracurricular activities can be difficult. It is really amazing to see you compete. The video showing how you compete was great. He also thanked the mentors for everything you have done for our students.

Mr. Neville stated that our mentors have been involved for 20 years and have developed BUZZ Robotics into a great program.

Chairman Sirard thanked the students and mentors. You have done us all proud. We support you all and are happy for your success. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

Dana P. Henry, Senior Mentor/Massachusetts, FIRST® congratulated the mentors for their dedicated 20 years of service. BUZZ Robotics has been a role model to the surrounding towns. Thank you for everything you have done for FIRST.

Cory Rice, former BUZZ Robotics Student and 2012 Enfield High graduate introduced the following 20 year mentors: Ed Dolinsky, Bob Scagni, Jimmy Hodrinsky, Jim Morin, Steve Olson, Art Colling and Earl Bahl. Board members presented each mentor with a gift.

Board members congratulated each BUZZ Robotics mentor for everything they have done for our students and school.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. National Honor Society Recognition Dinner – as presented
- b. JFK National Honor Society Induction Ceremony – as presented
- c. May Events – as presented

8. AUDIENCES

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis stated she is here about the School Security Guards. This is something we cannot afford. She would like to see the schools properly funded. She would like the Board to vote against the MOU. Our School Security Guards are a great resource but we do not have the funds to support this. We are spending a lot on the guard's salaries. This money could be used to harden our schools. Board members have been elected to be our voice for education. We need you to put our kids first before the Security Guards. The guards are great and are part of the school community. The students love the guards. She would like the rumors about the administration to be put to rest. At some point, we need to get the truth out. The rumor mill needs to stop. Communication is needed for the parents. She wished everyone a happy Mother's Day. She thanked the Board for what you do for our students.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Peabody attended the Prudence Crandall Ice Cream Social. The PTO did an amazing job and he was quite impressed with the politeness of the students. The parents should all be commended for a job well done.

Mr. Peabody stated elected officials need to be informed in order to make good decisions. The Board and Council will be making multiple decisions in the near future. The public also needs to be informed. We have asked for the public's input and we only received a few comments.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked Mrs. Davis for her comments and the way you said it – you are spot on and he agrees with you. You would make a great Board member.

Mr. Jonaitis stated that we need to put the Fermi Use and SSO MOU topics to bed. Board members will need to vote with your conscious about the armed guards. The decision about Fermi has dragged on way too long. The all day Kindergarten decision took 6-7 years to resolve. He urges the Board and the leadership to resolve this at the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Thurston congratulated the JFK Students, Alex Kraviecz, Nick Steele and Zac Healy for first place at the CT History Day at CCSU. They will go on to compete in the Nationals at the University of Maryland. She wishes them all good luck.

Mrs. Thurston stated that she chose to run for the Board of Education because she believes in the Enfield Public School System. She believes the students can and do receive a great education. The Board will need to make some tough decisions. She will do what is best for the students in Enfield. The decisions she makes will be her decisions and no one can convince her to vote a certain way. At the end of the day, she knows she will be doing what is best for the students.

Mr. Neville congratulated the students and mentors of BUZZ Robotics. The mentors have a great time with our students. This program has sustainability. They have maintained this program with whatever money they could receive and have done a tremendous job.

Mr. Neville agrees with Mrs. Thurston that we have all been rustling with things over the last couple of months. He believes he can make a difference and that is why he became of Board member. We all believe our decisions are important and we like what we are doing. We have some really great programs like BUZZ and full day Kindergarten in Enfield. We have some tough decisions that we will need to make and is hopeful the Council will support us. We need to remember why we are here. He urges our colleagues to look at where we are and where we need to go.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that two of the JFK students Alex and Nick that are going on to the Nationals are also part of the TAG program. She wishes them all good luck.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that Eli Whitney is doing a great job explaining the fingerprinting requirements to the parents. They sent home a detailed list with instruction. Jeannette Lamontagne from C/O has been very helpful with parent phone calls. She hopes that all the schools are doing the same.

Mrs. LeBlanc agrees that the decision for the guards has gone on way too long. She would also like to resolve this. The longer we wait it will continue to fester.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that Mrs. Davis spoke about voting and Mr. Peabody spoke about leadership. With the upcoming elections, she reminded people to learn about the candidates and what they will do. She hopes that the Town Council and Board will work together. We have a tough road ahead of us. She will do her best for the students. A town that values education is a town that will succeed. This will keep people from moving out of our town and

sending their children to magnet schools.

Mr. Grady attended the Latin dance and had a good time. He totally understands the language barrier. He had a hard time understanding what was being said at this event. He would like us to look into this so we can help our Spanish speaking parents next year. He also attended the graduation ceremony. He congratulated Lorena Cisneros for getting involved with this program and for helping our parents.

Mr. Grady stated he is wearing blue tonight for lung cancer awareness. Lung cancer kills more women than breast cancer. He urged audience members to be aware of this and to support this fight.

Mr. Grady stated Chairman Sirard mentioned in his comments that we need to do the right thing with the budget and he agrees. He was at the State Capitol for his job and they spoke to Senator Kissel about a cancer fighting bill that will affect us. He thanked Senator Kissel for listening to them. He voted for this because he had the information to make an informed decision. We are faced with cuts to our budget that will impact our education system negatively. He urges our Town Council members to listen to us. We are trying to maintain our current education system. We need to give our kids a fighting chance. We are doing the best we can. We are starting to move forward with technology. We need to invest in our town and support our education system.

Chairman Sirard wished everyone a happy Mother's Day. Rumors are gossip. There are some items that the Board cannot address or discuss. He urged audience members to ignore the rumors.

Chairman Sirard stated it has taken 18 years to merge the high schools. Closing two schools took 4 years and we restructured the K-8 schools. Information is needed to make informed decisions. Government works very slowly and changes take time.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education groups the following Policy Items A-I together for the Second Reading.

- a. **Proposed New Policy – #5140.2 Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program – Second Reading**
- b. **Proposed Policy Changes – #5131.9 Bullying Prevention, Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention Policy – Second Reading**
- c. **Proposed New Policy – #3545.3 Transportation of Students by School Personnel – Second Reading**
- d. **Proposed New Policy – #1240.2 Policy Regarding Visitors – Second Reading**
- e. **Proposed Policy Changes – #4000 Personnel Smoking Restriction Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug-Free Workplace – Second Reading**
- f. **Proposed Policy Changes – #4118.5 Computer Network and/or Internet Use Policy – Second Reading**
- g. **Proposed Policy Changes – #5131.61 Student Conduct – Smoking/Tobacco Restriction Policy – Second Reading**

- h. Proposed New Policy – #5141.7 Concussion and Head Injuries – Second Reading**
- i. Proposed New Policy – #5142 Policy on Safety School Security and Safety – Second Reading**

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis would like to discuss each policy separately. Chairman Sirard asked if the Board would like to discuss each policy separately.

Mr. Grady stated that he grouped these together to speed up the process. There are only word changes being made. We are required to make these changes.

Chairman Sirard added that items A-I are not the controversial policies.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to discuss each policy individually. Mr. Grady added there is a motion on the floor.

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

- j. Proposed Policy Changes - #9133 Standing Committees of the Board – Second Reading**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed policy changes to #9133 Standing Committees of the Board as a Second Reading.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville stated this is where we are changing the name of the Executive Committee to the Leadership Committee.

Mr. Jonaitis disagrees with the changes. He would like to see the Personnel Committee to be re-established.

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

- k. Proposed Policy Changes - #2112.4 Employment of Administrators – Second Reading**

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed policy changes to #2112.4 Employment of Administrators as a Second Reading.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis disagrees with the changes. He would like to see more than one candidate being presented to the Board.

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

- l. Proposed Policy Changes - #1240.1 ~~Volunteers in Schools~~ School Volunteers, Student Interns and Other Non-Employees – Second Reading**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed policy changes to #1240.1 School Volunteers, Student Interns and Other Non-Employees as a Second Reading.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis disagrees with the changes. He asked for this policy to be reviewed at the last meeting concerning local field trips being moved to the other tiered group.

Mr. Peabody stated we discussed this.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the Policy Committee has not met again to discuss this further.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated even if the field trip is local you will still need to be fingerprinted. She agrees but you will not be constantly supervised by the teacher. The chaperone will be alone at times and will need to be fingerprinted.

Mr. Jonaitis does not believe this type of local field trips should be required to be fingerprinted.

Mrs. LeBlanc added the schools have been communicating this information to parent volunteers for over a month. Most volunteers have complied with this required change.

Chairman Sirard added that these proposed policy changes were done on the advice of Legal Counsel. Mr. Drezek stated that is correct.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to know exactly what our Legal Counsel looked at. Did they look at the local field trips or just a blanket thing concerning field trips?

Dr. Schumann stated it is as Mrs. LeBlanc stated. Anytime an individual is alone without direct supervision of a teacher, they must be fingerprinted.

Mr. Peabody added that he stands corrected.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of Educator Evaluation Plan Changes

Mr. Longey and Mr. Hargraves reviewed the changes with the Board for the Educator Evaluation for the Administrators and teachers.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if there are any changes for any personality conflicts between a teacher and evaluator. Mr. Hargraves stated teachers can request a 2nd observation. If there is still a conflict they can appeal the process to the Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent and a content specialist.

Mr. Longey reviewed the appeal process changes. Mr. Hargraves added we have streamlined the process.

Mr. Neville stated this is an evolving document that will continue to change.

Mr. Longey stated that he believes we are the first in the State to address concerns for evaluations for staff that have long term absences like illnesses and maternity leave. The evaluation process is all about teacher growth. We will come up with a reasonable plan for staff that is out for a long period of time.

Mr. Neville likes what he is hearing. You are addressing what works and what needs

improvements.

Mrs. LeBlanc also likes this. We all knew that this was going to be time consuming in the beginning. You are making this plan more efficient. This document is a work in process.

Mr. Peabody thanked Mr. Longey, Mr. Hargraves and the committee for putting this evaluation plan together. The plan is very involved and you are growing with the evaluation process. This is a job well done.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about the evaluation cycles. Mr. Longey stated for Cycle A, they will receive 1 formal evaluation; Cycle B & C have 3 informal evaluations with a pre and post evaluation.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if this is done every year. Mr. Longey stated they will go through this process every year.

Mr. Jonaitis stated some teachers will have some glitches from time to time. Mr. Longey stated it is a 3 year cycle with staff.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the appeal process when a teacher has a conflict allows requests for a new evaluator. Mr. Longey stated there has to be a structured process in place or we would receive many requests.

Chairman Sirard asked if this plan protects our staff and are you comfortable with this. Mr. Hargraves stated yes, the committee is happy with this plan.

Chairman Sirard asked if Dr. Schumann is comfortable with this plan. Dr. Schumann stated yes the committee has worked diligently to iron out the details to this evaluation plan.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if there have been any difficulties with the ETA concerning the evaluation plan. Mr. Hargraves stated we have ironed out the issues. Working with Mr. Longey has been very productive and there is equity that has been built into the plan.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if there are any big issues that need to be contended with. Mr. Longey stated the committee is a cohesive group of hi-functioning individuals. We collectively have come up with reasonable solutions.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Educator Evaluation Plan Changes as presented.

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

Chairman Sirard congratulated the committee for the evaluation plan. We all know that there needs to be some accountability and you have turned this into a professional development tool.

b. Approve Adult Education Program Improvement Project Grants

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Program Improvement Project (PIP) Grants as presented and authorizes the Superintendent to endorse the Grants.

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

c. 2015 High School Graduations

Dr. Schumann stated the rain location for the Enfield High School graduation will be moved to

the Enrico Fermi Gym due to the construction at Enfield High. The gym will be setup for the Fermi graduation. Enfield High can use the Fermi Gym for practices also.

Chairman Sirard asked that all of the Enrico Fermi symbols be removed or covered to avoid any controversy. Dr. Schumann stated we will do our best.

Mr. Longey stated it will come down to space. If we use the auditorium, students will receive 2 or 3 tickets. If we use the gym, they will receive 6 or 7 tickets. This decision was not popular with the students. We will take a huge hit if it rains.

Mr. Grady asked if there was a way for the overflow to view the graduation using technology and by using seating in the auditorium. Mrs. LeBlanc stated they could watch the graduation on a large projection screen.

Chairman Sirard asked for a consensus of the Board to direct Mr. Longey in the event of rain, to move the Enfield High School Graduation to Enrico Fermi. Board members all agreed.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this is not the first event for Enfield High School being held at Enrico Fermi. We have moved home basketball games and volleyball games to Fermi and there were no issues.

Dr. Schumann stated that Enrico Fermi will graduate on the 180th day and Enfield High will graduate on the 181st day. The State requires that students attend 180 days of school. The calendar we adopt is for 181 days. We can maintain this by having the students receive their diplomas after the Safe Graduation Party on the 181st day or we can waive the 181st day for the Enrico Fermi Seniors.

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education waives the 181st day obligation for Enrico Fermi so they can graduate on the 180th student day.

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

d. School Security Documents

Mr. Drezek gave an overview of the timeline, staff and phasing of the transition. There is also a document with recommendations.

Mr. Neville reviewed the history about the security plan and the sunset plan. A lot of detail and data was obtained. A lot of good things have happened as well as controversial items. We have 2 years of experience. We looked at hardening the buildings and each individual building. He has questions on the next steps and the timeline for doing this. He believes there is a need for security in our schools. A standard has been set. Is this level of security always needed? He would like to discuss this item further. The vision of the plan concerns him. He likes the items listed in this document. The questions we are left with are we going to keep this plan or get rid of it. He does not want to sign up for something he does not know how it will look like.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to continue doing the things listed on this document but he is not in favor of the guards in our schools. He would like us to vote on this and continue doing these items listed on this document.

Mr. Neville stated this is an either or decision. The funding will go away if we do not accept the MOU. He does not want to throw the baby out with the bath water.

Mr. Jonaitis believes we are all in agreement with the document. He doesn't believe we would need to stop doing the items listed in the document.

Mr. Neville is worried that everything would go away if we vote against the MOU.

Mr. Peabody stated it is all or nothing. This document is a status report. It is good work. It is not a plan and that is what is needed. Staffing SRO's so they rotate at the elementary schools is important. If this is voted down, all the future plans will not happen. He would like to see an agreement of what we want made. He is not comfortable making the decision tonight. We still need to discuss this further as a group.

Mr. Unghire agrees with Mr. Jonaitis. She has not heard that this is all or nothing. That sounds foolish to her.

Mr. Jonaitis added that if it is either/or and we vote this down, we should still continue with this document. You can use this document with your committee. All of this work should not be tossed aside. He does not believe that the Town Council or the Board would want to do that.

Chairman Sirard stated that a School Security Officer (SSO) is not a guard. He does not sit at the door. He is a roving security watch. The SSO will look for abnormalities. We all know that our schools are not hardened. We do not have the time for police officers and our staff to room the halls of the schools until this is done. This was his understanding for the School Security Officers. Using the word guard implies the wrong thing. The SSO will move about and will not be stationed at the door. These are retired police officers. The SSO will look for abnormalities. School Resource Officers (SRO) is different.

Mr. Neville stated we are discussing this without specifics. We are being asked to sign this MOU without specifics. If we are moving the SRO from the high school, we should move them to the elementary schools. There are logistical issues. We haven't hardened our buildings. The referendum will accomplish this if it passes. Changing the level of security will change over the next few years. Our buildings will remain the same for the next 2 years. He is not ready to make a decision about this yet. We still need to discuss this further.

Mr. Jonaitis stated when the SSO's were hired to be in the front of the building. He does not remember hearing that they would roam the halls. Do we still have teachers in the hallways for hallway duties? Mr. Drezek stated yes at the middle and high schools.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the SSO's are outside and inside and are like another staff member with a fire arm.

Chairman Sirard stated when this discussion first came up and as a member of the Security Committee the plan included the SSO's to be on the playgrounds and throughout the school. The plan evolves and he knew they were going to be roving.

Mr. Peabody stated the MOU is all or nothing. There is an operational plan. Milestones need to be met. He does not want to see the plan shut down. The numbers do not show this. Is there a value and he believes there is. The guards have added value and has calmed many situations. The new plan has a communication plan. This has not been outlined to us yet. Shutting the program down is not right and he is not ready to make a decision yet.

Mr. Neville asked is this what we really want. We can all agree that we would like to continue doing the items listed in this document. We need to discuss this before we vote on this item. The public needs to be part of this discussion. We need an open discussion regarding security before we vote on another 2 years.

Mr. Grady stated he and former Board member Pat Droney were assigned to the School

Security Committee. Some changes were made from a grant. It was a good starting point but we saw the need for better security. Circumstances made us do things. He would like to see the buildings hardened. He would like to see an amendment made to the MOU for 1 year while the buildings are hardened. Then we can revisit this topic again. He does not want to pull the guards. We still have a lot of work to do if the referendum passes. We could get our buildings set and then revisit the guard discussion in a year. We can see what we exactly need.

Mr. Jonaitis stated that many speakers were against the SRO's in our buildings. No one spoke against hardening our schools. They did not want to see guns in our buildings. He is concerned about the money being spent on this.

Mr. Neville stated transparency is needed. We focus on the guards and the guards are part of the plan. Hardening was not explained. The school procedures are as valuable as the SRO's. The community is split over the lack of transparency. We need to involve the public in this discussion.

Mr. Jonaitis hears what Mr. Neville is saying. If we did what was on this 3 page document, the public would be happy. The armed guards are the concern.

Mr. Peabody stated a referendum will be needed to address hardening the buildings. The total number of SRO's will increase based on the staffing modules presented. The program is not acceptable because it is all or nothing.

Chairman Sirard stated the Town owns the buildings and the program. We will vote on allowing armed guards in the building. He agrees with the plan. We do not know what everyone is thinking. During the last election Kindergarten and Guards were part of the discussion and those people got voted in. The question is will the Board allow the Town to put armed bodies in the buildings. That is what the MOU is. Will we allow the Town to continue with this plan?

Mr. Neville stated we have had SRO's in our buildings for 15 or 20 years. We allow police to bring guns into our buildings. Chief Sferrazza stated the Board approved the police to bring firearms into the building. Mr. Neville stated the security plan needs to be discussed. He would like to see the specifics and discuss this further.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the MOU the Town Council passed is as is. They need the Board to agree with it or turn it down. The MOU is all inclusive.

Dr. Schumann stated the MOU was to allow the Town Council permission to put an armed person in the building to serve as an SSO. Hardening the schools was not part of the MOU. The buildings belong to the Town of Enfield. They can change the doors or glass. The Board agreed to put these positions into these schools and they will serve as SSO's.

Dr. Schumann stated the new MOU is exactly the same as the old MOU except the dates have been changed. The new MOU will expire in June 2017.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated hardening is coming from the Security Committee and is not part of the MOU. If we vote on this tonight, it is only to keep the armed security officers in the buildings only. Hardening the schools is not part of this MOU. She hopes the Security Committee will continue to meet to figure out ways to continue to harden the schools.

Dr. Schumann stated it is not on the agenda for the Board to vote on this. The Governance Council discussed what the future looks like. The Town Council would like to keep the future the same for the next 2 years while they move forward on the hardening of our buildings.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we need to discuss if we want the SSO's in the Town's buildings.

Mr. Grady stated we can make an amendment to the MOU. How would we do that?

Dr. Schumann stated the Board can ask for a change to the MOU. The Board and Town Council Attorney's would need to look at any changes made to the MOU. We could bring the one year suggestion to the Town Council for their consideration.

Mr. Jonaitis stated by not continuing with the hardening issue would be wrong. He would like this item placed on the next agenda for a vote on armed guards.

Chairman Sirard stated we have a meeting scheduled for May 28th.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to add this item to the agenda tonight. He believes a 2/3 vote is needed to accomplish this.

Dr. Schumann stated that is correct.

Suspend the Rules to Add an Item to the Agenda:

Mr. Jonaitis moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education suspends the rules to add an item to the agenda to vote on the armed guards.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville is concerned that we will not have a quorum at the meeting tomorrow.

A vote by **roll-call 5-3-0** failed with Mr. Grady, Mrs. Thurston and Mr. Sirard in dissent.

Mrs. LeBlanc does not want to delay this vote. We all know what we are voting for.

Mr. Peabody stated if we can amend the MOU to meet our needs, we can table this.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the MOU has been passed by the Town Council. She believes it would need to fail before another MOU can be drawn up.

Dr. Schumann stated we can both have MOU's. The Town Council's actions do not mask the actions of the Board. We are not bound to consider this document. We can make our own MOU.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we would need to come up with our own MOU for the Town Council to consider. We had a community conversation and we all know how we feel. We are delaying the vote by placing this on the May 28th meeting. We are wasting time and are delaying the inevitable.

Dr. Schumann stated it is on the agenda for tomorrow night or you can add to a future meeting agenda.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we are wasting time. Mr. Jonaitis agrees.

Mr. Jonaitis stated someone who voted against this can bring the item up again to reconsider.

Dr. Schumann stated that is correct.

Reconsider Previous Motion:

Mr. Sirard moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education reconsiders adding an item to the agenda.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis thanked them for reconsidering this item.

Dr. Schuman stated a motion can be made by someone who voted against it. The prevailing side can be seconded by any Board member. The majority vote will bring us back to the original motion to suspend the rules.

A vote by **roll-call 6-2-0** passed with Mr. Grady and Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

Suspend the Rules to Add an Item to the Agenda:

Mr. Jonaitis moved and Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education suspends the rules to add an item to the agenda to vote on the armed guards.

A vote by **roll-call 6-2-0** passed with Mr. Grady and Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

Add an item to the Agenda:

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education adds an item to the agenda – vote on the SSO MOU.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis would like it explained what the Board will be voting on.

Chairman Sirard stated the Board will be voting on adding an actionable item on the agenda to approve the MOU.

Mr. Neville stated this is for Item 11d.

A vote by **roll-call 6-2-0** passed with Mr. Grady and Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

11d. Action if any Regarding School Security

Mr. Peabody moved, seconded by Mr. Jonaitis that the Enfield Board of Education approves the MOU as presented by the Town.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis stated if we vote this down, there is nothing stopping us from addressing the Town Council about making an amendment to the MOU.

Chairman Sirard stated that either he or Mr. Grady can bring this back to the Security Committee to discuss.

Mr. Neville needs specifics and we need to discuss this before he can approve the MOU.

Chairman Sirard stated he wants to do what is right. We need to look out for what is best for our kids. He will support the MOU. He has followed his heart through this entire process.

Mr. Neville respects everyone's opinions. We need to make some hard decisions and will agree

to disagree.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he also respects everyone's opinion. We need to make some really hard decisions and have added a lot of things at a cost. We need to look at these items and ask is the safety of our kids in question. Our teachers will protect their kids at all costs. That is how teachers are. He would like to see us harden our buildings. He is amazed at what other parts of the country are doing to harden their buildings compared to what we are doing.

Mr. Peabody stated the crime rates in different parts of the county are different than here. Some schools have ID Badges to allow you to enter any building. He stated you can't put armed guards in front of education. He supported placing the armed guards in our schools. He would like to see SRO's in our elementary schools. He would like more communication and transparency.

Mrs. Unghire stated this is going to be a tough decision to make. She has done a lot of research and has spoken to many different people in our town, out of our town and State to gain as much data as possible. She has researched active shooters and this topic in order to make an informed decision. She added that fire has taken more lives than shootings have.

Mr. Grady stated we received a recommendation from the Police Chief to place guards in our schools. That is why he voted for this 2 years ago. We dropped the ball many years ago with the buzzer system we installed. We should have been making security changes all along. He knows that teachers would do anything to protect our kids. We need to harden our buildings. We need to look at the safety of our kids and teachers. He does not want to put our teachers in this position. This is a feasible option until we can harden our buildings.

Mr. Jonaitis stated if the SRO is in the right place at the right time, he might be able to get a call out for help. Someone who plans harm will go for the guard first. You are looking to gain minutes. The elementary schools have doors that can be targeted. If someone wants to do this, they will do it. It is a no win vote.

Chairman Sirard stated the reason there is a person with a weapon is to eliminate someone from entering our building. Elementary schools are a gun free zone. The active shooters target a specific place that is not armed. The courthouse has a drop box for weapons. The gunmen are looking for the next high score. Our SSO's are wandering the buildings and will help us gain valuable time. Our SSO is the first person that will come in contact with an armed gunman. This program works for us.

Mr. Jonaitis stated there were police presence at the colleges were shootings took place. That did not deter them. The majority of these gunmen will take their own life.

A vote by **roll-call 3-5-0** failed with Mr. Jonaitis, Mr. Peabody, Mrs. Unghire, Mr. Neville and Mrs. LeBlanc in dissent.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Building Committee

Mr. Neville reported that everything is status quo. They are moving quite quickly to catch up. We have a meeting planned for Thursday.

a. Future Use of Fermi

Chairman Sirard reported the Future Use of Fermi Committee met and Mr. Peabody is drafting the talking points for the Board presentation.

Mr. Peabody added this will be completed by the end of this week.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Invitation to attend the Stowe Family Resource Center on May 20, 2015;
- b. Invitation to attend the Adult Education Graduation Ceremony on June 11, 2015;
- c. Invitation to attend the Enrico Fermi Honors Breakfast on June 3 & 4, 2015;
- d. Invitation to attend the Enfield Transitional Learning Academy Graduation on June 11, 2015.

16. AUDIENCES

Bob Tkcaz, Bernardino Avenue – Mr. Tkcaz discussed the cost of educating students and how no one really knows the real cost. He feels the Board made the right decision regarding the guards. We do not have metal detectors at our doors. We should search the students and teachers. Mental health analysis needs to be done for the staff. He feels there has been too much negativity about the school's budget and blaming the Town Council. You needed to sell your budget to the Town Council and you didn't do that. There are still questions that need to be addressed. The Board needs to re-evaluate your plans. The Board also needs to change their attitude when addressing the Town Council.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel.

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

The Board remained in Council Chambers for the Executive Session at 10:05 PM. Mr. Drezek and Dr. Schumann joined the Board in Executive Session. They were excused at 10:15 PM.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2015.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 10:37 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary