

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 22, 2017**

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 August 22, 2017.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Walter Kruzel, Tina LeBlanc, Tim Neville, Stacy Thurston, Rich Regnier, Charlotte Riley and Tom Sirard

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lori Unghire and Vin Grady

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; and Mr. Andrew P. Longey, Deputy Superintendent

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)** - None

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Staff Convocation & Professional Learning – as presented
- b. First Day of School – as presented
- c. Transition Update – as presented
- d. JFK Update – as presented

K-12 Steam Initiative – Mr. Drezek distributed an informational brochure about our K-12 STEAM Initiative program. We need to let the public know about the remarkable things that are going on in our schools. Ms. Middleton asked for this to be given to the Board. You are the first to receive these. This will be posted on our website and distributed to all staff.

- e. Grants Report – as presented
- f. Personnel Report – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES**

Marcy Taliceo, Coolidge Drive – Ms. Taliceo thanked you for the communication improvements. She asked about PowerSchool and HAC is no longer being used. She did not know about this. How was this communication passed along to parents and when will HAC be up and running again? She would like additional information distributed to parents before the first day of school about this.

9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Neville welcomed everyone back. This is an exciting time of year for students and staff. We have wonderful teachers in our district. The first day of school is such a wonderful day for everyone.

Mr. Neville is looking for information through the chair to Mr. Drezek about the number of certified staff at Central Office. He was told there is 22 administrators.

Chairman Sirard asked Mr. Drezek to respond to Mr. Neville's question.

Mr. Drezek is not aware of 22 administrators at Central Office. He would welcome 22 administrators and is not sure where this number came from. He added that there are currently 8 certified administrators with their 092 certification at the Alcorn Administrative building. This number includes Mr. Longey and myself.

Mr. Neville is interested in getting the real numbers out. Mr. Bourassa is not an administrator.

Mr. Drezek stated Mr. Bourassa is part of the Superintendent's Cabinet. In order to be considered as an administrator by the State of Connecticut, you need to have your 092 certification. You also have the ability to conduct staff evaluations. He added that both Mr. Bourassa and our Business Manager do not conduct any staff evaluations. These two positions are considered as senior level positions.

Mr. Neville was trying to figure out where these numbers came from. We consolidated department chairs. Mr. Drezek stated previously, our department chairs evaluated staff in their buildings. We consolidated the department chair positions along with our new teacher evaluation system and made the department chairs into certified administrator's district-wide. He believes this was done a few years ago.

Mr. Neville stated we lost an administrator at Nathan Hale. What happened to these responsibilities? Mr. Drezek stated we are down one principal and the evaluation responsibility duties have increased for each administrator. We would like to keep this down to 15 evaluations but it has been increased to around 20.

Mr. Neville asked how many of the administrator duties are State mandated and how much time is devoted to this? Mr. Drezek stated many of the administrator duties are because of State or Federal mandates or required by law.

Mr. Neville stated he is discussing this tonight because he wants to share factual information with the public. He thanked Mr. Drezek for his comments.

Mrs. Thurston welcomed all the staff back and wished all the students a happy healthy school year. She can't wait to see the students on the first day of school.

Mr. Regnier thanked the members of CABA, Representative Stokes and Representative Hall for being a voice and advocate for us regarding the state budget. He appreciates everything they are doing for us. He reached out to invite governor Mayor to attend tonight's meeting. Chairman Sirard is also going to also reach out to him. We will put our best effort forth to have him attend a meeting and explain his reasons for the budget.

Mr. Regnier thanked the staff for getting our schools ready for the first day of school. He is excited for the first day of school. The meeting is going to be held at JFK. It is his assumption that JFK will be safe for students for the first day of school. Mr. Drezek stated that is correct – the building is safe for students and staff.

Mrs. Riley extends her deepest sympathy to the families affected by the car accident that happened in Enfield the other night along with all of the other sad things going on around in our state and countries. This is a difficult time and we all need to work together to bring peace to our communities. She knows everyone is anxious about the budget and how this will affect our school and communities. The road ahead will be bumpy and tough decisions will need to

be made which will require all of us working together creatively to ensure that our children's educational needs are met. She thanked Mr. Drezek for being proactive by putting the wheels in motion to deal with whatever comes down the road.

Mrs. Riley added that she was at Henry Barnard helping them getting ready for the first day of school. The school looks great. Staff is ready to meet their students and have a great school year.

Mr. Kruzel thanked Representative Courtney for the Q&A he held the other night at Enfield High School. The turnout was good. Representative Courtney is also equally frustrated with Hartford with the state budget.

Mr. Kruzel welcomed our new administrative team to tonight's Board meeting.

Mrs. LeBlanc also welcomed Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey as our Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent. She also thanked Mr. Drezek for the communication regarding the Governor's budget cuts. Your communication was insightful and should be commended.

Mrs. LeBlanc welcomed our new administrators and teachers. She wished them all good luck with the opening of school. You are the ones that keep our wheels in motion.

Mrs. LeBlanc is looking for information through the Chair to Mr. Drezek regarding the communications with PowerSchool.

Chairman Sirard motioned for Mr. Drezek to respond to Mrs. LeBlanc's question.

Mr. Drezek stated that he does not have that information. He knows this has been a tremendous project. Communication has gone out. We are moving from one student database system to another system and are still working on this huge task. He commends Mr. Bourassa, Mr. Lesiak and Dr. Wiley for their efforts with this project. He will check into this and will get the information out to the Board.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about high school student schedules being given out. We do not have any homerooms at the high school.

Mr. Longey stated freshman students will receive their schedules during their orientation. In the past, HAC would have been available for students. For the first day of school, we will have stations set up for the students to get their schedules if HAC is not up and ready. We did the same thing last year for the students to pick-up their schedules on the first day of school. First period will be delayed a bit to accommodate this.

Mr. Neville added that Pentatmatation was bought out PowerSchool. Rolling the data out is a huge undergoing and there are always glitches to work through. He would like us to get a message out about this. Most school systems are using PowerSchool. We will have a different system than HAC. We may want to let families know about the change.

Mr. Kruzel asked through the Chair to the Superintendent if we could send out a robo call about this.

Chairman Sirard motioned for Mr. Drezek to respond to Mr. Kruzel's question.

Mr. Drezek stated that this system ties into our SchoolMessenger system. PowerSchool's system is more powerful. He will make sure that some kind of communication goes out.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that August 31st is international overdose awareness day. A group of people will be going to the State Capital from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. A mom has started a program

called Alex's Army to raise awareness. Alex's Army will raise awareness about the opioid situation. A group from Enfield will be going to the State Capital on August 31st.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished all the students a great start to the new school year and hopes you had a great summer. She looks forward to the school year starting.

Mr. Neville asked about the Alex Awareness t-shirts. Can we buy them and wear them to a meeting? This is a good thing to raise awareness.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the shirts are \$15 if you are interested, let her know. They are also giving scholarships and have been involved with Riley's Dance student.

Chairman Sirard stated we could wear them.

Mrs. LeBlanc gives this mom a lot of credit for what she is doing.

Chairman Sirard welcomed back all students and staff. He wished everyone a great school year. This is an exciting time of year for everyone. The next most exciting time of year is graduation.

Chairman Sirard stated we reorganized and reduced the number of administrators when we implemented our own teacher evaluation system. We have a model program in place. He pointed out that several of our current central office administrators apply for grants that far exceed their salaries. This was part of the condition for hiring them.

Chairman Sirard addressed the budget concerns. He agrees with Mr. Regnier to invite the Governor to attend a meeting. The budget is a 12-month process. This is a discussion he will discuss with the Governor. There is a budget that holds cities and towns harmless. The state is in serious distress. This is why we did what we did as a Board. Enfield has been fiscally responsible and has done the needed work. Many towns have not done the work and are being financially rewarded. This is wrong. He will personally invite the Governor to attend the Board's next meeting and will ask him these important questions.

Chairman Sirard stated Enfield Public Schools will be open for our students on September 5th and we will provide the best education for our students.

Mr. Neville asked if he can also invite our Enfield legislators to the next Board meeting. Chairman will include them in his invitation to attend the next Board meeting.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition Programs as presented.

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

b. Approve Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel to approve the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville understands the child care food program. What is the adult care food program. Mr. Drezek stated Head Start does a lot of parent engagement programs and this is part of that. They are serving food to families and the State requires Board approval to continue this service.

Mr. Regnier asked about the form and it refers to Board of Directors and if there were any changes. Mr. Drezek stated this is referring to the Head Start Board of Directors, not Board of Education members. There were no changes to the Head Start Board of Directors.

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

c. Approve Career and Technical Education Secondary Supplemental Enhancement Grant

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to approve the Career and Technical Education Secondary Supplemental Enhancement Grant as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville asked through the Chair to the Superintendent about student's numbers increasing at Asnuntuck Community College and using the Magic Carpet transportation services for students. Has anything happened with this.

Chairman Sirard motioned for Mr. Drezek to respond to Mr. Neville's question.

Mr. Drezek stated we are using the Magic Carpet transportation services. He will confirm this. We have made the effort to increase numbers in the college connections program at Asnuntuck Community College.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Building Committee

Mr. Kruzel stated there is not much to report.

Mr. Neville added we are winding down. Gilbane is just about done with everything. Next, we will install the wall plaques.

Mr. Kruzel added they will put up the new wall plaque and the original wall plaque.

Mr. Neville stated there is still work to finish up with the State.

Chairman Sirard asked if you are still dealing with punch lists?

Mr. Neville stated no. We are just working on purchase orders and reimbursable items.

Mr. Kruzel added there was an issue with furniture. We are wrapping up contracts with Gilbane.

b. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee cancelled the August meeting and will meet in September

c. Finance Committee

Mr. Kruzel reported the Finance Committee met on August 15th. This item will be addressed later on the agenda. We also have some line item transfers.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Policy Committee will met on August 15th. We have started the process of reviewing policies and looking at sample policies. Our plan is to bring the first group of policies to the Board.

f. Joint Facilities Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Joint Facilities Committee has met several times over the summer and we are planning to present information to the Town Council in October with a preliminary outline. We were planned to meet this Thursday, but it has been rescheduled.

g. JFK Pre-Referendum Committee

Mrs. LeBlanc reported the JFK Pre-Referendum Committee has completed their charge. Now we will wait to see if the referendum passes. When the referendum passes, they would start to take applications for the next building committee.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Special Meeting Minutes of June 27, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-1** passed with Tom Sirard abstaining.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Special Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

May 2017:

Mr. Kruzel moved seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for the month of May 2017, total expenditures amount to \$5,951,137.06, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,118,864.98 and other accounts totaling \$1,832,272.08. 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 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

June 2017:

Mr. Kruzel moved seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for the month of June 2017, total expenditures amount to \$8,154,598.19, broken down between payroll totaling \$2,845,726.60 and other accounts totaling \$5,308,871.59. 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 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

July 2017:

Mr. Kruzel moved seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for the month of June 2017, total expenditures amount to \$1,922,234.03, broken down between payroll totaling \$443,303.55 and other accounts totaling \$1,478,930.46. 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 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

Line Item Transfers:

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education approves the following line item transfers:

From: 100 – Staff Salaries	\$ 170,254.00
200 – Benefits	\$ 1,203,335.00
600 – Tech/Supplies/Materials	\$ 343,478.00
Total	\$ 1,717,067.00
To: 300 – Professional Services	\$ 885,249.00
500 – Transport/Tuitions/Other Ins/Print/Postage	\$ 487,835.00
700 – Equipment/Uniforms	\$ 318,457.00
800 – Dues/Fees/Subscriptions	\$ 25,526.00
Total	\$ 1,717,067.00

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

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. AUDIENCES

Marcy Taliceo, Coolidge Drive – Ms. Taliceo stated she just e-mailed Board members with the link at the State Department of Education that lists 22 certified staff at central office. Thank you.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel to adjourn the Regular Meeting of August 22, 2017.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary