

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Agenda

Date: 01/08/13

**Time-Place: Council Chambers
 820 Enfield Street
 Enfield, CT
 7:00 PM Regular Meeting**

- 1. Call to Order – 7:00 PM**
- 2. Invocation or Moment of Silence – Joyce P. Hall**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance – Joyce P. Hall**
- 4. Fire Evacuation Announcement**
- 5. Roll Call**
- 6. Board Guest(s)**
- 7. Superintendent's Report**
 - a. Joint Security Committee**
 - b. Parent Leadership Academy**
 - c. Superintendent's Book Club – January 9th**
 - d. Special BOE Meetings – January 12th & January 15th**
 - e. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 21st**
- 8. Audiences**
- 9. Unfinished Business**
- 10. New Business**
 - a. Superintendent's FY2014 Budget Presentation**
 - b. Discussion Related to Consolidated High School Mascot and School Colors**
 - c. Action if any regarding additional Science Graduation Requirement**
 - d. Policy Revision #6146 Requirements for Graduation – First Reading**
- 11. Board Committee Reports**
- 12. Board Members' Comments**
- 13. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2012 & Special Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2012**
- 14. Approval of Accounts and Payroll**
 - a. For the Month of November 2012**
 - b. Line Item Transfers, if any**
- 15. Correspondence and Communications**
- 16. Executive Session**
 - a. Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining Unit(s)**
- 17. Adjournment**



ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

27 SHAKER ROAD • ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082
TEL: 860.253.6500 • FAX: 860.253.6510 • WWW.ENFIELDSCHOOLS.ORG

Date: January 8, 2013
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann
Re: Superintendent's Report

- a. **Joint Security Committee:** – The Joint Security Committee will continue to meet weekly. As the committee progresses, we will inform the Board of all safety and security measures taken in our schools.
- b. **Parent Leadership Academy** – Enclosed in your packets is information regarding the Parent Leadership Academy. January is mentor appreciation month. We thank Mrs. Lisa Rogers, Ms. Amy Witbro and Mrs. Kelli Kissell for their dedication to the students in Enfield. They are all present if any Board members have questions.
- c. **Superintendent's Book Club** – The first meeting for the Superintendent's Book Club was held on December 12th. In attendance were approximately 25 people comprised of staff members, residents and Board members. The next session will be held on Wednesday, January 9th at 4:00 PM in the JFK Library to discuss Daniel Pink's book "Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us". The last Book Club session will be held on February 13th at JFK.
- d. **Special BOE Meetings – January 12th & January 15th** – Enclosed in your packets are the agendas for the Saturday, January 12th and Tuesday, January 15th Special Board meetings.
- e. **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** – Schools will be closed on Monday, January 21st in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day



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Date: January 8, 2013
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann
Re: Superintendent's FY2014 Budget Presentation

At this time, the Superintendent will present his FY2013-14 Budget Presentation to the Board.



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Date: January 8, 2013
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann
Re: Discussion Related to Consolidated High School Mascot and School Colors

As part of the process for consolidating the two high schools, decisions will need to be made regarding the name of the school, school colors and mascot. The final decision on these matters is the responsibility of the Board. The Board should consider beginning the discussion leading to these decisions as soon as possible so they can be incorporated by the architect into the design of the new facility

Mr. Drezek, Deputy Superintendent will provide information to the Board to begin their discussion.



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Date: January 8, 2013
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann
Re: Action if any regarding additional Science Graduation Requirement

Ms. McKernan has previously met with the Curriculum Subcommittee members and has discussed adding an additional science graduation requirement with the current grade nine students that will graduate in June 2016. The Curriculum Subcommittee is endorsing this additional science graduation requirement.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding an additional Science Graduation Requirement.



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Date: January 8, 2013
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann
Re: Policy Revision #6146 Requirements for Graduation – First Reading

Ms. McKernan has met with the Curriculum Subcommittee regarding the proposed revisions to current Board Policy #6146 Requirements for Graduation. Curriculum Subcommittee members are endorsing the changes to this policy and will address the proposed changes at this time.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding a First Reading for Policy #6146 Requirements for Graduation.



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Date: January 8, 2013
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann
Re: Executive Session

The Board of Education needs to discuss the following item:

- Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining Unit(s)

Therefore, I recommend that the Enfield Board of Education enter into executive session, with the appropriate personnel invited, for the reasons described above. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting is required. Board members can relocate to either the Breakroom or the Thompsonville (whichever is available,) for the executive session.



To: Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann, Superintendent
From: Lisa Rogers, Parent Leadership Coordinator
Date: January 4, 2013

The Parent Leadership Academy is currently enrolling parents for the 8th year of classes!

Parent Leadership Academy (PLA) is a free 12 week training course for Enfield parents, grandparents and/or guardians which empowers parents by honing their natural leadership skills to proactively represent themselves, their children and the Enfield community. It is coordinated by PLA graduates who bring in instructors weekly on such topics as leadership styles, self-determination of leadership within, running effective meetings, planning successful projects, networking with key community leaders, understanding and managing conflict and public speaking. The course culminates with the parent group choosing and completing a community service project of at least 10 hours. Past projects have included Family Days of Play (uniting family and healthy living), a Recycling Fair which aided the Town of Enfield's recycling efforts, as well as a Town-wide Tag Sale.

Our graduates have gone on to commit themselves to Enfield by holding leadership positions on the board of the Enfield Food Shelf, PTO executive positions in our schools as well as in civic groups (Boy & Girl Scouts, sports organizations.) They have become members KITE and of the BOE and TC's many committees, for instance, BOE's K-8 Reorganization committees, High School Consolidation committee, School Climate committee, etc. They have created the Enfield Foundation for Excellence in Education (EFEE) supporting educational efforts in Enfield through grants, the Speech Weavers chapter of Toast Masters International, the Common Grounds Rotary Garden/Sunny Patch Kids - a community garden which donates its produce to the Enfield Food Shelf as well as teaches children the importance and skills of gardening. They volunteer at local organizations and work for civic minded employers, Enfield Public Schools' mentoring program, library aide, substitute teachers, childcare workers etc...

PLA is supported this year by a state grant through SERC/CT PIRC as well as in-kind donations from the Enfield Public School System (Home School Community Partnership support, supplies, Continuing Education support, etc...) The class meets on Thursday evenings, are free to the participant and includes dinner and childcare.

Flyers have gone out through K-5 students. The application can be found on the school system's website as well as www.EnfieldKITE.org or by contacting Lisa Rogers at mrogers03@snet.net. Class is limited to 15 parents and applications are due Jan.31. An Open House will be held at the Public Library on Middle Rd, Sat. 1/12 9:30 am -11:30am and Tues. 1/22 5:30pm-7:30pm for parents who'd like more information about the program.

Please encourage parents to apply. This is a great opportunity for parents to gain the necessary skills to become more active in our schools and community. Attached please find the following documents: PLA flyer, application, and recommendation form if you know of a good candidate who would benefit from this training.



Enrollment Now Open! Become an Effective Leader In Enfield

Discover your leadership style!

Explore and develop
your leadership potential!
The Parent Leadership Academy (PLA)
will teach you how to:

- run productive meetings,
- plan successful projects,
- network with key community leaders
- understand and manage conflict and
- improve your ability to speak effectively to any group.

**ALL ABOUT ISSUES IMPORTANT TO YOU,
YOUR FAMILY AND OUR COMMUNITY.**



Class 7 Community Project – PLA Day of Play

Academy Orientation: Sat., February 9, 2013, 9:30am-3:30pm

Academy Workshops: Thursdays, 5:30pm-8:30pm for 12 weeks

Join us for our 8th year helping Enfield parents discover the leader within ourselves. Our workshops are guided by professionals from around the country and world and will give you the tools and the confidence you need to ask for and receive positive change in your life and in your community.

TIME COMMITMENT: PLA will meet for one Saturday session and then once a week in the evening for a total of 12 weeks. Each workshop is 3 hours long and includes dinner. Participants will graduate after completing the sessions and participating in a group chosen community project of at least 10 hours. The only requirement for participation is a willingness to invest your time and energy.

COST: FREE OF CHARGE to any Enfield parent, grandparent or guardian, thanks to a generous grant from **SERC\CT PIRC**.

CHILDCARE: FREE OF CHARGE to those who request it at the time of registration

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 31st but are reviewed as they are received and approved on a rolling basis.

Enrollment is limited to 15 participants, so apply early!

To receive your application & more details please call or e-mail a Program Coordinator:

Amy Witbro
Enfield Public Schools
awitbro@enfieldschools.org
860-253-6552

Lisa Rogers
Parent Leadership Academy
lrrogers03@snet.net
860-749-4852

Our application can also be found at www.enfieldkite.org and
http://enfieldschools.org/district_depts/home_school_community_partnership/





Answers to frequently asked questions:

- ❖ Parents, grandparents and primary caregivers are welcome to apply.
- ❖ Applicants should be residents of Enfield or have a child that resides in Enfield.
- ❖ The classes are for men and women of all ages and backgrounds.

- ❖ Classes are held on Thursday evenings from 5:30p.m.- 8:30 p.m. once a week beginning in February and will run for 12 weeks.
- ❖ Sessions are run by professional trainers in the areas of, but not limited to: leadership styles, running productive & effective meetings, conflict management & resolution, public speaking, project planning.
- ❖ There is no charge to the participants of the Parent Leadership Academy other than time and commitment.
- ❖ The cost for the classes, the materials and childcare is paid by grant funding.
- ❖ A complimentary light dinner will be provided before each class.
- ❖ Free childcare provided. (Request for on-site childcare assistance should be submitted with the enrollment application.)
- ❖ Regular access to the internet or an e-mail account is required to participate.
- ❖ Regular attendance required to graduate and receive the Leadership Certificate.
- ❖ At least 10 volunteer hours of participation in a community project (chosen by the class) is required.
- ❖ All classes will be conducted in English.
- ❖ A Graduation Ceremony will be held at the end of the Program.

For more details please call or e-mail one of our Program Coordinators:

Amy Witbro
Enfield Public Schools
awitbro@enfieldschools.org
860-253-6552

Lisa Rogers
Parent Leadership Academy
mrogers03@snet.net
860-749-4852

The application is on the internet at www.enfieldkite.org and
http://enfieldschools.org/district_depts/home_school_community_partnership/.

Discover the leader within –
with the **Parent Leadership Academy**

A program to inspire and engage leaders for children.



Enrollment Application:

Deadline: January 31st

Contact Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ (home) _____ (cell)
E-mail: _____

(Please note: Regular internet access with an e-mail address is required for all participants)

Family Information:

No. of Children: _____ Ages: _____ School(s): _____

Childcare assistance is available. Circle here if childcare will be needed: No / Yes (An enrollment form will be provided.)

Demographic Information – Parent Leadership Academy is frequently required to include demographic information about our applicants in grant applications and reports. It would be helpful to us, but not required, if you provided the following information:

Date of Birth (Month/Date/Year) _____/_____/_____

Race: (check all that apply)

- African-American Asian/Indian
 Asian/Pacific Islander Caucasian
 Latino Native American
 West Indian Other

Marital Status:

- Single Married Divorced Widowed

Gender: Female Male

How did you hear about the program? _____

Employment Status:

- Employed Retired In-Transition

Highest Level of Education Completed:

- High School Diploma Bachelors Degree
 Some College/Secondary Education Masters Degree
 Associates Degree Professional Degree

Current Household Income:

- Under \$16,000 \$50,000 - \$75,000
 \$16,001 - \$22,500 \$75,001 - \$100,000
 \$22,501 - \$50,000 \$100,000+
 prefer not to answer

Experience and Expectations:

(Please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.)

1. What issues concern you for your children and others?

2. What skills would you like to learn to become a strong leader?

3. The Parent Leadership Academy seeks to identify participants with different community and leadership experiences. The program will be designed to build upon your past experience, knowledge and interest. To help us meet our goals, please tell us about your responsibilities in other organizations (community, civic, professional, business, religious, social and others) of which you are or have been a member.

4. How will you use this training in the future? What goals, if any, do you have in mind at this time?

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Please note that your signature is an agreement to the required time commitment (one-day class retreat, training sessions plus approximately 10 hours to a class chosen project.) There is no fee for the training due to grant funding from SERC\CT PIRC. Class size is limited to 15 and admission decisions are made as applications are received, please submit your application as soon as possible.

Please mail the completed form to:
Parent Leadership Academy
c/o Amy Witbro,
Enfield Public Schools,
27 Shaker Road, Enfield, CT 06082

or you may e-mail them to:
Lisa Rogers, PLA Coordinator
mrogers03@snet.net 860-749-4852



Childcare Enrollment:

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

E-mail: _____

Name of Child _____ School _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Name of Child _____ School _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Name of Child _____ School _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Name of Child _____ School _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Name of Child _____ School _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Please list any developmental or dietary restrictions that might require special attention:

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature indicates that you accept full responsibility for your child before, during and after childcare hours. This application must be completed and submitted with Class enrollment materials by the enrollment deadline.



Applicant Recommendation Form

Parent Leadership Academy is a 12 week course training Enfield parents in leadership skills which will benefit the community, give voice to children's concerns as well as add to a personal resume. We begin with a Saturday, half-day team building retreat, and then meet on Thursday evenings for 3 hours. Classes, dinner and childcare are provided for free and are typically held at Asnuntuck Community College. The class culminates with a group service project reflecting the trained skills. Applicants receive a certification of completion at a well-deserved graduation ceremony and become a member of the Parent Leadership Association network of alumni.

The curriculum includes but is not limited to: discovering leadership styles and practices; public speaking; conflict resolution; running effective meetings; networking and understanding local government, agencies and resources particular to Enfield and Connecticut.

By recommending a parent, grandparent or legal guardian, you are giving Parent Leadership Academy permission to contact this person on your behalf and invite them to apply to the Academy. We are extremely appreciative of your recommendations and will keep this information between you, PLA and the parent.

Recommended Parent Information

Name	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	<i>MUST be ENFIELD parent, grandparent or guardian</i>
Telephone	
E-Mail Address	

Reason(s) for Recommendation - Special Skills, Qualities, Experience

Please describe your experience with nominee; ways they help your organization/events; qualities you admire and/or why you feel you both will benefit from Parent Leadership classes.

--

Recommender Information

Name	
Organization/Position	
Street Address	
Telephone	
E-Mail Address	

Return to: Lisa Rogers, mrogers03@snet.net, Enfield Public Schools, 27 Shaker Rd, Enfield, CT 06082; or Amy Witbro, awitbro@enfieldpublicschools.org, EPS, 27 Shaker Rd, Enfield, CT 06082



Item #7d.

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January 4, 2013

Mrs. Suzanne Olechnicki, Town Clerk
Enfield Town Hall
820 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT 06082

Dear Mrs. Olechnicki,

Be advised that there will be a special meeting of the Board of Education on Saturday, January 12, 2013. The agenda is listed below.

Special Board of Education Meeting

Date: Saturday, January 12, 2013
Time: 8:00 AM
Place: Henry Barnard Elementary School
Board Conference Room
27 Shaker Road, Enfield, CT

AGENDA:

1. **Call to Order – Chairman Neville**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Neville**
3. **Fire Evacuation Announcement**
4. **Roll Call**
5. **Priority Setting Session with Mr. Robert Radar – CABE Executive Director**
6. **Adjournment**



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January 4, 2013

Mrs. Suzanne Olechnicki, Town Clerk
Enfield Town Hall
820 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT 06082

Dear Mrs. Olechnicki,

Be advised that there will be a special meeting of the Board of Education on Tuesday, January 15, 2013. The agenda is listed below.

Special Board of Education Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2013
Time: 6:30 PM
Place: Enfield Town Hall – Council Chambers
820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT

AGENDA:

1. **Call to Order – Chairman Neville**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance – Chairman Neville**
3. **Fire Evacuation Announcement**
4. **Roll Call**
5. **2013-14 Budget Discussion (6:35 PM – 7:30 PM)**
6. **Executive Session – Thompsonville Room** (*Board member's will relocate to the Thompsonville Room for the Executive Session and Adjournment of the special meeting*)
 - a. **Matters Related to the Superintendent's Evaluation (7:35 PM – 8:30 PM)**
7. **Adjournment**

ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

6146

A graduate of the Enfield Public Schools must have earned a minimum of 22 credits, must have met the established credit distribution requirement, and must have earned a 4.0 (C-) average for all courses required for graduation. In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, students must also meet additional performance standards. Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, literacy and numeracy performance standards shall be required with an ultimate goal to improve learning for every student. In the future, additional performance standards may be considered.

MINIMUM CREDITS, COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

Credits and Required Courses:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| • English | 4 Credits |
| • Mathematics | 3 Credits |
| • Science | 2 Credits |
| • Social Science consisting of: | 3 Credits |

(1) Credit from one of the following courses:

World History
World Civilization

- (1) Credit – US History
(½) Credit – Civics
(½) Credit – Social Studies Elective Course

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Arts or Vocational Education* | 1 Credit |
| • Physical Education/Health Education | 2 Credits |
| • Electives | 7 Credits |

*This credit may be taken in any one or a combination of the following areas: Business, Art, Music, Technology Education, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Performance Standards:

Beginning with the class of 2006, a student will be granted a high school diploma provided that he/she has met a literacy and a numeracy performance standard, as well as the minimum requirement of 22 credits listed above.

A. Literacy Performance Standard – To read and write with understanding and respond to a variety of texts across disciplines.

1. In order to meet the literacy standard, a student must achieve one of the following:
 - a) A score in level three (3), four (4), or five (5) on the CAPT Reading Across Disciplines or Writing Across Disciplines; or

- 55 b) A Critical Reading SAT score or Writing SAT score of 430 or above; or
56
57 c) A Reading ACT score of 18 or above; or
58
59 d) Receive a score that meets or exceeds standards on a District Literacy
60 Performance Task as defined in Administrative Regulation 5127.
61

62 **B. Numeracy Performance Standard** – To complete mathematical problems which
63 require the demonstration of basic math skills.
64

- 65 1. In order to meet the numeracy performance standard, a student must achieve
66 one of the following:
67
68 a) A score in level three (3), four (4), or five (5) on the CAPT Mathematics Test;
69 or
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71 b) A Math SAT score of 430 or above; or
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73 c) A Math ACT score of 18 or above; or
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75 d) Receive a score that meets or exceeds standards on a District Numeracy
76 Performance Task as defined in Administrative Regulation 5127.
77

78 **C. Science Performance Standard** – *Students shall, prior to the completion of their*
79 *senior year, demonstrate a proficiency in problem solving and scientific inquiry*
80 *as well as a familiarity with major themes in science.*
81

- 82 1. *In order to meet the District Performance Standards in science students*
83 *must succeed in one of the following area*
84
85 a. *Score at a level three (3), four (4) or five (5) on the CAPT Science Test;*
86 *or*
87
88 b. *Score a 430 or higher on a SAT II Science related subject test; or*
89
90 c. *Score an 18 or higher on an ACT Science related test; or*
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92 d. *Receive a score that meets or exceeds standards on a District Science*
93 *Performance Task as defined by Administrative Regulations 5127.*
94

95 **Conditions:**
96

97 1. **Graduating Seniors:**
98

99 In addition to satisfying the required course credits and meeting the
100 performance standards, graduating seniors must attain a minimum overall
101 average of 4.0 (C-) for all courses required for graduation.
102

103 The 4.0 (C-) grade average required for graduation shall be computed annually
104 at the end of the fourth marking period and shall include all the courses taken
105 by the student.
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107 Students who have earned more than the required credits for graduation but
108 failed to obtain the required 4.0 (C-) average, may attempt to satisfy the 4.0 (C-)

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average by calculating the highest GPA using the minimum number of credits. Such calculation must include all of the required courses.

Only students who have met all of the district's graduation requirements may participate in their school's graduation ceremony.

2. Non-Graduating Seniors:

Seniors who have not satisfied all requirements for graduation will not be allowed to participate in the school's graduation ceremony and will be given the opportunity to attain a high school diploma by:

- a. attending summer school at their own expense in an attempt to meet the graduation requirements.
- b. returning to high school the following year to meet all graduation requirements.

All students must pass a minimum of four (4) full-credit courses in their senior year. This requirement may be waived for students who have been granted approval for senior mid-year graduation or have returned to complete their graduation requirements.

Students who have met all of the district's graduation requirements except for the literacy and/or numeracy standard shall receive a certificate of completion in lieu of a high school diploma.

D. Senior Mid-Year Graduation:

Students who complete all graduation requirements by the end of the second marking period of the senior year, may select to leave school at that time provided they have complied with the following procedures:

- 1. A formal request must be made to the school administration, before the end of the junior year. This request must be made on the official "Early Graduation Request Form" which can be obtained from the Guidance Office.
- 2. The request for Mid-Year Graduation must have the approval of the parent or guardian. The student's guidance counselor will certify that the student is eligible for early graduation.
- 3. A program must be planned accordingly prior to the end of the Junior year.
- 4. Final and official approval must be obtained from the school administration.

Principals should use discretion in granting permission for early graduation and weigh each request on its own merits. Consideration should be given to requests centered around such things as:

- a. Early acceptance into college or some other acceptable educational or vocational program.
- b. Extreme economic hardship within a family.

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Since the Board feels that a student's high school experience is beneficial both academically and socially, it will not be the intent of this policy to encourage students to request early graduation simply for the purpose of seeking an early termination to their formal education process.

Students who have been granted permission for mid-year graduation will receive their diplomas in June and are expected to participate in commencement activities. All graduation expenses and obligations should be met before leaving school.

5. All other requests for early graduation other than those stipulated above will require the approval of the Superintendent of Schools. In no case will students be permitted to "graduate" earlier than the end of the "junior" year.

E. Transfer of Credits:

Students who transfer to the senior high school in their senior year will receive an Enfield diploma provided such transfer is made on or before February 1st. In cases where students transfer after February 1st, the administration shall make an effort to have the student receive a diploma from the school last attended. In any case, students in this category shall participate in Enfield graduation ceremonies.

High school students may take courses and earn credits from any accredited college, vocational institution or accredited/approved Distance Learning Program at their own expense. Such courses may be added to the student's official school transcript and applied toward fulfilling graduation requirements. The number of course credits, which will be accepted toward graduation requirements, is not to exceed two credits.

Students pursuing this option, must obtain approval from the guidance office and school principal prior to enrolling in any such course.

The decision of the principal is final.

F. Special Education Students:

Special Education students will be subject to the general policy regarding graduation unless extenuating circumstances are in evidence, which might exclude such students from satisfactorily completing the district performance standards and/or the grading policy as determined by the Planning and Placement Team (P.P.T.).

It is expected that the P.P.T. will recommend "exemptions" from this Board policy as early in the program planning stage as may be feasible but after the student has participated in the CAPT assessment.

G. Modifications and Accommodations:

Students who have been identified as ESL/ELL may be allowed modifications or accommodations by a school review committee in order to meet any of the conditions set forth in the performance standards section. The review committee may exempt such students if, in the opinion of the committee, they deem the language barriers to be a significant impediment to satisfying the conditions set forth in Section C.1.

H. Options for Students Who Fail to Meet Performance Standards:

217 Individuals who have met all other graduation requirements except the literacy and/or
218 numeracy standards are entitled to retake the DPT during the times scheduled and
219 published by the school district or provide evidence of acceptable SAT/ACT scores to
220 meet graduation requirements until attaining the age of 21, consistent with the age
221 limits for returning to school as stated in CT Statute 10-220. Upon reaching the age of
222 21, this option no longer will be offered and individuals must then seek an Adult
223 Education Diploma.

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225 If an individual elects to enroll in Adult Education, he or she must follow the guidelines
226 established for the Adult Education Diploma.

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232 **Legal References:** Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10-220, Section 10-221a, Section
233 10-223a

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235	Approved:	June 16, 1986
236	Effective:	September 1, 1986
237	Section A Rev.:	September 9, 1997
238	Revised:	November 24, 1998
239	Revised:	August 28, 2001
240	Revised:	June 11, 2002
241	Revised:	May 11, 2004
242	Revised:	July 11, 2005
243	Revised:	June 27, 2006
244	Reviewed:	June 23, 2009
245	Revised:	

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 11, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on December 11, 2012.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Jonaitis, Tina LeBlanc, Charles Johnson, Vin Grady, Donna Szewczak, Kevin Fealy, Joyce Hall, and Timothy Neville

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Rancourt

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent; Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent and Ms. Anne McKernan, Chief Academic Officer

6. **BOARD GUESTS**

- a. LEGO Systems Partnership

Dr. Schuman stated tonight we have representatives from LEGO here to discuss a partnership program. They have discussed this partnership with the members from the Curriculum Committee and are hoping the full Board will endorse this program later tonight.

Dr. Schumann added the LEGO's in front of him are from the program at JFK "Leaders for the Future". The students were divided up into teams and needed to make a logo about the work they were going to do.

Mr. Michael Moynihan, Vice President of Marketing for LEGO stated that they are extremely excited about this initiative. Ms. Cori Rolland, Manager of Strategic Plan has spearheaded this marketing program and she will give the Board a presentation. He gave an overview of the history of LEGO. We are extremely proud of our program and like what we are seeing here in Enfield and would like to give back to our community. The direction Enfield is going in is exactly where education needs to go. There are many elements to the LEGO Play experience. It develops critical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving, collaboration and teamwork.

Ms. Rolland stated she will explain why we would like to bring this program to Enfield and the specifics about the program. She reviewed the overall program goals, immersion program overview, benefits to the school district, learning tools (Early Simple Machines, Build to Express, Story Starter and WeDo). All materials for this program will be donated by the LEGO Foundation for students in Kindergarten thru Grade 5. We would stagger the implementation with a few grades in September 2014. Early Simple Machines will be used in grades K-1; Build to Express will be used in grades 2-3; WeDo will be used in grades 3-4; Story Starter will be used in grades 4-5 and Build to Express will be used in grade 5.

Ms. Rolland and Ms. McKernan have discussed what a child's experience and journey when they

enter Kindergarten through grade 5 in Enfield. We will provide you all of the appropriate materials needed. We will need a 3 year commitment, dedicated classroom for the program, we will provide teacher training, will give you progress reports and feedback, 3rd party research with a university and welcome other schools to view the program. We will begin the program in January 2014 if approved by the Board. We would start to integrate your curriculum into the program and teacher training to start the program in September 2014.

Ms. Hall asked if a dedicated room is required. Ms. Rolland stated a dedicated room is highly recommended for grades 3-5. They will be given a set of materials to use.

Ms. Hall asked if we have space available for this program. Mr. Drezek stated that each school can provide a room.

Ms. Hall stated the teacher training will start in the spring of 2013 and will start the program in September 2013 in grades K, 2 and 4. Will there be additional training for staff the following year. Ms. Rolland stated there would be additional training the following year. We would repeat the curriculum integration and training.

Mr. Johnson asked what kind of infrastructure is needed in this dedicated room. Ms. Rolland stated having additional power outlets and the internet would help. Some units will be setup so the students can finish the project at home.

Mr. Fealy stated each student will be assigned a kit. He asked if the student kits can go home so their parents can work with them on the assignment. Ms. Rolland stated the kits will need to stay in the room. Pieces from the kits can get lost. Story Starter can be done at home with their parents online.

Mr. Fealy asked about the benchmarks to evaluate the success of the program and do you have any results regarding the program. This is important for the parents that will hear that their children are playing with LEGO's while in school. Ms. Rolland stated they have anecdotal information regarding the success of the program. Presently research is being done with Build to Express by LEGO Education that will provide statistical data.

Mr. Fealy likes the process for developing student skills, manual dexterity and engineering processes. He does not see the value with reading skills. The story boards can align with our curriculum. He is trying to get a better understanding of this program and would like to see the writing results from the other schools.

Ms. Rolland will get this information from her colleagues at LEGO Education. Communications about the different programs are available to give to parents. Mr. Moynihan added if you have any metrics you use for evaluation, please let them know. We know what we are looking for. This is a joint program and if it is not delivering your needs we will work collaboratively to develop a scorecard to meet your needs. Mr. Fealy thanked both of them.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if this is something we will vote on tonight. Chairman Neville stated yes.

Mr. Jonaitis asked how many teachers with 13 or more years experience were involved with developing the LEGO Education program. Ms. Rolland does not have that data but will look into it.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if LEGO Education is made up with teachers. Ms. Rolland stated there are teachers that participated in development of the curriculum for the LEGO Foundation.

Mr. Jonaitis has a concern with some of the things going on in education and teachers collecting so much data. Throwing something else on them that is brand new is a concern for him.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if this is something that can be done as an afterschool program rather than in the classroom. Some of the students in grade 2 do not know this material or are even able to build it. A

lot of this sounds good but he is not sure if it should be used in the classroom. He would rather see this being used in an afterschool program as an extension of what they are learning.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if this will be done by classroom teachers or will there be a dedicated teacher that runs the room. Ms. Rolland stated we are asking the classroom teachers to teach things in a different creative way by using the LEGO Education program in a dedicated classroom. We are not adding to the teacher's day. Not all students attend afterschool programs. Mr. Jonaitis added that this program does not require adding additional staff.

Mr. Jonaitis is concerned with teachers doing lessons plans in the spring and over the summer. He likes this but would prefer it to be done afterschool. Ms. Rolland stated we are not asking the teachers to do anything more. They will teach in a different way. Teachers across the country are all facing the same concerns Enfield teachers are facing. Teachers will weave this into their curriculum so students will all receive the same instruction. It levels the playing field for all students from all different socioeconomic backgrounds.

Mr. Jonaitis stated teachers are under the gun now to do so many different things now. Things are different now from when he started teaching. That is one of the reasons he retired from teaching. We are teaching to the test. He is not sure if bringing this program in now is the correct time for this. He does not believe that we need to reach every child the same way equally. Children learn differently and have different learning styles.

Mr. Johnson asked if there is data available that shows how students have improved by using this program. Some kids are shy and some kids clown around. Does your data show improvements with student's attitudes? Ms. Rolland stated the data would be anecdotal. She is not sure how you would measure emotion. She has seen improvements in students. There are rules about judging and rules for respect. Students will express themselves in the classroom. It is impressive to see them recite the rules. Students see this as a safe way to express themselves about what the story means to them.

Mrs. Szewczak stated you are looking for a 3 year commitment from us. What will happen in year 3? Ms. Rolland stated in year 3 we hope to be spreading this program out to other school systems. LEGO Foundation will set aside money to whatever school system accepts this immersion program. We hope that Enfield will continue with the program after 3 years and we would provide you with the materials for the grades you will continue this program in. LEGO is not going anywhere. We will be here to support you.

Mr. Fealy asked how this will impact gapping with different socioeconomic backgrounds. Ms. Rolland does not have data but can get that from LEGO Education. Students in NC gave presentations where teachers from all over came to listen. After the presentations were done, you could not tell who were the ELL students and the special education students. There were several other comparisons that were used. That was amazing to see the confidence in the students and how they worked together collaboratively.

Mr. Fealy asked if parents can purchase this to work at home. Ms. Rolland stated there are some LEGO Education items available on line. They are offered to home schooled students. There is a learning component to this and they do not want to give this out to everyone without proper training.

Chairman Neville stated he believes the students will buy into this program. His concern is getting the parents and the community to support this program. Do you have materials we can share with them? Ms. Rolland stated we can have some representatives that can speak to the parents about the program. We also have some materials and literature parents can read and see. LEGO Education is about learning. We also have videos they can view. This is something we can arrange for our representatives to meet with parents about LEGO Education.

Chairman Neville stated we can also use E-TV and can have your representative's talk about the LEGO Education program. We can also show progress about the program and bring students to

show this. Teachers are already using other kinds of props and devices to teach the children. Motivating students is a big issue. LEGO is motivating in itself. He does not believe there are too many kids that do not know what Lego's are. We saw that today at JFK with the Leadership Program. The students jumped right into it and went farther than he would have with the creativity. Mr. Jonaitis is correct by stating we are all worried about adding additional things to teacher's day. This may be easy because we are tapping into something they already know.

Mr. Jonaitis stated if we were to do this he would rather see it be done to different groups. If a group wanted to do this that would be fine. This program might not suit all students learning needs. Students do not learn the same way.

Chairman Neville stated if we all had a box of LEGO's we would all come up with something different. Ms. Rolland stated we have an exercise where we ask adults to build a duck. You would be amazed at how differently they all look at the end.

Mr. Johnson stated parents would need some kind of training to use this. Is this something that could be provided via E-TV or by a video for parents to view at the library? Ms. Rolland stated that is an interesting thought and she would need to look into it. She does not know if something like that is available in the homeschooling package. She is not sure if that is something that is part of the LEGO charter.

Mr. Johnson is interested in getting some kind of training out to the parents so they will have a better understanding of what the students will be learning. Ms. Rolland stated we can hold a building session using Build to Express. If there is an event at the end of the year we can show what the children have learned in all of the subjects and how the students have progressed using the LEGO Education program.

Mr. Moynihan would love to collaborate more with you in this area. We do not understand parents from an educational point. We may need to develop some things in this area for parents to use with their children. We are more than willing to customize items in this area.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if the teachers are aware that you are looking into this program. Ms. McKernan stated that we presented this to the principals and to the Curriculum Committee and we are bringing this to the Board for approval. If approved we create a curriculum integration team in January to see what items fit with our curriculum at this time and where we could integrate. We will not change our curriculum. We will use this to help students visualize by using this program. If approved tonight, she will work with the principals and lead teachers to work with Ms. Rolland and herself identifying curriculum and find integration points.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if this is something all the teachers would be doing, not just a particular grade level. Ms. McKernan stated we will start with teachers in grades K, 2 and 4. We can use professional development days for training.

Mr. Jonaitis stated teachers have not been consulted yet. He has trouble with implementing a new program. You are putting the cart before the horse. We are already doing so many creative things in the classroom now.

Ms. McKernan understands Mr. Jonaitis' point of view and believes many teachers will embrace this program into new areas. We did not want to discuss a program that we did not have Board approval for.

Mr. Jonaitis stated our teachers will embrace anything for the students. With so much stress being placed on math and reading we have been taking from science and social studies at the elementary level. That is why students are entering middle school not knowing this information. He would like to start this as a pilot program with one grade at each school and see how it works.

Ms. Hall asked how the principals received this concept when it was presented to them. Ms.

McKernan stated they were excited about it. It will enhance student learning and will have a positive affect with student writing in science, social studies and literature. She was very excited during the Wreaths Across America program and could just see the students writing about this.

Ms. Hall asked Ms. Rolland how this program was introduced in Denmark. Ms. Rolland stated it was presented very similar to how it will be presented here – staggered by grades. They collaborated with the teachers and integrated it in to their curriculum. It wasn't perfect. That is why we will have a pedagogic advisor as an additional resource. They were very open with us with about what wasn't working.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this is an integration process. This is a way to enhance what the students are learning. As a parent she would love the enhancements for student learning and that we are reaching outside of the box as a district and are working with a community member forming this partnership.

Chairman Neville stated this is exciting to hear about. As we go through this process we will work-out the problems if we approve this partnership. This is something that all children love and can be connected to learning. This will not be used every day and will not be used for everything. We will use this where it is appropriate and where it will fit in to our curriculum. If we need to tweak the curriculum, we will do that to get the outcomes we are looking for. A leap of faith is needed. He sees this as an opportunity to make STEAM connections earlier in education. Why not partner with LEGO, a member of our community.

Ms. Hall stated she is in favor of doing something that brings the classroom alive with a curriculum that works and excites the students.

Chairman Neville thanked Ms. Rolland and Mr. Moynihan for a wonderful presentation and offering this wonderful opportunity for the students in Enfield. This will be addressed later on the agenda under New Business.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Rachel's Challenge – December 15th Acts of Kindness – as presented

Dr. Schumann distributed a list from Mr. Coccia regarding random acts of kindness students and community members will be doing on Saturday, December 15th. He encourages Board members to attend the pancake breakfast. There are many volunteers involved in this event.

- b. Superintendent's Book Club – as presented -

The location for the Superintendent's Book Club has been relocated to JFK due to the number of attendees.

- c. Special BOE Meeting – December 18th – as presented
- d. School Closings for Christmas Break – as presented
- e. Personnel Report – as presented

8. AUDIENCES – None

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Approval if any, on a LEGO Systems Partnership**

Mr. Fealy moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education adopts a partnership with LEGO Education.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis has concerns with this partnership. Nothing will work well if the teachers are not willing to do this. We owe the teachers the courtesy of getting their opinion on this first.

Mr. Fealy encourages that we introduce this program to the teachers and get their feedback on this. He would like to see some of the kits being passed out to the teachers for their input. He likes that this program that is not teaching to the test. This teaches the students how to learn. He agrees with Mr. Jonaitis that this should not be dictated down and communication is needed.

Mr. Jonaitis stated this is a teaching tool. This should be one tool among many other tools used in the classroom. He believes the parents that can afford to buy these kits for their children will have an advantage. You will create an elite group of students. He believes this will be the same group of students that parents are reading to their children, working with them on math problems and are the leaders in the class. He is leery about immersing an entire class into this. He would rather see different groups working on different things.

Mrs. LeBlanc understands what Mr. Jonaitis is saying about leadership. This can also give the students opportunities that do not have LEGO's at home.

Mr. Jonaitis discussed a program called Nature's Classroom with Board members that he participated in many years ago. They would take a group of 90 children to Swanzey Lake in New Hampshire. Everything was done as groups. At the end of the week, the shy students had more confidence and friendships were found. He can see something like this being beneficial.

Mr. Johnson likes this program. Students can build anything and will not be wrong. You will have leaders and other students will develop to be leaders. We are teaching them to create, develop and use their imaginations. We are teaching them how to learn and to think outside of the box.

Ms. Hall stated the experience Mr. Jonaitis spoke about was excellent. We are discussing students having that same result in the classroom. The students will work together collaboratively and will end up with 21st century skills.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to see the students choose to do this because they have an interest in it. There will be some students that will not be able to do this and will get frustrated, some students will throw the LEGO's, and some students will find ways to make this idealistic program to just be another thing very quickly. This is why he would like them to choose what they would like to do.

Mr. Fealy appreciates the comments. Excellence should not be discouraged. This will become a continuum of the students learning process. This will be an additional tool that will be used for teaching. He does not believe anyone will object to an additional tool to reach students in a different way.

Ms. Hall added this tool will not be used every day or all day long.

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

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Hall stated that a number of items were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

Chairman Neville stated the minutes from the first meeting were included in the Board update packet. Another meeting was held prior to the Board meeting and those minutes have not been prepared yet.

Ms. Hall believes that a number of the items listed on the agenda for the Executive Committee should

be part of the discussion for the whole Board. ITPC is one of the items. Chairman Neville stated that was not on the Executive Committee Agenda. Ms. Hall stated it was discussed at the previous meeting held.

Ms. Hall believes the Community Conversation Discussion should be addressed by the entire Board. Mr. Fealy asked if that is coming from the discussion held by the Executive Committee. Ms. Hall would like to see more detail in the minutes that will convey the nature of the discussions held.

Chairman Neville reported at tonight's Executive Committee meeting we discussed items in order to get input and direction regarding the 2014 Community Conversation. Is this something we want to do, what will the costs will be for this conversation. Once we receive the information on this, we will report it to the Board and the Board will make this decision.

Chairman Neville stated they discussed Rachel's Challenge. We were challenged to do this. This is something the Board can decide to do or if we will all do something differently or as a group.

Ms. Hall believes since the Board was challenged to do something, it should be a Board discussion not an Executive Committee discussion.

Mrs. Szewczak added this can be discussed under Board Committee Reports. Chairman Neville stated this was just discussed before the Board meeting tonight. Ms. Hall stated this is current and should be discussed now under Board Committee Reports.

Mr. Fealy appreciates the points Ms. Hall is referring to. It should be a Board Committee Report, but unless it is something that is pressing or pending now, it would be premature to have the report since you just met an hour before tonight's Board meeting.

Chairman Neville stated we will try to get the minutes out quicker and with more content is reasonable. Ms. Hall stated a brief review of what happened should be included in the minutes along with the attendance.

Chairman Neville reported that he met with Dr. Schumann, Mr. Drezek and Dr. Pongratz regarding the high school consolidation. We addressed some areas that need to be settled quickly like the name of the high school. Some people would like to call it the Enfield Consolidated High School.

Ms. Hall stated the committee is looking at our Board Policy #9610 The Naming of Schools. Chairman Neville stated that policy is only for naming a school. The policy does not address changing a name of a school. Ms. Hall added we used that policy when we named the Head Start Building. Chairman Neville stated that was a new school. The consolidated high school will not be a new school. Ms. Hall stated it will be the equivalent of a new school.

Mr. Jonaitis added not if you want the funding for the school – it is considered renovate to new. Mr. Johnson agreed with Mr. Jonaitis and Chairman Neville. Chairman Neville added it is on the same site and is being built to new and brings up a whole set of other issues. This is why it was brought up as a discussion item.

Chairman Neville reported that we also discussed school colors, mascots and ways to bring this information out to the community. One of the questions was who makes this decision. It will be the Board of Education that makes these decisions. This will be discussed at the Board level and he has asked Dr. Schumann to put these issues on a future agenda for discussion by the full Board.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this is a sensitive issue and we will need to publicize this discussion prior to the Board meeting. This way community members can be present to address this sensitive issue.

Chairman Neville explained what a community conversation was to Dr. Schumann and about the setup. He will look into locations and costs. Ms. Hall added that Ms. Amy Witbro has arranged for all of our past community conversations in the past. Mr. Drezek stated we shared that information at

the committee meeting and will include that in the detailed minutes.

Chairman Neville reported that we discussed the December 18th special meeting and answered some questions from Dr. Schumann regarding the evaluation process. We discussed the January 12th special meeting with Mr. Bob Radar. He has a pilot for the Board on self assessments that he will send to us to complete prior to the meeting. This will help him with the January 18th special meeting when discuss prioritizing the budget.

Dr. Schumann stated we discussed a personnel issue and student issue.

That concludes Chairman Neville's Executive Committee report.

Mr. Jonaitis asked how the Student Issues Committee went.

Mr. Grady reported the committee looked at our policy and students being allowed to use devices/cell phones in school. We also discussed BYOD (bring your own devices) and how they can used. This is an ongoing discussion.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if there were representatives at this meeting. Mr. Grady stated the administrators were invited to the last Student Issues Committee meeting and gave us input on using devices in school. Our next meeting is scheduled in January. He would have reported on this if he had additional information. It is still an ongoing discussion.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Chairman Neville stated Mr. Johnson requested to have Senator Kissel, Representative Kiner and Representative Alexander attend a future Board meeting. It has been confirmed. They will attend the January 22nd Board meeting as Board guests and will be prepared to discuss potential budgetary issues at the State Legislature. In the past, Board members have had healthy discussions with them regarding unfunded mandates. He encourages Board members to get your questions together and we can give them to our officials prior to January 22nd Board meeting. Send your questions to Dr. Schumann and he will forward them so they can prepare to get the necessary answers.

Ms. Hall stated she will have questions after the Governor has made his budget.

Chairman Neville read that one Enfield school has been listed as being in risk or under review for their performance. This is the CREC Public Safety Academy that is located in Enfield but is not one of our schools.

Chairman Neville attended the Torchlight Parade and Choral Sing. He congratulated everyone involved in this program. It was a wonderful community event. It brought the community together.

Chairman Neville also attended the Wreaths Across America program at Parkman School along with many other Board members. This was a memorable event that was held this morning. He thanked everyone involved in this wonderful community event especially Mrs. Gates and Mrs. Sampl. The students were outstanding.

Chairman Neville presented Mr. Charles L. Johnson III with a plaque listing the years of his service to the Enfield Board of Education. This is Mr. Johnson's last regular Board meeting he will attend. He thanked you for your service and wished him well and congratulated him for his dedication to the students of Enfield.

Ms. Hall stated she has looked at the scores from across the state and we are doing very well in our DRG/ERG. The schools that scored in the 90's were the more affluent towns. The CMT scores did not go down after the elementary reorganization. Next year she believes we will do even better than holding our own with the newly introduced performance index. She feels very positive about our schools.

Mr. Fealy thanked Mr. Johnson for his leadership and participation on the Board of Education.

Mr. Fealy stated Enrico Fermi held their Safe Grad Auction. He thanked everyone that attended and supported it. The PTO's have coordinated together and put together raffle prizes that were donated to the FHS Safe Grad in support of the Hope Harnett Scholarship. He thanked the PTO's for doing this.

Mr. Fealy stated our phone alert system is working well and he appreciates receiving communication messages. He thanked the administration for this new addition.

Mrs. Szewczak wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Mr. Grady attended the assembly for the Wreaths Across America at Parkman. This year he was a participant in the convoy. It was a different experience being part of it. He thanked the Worcester Wreath Company for starting this program many years ago. The entire community was part of this. He thanked Mrs. Lori Gates for her involvement. He also invited everyone to attend the ceremony on Saturday at St. Patrick's Cemetery on King Street. The ceremony will start at noon. We also have the Rachel's Challenge event going on Saturday morning.

Mrs. Szewczak stated the High School Building Committee met on Thursday and will meet every Thursday night at 6:30 PM at Enfield High. Signs will be posted in the school for the room location for the meetings. The rooms for the meetings will vary from week to week. She looks forward to seeing everyone there and getting your input.

Mr. Johnson encourages everyone to visit the schools and see what they are doing. You will be amazed by the student's artwork and musical concerts. You will have a great evening out and you will really enjoy yourself.

Mr. Johnson stated Enfield Street will hold a PTO meeting on Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00 PM in the Library. This is a good opportunity to see what is going on at Enfield Street.

Mr. Johnson stated NORAD will track Santa again this year. You can go to www.noradsanta.com to track him and you can also call 1-877-HiNorad to talk to someone on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Mr. Johnson thanked Board members for the plaque. He thanked everyone he has worked with on the Board of Education over the past few years. This will be his last regular Board meeting he will attend. He feels we have accomplished many great things and looks forward to seeing this Board and future Board's doing the same. He looks forward to reading about your accomplishments in the paper.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated there will be a Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 15th starting at 8:00 AM at St. Pat's Church Hall.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the JFK Grade 7 & 8 Band Concert will be held on December 19th at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium. She also attended the Wreaths Across America program at Parkman. It was amazing and the kids were great. She thanked Mrs. Gates and everyone involved in this wonderful program. It is a beautiful program. She also likes receiving messages and updates through SchoolMessenger.

Mrs. LeBlanc wishes Mr. Johnson good luck and wishes him well in his retirement from the Board. She also wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Mr. Jonaitis likes the Christmas Tree on the Town Green. He also likes what went on in Michigan regarding the right to vote. He cautioned the students doing acts of kindness and referred to act of kindness he had done in New Hampshire depositing nickels in the parking meters. Not everyone will be receptive to what you are doing.

Mr. Jonaitis said to Mr. Johnson – old soldiers never die they fade away, old Board members don't go away they just get quieter. He knows you will still be around and will be interested in education.

Mr. Jonaitis encouraged parents to buy their children a book for Christmas. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Regular Meeting minutes of November 27, 2012 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed with changes mentioned by Mrs. Szewczak.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

Ms. Hall asked what the Board was planning to do on Saturday for Rachel's Challenge as a group. We were challenged as a group. Do we have assignments for this?

Chairman Neville stated they sent out an e-mail looking for help, donations and money. He will go with the majority. He is volunteering and giving money.

Mr. Fealy stated they challenged the Board and we can do things individually. That is how he took the challenge.

Ms. Hall thought it was a group challenge.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Leblanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak that the board enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining Unit(s) and Matter(s) Related to Personnel Issue(s) at 9:37 PM

The Board reconvened to the Enfield Room for the Executive Session. Joining the Board in Executive Session were Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek.

The Executive Session ended at 9:55 PM. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak to adjourn the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2012.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Donna Szewczak
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2012**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on December 18, 2012.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Jonaitis, Tina LeBlanc, Charles Johnson, Vin Grady, Donna Szewczak, Kevin Fealy, Jennifer Rancourt, and Timothy Neville

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joyce Hall

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Schumann, Superintendent and Mr. Christopher Drezek, Deputy Superintendent

Chairman Neville stated the Board of Education will hold off discussing the superintendent's evaluation until another time. Given the tragic events from last Friday that occurred in Newtown, the Board of Education and Town Council members felt it was more important to discuss safety of our students and the rumors that have been circulating about Enrico Fermi High School. The Mayor invited Chief Sferrazza and some of his staff along with Dr. Schumann and Chairman Neville to attend the Town Council meeting held yesterday to address safety concerns. Tonight we will hold a similar meeting for Board members to discuss concerns with the Chief Sferrazza regarding school safety and rumors at Enrico Fermi High School.

5. **BOARD GUESTS**

- a. Chief Sferrazza and Enfield Police Department Representatives

Chief Sferrazza thanked Chairman Neville for the opportunity to address the Board, the public and to answer any questions you may have. Chief Sferrazza introduced Deputy Chief Collins, Command Staff Captain Hall and Captain Golden. We send our condolences to the parents, families, residents and first responders in Newtown. We watched the events as they unfolded at the police department last Friday and we were all praying that the outcome would be different.

Chief Sferrazza stated there are 3 separate incidents at Fermi. All three incidents involved juveniles that are also students. One of the juveniles threatened to commit an act of violence. We take all threats of violence seriously and do not consider it to be a prank. We view this as a serious crime. This threat was treated like a crime and was investigated thoroughly. There were no weapons involved and the juvenile had no access to weapons. The comment was alarming and the individual was charged with breach of peace. Because of the age of the juvenile, no names will be released.

Chief Sferrazza stated a second incident occurred involving threats of violence at the school. This incident was also thoroughly investigated. There were no weapons involved and no plans were found. This person was also charged with breach of peace.

Chief Sferrazza stated there was a third incident where threatening comments were also made and the incident was thoroughly investigated. This individual was also charged with breach of peace.

There were no weapons found.

Chief Sferrazza stated all three separate incidents were investigated fully to the extent of the law. We met and discussed these incidents with Dr. Schumann. Dr. Schumann handled this from the schools side administratively. The rumors of guns in the school were not true. We are limited to what we can comment on due to the ongoing investigation and the age of the juveniles involved. We appreciate this opportunity to address these three issues publically.

Chairman Neville stated parents are looking for immediate information. We are also in a situation similar to the police department, where we are limited to what we can say while an investigation is underway. Parents want to hear as much information as possible. We are not hiding anything, but the investigation needs to proceed without any interference from us.

Chief Sferrazza understands the parents concerns for immediate information regarding rumors. Notices can be sent out to the parents about the incident, what occurred, there was no danger and the police are handling this incident. This way the parents are hearing from the administration first hand instead of hearing things via social media outlets or by rumors.

Chairman Neville agrees with Chief Sferrazza. We just do not want to give out too many details about the ongoing incident. We have been sending out information to parents via SchoolMessenger. The superintendent is trying to get out the information as quickly as we know something.

Chief Sferrazza stated after the events from last Friday in Newtown, we knew this would be a tough week and increased police presence at the secondary schools and were rotating police officers at the elementary level. This was done as more of a comfort level. Based on the feedback we received, this was the right thing to do this week.

Chief Sferrazza stated an active shooter is individual(s) with one mission, a primary focus to take as many lives as possible with no escape plan. After Columbine in 2006, we trained all Enfield police officers to handle active shooters. They are to get into the building, get to the threat or the shooter and protect life. We train with State police, on our own and are prepared for the worst. The Town Council has provided us with the materials needed. We are ready and pray that we never need to use it. Residents should know that we are prepared. The Town Council is putting together a subcommittee comprised with Town Council members, Board members and Police department personnel is an excellent idea. Our safety procedures will be enhanced and he looks forward to working with this subcommittee.

Mr. Jonaitis stated students came forward to the administration regarding rumors and mentioned the rumors to their parents. He urges parents to verify the rumor with a school administrator, the police department or by receiving a SchoolMessenger notice. Rumors spread very quickly.

Chairman Neville added we do not always see what is going on social media networks. You can call or e-mail us with any rumors or call the police if someone's life is being threatened. The social media is so quick and fast, that we cannot afford to wait to have the rumors validated.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated you should call the school or contact the police when you hear something from your kids regarding rumors. There is a lot of anxiety regarding the Friday basketball game. Rachel's club was formed to bring the students together by doing random acts of kindness. She is hearing that parents do not want to send their kids to school out of fear. The kids and the parents want them to be safe while they are at school.

Chief Sferrazza stated that we are aware of the rumor. Kids can go to school and will be safe. We have discussed the pep rally and it plays an important role in the education system. His staff will be present and they have a plan in place to ensure the safety of everyone in attendance. He will also be present at the pep rally.

Mr. Fealy thanked Chief Sferrazza and Deputy Chief Collins for coming tonight and addressing our

concerns. He is interested in the subcommittee. As a parent, follow-up information will give the public reassurance with the extra steps taken to protect our children. We are on this track and benchmarks for the community would be beneficial.

Dr. Schumann thanked Chief Sferrazza, Deputy Chief Collins and his command staff for coming tonight. We have met and have had many telephone conversations and he looks forward to their guidance as we move forward with this process. We met with all of our principals and discussed school entrances, buzzers and cameras. We are in the beginning phase of analyzing our security. The students at Enfield High will no longer be allowed to use the parking lot to get from D Wing to A Wing. The doors at Enrico Fermi High are not equipped with buzzers. Starting on Wednesday, a person will be placed at the entrance doors that will be locked. A greeter will direct any person(s) to the main office to sign in and will be given a badge. Our Chief Finance Officer will look into cameras and buzzers. The perimeter of our buildings will remain locked and the only area for entering the schools will be where a greeter has been placed.

Mr. Fealy stated by closing the parking lot area, EHS students will be late getting to classes. He hopes the staff will work with the students traveling the longest distance from A to D wing will be given latitude. Dr. Schumann stated he has addressed this concern with Mrs. Krieger and exceptions will be allowed for students traveling the longest distance.

Mrs. Szewczak asked about the response time is with the police department in Enfield. Chief Sferrazza stated the times will vary at different times. To get to Fermi it is approximately 1-½ minutes. An active shooter call would be a priority call and a response would be around 3-4 ½ minutes. It could be less. We have a number of staff on hand. We could get more cruisers to a school quicker than a big metropolis could. Everyone would be at the site for a code 1 call as quickly as we could get there. He believes we would have staff at a school within 3-4 minutes.

Mrs. Szewczak added that is what she would expect based on her own experience.

Chairman Neville asked when there is an active shooter call does this call also go to the State police? Chief Sferrazza stated the call will go through our dispatcher not the State police. We have our own internal plan for active shooters if assistance is needed.

Mr. Johnson asked if the police department has plans to all of our schools and access points. Chief Sferrazza stated yes with scenarios for access points. Deputy Collins added that every police cruiser has plans.

Mr. Johnson stated he attended an active shooter training class and it was truly remarkable. We have SRO's at the secondary schools. Can we do the same in the elementary schools? We need to protect our children. Chief Sferrazza agrees with Mr. Johnson. We have been busy the past few days making plans. Providing some kind of SRO at the elementary level is something he has been thinking about. We will discuss this further as we progress with the subcommittee. Your concern is shared by the entire command staff.

Mr. Johnson stated schools are considered a gun free zone. Is there any possibility of having armed security in our schools? An active shooter will continue to shoot until he is stopped by equal force. The shooter in Newtown heard sirens when he took his own life.

Chief Sferrazza stated that is the norm with an active shooter. He thanked the Board for approving the Statute for hand gun possession by the police department when in a school. There is a provision in the law that would allow for this providing it is approved by the Board of Education. This was unanimously approved by the Board last year. Any sworn police officer can carry a concealed weapon on school grounds. Armed security guards have been discussed and we will be exploring all possibilities.

Mr. Johnson stated he agrees with police officers being allowed to carry weapons on school grounds. He asked if school staff can carry a weapon on school grounds.

Chief Sferrazza stated we have discussed this and it is illegal but the Board can waive this. He is not saying that he endorses this, but it is a possibility. This will be discussed further and it is his hope that the subcommittee can address this and will come up with a direction for implementation in a short timeframe.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we have certified staff members that are currently on the guard or who have received military training. Maybe we can give access to certain staff members by allowing them to get to a secure location to retrieve a weapon in the building is a possibility.

Mr. Grady commended the students for coming forward with the rumors they heard. He encourages them to continue doing this and the police department for not taking these rumors lightly. Our kids have changed and are standing up for their rights. They want to be safe in their schools and he commends them.

Chief Sferrazza agrees with Mr. Grady. We have seen changes in our airports. School shootings may not be common but it does not diminish the impact they have. We take this seriously. Many times the community is looking for us to make an arrest. There is a due process and we need to do our due diligence. Burden of proof and probable cause are needed to make an arrest. Every case will be investigated and if warranted an arrest will be made.

Mr. Fealy stated if you have a gun permit by the State of Connecticut and are trained to use a gun it should not be a prohibition. This Board has the right to secure our schools along with the police department and do it as quickly as possible. Are we conducting drills in our schools and for our staff to minimize harm or loss of life?

Chief Sferrazza stated the school has policies in place for this and he would defer this to Dr. Schumann. Mr. Fealy thought this would be coordinated with the police department. Chief Sferrazza stated when they were first put in place they were done collaboratively with the police. They have their own protocols in place for this.

Dr. Schumann stated per the Connecticut General Statute drills are conducted every month and three of the drills are crisis response drills and the other seven are fire drills. The plans for a crisis response or lockdown drills were made with the police department. We have reviewed our plans with the principals. The police department staff is trained and we are looking to them for additional training. They will be invited to attend our drills to critique us as well as classroom training. We will also use professional development time to work with our teachers for the safety in our schools. We are looking forward to working with the police department to enhance our drills.

Chairman Neville stated we changed our meeting to discuss safety in our schools. We want to move quickly by responding and not reacting. As we move forward with the subcommittee we will let the public know some of our goals. We will discuss some of our weaknesses in our security. We want to be able to respond and have policies and practices in place and will make sure our staff carries this plan out to keep our kids safe. Every school system out there is looking at ways to improve on safety. He thanked the police department for their help and cooperation. You always respond to all of our questions.

Chairman Neville thanked them for everything they do. We are one of the few towns that have gotten involved with active shooter drills and are a model for other towns. He applauds the police department and congratulates you for everything you do for our town. We will now have an audience participation session. He will refer the question to those that can answer them best.

6. AUDIENCES

Jill Krawiec, Town Farm Road – She is very impressed with the Board, the new superintendent and your responses. Last year we would receive letters home with the elementary school students. This year she has been receiving your robo calls but did not receive any responses from Fermi. She heard

about what was happening at Fermi and expected to receive follow-up messages. She had made arrangements to pick up her child at JFK and at FHS and went to Fermi after she had just heard about what happened in Newtown. She was really upset and wanted to speak to the principal. The office staff did not know who she was. The staff just told her it was a rumor. She receives information within a day from JFK. The robo calls are okay but more follow-up is needed. She does not want to see school staff members with guns. Police or someone hired for that job are the ones that should carry fire arms. Teachers are there to teach. People have problems.

Dr. Schumann would like to talk with Ms. Krawiec and asked her to call his office on Wednesday regarding your concerns at the high school.

Tom Sirard, D'Annunzio Avenue – Mr. Sirard stated you handled yourselves very well over the past couple days. He has small children and the events that occurred in Newtown touch him deeply. He is confident with our police department. He likes the idea of a subcommittee to address these issues. We have educational choices in Enfield. We have 2 parochial schools, CREC Public Safety Academy, Montessori School and the public schools. He would like all the schools in Enfield to be included in the plan. They are all part of our community. No idea should be discouraged. Armed personnel in our schools are not a bad idea. Active shooters stay away from guns. Retired veteran's, retired policemen or on the lines of the air marshals are not bad ideas. They would be there if needed. Our children are precious. Thank you.

Mark Morell, Old Abbe Road – Mr. Morell stated he came here with some concerns. We have a lot of plans within the fire service and he was wondering about our drills in the schools. You have answered that concern. Parent feedback from the schools needs improvements. The kids are doing a wonderful job. The schools need to share information about what is going on. On Monday, he went to Fermi because he did not know what was going on. He walked right into the building. Kids were there and he could have walked through the entire building and no one would have known he was there. There are after hours when children are in the building. Someone could leave something in the building at night. Metal detectors would not stop things from being brought in at night. This is a big security concern. Our schools are open at night. He knows this will be addressed by the subcommittee.

Dr. Schumann stated we are aware of this. The buildings are used by community groups into the evening. This is a concern for many communities. After hour use will be discussed by the subcommittee. We have never planned for a secure perimeter for after hours and this will be discussed. Mr. Morell stated he goes into many schools for his job and when they conduct lock down drills and are instructed to go to the office. He was shocked to see after Friday, you could walk right into the building.

Chairman Neville added we will look into all questions and areas. Our buildings are being used until 11:00 PM. We are being forced to relook at how we are using our buildings.

Mr. Morell added we use key cards at the fire department and that is how we get into the schools. This might be something to look into. Chairman Neville stated we need to look at what our options are and appreciate your ideas.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the elementary schools are locked after hours. She believes the afterhours concern is more at the secondary schools. The doors are also locked down by the gym area.

Judy LeDoux, Spruceland Road – Ms. LeDoux stated some schools are setup with buzzers. Rumors typically have some truth to them. She is glad to see that we are taking this seriously and trying to make our schools more secure. Our kids are living in a different world and she wants them to have a positive experience while in school. Examples are needed when a student does something wrong. The kids do not know what the consequences are regarding the discipline. They think nothing is being done and nothing will change. Make sure the students know that they have been arrested for making threats and that it will not be tolerated. She would like to see parents added to the subcommittee. She does not want staff members having guns in our schools. Leave this to our

professionals. Having a professional in our school system is a good idea. The robo calls were not enough. Additional notifications are needed. The information needs to be sent out on a timely fashion. Can the robo calls be sent to her cell phone.

Dr. Schumann stated the SchoolMessenger system has a parent portal. Information regarding this went home with students yesterday. You can log into the SchoolMessenger system. We will upload information daily. Once you make the changes, we cannot make any additional changes.

Chairman Neville stated we are in a similar situation as the police regarding sharing information. Chief Sferrazza stated per State law a juvenile is 17 years old or younger. It is against the law to release the name of any juvenile that commits a crime. If that individual was to go through a red light, we can release the name of a juvenile.

Ms. LeDoux is okay with not releasing a name. The kids need to know that the juvenile was arrested. The word of the arrest did get out through social media.

Dr. Schumann stated the students know very quickly what has happened to a juvenile pretty quickly. School administrators cannot discuss the discipline offense except with the parents and juveniles only per State law. We cannot make any reasonable connection between the student and the offense and the discipline. Announcements can be made but we are limited to what we can say.

Ms. LeDoux would rather hear from the administration instead of hearing things from the students and the rumor mill.

Mr. Fealy stated we need to communicate to parents. We approved during our last budget cycle additional counselors and social workers regarding mental health of students will also be addressed.

Dr. Schumann added we have social workers and school counselors on site. He is amazed at the amount of work they do working with our students and their families. They are there working with students especially at the elementary level that are exhibiting signs of distress or behavioral issues. We have good resources in place.

Chairman Neville thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and taking part in this discussion. Our intent is to continue this dialogue as we continue this process. Based on what we heard tonight, communication needs to be improved. If you hear a rumor, call us or e-mail us. We need to hear from you. We do not take this as a joke. We take this seriously and encourage you to contact us. We want to work and communicate with you. The police will also work with you.

Chairman Neville thanked Chief Sferrazza and his staff for being here.

7. ACTION, IF ANY, ON STUDENT SUPPORT ACADEMY

Mr. Jonaitis asked how this item was placed on the agenda. Chairman Neville stated it was planned to be on the Special Meeting agenda along with the Superintendent's evaluation and has time constraints to either approve the item or not approve it.

Dr. Schumann stated a student support academy was previously done at Enfield Street School and Thomas G. Alcorn and has been done across the state in other schools. The intent of the support academy is to provide students with additional support. Our teachers will work with students after school based on the information provided in the memo Board members received tonight. This student support academy concept has been discussed with the principals.

Dr. Schumann reviewed the schedule with Board members and is looking for the Board's endorsement for the student support academy.

Chairman Neville asked about the timeframe and financial cost associated with this program. Dr. Schumann stated with maximum participation with groups of 6 students using the hourly contract

rate for summer school, it would cost around \$20K to run the program. The funds would come from our salary account and the Finance Committee members are aware of it and could be allocated to this program.

Chairman Neville asked how many days a week and how long would the program run? Dr. Schumann stated it would start toward the end of January 2013 and would run until the middle of March 2013.

Mr. Grady asked if there would be bussing costs. Dr. Schumann stated there would be no transportation costs. Parents would pick the students up at the school.

Mr. Jonaitis stated this is similar to the program at JFK a while ago. He is wondering why regular after school help wouldn't work. You are talking about a small group of kids that need help. He can see the benefit with extra help. This is a long time period for kids to be in an academic setting. We have specialist that provide extra help for students that need it.

Chairman Neville asked how many students would receive help at the maximum level. Dr. Schumann does not have the information available but could get it.

Chairman Neville assumes these would be students that have been screened, identified, are having significant difficulties and are already receiving interventions. Dr. Schumann stated that is correct. We would use our benchmark data and would invite students to attend this support academy.

Mr. Johnson asked how many staff members are we looking at using for this support academy. Dr. Schumann stated it would depend on the number of students participating. We would need one teacher for every six students and approximately \$20K or 588 man hours. Ms. McKernan has made calculations based on the numbers she would like to see participate in this program.

Mr. Fealy appreciates the efforts. This adjustment is a reallocation of funds that have already been budgeted for. Is there a way that this support academy could be skyped or have web access so students not attending could also benefit from this program?

Mrs. Rancourt stated this is preparation for CMT and CAPT. She likes the structure for this and feels it would be a great program especially for students that struggle with tests like the CMT and CAPT. As a parent she would make the time to have her child attend this program. The structure of the program is different than regular after school help. This program has been discussed at the Curriculum meeting and she supports it.

Mr. Johnson stated students get nervous taking the standardized tests. He does not want to teach to the test. We are spending money and it makes no sense to him to put this kind of pressure on our kids. We are emphasizing teaching to the test by spending \$20K.

Mrs. Szewczak stated benchmarks for student learning is needed. We need to see where they are at and where they need additional assistance by these standardized tests. She likes Mr. Fealy's idea.

Mr. Fealy stated it could be a subsequent area for assistance. He thought the need for this program was to help students in the deficiency areas. If this is for test prep his opinion would be different. If this program is to receive additional curriculum content that will lead towards being able to take a test better.

Chairman Neville stated we are looking at the student's skill levels and their proficiency. This program would be based on skills. They would be learning life skills. By getting these skills, they will be more successful. These additional skills learned would help to close the gap a little bit more.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we should strive to get maximum participation. This will help kids get further. There are students that are just getting by. The additional help will help them to succeed. We should use our efforts to maximize this program.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the benchmarks are identified and the reason for this program is for the kids to do better on the CMT and CAPT tests. If that is not the reason, what we are saying is our curriculum is not working for these students. That is what needs to change. We can't have students going to a regular day program and have them get additional schooling. If they need help in certain areas it should be done for the most part during the regular school day. This could be accomplished by extending the regular school day by 15 minutes.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated students are receiving CMT prep during the day. This is extra help. There are kids with learning difficulties beyond the CMT/Math/Reading blocks. This is a way to offer additional help. She feels this is a win-win.

Mr. Johnson believes this will help them learn how to cram for a test. By doing this they will not learn anything. This is what he is afraid of. They will not retain anything.

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves a Student Support Academy starting on January 24th through March 14th, 2013 with a maximum budget of \$20K.

Discussion:

Mr. Fealy has a child with reading comprehension concerns that has impacted his ability to focus on reading skills needed. He does not recommend teaching to the test prep. He is encouraged about this program because if his child's needs were addressed sooner, his time in high school would be more enjoyable. His son needs the skill-set and this program can provide this. If he finds out the students are not receiving the skill-sets needed, this program's progress should be re-evaluated. We need to benchmark the program's success in a month. He wants to see tangible results in the content core areas.

Mrs. Rancourt feels this a good time for this program. The kids are getting extra help during the day. This will help the students that have not mastered the skills they should have mastered. There are students receiving additional help. Small group one-on-one instruction is needed and this is a great time to be starting this program.

Mr. Johnson asked if there is any benefit to having them stay after school for an hour and a half. Would after school help be better? He would like to discuss this with educators that have used this program to see if it is beneficial or are we teaching our kids how to cram for a test.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the more exposed you are the more you learn. This is something kids should be doing at home with their parents. There is good to this program. He does not like the long day.

Mr. Johnson asked if this is worth \$20K. Mr. Jonaitis stated that would be up to you to decide.

Mr. Jonaitis stated this was presented by Ms. McKernan at a curriculum meeting and you received a detailed presentation on this. This is information we did not receive. Mrs. Rancourt stated Dr. Schumann reviewed what the program will entail. Mr. Jonaitis stated this is the second time something has been presented that the entire Board did not know about.

Chairman Neville added anyone can attend these meeting. We are bringing this up for the entire Board to approve. Mr. Jonaitis stated this is just like the Lego program. We are being asked to vote on something before we understand it. We are not going about this the correct way. Did we check with staff members about this program to see if there is interest?

Mrs. Szewczak stated Ms. McKernan checked with staff to see if there was interest. That is why we are bringing this up before the Board for approval. If there wasn't support it would be a moot point.

Mrs. Rancourt stated there is staff support for this.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we need to stay away from cramming for tests. They are teaching strategies to reinforce what has been learned by students in order to get them ready to move forward. All committee meetings are open to the public. She would love to see additional people at the Finance meetings.

Chairman Neville stated our kids have gone through informal and formal assessments. We have tried all kinds of assessments by this point. Some of the students are still not learning and need additional learning assistance. Some kids need the information dissected so they can understand. This is identified skill training to allow these kids to master the skills needed.

Mr. Fealy stated the \$20K is already in the budget. We will not be taking away from anything or impact anything already in the budget. Dr. Schumann stated you are correct. This program will not take away from anything. The funds are already in our salary line item account.

Mr. Johnson stated just because we have extra money we do not have to spend it.

Mr. Johnson asked if the students will be learning skills or will they be learning how to answer similar questions that will be on the tests. Dr. Schumann stated the program is to provide additional assistance to students in strengthening their skills and expanding their content knowledge. There will be a question and response section to the academy to know if gains are being made.

Mr. Johnson asked if we can change the motion to look at the program in three weeks to see if gains are being made and if the program is working. If no gains are being made, the program should then be disbanded as mentioned by Mr. Fealy.

Chairman Neville would like to see the assessment data come back to us at the end of the program so we can see the gains. Evaluating the program after 3 weeks would not give us an accurate assessment. The information learned after the completion of the academy will give us information needed for down the road. We need to address the skills now especially with the elementary kids.

Mr. Johnson asked if we would provide the snack for the kids. Mrs. Szewczak stated we can move the snack time around if needed.

Mr. Jonaitis does not believe skills will be mastered in 6 weeks. If this is going to be a program that is not part of the normal day why can't we hire teachers to run this program instead of using the contractual ETA rate? We might be able to get twice as many staff.

Mrs. Szewczak stated we don't want to teach to the test but we are putting a lot of pressure on these kids mastering skills. We might need to use other measures. We also need to measure how the student feels taking these test. If they are confident, they will go further and will succeed.

Mr. Jonaitis stated when the test starts you cannot read to them or help them. Mrs. Szewczak has seen this. Once they hear the clock has started, fear comes over them.

Mr. Fealy asked if this is a trial to see if this program will work. He supports it. It will help identify deficiency with our education and can help to identify as mentioned by Mr. Jonaitis areas in our curriculum that are not working. We need to improve students understanding of material. This is a direct educational issue. Has Ms. McKernan done this support academy in other schools? If she has, we will have a benchmark in some level to see if it is working here.

Mr. Johnson asked if this can be broken up into two days for the kids in the elementary grades. Mrs. LeBlanc stated you will run into a problem with students doing other activities. You might lose some kids by splitting this into two days.

Chairman Neville stated he is looking at this as a pilot. Let's see how it works. We need to address the student's needs now.

Mr. Johnson would like to know if this program is being used at other schools and if they are successful. He thinks it is worth making some calls tomorrow to find out about this. Mrs. Zalucki stated they are using this program at PSA and MLC.

Chairman Neville believes it is worth trying this program out now.

Mr. Johnson asked what the grade levels are at MLC & PSA. Mrs. Zalucki stated grades 6-12.

Mr. Fealy shares Mr. Johnson's concern regarding the length of the day for the elementary students. He is ok with trying this program out for six weeks. Chairman Neville agrees with trying out this pilot program.

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

Chairman Neville stated several subcommittees will be formed with the Town on efficiencies, facilities and security. If you would like to be on any of the subcommittees please let him know. He will be meeting on Thursday for their Governance meeting and will discuss membership to these subcommittees.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Fealy to adjourn the Special Meeting of December 18, 2012. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Donna Szewczak
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary