

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

**Time-Place:**

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

**Date: 01/12/16**

1. **Call to Order – 7:00 PM**
2. **Invocation or Moment of Silence – Lori Unghire**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance – Lori Unghire**
4. **Fire Evacuation Announcement**
5. **Roll Call**
6. **Board Guest(s)**
7. **Superintendent’s Report**
  - a. **Student Representatives Report**
  - b. **January Events**
8. **Audiences**
9. **Board Members’ Comments**
10. **Unfinished Business**
  - a. **Transition Update**
11. **New Business**
  - a. **Superintendent’s FY2016-17 Budget Presentation**
  - b. **Discussion and Action if any, regarding High School Consolidation Advisory Committee**
  - c. **Discussion and Action if any, regarding 2015-17 BOE Priorities**
12. **Board Committee Reports**
  - a. **Building Committee**
  - b. **Curriculum Committee**
  - c. **Finance Committee**
13. **Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting Minutes – December 1, 2015 & Regular Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2015**
14. **Approval of Accounts and Payroll**
15. **Correspondence and Communications**
16. **Audiences**
17. **Executive Session**
18. **Adjournment**



# ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

---

**Date:** January 12, 2016  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann  
**Re:** Superintendent's Report

- a. **Student Representative Report(s):** Enclosed in your packet, you will find a report from both BOE Student Representatives regarding events/happenings at their respective high schools. Student Representatives may have some additional information or comments to share with Board members.
- b. **January Events:** Listed below are some of the events that are happening during the month of January:
- Listen & Learn with PTO Members will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the JFK Library;
  - JFK Chorus Concert will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the JFK Auditorium;
  - FHS/EHS Chorus Concert will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Fermi Auditorium;
  - Whitney Chorus Concert will be held on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Whitney APR;
  - Crandall Chorus Concert will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Crandall APR;
  - Parkman Chorus Concert will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Parkman APR;
  - Preparing for the Kindergarten Transition will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the JFK Auditorium;
  - BOE Curriculum Meeting will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in the Academic Conference Room;
  - Crandall Instrumental Concert will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Crandall APR;
  - BOE Finance Meeting will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM in the Board Conference Room.



# ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

---

**Date:** January 12, 2016  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann  
**Re:** Transition Update

At this time, I will update the Board regarding the Enrico Fermi/Enfield transition.



**ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

---

**Date:** January 12, 2016  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann  
**Re:** Superintendent's FY2016-17 Budget Presentation

At this time, I will present the FY2016-17 Proposed Budget to the Board.



# ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

---

**Date:** January 12, 2016  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann  
**Re:** Discussion and Action if any, regarding High School Consolidation  
Advisory Committee

Chairman Sirard will begin the discussion regarding the function of a High School Consolidation Advisory Committee.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriately regarding the High School Consolidation Advisory Committee.



# ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

---

**Date:** January 12, 2016  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Dr. Jeffrey A. Schumann  
**Re:** Discussion and Action if any, regarding 2015-17 BOE Priorities

Members of the Board of Education will discuss the 2015-17 BOE Priorities. Listed below are the Board's proposed priorities:

### 2015-17 Board of Education Priorities

- Continue to pursue positive relationship with all stake holders.
- Pursue partnership with Town Council to develop long-range facility plans.
- Ensure transition to a consolidated high school as smooth as possible.
- Promote a positive direction for Enfield Public Schools.
- Continue to pursue innovative public and private partnerships.
- Continue to refine the budget process.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriately regarding the 2015-17 BOE Priorities.



## **EHS/FHS Student Representative Reports – January 12, 2016**

### **Enfield High & Enrico Fermi High School:**

- FHS/EHS Chorus Concert will be held in the FHS Auditorium at 6:30 PM on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

<b>Monday, January 11</b>			<b>Game Time</b>	<b>Bus Time</b>
<b><u>HOME</u></b>				
EAST HARTFORD MS	@	JFK GIRLS BASKETBALL	3:45 P.M.	
BOLTON (JV)	@	EHS GIRLS BASKETBALL (Fermi High)	5:30 P.M.	Fermi Gym
BOLTON (Varsity)	@	EHS GIRLS BASKETBALL (Fermi High)	7:00 P.M.	Fermi Gym
<b><u>Away</u></b>				
JFK Boys Basketball	@	East Hartford Middle School	3:45 P.M.	2:30 P.M.
<b>Tuesday, January 12</b>				
<b><u>HOME</u></b>				
TOLLAND (JV)	@	FERMI BOYS BASKETBALL	5:30 P.M.	
TOLLAND (Varsity)	@	FERMI BOYS BASKETBALL	7:00 P.M.	
<b><u>Away</u></b>				
Enfield Boys Basketball	@	Bolton High School (JV)	5:30 P.M.	4:00 P.M.
Enfield Boys Basketball	@	Bolton High School (Varsity)	7:00 P.M.	-----
Fermi Girls Basketball	@	Tolland High School (JV)	5:15 P.M.	3:45 P.M.
Fermi Girls Basketball	@	Tolland High School (Varsity)	7:00 P.M.	-----
<b>Wednesday, January 13</b>				
<b><u>HOME</u></b>				
TOLLAND MS	@	JFK BOYS BASKETBALL	3:45 P.M.	
SOMERS	@	EHS WRESTLING (Fermi High)	6:00 P.M.	Fermi Gym
<b><u>Away</u></b>				
JFK Girls Basketball	@	Tolland Middle School	3:45 P.M.	2:30 P.M.
Ice Hockey	@	E.O. Smith-Tolland (UConn Arena)	4:00 P.M.	2:05 P.M.
Fermi Wrestling	@	E.O. Smith High School	4:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.
<b>Thursday, January 14</b>				
<b><u>HOME</u></b>				
CANTON (JV)	@	EHS BOYS BASKETBALL (Fermi High)	5:30 P.M.	Fermi Gym
CANTON (Varsity)	@	EHS BOYS BASKETBALL (Fermi High)	7:00 P.M.	Fermi Gym
<b><u>Away</u></b>				
<b>Friday, January 15</b>				
<b><u>HOME</u></b>				
STAFFORD MS	@	JFK GIRLS BASKETBALL	3:45 P.M.	
SOUTH WINDSOR	@	FERMI GIRLS BASKETBALL (JV)	5:30 P.M.	
SOUTH WINDSOR	@	FERMI GIRLS BASKETBALL (V)	7:00 P.M.	

<u>Away</u>				
JFK Boys Basketball	@	Stafford Middle School	3:45 P.M.	2:30 P.M.
Enfield Girls Basketball	@	Canton High School (JV)	5:30 P.M.	4:00 P.M.
Enfield Girls Basketball	@	Canton High School (Varsity)	7:00 P.M.	-----
Fermi Boys Basketball	@	South Windsor High School	5:15 P.M.	3:45 P.M.
Fermi Boys Basketball	@	South Windsor High School	7:00 P.M.	-----
<b>Saturday, January 16</b>				
<u>HOME</u>				
<u>Away</u>				
Enfield Wrestling	@	Maloney High School	9:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.
Fermi Wrestling	@	East Catholic H.S. (Silk City Classic)	9:15 A.M.	7:00 A.M.
Fermi Indoor Track	@	Hillhouse H.S. (HK Invitational)	10:00 A.M.	8:00 A.M.
<b>Sunday, January 17</b>		<b>NO PRACTICE OR GAMES SCHEDULED</b>		



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 1, 2015**

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 1, 2015.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Tom Sirard.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tom Sirard
3. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Tom Sirard announced the fire evacuation announcement.
4. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Walter Kruzel, Raymond Peabody, Mike Ludwick, Tina LeBlanc, Tim Neville, Vin Grady, Stacy Thurston and Tom Sirard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lori Unghire

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

5. **AUDIENCES**

Mark O'Mara, King Court – He does not like the idea eliminating class ranking and weighted classes. Students need to excel. They need to be rewarded for extra effort. They are our future. He would like to know how you will be able to distinguish between them. Students need to be inspired. He pushes his children to excel to the best of their abilities. We should not take this away from them. We need to raise the bar so our children push themselves. We need to push them forward and up. We should not take away their incentives to excel.

Barbara DeSousa, Fairfield Road – She would like the Board to comment to her questions. She would like to hear the Board's opinion first. She feels the agenda is out of order. She believes changing the policy would be a disservice to our kids. The students work very hard getting into honor classes. Her son is taking A/P classes. She does not want us to take away their incentives. Class rank means a lot. What is the point of eliminating class rank?

Louis Kopacz, Carmella Terrace – Mr. Kopacz is proud of Enfield. He coaches in Enfield and is proud of the youth in this town. He has never been in any honor classes but his wife has. Our children are entitled to be challenged and to succeed. Some students deserve to take honor or A/P classes. All students are different and learn differently. Our children need to receive the same opportunities and expectations that other children are receiving in other school districts and private schools in Connecticut. We need to take pride in our kids. They are our future in Enfield. The students need to receive the credit they are due for taking honors classes and A/P classes. His son takes A/P Physics and the grades matter to him.

Terry Trombetta, Lawn Crest Road – Mrs. Trombetta would like to know where this was posted online. She heard about the changes and would like to know why this is being discussed. As a parent and educator, she is pleased with our A/P classes and rigor. She would like to know what research has been done. What will colleges look at if we take away class rank? Students are motivated by class rank to succeed. This needs to be across the board for all students. We do not want to take away from our high achieving students. Enfield needs to maintain our high quality education. We need to look at this closely before any changes are made.

Guy Beck, Cottage Road – Mr. Beck is happy with Enfield. His children graduated from Enfield. We moved here because of the education system. His children received a good education. Taking the Valedictorian and Salutatorian away will do our children a great disservice. We should encourage our kids to succeed and to be better than us. He thinks this idea is a poor idea. We have not seen the presentation. He feels this agenda was poorly setup. We do not have an opportunity to respond to the presentation before the Board will approve it.

Brenda Lumbert, Standish Street – Mrs. Lumbert believes that dropping the weighted courses and high level courses will hurt our kids. Weighting all classes equally will hurt our students. More schools in Connecticut use weighted courses than those that don't. Some colleges will remove the weighted classes. Making this change is not fair to our upper level students. Only 39% of our students are ready for college. Students will lose financial aid and scholarships if we remove weighted courses and class rank. Our kids deserve to be proud of their class rank. Our students work hard and deserve to receive the grades they work for. Honors classes and A/P classes should be weighted differently. All of our students deserve the grades they work hard for at all levels. Leveling the playing field will hurt our students. If this is the case, we shouldn't care about competitions. This is not the way to start our new high school. Our students work hard and deserve to be recognized for it. Please do not change class rank or weighted classes

Colene Ceniglio, Shannon Drive – Mrs. Ceniglio is concerned about us dropping A/P classes. Student's GPA is based on classes completed. The weighting of honors classes and A/P classes create rigor. Dropping weighted classes will not make our students better-rounded. Our students are taking many different level classes. A/P classes prepare our kids for college. Our students will still be competing against other schools to get into college. This is not the do less for more generation. Our students would not be prepared for college without honors or A/P classes. We do not want to lower the bar for our students at the new high school. We should be raising the bar for them. We do not want to hurt our students by eliminating class rank and weighted classes.

Kim Williams, Edgewood Drive – Mrs. Williams would like to know how many schools are not using weighted courses. What will be the impact on students applying for financial aid and scholarships? How will this affect our participation numbers if we make these changes? Our students need to be well rounded. Why would they want to take honor and A/P classes if all the classes are going to be calculated the same. She would like to see us keep the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. If we make this change, we cannot say we value education in Enfield.

Maureen Mullen, King Street – Mrs. Mullen is concerned with the contaminated soil at the CREC Public Safety Academy. She has seen staff and students on the hill. She would like to know how deep the cap of the soil is. DEEP has looked at the drainage from the burm that seeps into her property. She is concerned for the safety of the students. She would like the Board's liaison to share this concern with the CREC officials.

Jonathan LaPointe, Donna Street – Mr. LaPionte is a current student and is taking 2 A/P classes, a UConn Class and honors classes. He will be affected by these proposed changes. He stays up very late each night doing his homework and takes his grades very seriously. Class rank is needed. Students will be affected by this proposed change. Colleges look at the classes that students take. Taking higher level classes should be recognized by weighting the course. He could take easier classes but that is something he does not want to do. He tries very hard in school and his grades reflect this. You get where you are because of the hard work you do.

Catherine Smith, Iroquois Road – Mrs. Smith is concerned with the safety and security at the new high school. They do not have a phone system in place and are using runners. The doors

are left open during the day. Visitors are not signing in and out. The safety of the students concerns her. When will our kids be safe again?

Ashley Omabane, Thistle Lane – Ms. Omabane stated that she works hard for her grades. She is taking honor classes. What will happen if we change this? What will happen to the grades/credits that we have earned up to this point? Students take the chance and take weighted classes and will risk hurting their GPA if they don't do well in the class. Unweighted classes will affect your GPA and changing this will hurt students.

Abigail Bosco, Simon Road – Ms. Bosco works hard for the grades she receives. She is taking 4 A/P classes and honor classes. What will happen if we change the weighting of classes? Will all the work we have done be lost. Will this reflect our grades? She is taking honors and A/P classes and works really hard. If they aren't going to be weighted, why would anyone want to take them? Students will take the easy way out. You will lower our incentives to take honor classes if you make these proposed changes.

**6. ACTION IF ANY REGARDING BOE POLICY #5127.1 PURPOSES OF THE WEIGHTED GRADE SYSTEM – FIRST READING**

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody to refer Item #6 Action if any regarding BOE Policy #5127.1 Purposes of the Weighted Grade System to the Policy Committee to review.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Neville stated moving this item to the Curriculum Committee to review is very appropriate.

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

**7. CURRICULUM COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Enfield High Interim High School Principal Andy Longey and Enrico Fermi High School Principal Paul Newton presented to the Board and public the new daily schedule; 4.0 grading scale; course leveling, decile rank and the elimination of valedictorian and salutatorian.

Mrs. LeBlanc has a junior that is taking honor classes and a freshman who is taking average classes. They both earned the same grades and she understands what the student audience members are talking about. The students have earned the right to take honors classes because they have worked hard. Some kids take A/P classes and they work hard and want to take them. If we are going to change this, we cannot do this to the students now. We need to do this with the incoming freshman class. She does not want to see this taken away from those students that have been working hard for the past 3 years. We are bringing the students together next year and that is stressful enough. The A/P classes are hard and a lot of kids don't stick with them. Offering more A/P classes when we merge will allow for more flexibility. As a parent, she is concerned with this.

Mrs. LeBlanc appreciates us looking at this now. We are looking to see what we can do to make our 21<sup>st</sup> century high school even better.

Mr. Peabody agrees with Mrs. LeBlanc that we should not start this right away. It would be unfair to the students that have been working hard. How can we transition this? He would like to know how many of the NEAS&C colleges follow this. He thanked the parents for their research. He also looked at information. Colleges are looking at weighted scores. Class rank is used for scholarships and weighted classes count towards class rank.

Mr. Peabody asked if the Board leaves the weighted classes and this new method is accepted

around the country, could we revisit this again. We need a level playing field for our students. We have a good school system in Enfield. We need to be able to compete with other schools.

Mrs. Peabody would also like to get this information out to the public. We need to communicate this with the public and the parents. There are some concerns that need to be discussed.

Mr. Peabody would like to know the number of A/P courses and honor course we will offer. He would also like to know the cost for the A/P courses that the parents are paying for. We have discussed this at Curriculum meetings.

Mr. Neville stated it is nice to see everyone here tonight. The idea was presented to everyone tonight at the same time. There are many questions that need to be addressed. He likes this and understands it. Our students will be receiving over 1,000 hours of instruction time. He likes the idea of the Eagle Hour. Our students will be going off to college and this will give our students the opportunity to be on their own and the ability to work with staff and students during the school day. This will be good for the teachers. Our students will be given a new way to learn. Our students are quite adaptable.

Mr. Neville stated Valedictorian and Salutatorian students are very competitive. Recognizing the top 2 students is great. Having the students choose the speakers for graduations is in-line with what the colleges are doing. This might work for our commencement speakers.

Mr. Neville stated he was touched by what the students had to say about GPA. What happens to the students next year that have worked hard for 3 years? He would like to continue this discussion next week. He is not ready to make any decisions yet. We want the students to continue to work hard.

Mr. Neville would like to know how many schools in our DRG are doing this and how long have they been doing this for? What are the experiences of the schools and feedback from the parents and students?

Mr. Neville stated we have received feedback from the colleges and want to do what is best for the students. What percentage of colleges are doing this and what kind of colleges? Are they state schools or Ivy League schools?

Mr. Grady would like to receive a copy of the presentation. Is our current system hurting our students to get into college? Mr. Newton stated no.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated with the new schedule, students will not have the same classes every day. This could be a benefit for them.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated pre-calculus is not a weighted class. Mr. Newton stated they are leveled classes – this is a level I class which is the highest level.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the incentive will not be there for honors classes and not every student will take A/P classes.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated not every student will eat lunch during the Eagle hour. Mr. Newton stated they are not made to eat lunch now. Mrs. LeBlanc is not opposed to the Eagle hour. There are some benefits. She would like to observe an Eagle Hour in Manchester to understand it better.

Mr. Peabody stated earning a high school diploma is a stepping stone towards a higher degree. He loves the idea of 4.0 grading scale. He is also in favor of the schedules. He had this kind of a schedule when he went to high school.

Mr. Peabody thanked the parents for doing the research. This was a very respectful dialogue and he thanked them. There were some concerns regarding the procedure of the agenda. He thanked Mr. Newton and Mr. Longey for the presentation. He sees many new improvements for the new high school.

Mrs. Thurston asked if we will still be able to distinguish the top two students for the Uconn Scholarships. Mr. Longey stated the administration will be able to provide this information.

Mr. Neville stated most scholarships will go through the guidance department. Does converting the rank cause more work? Mr. Longey stated no, we will still know the students class rank. Mr. Newton stated the decile and GPA will be on the report card.

Mr. Neville asked about the scheduling of classes at Asnuntuck, will this continue? Mr. Longey stated we will continue to schedule these classes at the end of the day for students that participate. Mr. Newton added we also have the students that participate at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts.

Mr. Neville stated there are some prerequisite courses that are required before taking A/P classes. Colleges will see this as rigor. Mr. Newton added that parents have the option to override the class placement.

Mr. Neville added that the high school reform is still alive and students will be required to take 25 credits. Students will need to increase the number of credits they take. Mrs. Middleton stated this will take effect in 2021 starting with the freshman class of 2017.

Mr. Ludwick asked about decile ranks. Mr. Newton stated the students know their class rank. The difference can be .001. All the students work hard and are excelling.

Mr. Ludwick stated what will we do to recognize our Valedictorian and Salutatorian? If we are going to be a world class high school, competition, stress and achievement go along with this. Our students need to be recognized. Rank does matter. It is human nature to take the easier path,

Mr. Ludwick likes the idea of the Eagle Hour. Eliminating homeroom is a good idea. Discussing these items is a good idea. Our discussions have been respectful and should continue. We want to be a world class high school and need more rungs to the ladder. We need to challenge our students to be the best they can be. He would like to know how to get more students into these honors programs. We need more leaders. These kids are working really hard and need to be recognized. He likes the direction we are moving in. The application is off to a great start. We all want to succeed but sometimes you learn more by losing. We need to rethink the weighting of classes

Mr. Ludwick thanked Mr. Newton and Mr. Longey for the presentation. It was well thought-out. We still we need to figure out a way to honor our Valedictorian and Salutatorian. We recognize our Band members and our athletes. We need to recognize our top scholars.

Mr. Ludwick likes the scheduling and the Eagle Hour. We can continue to build on this.

Mr. Neville stated that we have all received e-mails and have questions. He would like to continue this discussion at the next Board meeting. He would like Mr. Newton and Mr. Longey to attend the next meeting to address these questions. He requested through the Chair, that any Board member questions should be sent to Mr. Drezek to avoid duplications so we can continue this discussion. Parents will also be able to ask questions at the next meeting. We need to vet this and there are still many misconceptions out there.

Mrs. LeBlanc would like to implement the changes with the incoming Freshman class. The incoming students will know the path they need to take when they enter high school. The students that have A/P classes and honors classes work should not be devalued. She would still like to see a Valedictorian and Salutatorian. She is so proud of these students for their hard work and looks forward to their speeches at graduation.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked the students for speaking tonight. She is glad the students came to this meeting. You have valued concerns.

Mr. Peabody echoed Mrs. Leblanc's comments.

Mr. Grady asked about a timeline needed for this. Mr. Newton stated the Program of Studies Night will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup>. We need to know a lot of these things before this. This will affect this and course selections.

Mr. Grady asked if this is an all or nothing proposal. Mr. Longey stated this is for the Enfield Community. We gave you an option of how the school can be done. It is not all or nothing.

Mr. Grady added that we have heard some good ideas tonight. We need to tweak some of the items.

Mr. Longey stated scheduling is very important.

Chairman Sirard thanked Mr. Newton and Mr. Longey for their presentation.

Chairman Sirard stated the Eagle Hour is basically a working lunch for the students and staff. Mr. Longey stated it could be if the students chose to do that. Mr. Newton added they can do many different things during this hour.

Chairman Sirard likes the 4.0 grade system vs. the 16 tiered grading system. He does not have any problems with this change. You will still be able to determine who is number one and who number two is for scholarship purposes. Both Mr. Newton and Mr. Longey agreed with Chairman Sirard.

Chairman Sirard stated back in his day tier III course stacking is what we used to call senior slacking. Mr. Newton stated some students do this. Mr. Longey is not sure of the percentage of students that are doing this.

Chairman Sirard stated we will be expanding the number of A/P course and restructuring honor classes. Mr. Newton stated some courses will be restructured. Students will have more choices now with expanded classes.

Chairman Sirard agreed about the students taking honors classes and A/P classes. We need to give them the credit they have earned. He would also like to phase this in as mentioned by Mrs. LeBlanc and Mr. Peabody. As a parent, he would also be upset if the work the students have done didn't count.

Chairman Sirard would like all Board members to send any questions they have about the presentation to Mr. Drezek.

Chairman Sirard asked audience members to send Board members any additional questions you may have.

Chairman Sirard stated an audience member made a comment about safety concerns at the

new high school. Are we having issues with the doors?

Mr. Schumann stated we were informed about the phone issue when they moved into the new wing and are working with the construction team to see who is responsible for purchasing this item. We anticipate this will be rectified quickly. As far as the doors, students are entering and exiting through the outside corridor all day long. This will need to be discussed further while the other parts of the building are under construction. We might need to address adding additional security for this area while the construction continues.

Chairman Sirard would like everyone to continue with the normal procedure of checking in with the office before entering the building.

Dr. Schumann added there is a make shift office that has been setup. Signs have been posted instructing visitors where to go.

Chairman Sirard stated if people are being told to just go in, that is problem. Dr. Schumann will look into this.

### **8. EGS PROPOSED STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES & LEADERSHIP**

Dr. Schumann presented his proposed student support services and leadership plan for the new high school. This plan will provide support and leadership for everyone in the building. The same team will be with the students as they proceed through high school. All students will be supported until they graduate. A high school diploma is important for our students to receive. The administration believes this team approach will work to support our students. There would be a grade 9/10 team and a grade 11/12 team. Each team would have an Academic Dean. You will get to know your students and can build relationships with the students. There would be an Associate Principal for each team. One Associate Principal would be responsible for scheduling. There would also be one Principal. This is a good plan to support our students so they can be successful.

Dr. Schumann added we will continue to work on this plan. We will present our budget in January and will use this model in the budget. We will save some money with this support system moving from two schools to one. We are happy with this plan and are starting to put the pieces together.

Mr. Ludwick stated the communication we are receiving tonight is a good dialogue to move forward. Having communication in the school is important.

Mr. Neville likes the idea that the staff will be with the same students and families over their 4 years at the high school. This support system will make us better. No students will fall through the cracks with this plan. We will get the opportunity to know the students better.

Mr. Neville stated so many nice things are going to happen at the new high school. We are looking at changes that will affect the students. This is a job well done.

### **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzal that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matters Related to Collective Bargaining. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Dr. Schumann and Mr. Drezek joined the Board in Executive Session. No Board action occurred during the Executive Session.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel to adjourn the Special Meeting of December 1, 2015.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 8, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on December 8, 2015.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Stacy Thurston, Vin Grady, Walter Kruzel, Raymond Peabody, Lori Unghire, Mike Ludwick, Tina LeBlanc, Vin Grady and Tom Sirard

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

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

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

- a. Student Representatives – as presented
- b. FY2016-17 budget Update – as presented
- c. Stowe Early Learning Center Open House – as presented
- d. BOE Retreat – as presented
- e. Christmas Break – as presented
- f. Superintendent's Recap & Next Steps – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES** - None

Brian Reale, Abbe Road – Mr. Reale would like the Board to keep the Valedictorian and Salutatorians. If this is eliminated, you will remove our incentive to strive to be better. As mentioned it would remove the competition and pressure but it is good to be competitive. This is a happy competition amongst the students. The competition has helped him and his friends to strive to be the best that we can. Thank you.

Alex Salisbury, Hoover Lane - Mr. Salisbury believes the Valedictorian and Salutatorians have helped him to strive to be a better student. He does not believe it has any affect towards negative competition. He does not have a problem with the 4.0 grading scale change. He feels the 3 tier grading system would work best. This helps to distinguish between the higher level courses. Thank you.

Alex Jensen, South Meadow Lane – Mr. Jensen has concerns with the speakers for the Valedictorian and Salutatorians. He would like a guest speaker but also wants the Valedictorian and Salutatorian to speak. He does not have a problem with the decile rank. Eliminating the Valedictorian and Salutatorian would not be fair to the students. He likes us

using more student body input for the graduations. This will make it more about community. The Deans for each grade level will address many concerns at each grade level. It is similar to a student senate. This needs to be more clearly defined. Thank you.

Lori Bosco, Simon Road – Mrs. Bosco stated that all students are different and learn differently. Her daughter loves her A/P classes. All the students deserve to be rewarded for their hard work and classes need to be weighted. Other towns are rewarding their Valedictorian and Salutatorian. We need to continue to reward our students for their hard dedicated work. She does not have any problems with the 4.0 grading scale and feels it is long overdue. Thank you.

Ashley Anoabeng, Thistle Lane – Ms. Anoabeng stated we are all striving to be the best and competition will make us better and prepared for the real world. She takes A/P classes and deserves to receive the credit. She works really hard for her grades. Her siblings see her working hard and she wants them to strive to be the best they can. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian deserve to be recognized. They have been working hard for their grades. If we change this to guest speakers it will become a popularity contest. She believes the block scheduling will work. Thank you.

Abigail Bosco, Simon Road – Ms. Bosco stated eliminating the Valedictorian and Salutatorian will create more stress for students. The class weights will all be the same. Students will still strive to be the best and to get the highest grades will still be competitive. Making these changes will not remove the stress and competition. She likes the idea of block scheduling and the Eagle hour. She would prefer the normal class rank instead of decile rank. Class ranks are simpler. Thank you.

Yvonne Girard, Ridgefield Road – Ms. Girard likes the 4.0 grading scale and block scheduling. Honors and A/P classes need to be weighted. She does not believe that the current class ranking and having a Valedictorian and Salutatorian add stress. There are no benefits to making these changes. She believes using a decile rank will create stress. Students will still compete to be the best. We want competition. It is human nature for us to compete. It makes us better. The teachers that she has spoken to are against this. Thank you.

Meghan Connery, Leonard Road – Ms. Connery feels that the Valedictorian and Salutatorian deserve the right to speak in front of their peers at graduation. They have worked hard for their class rank. If we change this it will become a popularity contest. We need to have weighted classes. She is taking honors classes and works really hard as well as the other students in these classes. She has been told to strive to be better all of her life. If we change this, we will all be taking average classes. Why would we try harder to be the best if everyone will be average? Weighted classes matter when you go to college. This change will affect our future when we go to college. We need weighted classes and students will continue to strive to do better. Thank you.

Jennifer Hannah, Conlin Drive - Mrs. Hannah stated that we have taught our kids to strive to excel and to do better than we did. Students need drive to excel in school, at your jobs and in life. All A's are not equal. Students want and deserve to receive the best grade they can get. Honors and A/P class work is different than average class work. She is currently paying for her children to take A/P classes and wants to know why. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian have worked hard and deserve to be recognized. There should not be any voting to choose the speakers at graduations. She hopes these changes do not pass. She is starting to lose faith in the Enfield Public Schools. She has fought for her children's health. Students don't stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. She does not want to see class rank eliminated.

Danielle Maloney, Moody Road – Ms. Maloney will attend high school next year. She wants to attend UCONN and wants to take A/P classes. Many students look for scholarships to help them pay for college tuitions. Tuitions keep increasing. You will be taking away honors classes that will hurt student's chances to obtain scholarships. Thank you.

Meghan Hannah, Conlin Drive – Ms. Hannah stated that she has been taught to challenge herself and to strive for the best she can be academically. Teachers expect more from honor students. She does not believe that honors classes and average classes should be the same. They are very different and the weighted grades need to remain as is.

Abigail Bosco, Simon Road – Ms. Bosco stated the new block scheduling will allow us to take 32 credits. We will be required to take 25 credits in order to graduate. Why will students need to take 32 credits? What will we do with the extra 8 credits? Thank you.

Ashley Anoabeng, Thistle Lane – Ms. Anoabeng stated when you go to college they will not hold your hands and tell you this class will be hard. She added that there is a clear difference with the decile rank between 1 and 10. She would like to know her class rank. Thank you.

Alex Salisbury, Hoover Lane - Mr. Salisbury stated that he and his friends compete every day for our class rank. Our friendships have made us more competitive. Study halls gave him the opportunity to take additional classes. Our current system would allow for the junior class to transition easier into the new high school. Thank you.

Akua Nimo, Thistle Lane – Ms. Nimo stated that her daughter has had an allergic reaction to latex paint 3 times and has been transported to the hospital. They had to use an epi pen. This is very serious and wants someone to look into this. Education is a huge priority to her and her children. The students deserve to receive the credits they have worked hard to get.

Yvonne Girard, Ridgefield Road – Ms. Girard has spoken to many people about the weighted courses. Colleges will recalculate to get a raw GPA. College's value honors class grades. Leaving the weighted courses makes sense. Thank you.

Brian Reale, Abbe Road – Mr. Reale likes the idea of block scheduling and plans to take A/P Chemistry and Physics. He hopes block scheduling will free up other classes for students to be able take these classes. You will not be doing us any favors eliminating weighted courses. Thank you.

Ashley Anoabeng, Thistle Lane – Ms. Anoabeng stated we should make the colleges strip the weights and recalculating grades. Please keep it the same and do not change this. Thank you.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Thurston thanked everyone for coming and for speaking tonight. You gave her a lot to think about. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Kruzel thanked the audience members for speaking. You gave us some good information to think about. He thanked the voters for electing him to the Board. He thanked his family for their support and MaryAnn Turner for her guidance and hard work.

Mr. Kruzel wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He attended the Fermi Safe Grad Auction and had a great time. He also attended the Torch Light Parade and lighting of the Town Christmas Tree. It was a well attended event.

Mr. Peabody thanked everyone for coming to tonight's Board meeting and for speaking. He appreciates your input. We represent you and we need your input. He attended the Fermi Safe Grad Auction and had a great time. He will attend the Prudence Crandall fund raiser event on Thursday and will read The Night before Christmas to the grade 3 students.

Mr. Peabody agrees with the audience members about keeping weighted grades. The students are working hard and deserve to be rewarded. Midiocracy is not expected in the real world and

should not be allowed in high school. It is ok to have some stress and pressure. He appreciates the student's comments. Students should also be rewarded as the Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

Mr. Peabody wished everyone a Merry Christmas and to be safe.

Mrs. Unghire thanked everyone for attending tonight's Board meeting. She appreciates your comments and will take this into consideration. She congratulated the staff at Parkman School for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The event was well attended and successful event.

Mrs. Unghire wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that students are competitive scholastically and athletically. We should take pride in our students that spoke so eloquently tonight. She does not agree with changing weighted courses and eliminating Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The students work hard to get good grades just like we work hard and set goals. We are happy that you are setting goals for yourself. We respect your opinions and thank you for speaking tonight.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the parent financial aid information night. The information you receive is very helpful. They distributed packets to the families. These are very helpful and contain a lot of information. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's guidance counselor for one. She urged families to attend this event next year.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Neville thanked the people that voted for him. He also thanked his wife for her continued support.

Mr. Neville thanked the audience members that spoke tonight. Your passion was shown in your comments. We received a proposal of what might be best for our students and have shared this information with the public. We are looking at this in a different way after hearing from you. We need to continue to hear from you. He commended the high school principals for their ideas. Their intent was well intended. Students will be able to take more A/P classes next year with additional course offerings.

Mr. Neville likes the administrations leadership approach. We will get the best from our students with this new approach. He likes the 4.0 grading system. He believes the Valedictorian and Salutatorian should be validated for their work. He is concerned about the stress because he has seen what it can do first hand. He likes the idea of speakers at the graduation. Colleges are doing this quite successfully. He believes class rank should stay as is and the weighted grades discussion has sparked many questions.

Mr. Neville encouraged audience members to continue to attend these meetings. We like to hear from the students and the parents.

Mr. Neville wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Chairman Sirard stated Enfield Public Schools lost a very dear friend this week – Dick Smyth. He was a true partner and friend to our school system. He did many things for us and was a business man that took care of his customers. He will be deeply missed.

Chairman Sirard congratulated Parkman school for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Chairman Sirard congratulated the speakers at tonight's meeting. You are the most respectful group of speakers that has come before the Board. It has been a pleasure listening to you. You were on-point and did your homework. Thank you for coming to tonight's meeting. The

students that spoke were awesome. Please continue to come to these meetings. We need to hear from you. If we don't hear from you, we think everything is okay. A process has been discussed and we are trying to make this process as public as we can. He wished there were this many people at all of our Board meetings.

Chairman Sirard wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He hopes your holidays are filled with love and urged you to be safe.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Transition Update**

Dr. Schumann updated the Board regarding progress that has been made regarding the new high school. We received the certificate for occupancy for chemical storage room and the automotive classrooms are eminent. We believe this certificate of occupancy will be coming soon. We were able to use existing 32 phones in the Fermi wing and will be purchasing 34 next week. All rooms will have phones next week for communications.

Mr. Peabody asked about air quality tests at Crandall. Chairman Sirard stated that this will resume at Prudence Crandall. We will keep you posted on this.

Mrs. LeBlanc would like us to look into the latex paint issue. Dr. Schumann stated that he has seen some e-mails about this. The paint that was used was recommended and is commonly used paint.

Mr. Peabody asked if this was used in isolated areas. Dr. Schumann stated that he has only read about the paint used in the gymnasium. He will look into this.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. BOE Policy #5127.1 Purposes of the Weighted Grade System – First Reading**

Mr. Ludwick stated the Policy Committee met last night and endorses proposed policy changes for a first reading tonight. We have heard from parents and students about this policy change. They have done their homework and a good job expressing their concerns. They were very articulate. This is how you debate items. Sometimes we will agree to disagree. We are making this discussion transparent. We are trying to make the best system we can for the benefit of the students. He thanked everyone for coming tonight's meeting.

Mr. Ludwick reviewed the proposed policy changes.

Mr. Grady agrees with Mr. Ludwick that the proposed policy changes are for the benefit of the students. This is a good policy.

Mr. Kruzel added that we needed to clarify the policy and have done so with these changes.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel that the Enfield Board of Education approves BOE Policy #5127.1 Purposes of the Weighted Grade System as a first reading.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

### **Suspend the Rules to add an Item to the Agenda:**

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mrs. Unghire to add an item to the agenda – Item 11b.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

**b. BOE Policy #5127.1 Purposes of the Weighted Grade System – Second Reading**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to add item 11b. BOE Policy #5127.1 Purposes of the Weighted Grade System for a second reading.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Kruzel moved, seconded by Mr. Ludwick that the Enfield Board of Education approves BOE Policy #5127.1 Purposes of the Weighted Grade System as a second reading.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Chairman Sirard asked Board members if there is a general consensus to keep the Valedictorian/Salutatorian and class rank the same. Board members all agreed to keep these items the same.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported that the Curriculum Committee met on November 18<sup>th</sup> and discussed Science Electives; Adaptive PE and Unified Sports; Writing Center; A/P Statistics and Music electives. Committee members approved AP/UConn Environmental Science, Chemistry 220 and half credit science electives for 2016-17. They also approved the Adaptive PE, Unified Sports and A/P Statistics course for 2016-17. He added that we are closely monitoring costs.

Mr. Peabody stated the A/P strand classes will be brought to the lower grades first and will be carried into the upper grades. This will help to make our schools shine. We are very excited about the curriculum.

Mr. Neville stated the fee parents are paying for is for the A/P test, not the course. This way the students can receive credit when they go to college. His wished we could afford to pay for these tests but we can't. We recently won an award about the number of A/P classes we offer.

Mr. Grady left the meeting at 8:22 PM.

b. Building Committee

Mr. Kruzel reported the Building Committee met on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the new Fermi Wing. Telephones were a huge concern that issue has been resolved.

Mr. Neville added that any problems that have arisen have been taken care of quickly by Amar and Dean. They are on top of everything and are doing a great job.

Mr. Kruzel added he was concerned with the certificate of occupancy issues but we are moving forward. The active shooter training will be held and then they will demolish the D wing.

c. Policy Committee - None

**13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2015 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Invitation to attend the Active Shooter Training Session at Enfield High School on December 10, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

**16. AUDIENCES**

Colene Ceniglio, Shannon Drive – Mrs. Ceniglio thanked the Board for listening to our concerns and answering our e-mails. She has been to previous meetings where this was not the case. She sincerely appreciates the demeanor of this Board and the rapport you are trying to establish with the community. She will continue to be very proud to be a teacher in our school system and to have her children attend our schools. Thank you.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis is very concerned with the allergic reaction that an EHS student had to the latex paint. This is someone's child life and she would like an action plan to correct this. She brought this up at the Town Council meeting last night. This has happened three times and is a very serious condition. She would like to know if the paint was dry and was it really safe. Thank you.

Jennifer Hannah, Conlin Drive – Mrs. Hannah stated she is paying for the A/P class two times.

Dr. Schumann believes you will pay for the UConn materials and the test.

Mr. Peabody stated you are paying two times for the A/P test and for the ECE test.

Abigail Bosco, Simon Road – Ms. Bosco thanked the Board for listening to their concerns. You are paying twice for the UConn class or the UConn credits and the A/P credits.

Ashley Anoabeng, Thistle Lane – Ms. Anoabeng thanked the Board for listening to them. You are awesome. You do not need to take the A/P test if you are taking ECE class. If you are taking ECE, you can earn either 4 or 8 credits that are transferable to most state colleges. If you are taking A/P classes you can earn up to 5 credits if you pass the A/P test. On the final for the ECE courses, if you receive a C or better you can receive UConn credits. You do not have to take the A/P exam, but it is recommended.

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Kruzel to adjourn the Regular Meeting of December 8, 2015.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary