

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on September 9, 2014.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Chairman Sirard.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Vin Grady
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vin Grady
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Chairman Sirard announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Wawer

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)** - None
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. The Learning Briefs – as presented
 - b. The Why Card – as presented
 - c. Rachel's Challenge Events – as presented
 - d. Family Day – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES**

Sue Braun, Light Street – Mrs. Braun has 3 children who attend school in Enfield. She is in favor of merging sports teams but does not want to pay for new uniforms and transportation. It would be awesome to see the students playing as the screaming eagles. When you look at the yearbooks, it is all about the school colors. She cannot image how the yearbook would look like if the students are wearing different colors while attending Fermi. What will the pep rallies look like? She was the EHS Band President for 2 years. The bands will play at football games. Will we mix and match the uniforms until the schools have been consolidated. The cost to replace band uniforms is quite expensive. Students who are band members are graded on their performances. Transportation to and from the schools will be needed for field practices. The cost for this would be around \$100 each day. This would also be needed for spring sports for baseball and cross country. The buses would be continually going between both schools. When the kids leave JFK they are heartbroken. She doesn't want the Board to jump into this decision quickly. You also need to think about how the high school year books would look like, school rings and letterman's jackets. Be sure that you dot your "I's" and cross your "T's". Everything needs to be looked at before a decision can be made.

Deborah Donnavan, Laurel Lane – Mrs. Donnavan is the sitting president for the Instrumental Band Association. She stated the program of studies for concert Band at Fermi requires extra

practices on the fields. Uniforms will cost \$600 per student. We just purchased 10 additional uniforms for new band members. Fermi's band is much larger than the Enfield High's band. She would recommend when the schools combine, we use black uniforms and we can just change the color of the sash. When you merge schools you will need at least 80 new uniforms. The band rooms are already full. Where will the students practice at the new high school? She has heard that the band room will not be ready until December 2016. Has anyone talked with Dr. Goodnite or the band directors for their input or ideas for rehearsals? Fermi needs 4 buses to transport students and equipment to performances. We can't expect Mr. Smyth to donate buses and drivers to meet our needs. When you merge the athletic teams you will need to merge the bands. The two programs are completely different and this will be a complicated merge. Thank you for your time.

Larry Avery, Church Street – Mr. Lavery is a 1987 graduate. East Hartford merged their two high schools one year before they consolidated the high schools. The first year we should call them the Enfield/Fermi team. Approving this for next year would be nice. Athletic schedules are being made now for next year. By consolidating athletics, we would have a true Freshman team, Junior Varsity and Varsity athletic teams. When he was in school, they would travel to Norwich, New London and Groton. Now the teams are traveling to Avon, Canton, Bolton and Tolland. Football travels to Winsted or Housatonic. Traveling these long distances is tough on the students. He would like to see us add additional sports programs like Lacrosse when we consolidate. He would like us to consolidate the athletic programs a year early. He thanked the Board for their consideration about consolidating the athletic programs.

Tricia Wright, Oakwood Street – Mrs. Wright thought the surveys that were given to students to complete during the sports information nights was a good idea. Each student had the opportunity to give their opinion about merging the athletic programs. Parents also had an opportunity to complete a survey. She is not in favor of the sports merger one year earlier. She voted for the merger but is now second guessing herself. Students are focusing on this school year. We have no control over what will happen in 2016. The waiver would only be good for one year. What will happen if the construction does not stay on track? She does not want to worry about this. Our kids should be able to make happy high school memories and should not have this hanging over their heads or worrying about this. The students know the merger will happen in 2016 if the construction goes as planned. We should be focusing on our students. She would like the Board to leave the sports programs where they are and not merge the teams early. She would like the students, parents and teachers to be happy. Let our kids enjoy their final years at their own schools before the consolidation occurs.

Rebecca Kalagher, Pierce Street – Mrs. Kalagher is not in favor of combining the sports teams until they are all under the same school roof. Let them remain as Raiders and Falcons. She has concerns with school climate, school spirit and pep rallies. She is a band parent at Fermi. The band has a lot of pride playing at football games. Let them come together once we consolidate. She is interested to see how much money we will save by consolidating the teams. What about the students who stay after school for extra help, club activities or to make up work and tests. Will they be transported to the other school for practices once they have completed their work? She would like to know how the transportation to and from the schools will work. You also have to think about the students that are involved in the Lamplighters, Rachel's Challenge, Student Senate, DECA and NHS. You can bring the teams together by having pickup games with both schools. Both schools have student leaders and not just athletes that need to be considered before you merge. She would like you to wait until the schools merge in 2016.

Kurtis Kalagher, Pierce Street – Mr. Kalagher stated he is a sophomore. He will be a senior when the two schools merge in 2016. He feels he will be the one whose life will be screwed over. He is also a member of the band. Band creates the opportunity for scholarships for many students. He has been told that the band room will not be ready when the schools are

combined. They will use a classroom or the lunch room. He is already worrying about his future. He is thinking about too much too fast. He should be just worried about his grades and not this. Uniforms will cost a lot to make us look as a cohesive unit. He will be going to a new school as a Senior. He will not know where anything will be and will feel just like a Freshman. Underclassman should look up to the Seniors for guidance and he will not be able to help anyone out. He is also on Student Senate. How will all of the clubs look when we consolidate? There is more to think about than just athletic teams.

Pat Crowley, Alden Avenue – Mr. Crowley stated he was just at the Enfield Ramblers football practice for the A Team. The kids are all excited about the thought of staying together. He is in favor of combining both athletic teams. He is the EHS Booster Club President. He can't speak for all of the sports programs and does not envy the Board about this decision. The fall and spring sports programs will be doable. The winter sports programs will be difficult. When we consolidate, we will have true Freshman sports. Numbers have been an issue with some of the sports athletic teams or lack of participation. The kids come first and you are here for them. He would like the coaches to be in place early so they can include the kids in all areas of the sports and get more students involved so the teams can gel together. We also need to look at intramural sports programs to get more kids involved. He would also like to see us hire a full time trainer so all of the students can use the weight rooms. The Enfield football parents are for the consolidation. He knows there will be some things that will not go smoothly, but he is sure that more things will go right. The kids have been split up for many years. They do not want to leave each other when they leave JFK. Team camaraderie is important. He wished the Board luck with this difficult decision.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Grady thanked everyone for coming out and speaking. Your opinions are important to us. We had a good opening of school and hopes everyone is adjusting to new or same schools.

Mrs. Thurston attended the Enfield Hall of Fame Dinner where the 1989-90 Fermi Hockey Team were inducted into the Hall of Fame. It was great to see the former players, coaches and friends.

Mrs. Thurston thanked the parents for their input on the sports merger. Mrs. Braun has given her a lot to think about before a decision can be made. She will be sure that we dot our "I's" and cross our "T's" before making a decision.

Mr. Neville stated that he wanted to hear from the parents and students. He appreciates the surveys from the parents and students along with the comments from tonight. This will help us with our decisions about the consolidation. He sees both pros and cons with this. You brought up items that we had not considered. These issues and concerns will need to be addressed. We need to consider all of the students needs. He truly appreciates your comments and efforts.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked everyone that spoke tonight, called and e-mailed her about the sports consolidation. She also has some questions. There were some things that she had not thought about. She thanked Kurtis for speaking his mind. She has known him since he was 4 years old. He is fighting for his school.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Rachel's Challenge programs that have been held in the past were phenomenal and she plans to attend this year's programs as well. You leave from these programs changed. She encouraged everyone to attend.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the open house at Eli Whitney and the EHS fall sports information night. She thanked Mr. Longey and Mr. Bernstein for the good job having the athletes

completing the athletic consolidation surveys.

Mr. Jonaitis agreed with Mrs. Thurston about Mrs. Braun bringing up some good points. Mrs. Donovan's cost analysis were spot on. He is not sure if Dr. Goodnite and the Band Coordinators were consulted or not. He likes the idea made by Mrs. Wright to table this discussion. He is also in favor of doing that. Mrs. Kalagher was also correct about us looking at all of the students needs not just the athletes. Let Fermi be Fermi and Enfield High be Enfield High. As far as school spirit, whether they are Falcons or Eagles is quite important. Transportation is a big issue. We need to look at everything else that goes on in both high schools besides sports. Poor Kurtis is confused, what will you do when you are rooting for a sports team and you have two student bodies? He would like this to play out the way it falls. School pride during the Senior and Junior years is extremely important. Let both schools remain as the Falcon's and the Raider's until they combine in 2016 as the Eagles.

Mr. Peabody thanked everyone for coming out, for the phone calls he received and the e-mails. School pride and high school spirit are important items. Sometimes we forget about the fun side of school. Mr. Jonaitis is correct about these being the best times for students. Kurtis was spot on about music and scholarships. Other students have pursued music careers after college. We need to look at all aspects of high school life. He appreciates the parent views. He thanked Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Donovan for your analysis. This is more than just athletics. We need to look at the other ancillary items that support our schools. He did not realize the cost of band uniforms. We need to look at the entire school before we make a decision.

Mr. Peabody was grateful Board member's received the e-mail regarding the tragedy that happened last week. He was pleased to know that we had staff in place prepared to assist our students in need.

Mrs. Unghire thanked everyone for coming to tonight's Board meeting and speaking. It is not always easy to speak in front of a crowd. You brought up some ideas that we were not aware of. This will not be an easy decision and we will do what is best for the kids.

Mrs. Unghire stated that she plans to attend the Rachel's Challenge events next week and the CREC Public Safety Academy open house.

Chairman Sirard thanked everyone for coming out. Mrs. Kalagher has every reason in the world to be proud of her son Kurtis. It takes a lot to speak your mind in front of adults. You did a good thing tonight.

Chairman Sirard stated school is back in full swing and he hopes everyone has a wonderful school year.

Chairman Sirard stated that we need to consider all of the club activities for our high school students. This is not an easy task for the Board. We have not made our minds up yet. We will do what is best for everyone.

Chairman Sirard stated that he attended the Pirate Festival on the Town Green and had a lot of fun with his children. He encouraged everyone to attend this event next year. Kudos to those involved in this event.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Continue the Discussion Regarding Sports Consolidation

Dr. Schumann stated there is information in your packets about the student surveys. We have Dr. Pongratz, from the Building Committee; Mr. Bernstein, our Athletic Coordinator, Fermi

Principal Mr. Newton and Enfield High Principal Mr. Longey to give the Board an update and answer any questions. The project has been fast tracked and the timeline has changed considerably and changes will continue.

Dr. Pongratz reviewed the time line for the construction process at EHS with the Board.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the construction on the music wing will start after February 2016 when the gymnasium is complete. Dr. Pongratz stated that is correct. The music addition will start after Thanksgiving 2015. Mrs. LeBlanc stated the music wing will not be done until Christmas 2016. Dr. Pongratz stated that is correct. It will also include the Auditorium construction. Mrs. LeBlanc stated in Fall 2015 and Winter 2016 we will have no gym space at EHS. Dr. Pongratz stated that is correct.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about being prepared for any possible hazardous conditions when you demo the "D" Wing. Dr. Pongratz stated we have a hazmat package in place for when we demo the "D" Wing and renovate "A" Wing. We are concerned and are prepared to deal with what we un-earth during the construction process. Mrs. LeBlanc is just trying to look at any items that may hold the project back.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we will be using Stowe school for 5 pre-school and language classes if space is needed. We could use some of the rooms there afterschool like the library or gymnasium. The classrooms at both Stowe and Enfield Street could be used if needed for band practices if there is no space available for them to use at EHS.

Mr. Neville stated when we first discussed the renovations at EHS, we were not going to disrupt sports. When we were fast tracked the project has caused some distractions by closing parts of the school at different times during the project. Dr. Pongratz stated there is no way not disrupt the athletics when we are renovating the locker rooms. This would have happened whether we fast tracked the project or not.

Mr. Neville asked about the plan for the physical education and health academics. Mr. Longey stated we will move the classes around and will start with health curriculum during the winter months. The students will go outside as much as possible for gym classes.

Mr. Neville asked about the band issues. Mr. Longey stated the band room is behind the cafeteria.

Mr. Grady asked if accommodations have been made for the band. Mr. Longey stated we have a space reserved for them until the band room is available. The space will be tight.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the girl's locker rooms will be available relatively soon. Mr. Longey stated we will use room B105 as a temporary changing room while the girl's locker room is being renovated.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the gym space will be available next winter. What will happen if the sports do not combine? Enfield High will be looking for available gym space. Dr. Pongratz stated we made arrangements after the flood at EHS. Mr. Bernstein stated we used JFK, some of the parochial school gymnasiums. We used fields at Asnuntuck Community College. Adjustments would need to be made to accommodate each individual sport.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated ERfC is at the elementary schools and is not sure what rooms they use. A lot of coordination will be needed for scheduling athletic events. You also have Enfield Park and Recreation to consider. What would you do for home games? Mr. Bernstein stated we would work together for scheduling games and practices. We used the Hall of Fame in Springfield for two games. We can use Fermi and if we need to reach out to ACC and use their

gym. This gym may need some renovations. Practices will not be a problem. Home games will be more challenging.

Mr. Peabody stated we have had practice dealing with this before when we couldn't use the fields at Fermi during the soil remediation as well as the Enfield High flood. Mr. Bernstein stated we used the Mark Twain Fields and the Shaker Road Fields. There are other alternatives for us to look at.

Mr. Peabody stated that ERfC uses the gyms at the elementary schools. This will need to be looked into. We do have logistical issues including after school clubs. We need to look into all of this.

Mr. Bernstein stated whatever decision the Board makes, Mr. Longey, Mr. Newton, the Administration and himself will do anything and everything we need to accommodate the Board's decision to make things work for all of the students so they are in a safe environment.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated with transportation being provided for the students, we currently do not have late buses at the high schools. We are also going to need to work with the teachers if students need extra help or making up any tests. We will need late days at the high schools like we did with the student support academy's that were quite successful. A lot of the Enfield High parents want to know what will happen with their children after school.

Mr. Neville stated if we merge the two high school teams what will be the name of the teams? Mr. Bernstein stated it will be the New EHS team and will compete in the CCC East. When the schools consolidate in 2016-17, the teams will be the Enfield Eagles.

Mr. Bernstein stated the name of the team would not come from the CIAC. Dr. Schumann stated he spoke to the CIAC today. They would be giving us permission to consolidate the athletic teams a year in advance.

Mr. Neville stated the teams would need new uniforms. Dr. Schumann stated the CIAC does not care what you wear just as long as you are all wearing the same thing. We would be called Enfield High School and would play in the appropriate leagues based on our size.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the EHS uniforms only say Enfield. Dr. Schumann stated the Board will need to address uniforms and band uniforms.

Mr. Neville does not see any cost savings, he is only seeing costs coming a year sooner. We will need to address this in either 2015-16 or 2016-17. How would we deal with the bands if we merge?

Dr. Schumann stated he spoke with Dr. Goodnite last spring. These are both academic programs and are both run differently. She would like to keep both bands as is and allow both bands to play alternately at athletic contests until they are under one roof.

Mr. Peabody asked about the costs for this. Is this included in the budget for the combined high schools or do we need to come up with funds for this and where will this come from in our budget? We are looking at a substantial amount of money.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we will go from 2 bands to 1 band. We will need to budget for this now. The Fermi band uniforms are black. Mr. Peabody stated that is what he was asking about. What bucket of money will this come from? Mr. Jonaitis added we will need to do this for all sports teams.

Mrs. LeBlanc added the band uniforms will cost \$600 per student. There are approximately

180 band members.

Mr. Bernstein stated uniforms will cost \$65 to \$350 per person for athletics. Swimming uniforms will cost the least and football and hockey cost the most.

Chairman Sirard stated we will lose a locker and gym that will have a direct impact on football, soccer and basketball. Whether we merge the teams together or not, we will incur transportation costs. Uniforms will cost us sooner or later if the merger goes thru and we will be playing as the Enfield Eagles. For the purpose of team spirit, both high schools would remain the same - the Enrico Fermi Falcons and the Enfield Raiders.

Mr. Neville stated one of the benefits for the merger is we will have true Freshman and Junior Varsity teams. If we merge early, we will need to look at the costs for uniforms a year earlier.

Mr. Bernstein reviewed the costs for the athletic programs.

Mr. Neville asked if we would be able to schedule Freshman and Junior Varsity sports. Mr. Bernstein stated it would be easy to schedule fall games.

Mr. Neville stated transportation for practices would be a concern. Mr. Bernstein stated athletic trips cost \$200 as an average. A shuttle from school to school will be based on a certain amount.

Mr. Neville asked how soon we should post for the coaching positions so there would be time to organize. Mr. Newton stated the CIAC encourages this be done in October or as soon as possible.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if there is anything prohibiting a Freshman students playing on a Junior Varsity team. Mr. Bernstein stated we can combine the players on the teams accordingly as needed. Other teams have also done this in order to play a game. We will continue to combine players. The Varsity schedule reflects scoring.

Mr. Peabody stated during the construction on the athletic facilities, no one will be able to access these areas. Dr. Pongratz stated that is correct and it is also the law.

Mr. Neville asked about the other school activities, staying after school for help or to make up tests, has this been discussed yet? He knows coaches are usually pretty flexible about this. Mr. Longley stated we have not discussed this yet. We will also need to discuss shuttles between the schools. We will need to know how many buses are needed, if we are going to staggering the runs and running them on certain days. There are a lot of things we need to look into.

Mr. Grady asked if they have a guestimate on busing costs when we merge. Dr. Schumann stated we will need to figure out what we are going to do first. We have not priced this out yet with Mr. Smyth. First we need to know what we are going to do. Mr. Smyth is excellent and he is sure he will help us meet the needs of all of our students.

Mr. Grady asked if we use Mark Twain, will that affect the Park & Recreation program. Mr. Bernstein stated Building and Grounds would work with us. We used Powder Hollow for baseball. The Park & Recreation schedules were modified slightly. No programs were cut out.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about transportation going back to EHS. A lot of the kids walk home from practices. We need to have transportation whether we consolidate or not. What will happen if construction is delayed? Dr. Schumann stated we would continue to be flexible making our decisions based on what is available. The CIAC understands this might happen. They would

also be flexible and operate as one program until it is under one roof.

Mr. Newton added that Enfield Transit stops at Fermi. Students could use this to get back home. This might help to alleviate some of the transportation concerns.

Mr. Peabody asked how much time has been built into your schedule for slippage. Dr. Pongratz stated he hopes enough.

Mr. Neville stated this is going to be a tough decision to make. These are all legitimate concerns. Where do you sit on this topic? Do you think it is a good idea to merge? He knows this is an unfair question. What are the pros and cons for this merger?

Mr. Newton stated this is a difficult decision the Board must make. We will do everything in our power to support and implement the decision the Board makes. He will let the decision rest with the Board.

Chairman Sirard stated we have heard from band and athletic parents. There is an increase in band members. There are issues with manning full Varsity and Junior Varsity sports teams at both schools. Will the consolidation make this more viable to fill all of the teams? Mr. Bernstein stated when you consolidate the athletic programs you will have more kids available to fill the Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshman teams.

Chairman Sirard stated in the past, we have come very close to not having enough participants to field a team. Do we have any teams that are short players now? Mr. Bernstein stated we can always co-op a team if the numbers are not there. That is what we did with the hockey, swimming and boy's tennis teams. The CIAC sets limits for each team before we can co-op. Some are teams are close. The boy's soccer is short at EHS.

Mr. Neville apologized for his unfair question. A lot of things were brought up tonight that will make everyone think. Mr. Newton has been through this before and can reach out to them for feedback on the process. Transportation will be a concern whether we merge athletic teams or not in 2015-16.

Mr. Newton stated we can schedule games and practices on certain nights or in between with delayed start times for practices. We can have club activities during the dead space in the afternoon.

Mr. Jonaitis stated that Enfield has offered more sports than any other town. We are also talking about adding Lacrosse. Will that interfere with Soccer? Mr. Bernstein added that Lacrosse is a spring sport and will not conflict with soccer that is played in the fall.

Mr. Jonaitis stated that the time may have come for the sports that do not have enough participation numbers to end that sport.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked everyone that spoke tonight about the band and the members of the Building Committee for all the work they have done. Her mind is not made up yet. She also thanked Mr. Newton, Mr. Longey and Mr. Bernstein for everything they have done. We want to make the right decision for everyone. As long as we have all of the information needed, we will make an informed decision.

Dr. Schumann stated during his conversation with the CIAC this morning, they will need to know our decision by September 24th. The CIAC will meet on September 25th. The Board will meet again on September 23rd. He just wanted Board members to know that you are not under a timeline to make a decision regarding this tonight.

Chairman Sirard stated this will give us an opportunity to think long and hard about what we will do. He would like to delay our decision until the September 23rd Board meeting. Board members can continue the discussion before we make our decision.

Mr. Grady would like Dr. Schumann to get the numbers for transportation for the next meeting.

Dr. Schumann stated this will take a lot of work. What would you like? We can have the buses take the students from the schools one way or we can have the buses bring the students back and forth every day. We also would need to know how many bus runs we would need each day or on specific days for students that stay after school to makeup exams or stay for extra help or attend club activities. Until these details can be worked out, he will not be able to provide this information. We will need to look at this sport by sport. When we go through this, then we will be able to sit down with Mr. Smyth to review needs and costs.

Chairman Sirard asked if we have a solid number for costs when we consolidate. Dr. Schumann stated we spend around \$500K on athletics each year. We will save some money when we consolidate teams and will add Freshman teams back in. Then we will need to purchase uniforms and look at transportation. He feels it will be a wash at the end of the day when everything is done.

Chairman Sirard asked for this item to be placed on the September 23rd agenda for Board action.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Policy Revision - #9341.8 Participation at Board Meetings by Remote Methods – First Reading

Mr. Drezek stated the Policy Committee met last week and placed two policies for first readings on the agenda. He reviewed the changes for Policy #9341.8 Participation at Board Meetings by Remote Methods.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the first reading of Policy #9341.8 Participation at Board Meetings by Remote Methods.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis is not in favor of increasing the number of call-ins from 2 to 4. There was a reason for why we limited the number of call-ins. This can change from Board to Board. Board members have made a commitment. If you can't make a meeting, you can't make a meeting. By allowing this change, you could create political concerns by party members not showing up. He recommends that Board members use their 2 call in votes wisely. We have leadership groups in place that should discuss issues with the members of their party. This could get out of hand if it is allowed. He is in favor of the 2 call in votes. You need 7 affirmative votes to change this policy. The policy was intentionally setup this way to make it difficult to make a change.

Mrs. Unghire stated we currently have 2 call in votes. Chairman Sirard stated we are looking at changing this to 4 call in votes per calendar year. We would also be changing the number of votes required to a simple majority vote.

Mr. Peabody can see where Mr. Jonaitis is coming from. He does a lot of teleconferencing at his job daily. He does not have a problem with this. We are giving our Board members a chance to participate at meetings if they are unable to attend. This will help us to move

forward. He also does not have a problem with a majority vote being required.

Chairman Sirard asked what the majority of our policies require for votes. Dr. Schumann stated a majority vote is what most Board policies require. Chairman Sirard added that this will bring our policy in line with the majority of our current policies.

Mr. Neville stated that times have changed. He has phoned into meetings and does not believe any Board member has abused this policy. He would rather have a Board member here in person than an empty chair. Phoning into a meeting allows a Board member to participate with necessary discussions. He does not have an issue to make the change to 3 meetings. He is also okay with a majority vote being needed.

Mr. Grady stated job changes can happen during a Board member's appointment. He feels this is a good policy change. It will give the Board member an opportunity to fulfill their obligations to the Board if they are unable to physically be present.

Mrs. Unghire also does not have a problem with changing the policy. We try to attend as many functions as we can. Occasionally, we travel and are unable to attend a meeting.

Mr. Neville stated that Board members take their positions seriously and do not abuse this policy.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if anyone has been prohibited from communicating to the Board or their votes have been blocked. He does not see the need to increase this from 2 to 4 call-ins.

Mr. Peabody stated this change will move the Board forward. Times are changing along with technology. This will allow our members to participate remotely more times if needed. This will move us forward.

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

b. Policy revision - #5123 Promotion/Retention – First Reading

Mr. Drezek stated the Curriculum Committee met and made a couple of additional changes to Policy #5123 Promotion/Retention since May 2014. They sent this policy to the Policy Committee for their input and it has been placed on the agenda for a first reading. Mr. Drezek reviewed the policy changes with Board members.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education approves the first reading of policy #5123 Promotion/Retention.

Discussion:

Mr. Jonaitis stated that it bothers him that you will need 10 credits to be promoted. You will need 23 credits to graduate. He feels this change is a band-aid and we are not helping these kids out. We need to look at where the problems are. He feels this has to do with testing in the sophomore into the junior year and it will eventually give us a black eye. Kids always have the right to go to summer school. We need to help these kids.

Mr. Neville stated there is a minimum of 10 credits needed to be promoted. Students have the opportunity to go to summer school to makeup needed credits. There are all kinds of reasons for students to not pass a class. We currently need 22 credits to graduate. They have the opportunity to go to summer school. This lays out an expectation and puts the responsibility to where they need to be academically.

Mr. Drezek read how the current policy reads to the Board. Chairman Sirard stated the policy change will list a measurable standard for the students.

Mr. Jonaitis stated it is our responsibility to not let a kid get to this point. This kid has probably had multiple chances. This is saying that we are rewarding failure so they can go onto the next grade level. This kid will not change his/her way during their Junior and Senior year.

Mr. Neville state the maximum number of credits the student could take is 12 credits. We are setting a minimum number of credits needed to 10 credits to be promoted to a Junior.

Mr. Grady asked what is the average number of credits a student can take in a year. He knows they are required to take certain classes. Mr. Drezek stated they would need to take 5 ½ credits to graduate on time. They can take additional credits. It also depends on how a student's schedule is setup.

Chairman Sirard asked if the policy change would make this more difficult to socially promote students from the 10 to 11th grade? Dr. Schumann stated this would make it more difficult. We are requiring students to have 10 credits. Our current policy will promote students to become Juniors. This change will make it more difficult.

Mr. Peabody stated the policy will require students to have a minimum of 10 credits to be promoted to a Junior. He feels the policy change is a good thing.

Mr. Jonaitis asked what was required before to be promoted to a sophomore. Mrs. Thurston stated you only needed 4 credits. Mr. Drezek stated it currently is 4 and will remain 4 credits.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported that the Curriculum Committee met with Ms. McKernan on August 27th and reviewed the policies presented tonight for first readings. We also received reports from Ms. McKernan. She will come to some upcoming meetings and will report on these positive curriculum items once a month. Staff and students will present information to the Board. You will be impressed with what you will see. We also reviewed performance plus and will have a presentation on this. We discussed the summer curriculum writing, A/P training and the increase of students taking A/P courses. There were 458 kids have signed up for A/P classes.

Dr. Schumann stated during the summer Ms. McKernan told him we needed to purchase additional materials for the additional number of students taking A/P course. This is a good thing.

Mr. Neville stated we are increasing student expectations and they are meeting those expectations and are achieving. We need to share this information with the public. We also need to share CMT/CAPT information with the public and the impact on student learning.

Mr. Peabody stated that Ms. McKernan has noticed a can do spirit with our students in Enfield. A/P classes are starting in the earlier grades. This is great and it is driving the student's enthusiasm.

Chairman would like to add to the Superintendent's report once a month Academic/Achievement Reports from Ms. McKernan.

Mrs. Thurston agrees with both Mr. Neville and Mr. Peabody. She wished that we could clone Ms. McKernan's enthusiasm. This is the coolest committee she has been part of.

Mr. Neville added a large part of the work the Board does is done in committees of the Board.

b. Policy Committee

Mr. Drezek stated the committee met last week and the two policies were placed on the agenda for first readings. We also discussed a concussion policy and were not ready to place this on the agenda.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2014 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 Veteran's Day Parade on November 19th at 7:00 PM.

16. AUDIENCES

Larry Avery – Church Street – Mr. Avery stated the costs for uniforms will decrease when the teams merge as one. It would be very easy to schedule games at different times as well as practices. He is in favor of merging the teams if the CIAC allows it. Our fields can be used for multiple uses. Park and Recreation uses the elementary schools. This is a tough decision for the Board. Parking at Enfield High school is also difficult. He thanked the Board.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

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

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Vincent M. Grady
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary