

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 18, 2014**

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 November 18, 2014.

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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** David Wawer

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

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

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. UAV Club – Performance Plus

Dr. Schumann welcomed Technology Education Department Chair John Dague and EHS student Jake Flaherty to the Board meeting. At the last Board meeting, members asked about the drone that was supposed to be taking aerial photos of the Enfield High construction site. Mr. Dague and Mr. Flaherty are present tonight and will give the Board a presentation about the Unmanned Autonomous Vehicle (UAV) Club and will answer any questions from the Board.

Mr. Dague thanked the Board for the opportunity to showcase the work of the UAV Club. Mr. Flaherty is a two-year member of the club. We started this as part of a project in the Electronics Club in 2010 and started with our first multi rotor aircraft in May. It took flight around the football field and crashed. A few years later, the students saw the aircraft and asked about building one again as a club activity. Mr. Flaherty is one of the club's first members. We started building a new vehicle last year with a Y-6 frame.

Mr. Flaherty stated we tried to make the vehicle as light as possible. This model also crashed. We then went with a 6 leg model for more stability.

Mr. Dague stated we went through a series of tests with different kinds of motors with rotor/propellers. This model was difficult to steer. This year, we have made the model autonomous with a camera. We are still ground testing this unit. We will then tether test the unit before any real flights will occur. They started the unit so Board members could see the rotors and propellers working. Once the unit is able to take flight, we will be able to take

pictures of the construction.

Mr. Peabody stated this is outstanding work. He asked if the students came up with the design themselves. Mr. Flaherty stated they sat around a table and came up with ideal design for the unit.

Mr. Peabody asked if they used any computer aided design tools. Mr. Flaherty stated yes.

Mr. Peabody asked if they made the parts. Mr. Flaherty stated we made the parts. Mr. Dague added they have a CNC Plasma Cutter that is used in our Metal class. He welded the pieces together.

Mr. Neville stated this is nice work. This is exactly the kind of things we want our students to get involved with. This combines so many different areas. This is just fabulous! Are there any limitations with FAA permits for an untethered flight?

Mr. Dague stated regulations are changing. Within a 5 mile radius of the airport, we will need permission from the tower. We will need to apply to Bradley Airport for permission to fly the unit. It used to be 400 feet from the line of sight to fly the units. This device has a 100 foot ceiling and should not go any higher than that.

Mr. Neville asked how long will this unit fly. Mr. Dague stated the battery life is for 10 minutes and will die after that time allotment has expired.

Mr. Neville asked if you will be delivering any packages. Mr. Dague stated that one of the students is designing a claw that would replace the camera unit that could drop off packages. There is a business that is currently doing this in Africa in remote locations.

Mr. Neville asked if the camera uses a card or WIFI to give us images. Mr. Dague stated we will use a card. The reason for this is the transmitter operates on the same frequency as the remote control. The remote control is extremely complex. This will help to avoid interference.

Mr. Neville is extremely envious and would like to go back to school to be part of this. What days do you meet on? Mr. Dague stated they meet on Wednesday's.

Mr. Grady asked if the weather will affect this. Mr. Dague stated the winds can affect the flight and pressure changes will also affect the flight. We do have plans to add sonar controls to the unit that will help with landing.

Mrs. Unghire stated that is a great aircraft and would like to witness it flying when it is tethered or in flight. She asked if they have ever visited Kaman Aerospace to see their K-Max machines. Mr. Dague has not visited them and has not seen their K-Max machine. Mrs. Unghire stated it is very interesting and encouraged him to look them up. It can pick up heavy items like logs. You have done such a great job here. Mr. Dague added that he will look into this.

Chairman Sirard stated this is awesome. You guys have done an outstanding job and should be extremely proud of what you have accomplished.

Mr. Neville would like to know when the tethered flight will occur. He would love to see this unit in flight.

Chairman Sirard thanked them for the presentation.

c. November & December Events – as presented

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Jennifer Moncuse, Booth Road – Mrs. Moncuse stated she is a parent and PTO member. She is here to express her concern with the recent finger printing requirement for all volunteers. She has volunteered 18 hours a week in our schools and has never been left alone with any children. The questions on the back of the form are very concerning to her. Do you need to be fingerprinted to attend PTO meetings or other functions being held in the schools? You have done a lot to make our school safe, warm and welcoming. This seems to be a bit off-putting and makes us feel unwelcome. She has concerns with the policy and the way it was implemented. She does not fault the administration for adhering to the rules. She has concerns with the person conducting the finger printing and the speed for obtaining results. She has personal information on this card and does not want this information kept somewhere in a filing cabinet. She has many concerns. It is hard to get parents to volunteer and this adds to this. The policy makes us feel unwelcome and that we are a threat. Please take this into consideration when you review this policy.

Bethany Ouellette, Betty Road – Mrs. Ouellette is a parent and PTO member. She is also concerned with the finger printing policy that was established in 2009. This is the first time this is being required. You do not need to be finger printed to have a back ground check done. The expansion of the scope was unclearly communicated to parents. We did not receive sufficient answers regarding this. Where will this information be kept? She does not fault our administrators for implementing this. She believes in parent involvement. This has divided us. Will this need to be done on a yearly basis? Who will oversee this? We are working against our school system and this has created more negativity than needed.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Grady appreciates Mrs. Ouellette and Mrs. Moncuse comments and concerns. He attended the Parkman PTO meeting and received the same questions there. There is a lot of miscommunication out there. He spoke to the Administration about this and would like Dr. Schumann or Mr. Drezek to share information about this. He thanked them for their comment.

Mr. Grady appreciates the work Mr. Dague and Mr. Flaherty did with the UAV unit. It is great to see what is going on in our schools.

Mr. Grady thanked Chairman Sirard for his opening comments today. His daughter is in the service and this meant a lot to him.

Mrs. LeBlanc also thanked Mr. Dague and Mr. Flaherty for attending tonight. Your presentation was fascinating to watch. Jake explained it in a way that made it sound easy, which she knows would not be for her.

Mrs. LeBlanc addressed both Mrs. Moncuse and Mrs. Ouellette and stated that she also feels the same way that you both do. She cannot wrap her head around this policy. She can see when fingerprinting would need to be done but not for going to the Science Center or the Pumpkin Patch or events being held at the school like unity day or field day or Halloween parties. These events are dependent on parent volunteers and we don't want to turn people away. This policy needs to be reviewed. The PTO's have suffered from the reorganization and we don't want to turn our volunteers away. We all want safety in our schools. She understands what you are saying.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Neville agrees with what has been said tonight. Mr. Dague's presentation was phenomenal. We will be bringing these kinds of things into our schools with the combined high school. This reminds us why we are doing this.

Mr. Neville thanked Mrs. Ouellette and Mrs. Moncuse for speaking tonight. He was around when this policy was implemented in 2009. He does not believe this is what the policy was intended for. He understands the intent. We need to secure safety in our schools and we need to look at this policy so we know what the intent is. We need to communicate this policy better. We need to thoroughly discuss this policy and look at our intent and clarify it.

Mr. Neville also thanked Chairman Sirard for his opening comments. His dad was in the war and he knows why this is so important. He wished everyone a happy safe Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Thurston addressed both Mrs. Moncuse and Mrs. Ouellette by stating the finger printing information is kept safe and extremely confidential. When the information comes back, you will be notified.

Mrs. Thurston also wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. Jonaitis agrees with both Mrs. Moncuse and Mrs. Ouellette. He does not feel the fingerprinting is prudent. He does not like this at all. Parent volunteers have been in our schools volunteering for years. Parents do so many things to help us and he finds this insulting. He would like to see this policy discussed again.

Mr. Jonaitis wished staff members and students a happy Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. Peabody thanked Chairman Sirard for his opening remarks. He has many relatives that have served in the military.

Mr. Peabody thanked Mrs. Ouellette and Mrs. Moncuse for coming and speaking. Background checks can be tough. You do not need to be fingerprinted as mentioned by Mrs. Ouellette to have a background check done. You don't need to do this in corporate America. He feels the Policy Committee needs to look at this policy closely. We all know the safety that is needed for our children. He would like to have this referred to our Policy Committee for further review.

Mr. Peabody received a T-shirt from the Nathan Hale PTO and is proudly wearing it tonight. He is very proud of everything the Hale PTO does.

Mr. Peabody stated we are coming up on budget season. He is looking forward to this as we work on budget challenges. We have a \$250K overage cost for CREC tuition expenses that we were not previously aware of. We are working with our Legislators about this and hopefully they will attend a meeting to discuss this further.

Mr. Peabody wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Unghire agrees with Mrs. Moncuse and Mrs. Ouellette regarding fingerprinting. She also agrees what Board members have said about this.

Mrs. Unghire thanked Mr. Dague and Mr. Flaherty for their presentation with the drones. She loves the creativity.

Mrs. Unghire attended the EHS Lamplighters Potpourri Craft Fair that was held on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. The event was well attended and it was a lot of fun.

Mrs. Unghire attended the Topping Off Ceremony for the new STEAM Wing at Enfield High

School. She received her stress reliever hard hat. She is waiting to receive her pink hardhat so she can go on the job site.

Mrs. Unghire wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and to enjoy your time off with family and friends.

Chairman Sirard stated that he also received several e-mails about finger printing and background checks. We try hard to get it right the first time. There are some questions regarding the policy and communication received about the policy. He has spoken to the Administration about this policy. This policy will be reviewed by the Policy Committee and we will also review communication regarding policies. This policy was established in 2009. All employees are finger printed and background checked because they work with children. They are allowed to work with our children until the background check comes back – everyone is innocent until proven differently. If volunteers have the remote chance that they might be alone with a student, you would also need to be finger printed and have a back ground check completed just like any of our other employees. This is for the safety of our children. The Policy Committee will review this.

Chairman Sirard understands this process. He has a pistol permit and needed to go through this process. This should not need to be done every year for our volunteers. This process is not supposed to be intrusive.

Mr. Neville asked about the Future Use of Fermi Committee and if there is going to be some kind of a presentation to the Board in the very near future.

Chairman Sirard will address this item under Board Committee Reports.

Chairman Sirard loved the presentation from Mr. Dague and Mr. Flaherty. What a great job. He would love to see the first drone placed in the display case in the new STEAM wing. This is a piece of history for Enfield that should be displayed. This is really cool in spite of the unit crashing. He is glad that the Board was able to see the advances that have been made.

Chairman Sirard wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. You will all be in his thoughts during this holiday season.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Discussion and Action if any, Regarding Allocating Student Seats at Suffield Vo-Ag for 2015-16**

Dr. Schumann reviewed the information he provided Board members regarding Suffield Vo-Ag seats. The number of seats the Board will need to provide is at least 9 seats. Suffield has started their recruiting process. We would like to notify them with the number of allocated seats for 2015-16.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mr. Peabody that the Enfield Board of Education approves allocating 9 Vo-Ag seats for 2015-16.

#### **Discussion:**

Mr. Neville stated we are not against Suffield Vo-Ag. We know we will need to pay CREC an extra \$250K for additional magnet costs this year as mentioned by Mr. Peabody that we did not allocate for. He is reluctant to add more seats than we are required until we know what our magnet tuition bills are. He is enthused with the number of students that want to attend this program.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Finance Committee met prior to tonight's meeting and there is going to be an increase of an additional 100 students that will attend PSA from the surrounding districts.

Mr. Neville stated he saw in the paper that PSA is planning to recruit. Mrs. LeBlanc just wanted to share this information with Board members. We are not sure how many more students from Enfield will attend PSA.

Mr. Jonaitis stated PSA is going to recruit 100 more students from the surrounding towns. How will we know how many Enfield kids will attend PSA? Mrs. LeBlanc stated we won't know.

Mr. Peabody agrees with both Mr. Neville and Mrs. LeBlanc's comments. We need to stabilize our own budget. We will get hit with an increase in tuition costs. The magnets schools are heavily recruiting. We need to consider this. This has been a tough decision to make.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if we can limit the number of students applying to magnet schools.

Mrs. LeBlanc recalls when they offered 91 additional seats for Enfield students to attend magnet schools.

Dr. Schumann is not sure about all of the magnet schools. If a magnet school is in your district, they can assure that a certain number of seats will be available. Mrs. LeBlanc recalls this being offered 3 years ago when they were trying to increase magnet school enrollments.

Chairman Sirard believes CREC has the ability to target the districts. As long as we are meeting our requirements under Sheff/O'Neill, they can inform us that they are opening more spots.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that not all of the 100 seats will come from Enfield. Potentially, we can lose more students to PSA.

Mrs. Unghire is attending the CREC Council meeting on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. She will ask about this at the meeting.

Mrs. Thurston asked if more students can go this year if they apply or is this for next year. Dr. Schumann stated this is for the beginning of next year.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the legislature has made any adjustment regarding the date for paying magnet school tuitions. Dr. Schumann stated the date is still October 1<sup>st</sup> that we are responsible for paying magnet tuitions regardless if the student comes back.

Chairman Sirard asked for the roll call vote for sending 9 students to Suffield Vo-Ag.

Board members were confused about the question.

Chairman Sirard stated there was a misunderstanding about the question with the start of the roll call vote. He reminded Board members that we are voting to allow 9 students to attend Suffield Vo-Ag in 2015-16 and asked to redo the roll call vote.

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

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Discussion and Action if any, Regarding the Enfield High School New Eagle Mascot**

Dr. Schumann stated the transition team has selected the eagle for the mascot at Enfield High School. We would like to present this mascot to the architects so they can incorporate this into the designs. This is something the cooperative teams can use now. We need to start to think about uniforms using the new school colors and logo whenever possible. The new logo has some symbolisms that will reflect both schools very well.

Mrs. Thurston likes the “F” on the logo.

Mrs. LeBlanc likes the colors that are incorporated on the logo. They reflect Fermi’s black and Enfield High’s green well.

Dr. Schumann stated the design was a group effort by Mr. Drezek, Mr. Bourassa and EHS teacher Mr. Gaucher.

Mr. Grady asked if there were any other options for the eagle mascot. Mr. Drezek stated there are always other options to consider if the Board would like. This mascot incorporated the “E” and “F” for both schools. None of the other mascots had this. This mascot represented the needs of the community best.

Mr. Neville likes the mascot and feels it was very creative. How many other schools have eagle mascots? PSA is also uses the eagle as their mascot.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated Tolland uses an eagle. Mrs. Thurston added that East Catholic also uses an eagle.

Mr. Drezek stated no one around us has this particular mascot. The “E” is embedded into the log. We were also able to bring gold into the mascot color on the beak and claw.

Mr. Jonaitis stated this is very close to the Philadelphia Eagle. He hopes this is not a copy right infringement. Mr. Drezek stated this particular Eagle is not trademarked.

Mr. Jonaitis wanted to know if we looked at any Eagles with the full wing span showing the feathers. It would be easy to put this particular logo on other things. This mascot shown would be easy to put on uniforms.

Mr. Drezek stated that they looked at many different kinds of Eagles. We felt this Eagle represented the needs of the community best.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the design presented for the new Enfield High School Eagle Mascot.

**Discussion:**

Chairman Sirard likes the design. It gives a nod to Fermi so it will live on forever. It is an “E” in the design and is definitely a predator which is cool.

Mrs. Unghire stated CREC’s Eagle will look different than ours. She likes the way this particular mascot looks.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we could dress up our drone to make it look like an eagle. We could use it at games.

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

**b. Budget Basics Brochure**

Dr. Schumann reviewed the 2015-16 Budget Basics Brochure with the Board. This was shared with the Governance Council. We will share this with parents, guardians and community members during upcoming Listen & Learn events. The brochure explains the budget process and provides them with a time line of events that will occur during the budget cycle.

Chairman Sirard asked if Board approval is needed. Dr. Schumann stated the brochure does not need Board approval. We can make any additional changes if needed.

Mr. Neville asked about the March 9<sup>th</sup> date. We will have an opportunity to present our budget to the members of the Town Council. Dr. Schumann stated that change has been made and the Board will present their budget proposal to the Town Council on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Board members all were in consensus with the Budget Basics Brochure.

Mr. Peabody stated that a parent in the audience tonight made this happen. He thanked Mrs. Ouellette for your previous suggestion.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Building Committee**

Mr. Neville reported the bids came in lower than expected which will help us with our contingency fund. The Topping Off ceremony was held on November 13<sup>th</sup> and it was very celebratory. Many people signed the beam. The Head Start students were there wearing their little hard hats. The work is going well and is on time and under budget. Once we get the drone going, we will see the building coming together - stay tuned.

**b. Finance Committee**

Mrs. Leblanc reported the Finance Committee met earlier tonight and as mentioned by Mr. Peabody, there is an increase in magnet school costs. As soon as we can have our Legislators attend a Board meeting, we can discuss the rising magnet costs with them.

Chairman Sirard would like the Superintendent to invite Representatives Kiner and Alexander and Senator Kissel to attend the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting to speak to the Board. We have some items we would like to discuss with them.

**c. Fermi Utilization Committee**

Chairman Sirard stated the Fermi Utilization Committee was waiting to receive final numbers and we have received this information. He will work with the administration to setup a date to meet and review this information. We will keep you posted with any further committee developments.

**13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2014 be approved.

Mr. Neville stated a correction is needed on page 8 under section b. The name should be changed to Mrs. LeBlanc.

Mr. Grady moved seconded by Mr. Neville to approve the amended Regular Meeting Minutes of



October 28, 2014. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Special Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2014 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-2** passed with Mr. Sirard and Mrs. LeBlanc abstaining.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL**

**a. For the Month of October 2014/15**

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Grady that the Enfield Board of Education accept the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of October, total expenditures amount to \$8,348,917.35 broken down between payroll totaling \$5,993,465.45 and other accounts totaling \$2,355,451.90. All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented."

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

**b. Line Item Transfers, if any - None**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**16. AUDIENCES - None**

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Special Meeting of November 18, 2014.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Vincent M. Grady  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary