

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

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 February 25, 2020.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar, Chris Rutledge, Wendy Costa, Joyce Hall, Stacy Thurston, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tina LeBlanc

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent; and Student Representative Madison Daigneau

Chairman Kruzel addressed audience members that would like to speak. You will need to sign-up using the sheet that is provided. He added both Mr. Drezek and Mrs. LeBlanc will not be present for tonight's meeting.

**6. BOARD GUEST(S)**

**a. JFK Building Committee**

Mr. Daigle, Chairman of the JFK Building Committee; Jim Hoagland, JCJ Architect; Chris Cykley, Owners Representative and Amar Shamas, Gilbane Construction gave the Board an update regarding the John F. Kennedy renovation project. They reviewed the architectural drawings and project plans. They also addressed parent pickup/drop-off traffic plans and the reconfiguration of athletic fields. The entire project is expected to cost around \$72.5 million dollars. The state will reimburse the project by 71% that will bring the final cost to around \$25 million dollars. The anticipated start of this project will be in late May after the bidding has been completed. The entire project should be completed by August 2022. They will hold a public hearing in March 2020 for parents and taxpayers to ask questions about the JFK project.

Mr. Ryder stated LED lighting will be throughout the entire building not just in the auditorium.

Mrs. Thurston stated she cannot wait for the new traffic flow. This will help with the backup on Raffia Road.

Mr. LeBlanc asked if there will still be locker rooms? Mr. Hoagland stated we will be updating the locker rooms along with new bleachers and sound absorbing panels in the gym.

Mr. Daigle added a traffic study was conducted by the State and they felt with our new layout, there was no need for additional stop signs or a traffic light with additional lanes on Raffia Road.

Mr. Shamar stated there will be learning curve for drivers with the new traffic flow.

Mrs. Hall asked how long will it take for the State to approve each document. Mr. Hoagland stated we have spent thousands of hours on the documents. We will sit with the State officials all day reviewing the documents. There is a checklist they must go through to see if we have everything properly documented. It is a lengthy process. They will review everything for the next several weeks. They will then issue a report with questions and recommendations.

Mrs. Hall asked if you would hear back from them in around a month? Mr. Hoagland stated it will take around 3-4 weeks before we receive their final response. Then we will be able to put out items for bid.

Mr. Rutledge asked if the band and music space will be larger. Mr. Daigle stated the Band and Choral spaces will be larger than they currently are.

Mr. Rutledge asked if the doors to the classrooms will open in or out. Mr. Hoagland stated the doors will open out. Mr. Rutledge asked if that would interfere with the lockers? Mr. Hoagland stated most of the classroom doors will be pocketed and will not swing into the lockers.

Mr. Rutledge asked which direction the baseball and softball fields will be placed. Mr. Hoagland stated the typical placement is northeast to avoid the sun glare. We have reoriented the fields to avoid this from happening.

Mr. Rutledge asked if they had considered making two lanes on Raffia Road to ease traffic concerns. Mr. Daigle stated we conducted a traffic study and it was determined that was not needed. Also, any road work is not reimbursable from the State. Taxpayers would be responsible for any road work.

Mr. Ryder likes that we are going to have a public side of the building. The only time parents should have access to the entire school is during parent teacher conferences. We do not allow or encourage people to walk around in the school.

Mr. Ryder stated the new auditorium will have 607 seats. Mr. Hoagland believes the current auditorium has around 420 seats. The new auditorium will be larger. We will be taking away approximately 40 seats when we use the auditorium as the cafetorium during the construction project until the new cafeteria space is usable. We will have enough space for the three lunch waves.

Mr. Ryder asked them to post this newer updated power-point presentation on the Building Committee website. Mr. Daigle stated once we get the approval from the State, this will be posted on the website and we will also hold a public hearing.

Mr. Ryder stated as a parent and volunteer, phasing timelines is an important question that is asked. The project will be completely done by Halloween 2022. If you are a current third grade student or younger, when you start grade six, you will have a new building to go to.

Mr. Ryder stated if this renovation project was not happening, we would still be doing the PCB abatement project at JFK without any reimbursement from the State. This will be done during this renovation project.

Mr. Salazar stated the students will be separated by hard walls during the construction project.

Mr. Hoagland stated during the entire project, the students will be separated from the construction workers. We will have secure fencing around the project areas. The workers will park their vehicles on the adjacent property and will walk to the site. We will have 3 construction superintendents on the site to control the project. We will have daily communication with the JFK administration and will meet weekly just like we did during the

EHS construction project with our project managers. We are looking forward to this project to start. The entire team did a tremendous job with the plans to provide you with the best product for this project.

Mr. Salazar thanked them for this information. You will be putting the power-point presentation on the website. Will you also be placing the timeline for the project on the website. Mr. Hoagland stated the project schedule will also be available.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about the athletic schedules during the project. Mr. Daigle stated once the project starts, the fields will be off limits. Park and Recreation will work with the school to move events to other locations.

Mr. Cykley added all field usage will be moved until the spring of 2023.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the cross walk on Raffia Road is a concern. Mr. Daigle stated anything outside of the school property, is not part of our project. That would fall under the Town's jurisdiction.

Chairman Kruzel added this was discussed at our Joint Facility Committee meeting. We are looking into this. Mr. LeBlanc stated Raffia Road is used by a lot of students walking to/from school. He is glad the Joint Facility Committee is looking into this.

Mr. LeBlanc is excited about this project and can't wait for you to bring this to the State for their approval.

Mr. Cykley stated we received our renovation status letter from the State with our reimbursable rat of 70.71%. The project is Renovate to New. This letter is needed for our project review with the State. He reviewed the hazmat and PCB abatement that will be done. We will have an independent monitor that will oversee the project during each phase. The monitor will meet with the staff during the abatement process. We will track the eligible and ineligible costs. The Town share will be around \$25 million. We presented form SCG-042 to the Building Committee and it was approved. We are looking for Board approval on this form so we can go out to bid for this project.

#### **Suspend the Rules and Move an Item on the Agenda:**

Chairman Kruzel would like to suspend the rules and move Item #11a Approval of JFK Final Design Documents to be submitted to OSCG and Approval of Form SCG-042 before Item #7.

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education moves Item #11a Approval of JFK Final Design Documents to be submitted to OSCG and Approval of Form SCG-042 before Item #7.

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

#### **11a. Approval of JFK Final Design Documents to be submitted to OSCG and Approval of Form SCG-042**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Enfield Board of Education approves the John F. Kennedy Final Design Documents to be submitted to the Office of School Construction Grants and Authorization to submit form SCG-042.

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

Chairman Kruzel thanked them for coming to tonight's meeting and wished them good luck at the State tomorrow.

Mr. Ryder asked if the public hearing will be done at JFK prior to the construction starting in May 2020? Chairman Kruzel stated the public hearing will be done at Enfield High School before any construction starts.

Mr. Daigle stated we will start this process in the next month. We needed to get the approval for the form first, next we need the State's approval. Chairman Kruzel stated we will work with the Principal about dates for the public hearing. Once we have the date confirmed, we will let everyone know.

Chairman Kruzel thanked the JFK Building committee members for all their hard work.

Mr. Daigle thanked the Board for their support.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. JFK Parent Event – as presented
- c. Invention Convention – as presented
- d. Grants Report – as presented
- e. Personnel Report – as presented
- f. February Events – as presented

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Chairman Kruzel reminded audience members to sign up to speak and to refrain from using any personalities or names.

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Circle – Mr. Jonaitis addressed his concerns about traffic on Raffia Road. He also made suggestions for parent drop-offs. He addressed concerns with social media about union representation, employee discipline and large employee payouts. There is a process that is followed. No details are shared with the Board prior to prevent bias in case the Board needs to hear a case at the Board level. Employees are entitled to union representation. He would like to see the Board make some changes with the bargaining unit contracts regarding terminations. Language needs to be added to streamline the process. We offer our students a good education and our staff members work hard. Good is good and bad is bad. We need to streamline the process and make changes with both sides of the bargaining units. This can be done with hard work and faith. Thank you.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Ryder stated after our April break, we will only have 37 days full days and 4 early release days of school left. He thanked the members of EFEE for giving grants to our staff members over the past decade. With the leftover funds, EFEE purchased sensory pathways for the students in our K-2 schools. He thanked them for doing this. This was a great sendoff.

Mr. Ryder stated ERfC is celebrating Black History month on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Asnuntuck Community College.

Mr. Ryder stated Girls on the Run started today at Eli Whitney and Prudence Crandall today.

Mr. Ryder stated March 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for Box top submissions for all schools. The first week of March is National Reading week. Board members have been invited to read at Stowe and some of the other schools in town. He will be reading at Stowe, Memorial and Enfield Street. He will try to get to at least one school each day during the first week of March.

Mr. Ryder attended the First Readers event. They will hold their next ceremony for First Readers on March 9<sup>th</sup> at EHS.

Mr. Ryder thanked the members of the Building Committee for their presentation tonight. The JFK PTO is holding a fund-raising event where you can purchase a brick that will be placed on the pathway. The 2019-21 Board has purchased a brick for the It's my Brick fundraiser. They will also hold a staff vs. student's basketball game on March 6<sup>th</sup>. This information can be found on the JFK PTO website.

Mr. Ryder stated at the Memorial PTO meeting held last week, we discussed information from the PBIS Coordinator and would like to incorporate this into the elementary handbook. The HMS Fun Run will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Money raised from this event will go towards events being held at Hazardville Memorial.

Mr. LeBlanc stated he also attended the First Readers event. He publicly thanked Charlotte Riley for everything she did making this event a huge success and for everything she does the First Readers. He thanked Scott Ryder for being our DJ for the evening and Scott Kaupin for reading the trivia questions. We had a lot of fun.

Mr. LeBlanc wished the EHS Girls Basketball team good luck in their State game against Greenwich. Bring home a win.

Mrs. Costa stated Edgar H. Parkman will hold their special person dance on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Two Moms on a Mission will hold a Purse Bingo on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to raise money for the grade 5 committee.

Mrs. Costa also attended the First Reader Trivia event. She sat at a table that won a prize.

Mrs. Costa attended the ERFC Ice Cream Social for Enfield Street and Parkman students. All you need to do is give students ice cream and they will have a great time.

Mrs. Costa attended the CREC Legislative Breakfast. They discussed the difficulties with minority recruiting. They also discussed regional centers like our Eagle Academy. Mr. Drezek spoke at the Legislative Breakfast about what we have done with our program in Enfield.

Ms. Hall thanked Board members for speaking about the First Readers Trivia event. We had a great time. We will hold another trivia night next year for you to attend and possibly win something. She urged audience members to attend the First Readers Ceremony being held on March 9<sup>th</sup> at Enfield High School at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium.

Chairman Kruzal stated the First Readers Trivia night was awesome. Mrs. Riley did a phenomenal job. The committee did another great job planning this event.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. New Policy #5000 Students – Concepts and Roles in Student Policies – Second Reading**

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves our new policy #5000 Students – Concepts and Roles in Student Policies as second reading.

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

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Approval of JFK Final Design Documents to be submitted to OSG and Approval of Form SCG-042**

This item was discussed earlier on the agenda.

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### a. Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Hall reported the Curriculum Committee met on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. LaMesa and Dr. Wiley gave a presentation about our mathematics program that was quite interesting. She is looking forward to seeing the expected improved math results. Our delivery of math is very similar to how our science curriculum and technology is being taught. We are becoming very strong with our curriculum being delivered at all grade levels. Mrs. Snow and Mrs. Burr reviewed our assisted reading program at JFK and the modifications that were made with the way we deliver this by each grade levels. Ms. Middleton gave us an update about our TAG program. We will receive additional information about this later.

### b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Costa reported the Finance Committee will meet on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

### c. Policy Committee

Mr. Rutledge reported the Policy Committee will meet on February 26<sup>th</sup>. He thanked the residents that have e-mailed them with questions about our policies. We will continue to discuss the 5000 Series in March. He is optimistic that we will start the 6000 series in April.

### d. Leadership Committee

Chairman Kruzel stated Board Leadership met on February 19<sup>th</sup>. We reached out to CABE about the Equity Toolkit program Mr. Drezek discussed at our last Board meeting. We will meet with them later - to be continued.

### e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported will meet on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We will have a special guest from DPW, the Chairman and a Town council member. We will be discussing a possible roof referendum and the upgrades to the transfer station.

### f. JFK Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported we received an update from the JFK Building Committee tonight.

### g. Joint Security Committee

Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

### h. Any Other Committees

Mrs. Costa reported the Joint Insurance Committee will meet on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2020 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-1** passed with Mr. Salazar abstaining.

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

## **15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION**

Chairman Kruzel invited everyone to attend the Buzz Robotics Pasta Supper being held at St. Bernard's Church Hall located at 426 Hazard Avenue on March 4<sup>th</sup> starting at 5-8 PM. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10. Let's help them out with this great fundraising event. They will have raffles and prizes. Please attend and support Buzz Robotics.

Mrs. Hall asked if Buzz Robotics participated in the event that was just held? There was a picture in the JI today about this competition. Chairman Kruzel stated they are currently building their robot for their upcoming competition that will be held in the middle to end of March.

Mr. Longey stated the competition dates are:

- March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at WPI;
- April 4 & 5<sup>th</sup> at Harford Public High School;
- April 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> at Big E Fairgrounds for the New England District Championship (they will need to qualify for this competition);
- April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup> Detroit, MI for the World Championship.

Mr. Longey added they will always go to the World Championships because of their status as a previous winner. This is a busy time for them.

Chairman Kruzel added they had a procedural change this year that allows them to build right up till the first competition.

Mr. Ryder stated CABE Day on the Hill will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM at the Bushnell in Hartford.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary