

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 29, 2019**

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 January 29, 2019.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Walter Kruzel.

Chairman Kruzel stated that Mr. Rutledge will participate tonight remotely per BOE policy #9325.43 Participation at Board Meetings by Remote Methods.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Walter J. Kruzel

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Walter J. Kruzel

4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Walter Kruzel announced the fire evacuation announcement.

5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rich Regnier, Ashley Depeau, Chris Rutledge (participated remotely), Charlotte Riley, Sarah Hernandez, Tim Neville and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tina LeBlanc and Scott Ryder

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent and Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

- a. **JFK Debate Team**

Mr. Drezek welcomed JFK Debate Coach Janice Cerrato. Ms. Cerrato thanked the Board for the invitation. The JFK Debate team consists of Hannah Ryan, Kyrie Post, Andrew Goddard, Sophia Carrier, Rebecca Bemis and Anna Bemis. Rebecca and Anna will tell the Board about their experiences being on the Debate team.

Ms. Rebecca Bemis is in grade 6. She has learned a lot being on the Debate team. She was first introduced to debating in grade 5 at Eli Whitney. Middle school debating is at another level. You need to prepare for each debate and conduct a lot of research about the topic you will be debating. You also need to know the order of the arguments. There are multiple rounds and you are assigned either a pro or con. The rebuttal is the last person that speaks. She also explained about "point of order". She has learned so much from being part of this team. She is grateful to Ms. Cerrato for all the time she has put into running this team. She also thanked Mr. Rutledge and Ms. Gaskell for their support.

Ms. Anna Bemis is in grade 8. There are many schools in Connecticut that participate in the Connecticut Middle School Debate league. The CTMSDL holds competitive interscholastic parliamentary debate tournaments. She is glad that Enfield is part of this. She has learned how to put together a strong well-rounded argument and present her evidence correctly. She has gained confidence with public speaking from being part of the Debate team. She has learned how to research, take notes correctly and form a debate speech from her notes. This experience has left her with many new skills that will help her in the future. She hopes we

can continue with debate at the middle school level and plans to participate at the high school level. She thanked Mr. Rutledge, Ms. Gaskell and Ms. Cerrato for all their efforts and support with the middle school debate team. This Debate team would not have been possible without the support of the Board of Education and Administration's support. Thank you.

Mr. Rutledge stated he wished he could have been at the Board meeting tonight. He is very proud of the students. They all did such a great job being on the Debate team. He thanked Ms. Gaskell and Ms. Cerrato for their support. The students worked hard preparing for the debates. It was a great idea to start this up at the middle school. They all represented JFK proudly. He urged the students to keep up the good work.

Mr. Regnier stated that Mr. Rutledge really wanted to be here. He always talks about the Debate team and how proud he is of all of you. It is great to hear about what you have learned from debating and what you are taking from this. You have great advisors and coaches on this team, and he looks forward to you competing again next year.

Mr. Neville stated he is also very proud of you. You both spoke so eloquently and articulate tonight about what you have learned from being part of the Debate team. He was also on a Debate team and it helped him out. We will be watching you in the future and looks forward to attending one of your debates.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mr. Rutledge for starting this tradition in Enfield. He thanked Anna and Rebecca for speaking tonight. He also thanked the Debate team advisors.

Mr. Rutledge left the meeting at 7:40 PM.

b. Curriculum Presentation

Mr. Drezek welcomed Michelle Middleton, our Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Kerry Wiley, our District STEAM Coordinator and Jay Lamesa, our K-12 Math Coordinator. They will give the Board an update on our academic progress and the newly implemented districtwide math vision.

Ms. Middleton stated she has consolidated tonight's presentation and Mr. Drezek will send you the complete presentation. Ms. Middleton reviewed the Smarter Balanced ELA Assessment Trends for Grades 3-8; the Smarter Balanced Math Assessment Trends for Grades 3-8; the Smarter Balanced ELA Assessment Trends for Grades 3-5; the Smarter Balanced Math Assessment Trends for Grades 3-5; the Smarter Balanced ELA Assessment Trends for Grades 6-8; and the Smarter Balanced Math Assessment Trends for Grades 6-8.

Ms. Middleton reviewed the Smarter Balanced Observations for the Enfield Public Schools for ELA scores in grades 3-8. She also reviewed the EPS math scores for grades 3-8. She reviewed the state level ELA and Math scores for levels 1-4.

Ms. Middleton reviewed the Enfield Public School SAT scores for percentage of scores 3+ and average scores. She also reviewed the EPS SAT observations for ELA and math scores.

Ms. Middleton reviewed our AP Growth Chart for the number of exams, the number of test takers, the number of exam scores 3+ and the number of offered AP courses.

Ms. Middleton reviewed the Action Plan for ELA: continue with full implementation of Teachers College reading workshops in grades K-5 with accompanying professional development for year 2; continue with implementation of revised middle school English curriculum and instructional model to a workshop-type structure with accompanying departmental professional development for teachers for year 2; and revision of some high school English course to allow for hybrid units of full-class novels and book clubs.

Dr. Wiley reviewed the Action Plan for Math: development of a cohesive K-12 vision for mathematics in EPS. Professional conversations regarding that vision to take place with K-12 teachers; professional development surrounding instruction math strategies for K-12 teachers; use of new instructional resources (ST Math for K-2 and Freckle for 3-8) that allow for differentiated instruction and practice for students; and revision of some high school math courses to allow for a target focus on grade-level standards.

Dr. Wiley added that the overall feedback regarding our new math strategies has been very productive and positive. We will be holding some math curriculum parent nights.

Mr. Lamesa looked at the K-12 math vision when he started as the K-12 math coordinator. We are building a culture that celebrates mathematical thinking. We looked at our current structure and using a different approach for teaching and learning. He reviewed the five principals for inviting mathematical thinking: start with a question; students need time to struggle; you are not the answer key; encourage your student's ideas and play.

Mr. LaMesa reviewed the common K-12 strategies for problem solving using Polya's problem-solving process: understand the problem; devise a plan; carry out the plan and answer the question and look back.

Mr. LaMesa stated we are building a community of mathematicians, we hope to create a culture where students have confidence in their mathematical abilities, the motivation to persevere and an appreciation for mathematics.

Mr. LaMesa stated as the student develops, they are: making sense of problems and persevere in solving them; they can reason abstractly and quantitatively; they construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of other; they model with mathematics, use appropriate tools strategically; attend to precision and look for and make use of structure.

Mrs. Riley stated she saw the presentation and was so impressed. Her son is using this new math and knows what to do and what to ask. Ms. Middleton added we have developed a rubric to show progress. Mrs. Riley added math is now easier for her son.

Mrs. Hernandez stated she is part of the Curriculum Committee. She loves the approach to math and to make this a community culture. There is such a connection. She is not a math person and this new way of looking at math will help students make a connection. This curriculum team is always looking for ways to improve and she thanked them for doing this.

Mr. Neville stated as teachers, we are always looking at trends. He likes the way you are teaching math. The students are asking why and are thinking. Struggling is good. Math is a language and you are changing the culture of math at each level. You are giving them a vision. This is fabulous. He supports what you are doing.

Mr. Neville asked how the teachers are receiving this. Mr. LaMesa stated they are working very hard, making adjustments and asking questions. It has been well-received by students and teachers. He is happy with the turnout.

Mr. Neville added the assessments along the way will show the results as a school district. He is looking forward to seeing the results.

Mrs. Depeau is also very pleased with this math program. Some students get frustrated with math. Problem solving is something that will always be used. She believes we will start to see improvements in other areas due to this way of thinking. Her child is also enjoying this way of doing math. It is nice to see students excited and understanding what they are doing.

Mr. Regnier thanked them for coming and presenting this information. Data sets are

important to receive and see areas of needed improvements. You have action plans for the data sets. The vision will help us change the culture in our town. When you see numbers going in the wrong direction or downward, we change a lot of little things without looking at the big picture. You are changing the way we are learning. He applauds you for this. Thank you.

Mrs. Riley stated you will hold parent nights for this. She tried to explain this way of math to him unsuccessfully. Dr. Wiley stated we will be confirming dates for this. We will hold them at Henry Barnard from 6:30 – 9:30 PM. We will hold events at all three levels. Once we confirm the dates, we will send home flyers.

Mr. Regnier stated we can share this information with the PTO's to help get the word out. The PTO's can also help with babysitting. They use the Girl scouts for babysitting services.

Chairman Kruzel thanked them for the presentation and all your work with this curriculum.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Drezek thanked Mr. LaMesa, Dr. Wiley and Ms. Middleton. This has been a complete overall to the math program. Mr. LaMesa has given this presentation to all our teachers that teach math in the district. He also thanked Ms. Cerrato and Ms. Gaskell for attending tonight.

- a. Student Representatives – None
- b. Through the Lens of a Middle Schooler – as presented
- c. January/February Events – as presented

Mr. Drezek discussed the message he sent to Board members about changing the 180-day requirement for our graduating seniors. Representative Arnone reached out to Mr. Drezek about submitting a bill to change current legislation about this. He spoke to Dr. Nichols from Ellington. He would like to know if the Board would like to send our legislators something similar to what the Ellington Board sent out to legislators. Board members unanimously agreed to sending out a letter to the legislation from the Enfield Board.

8. AUDIENCES

Deborah Gaskell – Grade 6-12 English Coordinator for the Enfield Public Schools. Ms. Gaskell is here because of ELA Assessments and the JFK Debate Team. It is wonderful seeing the students using debate in the classrooms. She thanked Mr. Rutledge for this wonderful experience for our students. She attended one of the students debates with Ms. Cerrato and Mr. Rutledge. We have students that are interested in debating and she hopes that more students will get involved with this program. There is a commitment with Saturday debates. She is looking forward to the Debate Team growing.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Hernandez stated if anyone is interested in attending the Circle of Security Parenting Series, please contact her. There are morning, afternoon and evening sessions. This is a great opportunity to learn how to support and strengthen your parent-child relationship.

Mrs. Hernandez stated we received information from Mr. Drezek about the state finding qualified substitutes. She supports having qualified highly dedicated substitutes in our buildings. It is important to have the right supports in our buildings for our students.

Mrs. Hernandez also supports play and movement in our classrooms.

Mr. Neville loves Enfield and this district. We did not get to where we are by accident or without the help from great past dedicated employees. It is important to remember those

individuals for what they have done for our school system and community. He thanked former principal and teacher Joseph Lombardo for his service. We need to honor those who have passed on. Please keep him in your prayers.

Mr. Regnier stated Hazardville Memorial will hold their Little Caesar's Pizza pickup on February 1st. The special person dance will be held on February 9th at 1:00 PM. They will hold their PTO meeting on February 13th.

Mr. Regnier stated Eli Whitney will hold their One Book, Three Schools Read-A-Thon on February 1st. They will hold their Snow Flake Social on February 8th from 6-7:30 PM.

Mr. Regnier stated he is not in favor of regionalization of schools. He supports towns in their ownership of their schools. He agrees with Mr. Neville that we have great employees in Enfield. He supports our schools and teachers. We have a strong town and school system. We are meeting the needs of so many students. We have high attaining student scholars and great athletes that have come from Enfield schools. We know what our students need. He is not in favor of regionalization. We know what is best for our students and town. He supports our teachers, the education we provide our students and wants the state to leave us alone.

Mrs. Depeau stated the Enfield Street Someone Special Dance will be held on February 8th. They have a limited number of available tickets left. If you are interested, please check in with the office. We will hold our PTO meeting on February 13th.

Mrs. Depeau agrees with Mr. Neville and Mr. Regnier said tonight and she also supports what Mrs. Hernandez has said tonight.

Mrs. Riley reminded everyone that January 30th is an early release day.

Mrs. Riley stated Barnard will hold their read aloud day on February 1st. Henry Barnard will hold a game night on January 31st. The PTO meeting will be held on February 12th.

Mrs. Riley stated the First Readers Trivia Night will be held on February 23rd at 7:00 PM. This will be another great event. Our next meeting will be held on February 11th. We are always looking for volunteers.

Mrs. Riley attended the CREC Council meeting and attended the CABE/CREC Legislative Breakfast. She has a copy of the Ellington letter and several handouts from the meeting. She will send them to each Board member. She added that if the state does not fully fund CREC schools, the difference will be passed on to us. This could potentially increase our magnet costs by two times.

Mrs. Riley added the Legislative agenda supports regionalization and a new special education formula for SPED Cost reimbursement. There is also a proposed new finance model for SPED costs.

Mrs. Riley stated the CABE legislative priorities recommends removing mandates. There is also a pamphlet on RESC Alliance.

Mrs. Riley added the Legislative Session Education Public Hearing will be held on March 11th. they have put together their proposed education bill list. Representative Arnone and Representative Hall are on several of the bills on this list.

Mr. Drezek stated he also received the Legislative Update and there is a statewide discussion on regionalization and on combined services. Both CABE and CAPPs appose both these topics. He is not 100% sure about the Special Education proposed funding specifications. The Excess Costs funds is done in a pool format. The reason we do not know what the actual funding

percentage is, is because we are not sure of how many districts have qualifying special education students. The pool of money does not change. It depends on the numbers. It sounds like they are repackaging this.

Mr. Neville stated we have invited our representatives to attend previous meetings and he is glad our representatives are submitting bills that we have discussed with them. He would like us to invite them to attend a meeting. We can send them our questions ahead of time.

Chairman Kruzel stated the Town Council has also invited them to attend a meeting. Hopefully some of our questions can be addressed at their meeting. We can invite them to attend a Board meeting.

Mr. Neville stated we need to invite them before the budget is set. Mr. Drezek will reach out to Mr. Bromson and we can reach out to our representatives.

Chairman Kruzel stated Prudence Crandall will hold a Winter Instrumental Concert on January 31st at 7:00 PM.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. BOE Policy Revision - #6146 Requirements for Graduation – First Reading

Mr. Longey stated the High School Program of Studies needed revisions for the incoming grade 8 students or Freshman class. They will now need 25 credits to graduate. This includes a new world language credit. We will also increase the SAT requirements to 480. This will align us with other districts as we raise the bar for student achievement and graduation requirements.

Chairman Kruzel asked if we should speed this process up and approve the first and second reading tonight for this policy. Board members unanimously agreed by a **show of hands 6-0-0** to approve a first and second reading for Policy #6146 Requirements for Graduation.

Mrs. Depeau moved, seconded by Mr. Neville to approve Policy #6146 Requirement for Graduation for a first and second reading.

Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel stated the Curriculum committee made a lot of corrections to this policy.

Mr. Neville added this was a major update to this policy with the increased amount of required credits and the world language component. We are ahead of the game with these changes compared to other districts. Finding world language teachers is a difficult task and he has concerns with this component.

Mr. Longey added that we have been transitioning for us to reach 25 credits. Enfield is in good shape to meet this. He agrees with Mr. Neville's concerns regarding finding world language teachers.

Mr. Neville stated he is not faulting the requirement. It is just going to be costly for us to accomplish this.

A vote by **roll-call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

b. Action if any regarding the FY2019/20 Budget

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2019/20 budget.

Discussion:

Mr. Neville asked if Mr. Drezek received any questions on the proposed budget from Board members. Mr. Drezek stated that he has not received any questions about the budget.

Mr. Neville added that Mrs. LeBlanc supports this budget and is in favor of it.

Chairman Kruzel stated the budget is straight-forward and we are asking for the bare minimum.

Mrs. Riley added we are still waiting for numbers. Chairman Kruzel agrees, the system is backwards.

Mr. Neville would still like to meet with the Town Council members and discuss items. Mr. Drezek stated we will still meet with the Town Council and will continue with our open discussion and dialogue as the budget progresses.

Chairman Kruzel added we will do it just like we did last year.

Mr. Neville stated these meetings are very important for both sides. This is one of the best things we have done.

Chairman Kruzel stated the State must fund K-12 education.

A vote by **roll call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee met on January 15th. We discussed policy #6146 at great length. We have also discussed assessments for students in grades K-12. He distributed information to each Board member. He also distributed copies of the minutes. If you have any questions, please contact any curriculum member. We would like Ms. Middleton and her curriculum team come to a future meeting to discuss assessments.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Riley reported the Finance, Budget Committee met on January 14th. Our next meeting will be on February 11th.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Policy Committee met on January 16th. He encourages you to attend any of the Policy meeting – they are open to the public. Board members have received the 3000 series and policy #5144.1 Restraint and Seclusion. Please place these items in your policies books. These policies have been placed on our website for public viewing. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on February 20th and we will continue reviewing the 4000 series.

d. Leadership Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the Board Leadership Committee met on January 23rd.

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on February 7th.

Mr. Neville added we are working with the Town Council with the architects about the roofs that we will be working on this year. The architect has made their assessments on the roofs. We are in the process of obtaining funding for roof repairs, so we do not run into what we did with the Henry Barnard roof repair in November. We need to change the way we look at this. The Town Council has been working hard with the Joint Facilities committee. We potentially could start the next roof repair when school ends in June and when school is out of session.

f. JFK Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the JFK Building Committee met on January 31st. We have the RFP for the architect that will go out shortly.

g. Joint Security Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported that Rich Regnier, Chris Rutledge and Scott Ryder will be the Board liaisons to this committee.

Mr. Neville asked when they this committee will meet. Chairman Kruzel was told they will be held in the morning quarterly.

Mr. Regnier reported they will meet on February 6th for the first meeting.

h. Any Other Committees - None

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Depeau that the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2019 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

Mrs. Riley moved seconded by Mrs. Depeau that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of December 2018, total expenditures amount to \$6,173,420.32, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,005,436.82 and other accounts totaling \$2,167,983.50. 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 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

Line Item Transfers - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education enter Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel & Collective Bargaining.

A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

The Board remained in Council Chambers for the Executive Session. Both Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Regnier to adjourn the Special Meeting of January 29, 2019.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary