ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 23, 2010

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 March 23, 2010.

1. CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Stokes.

2. INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE Chairman Stokes

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Chairman Stokes

4. FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT Chairman Stokes announced the fire evacuation announcement.

5. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT	Peter Jonaitis, Donna Szewczak, Charles Johnson, Judy Apruzzese-Desroches, Joyce Hall, Vincent Grady, Stacy Thurston and Greg Stokes
MEMBERS ABSENT	Tom Sirard
ALSO PRESENT	Dr. John Gallacher, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Anthony Torre, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Enrico Fermi High Student Representative Meghan Ruff and Enfield High School Student Representative Connor Spain

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2010 be approved. Motion passed unanimously by a **show of hands 8-0-0**.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Special Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2010 be approved. Motion passed unanimously by a **show of hands 8-0-0**.

7. BOARD GUESTS

a. Senator Kissel

Chairman Stokes welcomed Senator John Kissel to the Board meeting. Mr. Johnson invited Senator Kissel. Next month, our State Representatives will address the Board.

Mr. Johnson stated he started inviting our State Senators and Representatives during his last term and would like to continue this.

Senator Kissel thanked Mr. Johnson and members of the Board for inviting him. Senator Kissel gave the Board, administration and audience members an overview of the state of the State of Connecticut, where we stand and what you may anticipate this year and in coming years. Senator Kissel also discussed some of the bills currently being discussed by the Education Commission. Senator Kissel distributed handouts regarding proposed Education Bills. Senator Kissel also discussed the Race to the Top (RTTT) and funding initiatives.

Senator Kissel commented on his position concerning unfunded mandates and will continue to not to support any unfunded mandates.

Ms. Hall stated that bill #5489 An Act Concerning Secondary School Reform has conditional dollars attached to it and is concerned about this. Senator Kissel agreed with Ms. Hall and remarked that this is included in the RTTT bill.

Ms. Hall is also concerned with bill #5425 An Act Concerning Special Education. This will require schools to have a certified behavioral analyst on staff. We currently have staff that perform these services, but are not certified. This bill could potentially force us to hire an additional staff member. Senator Kissel stated he is also concerned if the State moves forward with this bill.

Ms. Hall is also concerned with bill #5490 An Act Concerning the Minimum Budget. The reduction in ECS funding may be dependent upon the reduction of students. The cost of education is continually going up. Senator Kissel stated this bill will not give a lot of assistance to local municipalities. Ms. Hall stated because of the wording, it could threaten the amount of funding we receive from the Town.

Ms. Hall is also concerned with bill #277 An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Students on Local and Regional Boards of Education. We currently have a representative from both high schools on our board. The bill requires two students from each high school. Would we be required to have 4 student representatives since we have two high schools? Senator Kissel does not believe we would and further stated the language is not clear. The bill does not address a Town like Enfield with two high schools.

Ms. Hall is also concerned with bill #5493 An Act Concerning Strategic Planning in State Education Policy and Charter School Funding. This could be a dangerous bill. Senator Kissel stated charter schools create a different revenue stream. Our funding streams need to be fair to the sending and receiving schools.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if any unfunded mandates can be frozen for the next couple of years. Senator Kissel stated there is nothing proposed currently that would help out local municipalities. Senator Kissel believes there will be a mandate regarding seat belts on buses in the future.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about RTTT and merit pay. Senator Kissel stated he has not studied this bill thoroughly. CCM has real concerns with this bill. He is afraid of this bill and can not support the concept.

Mr. Grady thanked Senator Kissel for coming and asked if he supports MBR. Senator Kissel stated he is not an expert on this, but this could harm Enfield. Senator Kissel stated all the bills were put forward with the intention to help out Towns. Now I am hearing this can harm local municipalities. Senator Kissel does not want any funds taken from local Boards.

Mr. Grady believes President Obama is proposing changing NCLB for schools that are not making AYP and will reward schools that are career oriented. Mr. Grady asked Senator Kissel if he supports this initiative. Senator Kissel is not happy with the way NCLB currently is. The students that struggle the most can cause pressure year-after-year for teachers to get them to pass the tests so they are not left behind. There are some benefits to NCLB but if President Obama can make NCLB work better or phase it out, Senator Kissel is ok with this. Senator Kissel is ready for something new in our education.

Mr. Johnson also appreciates Senator Kissel coming tonight. It looks like our financial outlook is a bit bleak. With the current deficit, is there anything the State can offer local municipalities

and Boards of Education? Senator Kissel stated they are predicting a jobless recovery in Connecticut. It will take approximately 10 years to recover the jobs that we have lost. There is no pot of gold. There will be less money in the years to come for local municipalities. There will be less money for education. Cutting is extremely hard. The State can not absorb any revenue increases. The money from Washington will not keep coming. Enfield and other Towns need to get their houses in order and prepare for what is coming.

Chairman Stokes thanked Senator Kissel for coming. Chairman Stokes asked Senator Kissel for no new mandates and urged support for bill #280 An Act Concerning School Transportation. This bill would help us save money on transportation costs.

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

a. Revised Non-Renewal List;
b. An Appendix for the RFP.

9. AUDIENCES

Nikki Price, Enfield Street – Mrs. Price is in favor of closing schools and reconfiguring providing it brings the school system forward. Mrs. Price is not in favor if the funds saved are not reinvested in our school system. Mrs. Price would like to receive a copy of the RFP. Mrs. Price distributed copies of an article from the Hartford Courant regarding a court ruling for quantifying education quality. Mrs. Price thanked Board members.

Sue Braun, Light Street – Mrs. Braun stated that the past Board gave the members from the DAC a revised charge. DAC was willing to give the Board another recommendation. We should use the DAC's presentations. The only item needed was the purchase of bus software. The Board really only has until the end of April to get this done properly. Last year we were told it would take 18 months to close a school and to do it correctly. Using the DAC's recommendations can help. Let's not delay any further. Look at one of the four plans they presented. Our elementary system is excellent. Our secondary system flounders. We need Board members to get down and dirty and do the work that is needed. Mrs. Braun thanked Board members.

Bill Ballard, Abbe Road – Mr. Ballard has watched the meetings on E-TV. The Board has some tough decisions to make and he appreciates the job being done. The sooner you make your decision, the better for the entire school system. Mr. Ballard does not support the Board fighting the ACLU. Mr. Ballard thanked everyone for being here. Mr. Ballard urged Board members to try to save as many jobs as possible. Mr. Ballard thanked Board members.

John Lambert, Oakwood Street – Mr. Lambert stated he has 7 children that are moving or moved through the school system. Mr. Lambert would like the Board to fight the ACLU. All countries have their beliefs and we should not run away from it or be embarrassed about our religious values. This is Enfield's decision not the ACLU's decision. We should not compromise our values. Mr. Lambert is a small business owner. Mr. Lambert thanked Board members.

Kathy Parrow, Thompson Court – Mrs. Parrow shared a story with Board members regarding her experiences with her neighbors helping her out in time of need. Mrs. Parrow stated when you are in panic mode; you can not see the forest through the trees. Community members have known this is coming. Look to your neighbors for help. Mrs. Parrow stated she is going to home school her children next year. Mrs. Parrow urged Board members to come up with the best plan to educate our children.

Peter Wolfgang, Executive Director of the Family Institute of CT (Hartford, CT) – Mr. Wolfgang stated he is here to urge Board members to return to the First Cathedral for graduations. You would not need to use any money to fight the ACLU. Mr. Wolfgang distributed information regarding pro-bono work. The ACLJ only takes suits they are sure they can win. The ACLU is bluffing. Stand up for religious rights. Stand up for the constitution and our first amendment rights. Mr. Wolfgang urged Board members to fight the ACLU. This will not cost Enfield financially. Return graduations back to the First Cathedral. Mr. Wolfgang thanked Board members.

James Brislan, Oakwood Street – Mr. Brislan urged Board members to bring graduations back to the First Cathedral in Bloomfield. Mr. Brislan has watched the Board members and the testimony. He is in favor of bringing graduations back to the cathedral. The community is in favor of this. Enfield needs to be part of this. Mr. Brislan urged Board members to return graduations back to the First Cathedral.

Jill Cunningham & Jan Lipomi, Elementary Secretaries – Mrs. Cunningham stated she is here tonight in favor of keeping the elementary secretary assistants. Mrs. Lipomi and she are here as senior elementary secretaries. The secretary assistants are an intrigal part of the smooth daily operations at each elementary school. Without the secretary assistants, the secretary would not be able to do their jobs. Someone needs to be in the office at all times. Each elementary school uses their secretary assistants differently. Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. Lipomi urged Board members to reconsider eliminating the elementary secretary assistants.

Ashley Buck, Homestead Drive – Ms. Buck stated she has grown up in Enfield and is a Kindergarten teacher at Alcorn. Alcorn has a full day kindergarten program. Students have benefited from this program. Ms. Buck would like the Board to reconsider and keep a full day kindergarten program at Alcorn. A half day program will do a disservice to our students. Ms. Buck thanked Board members.

Martin Clayman & Pastor Leroy Bailey III (Northridge Drive, WH) – Mr. Clayman stated Pastor Bailey is from the First Cathedral Church in Bloomfield. Mr. Clayman is the attorney for the First Cathedral. The First Cathedral is supportive of graduations being held. They also hold many other functions at the First Cathedral. They serve the community. Cost is a major issue and he has spoken to Vincent McCarthy from ACLJ and they will represent Enfield if they choose to return back to the First Cathedral for graduations. Mr. Clayman thanked Board members and urged them to fight the ACLU.

Tricia Wright, Oakwood Street – Mrs. Wright urged the Board to forgo party politics and come together as one and stand up for our children's education. Mrs. Wright would like Board members to reconsider Dr. Gallacher's proposed budget recommendation. The budget cuts will affect potential families coming to Enfield. Mrs. Wright urged Board members to not cut elective or boutique classes. Cutting sports is not the answer. Our students will have just the basics, how will they be able to compete with other students trying to get into colleges. Please do not take our students choices away. Stand up to the Town Council and ask them to find the money somewhere else.

Ross Davis, Iroquois Road – Mr. Davis stated none of the budgets presented are adequate. We are currently suffering a slow painful death by cutting. We need to plant a new tree. This is the opportunity we have to reconstruct the system and to provide a unique education for our students. We need to make our schools more efficient. We do not have any more time. This town needs 1 high school. We need a plan to get there. Make a decision and stick with it. Present a plan to the Town Council and let them know this is why we need the money. This is Mr. Davis' challenge to Board members.

Jack Sheridan, Buchanan Road – Mr. Sheridan stated the per pupil cost is $14,507. Everyone wants the students to get a good education. Past increases have not benefited the students. It has gone towards benefits and salaries. Mr. Sheridan stated the education budget has gone up every year. The Town Council used CIP funds to purchase books but we can not receive a list of these books. Mr. Sheridan stated people are under employed and unemployed, hours cut and Hamilton Standard machinist have taken an hourly pay cut to keep their jobs. Mr. Sheridan thinks it is great that the ACLJ is willing to fight for us.

Tina Leblanc, David Street – Ms. Leblanc stated last year she was a planner, this year she has been more of an observer. The budget is bleak in the State of Connecticut. She attended the Town Council meeting and Representative Tallarita and Jarmoc basically said what Senator Kissel stated. We know there is a problem and the cuts will get deeper. We have not heard anything about making it better. We are losing good families in Enfield. We need to rethink. We need to figure out a way the best we can to make the necessary cuts while providing a good education for our students.

Bob Tkacz, Bernadino Avenue – Mr. Tkacz stated the budget has been the same for the past few years. The spending has remained the same. The school has been kept at an even level. Graduations are not a requirement. We really do not have the money for graduations. We need to close the budget gap. Mr. Tkacz stated West Haven will close 2 elementary schools. Enrollments are dropping. Mr. Tkacz stated the school board is under school law and under the Attorney General. School law is the major issue.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Thurston stated she was absent during the budget vote. She had planned a vacation prior to her decision to run for the Board of Education. Mrs. Thurston stated she was in favor of Dr. Gallacher's proposed budget recommendation.

Mr. Grady stated Parkman held a "one book, one school" assembly. Each family received a book to read. Parkman students raised $2,100.22 for Haiti. They will present the check next week. Kudos to Parkman for the donation and their "one book, one school" drive. Board members will receive an invitation from Stowe School for a career fair. Mr. Grady is looking forward to this.

Mr. Grady stated he is disappointed that Board members took more time discussing graduations than the budget. Mr. Grady asked for the budget to be placed on the agenda tonight but was turned down by the Chairman. Mr. Grady liked the process of discussing the budget. Mr. Grady was not if favor of cutting Dr. Gallacher's proposed budget and to cut our budget another 1.24% will do us even more harm.

Mr. Grady stated the Board had a meeting prior to us starting to work together as a Board. This is not happening – we are not working together. Mr. Grady agrees with Mrs. Wright to take away the party politics. Mr. Grady is disappointed that we did not fight for the budget. We did not do the students or the public justice. Parents are frustrated and tired of fighting and not being heard. Mr. Grady stated we do not like mandates. What is going to happen to the students if we go to a zero percent budget? Mr. Grady supports the people in pink. How can we support a budget if we are going to make cuts? Mr. Grady urged audience members to contact Town Council members and tell them you do not like the budget.

Mr. Grady stated we have cancelled Board meetings because members were not going to be present but when came to the voting on the budget and a member was absent that was ok.

Mr. Grady responded to an audience member by stating the cost per student is $12,800 and asked what the cost per student was when your children went to school? Times are different. Students rely on their teachers and counselors.

Chairman Stokes asked Mr. Grady not to address the audience by name and called for a brief recess.

Recess:

Board members took a Recess at 9:22 PM. The Board returned from recess at 9:30 PM. Chairman Stokes stated we need to show decorum and respect for each other. Board members deal with many hot topics. We need to respect each other and listen to each other.

Mr. Grady stated costs years ago compared to today are different. Mr. Grady agrees with Mr. Davis regarding inadequate budget. There was a speaker here tonight regarding the ACLJ representing us. What happens if we lose? We would be liable for those costs. We need guarantees.

Mr. Grady asked about the price tag on education. What do we say to our children, that we do not care enough? We need to find the money. Isn't it important to give our children what they need to succeed in life?

Mr. Grady agrees about not cutting the elementary secretary assistants. Security will become an issue. Who will be responsible? Times are different. There are many problems. Students come to school for safety.

Mr. Grady stated presenting a budget with a zero increase is an insult. We should present a budget that presents a quality education in Enfield. Mr. Grady thanked everyone.

Ms. Hall agrees with Mr. Grady. If we choose to go to the First Cathedral, the ACLU would seek a court injunction to keep us from there. The article from the Hartford Courant makes reference to the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding. The goal of this organization is to see that every school in CT is adequately funded.

Ms. Hall stated if we were to make no changes to our budget from last year, we would need around an 8% increase. The Board passed a 1.24% budget. It has been many years since we have received a level funded budget with no changes. We have been making cuts to the point of being at bare bones.

Ms. Hall stated there is no way to have education without teachers. We are paying for salaries and benefits in order to do this.

Ms. Hall stated a parent at the Town Council meeting explained why parents are not at meetings. The meetings are held at night and they have small children that can not be left alone.

Mrs. Hall stated a lobbyist that works for the RESC Alliance had indicated the appropriations committee will produce their budget. There is a gap of $19 million in the 2011 budget and there would be a significant loss to IDEA funding. This is another indication of the amount of trouble the school system is in.

Ms. Hall stated the current 1.24% budget is just a number until we receive the final allocation from the Town Manager. The superintendent has made 2 recommendations. No decisions have been made yet by this Board until we receive our allocation.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches attended the Fermi Parent Advisory Board meeting and thanked them for treating her so respectfully. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches attended a reading evening at Hazardville Memorial. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches attended a pops assembly at Henry Barnard. The teachers did a wonderful skit on bus safety. The principal at Barnard will die her hair school bus yellow if the students do not have any bus conduct notices for two weeks. Dean Brodeur from Fermi FBLA prepared a power point presentation for the Food Shelf that was wonderful. Roger LeBlanc sent us an e-mail regarding this. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated they love to hear about our students helping out in the community.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated the Town Manager presented his bleak budget and a zero percent for education was not a surprise. It was discussed as us and them. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches thought we had gotten away from this – we are all going to feel the pain – we will all be affected by the budget situation.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches spoke with a resident over the weekend and discussed an old budget technique – feed the money, starve the monkey. His perception of the budget is they are trying to starve the monkey. If we get hungry enough, we will do just about anything to get fed. We can not just arbitrarily cut. We need to have something in place that will tell us what we are doing and why we are doing it. There are logical steps that need to be taken

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated the bus software that was recommended by the DAC is not the bus software that was purchased. The bus software purchased is for bus routes not redistricting. It will be of limited assistance to us. There is a difference.

Mrs. Hall mentioned the budget is just a number and it does not tell us what will be in place for next year. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated the 1.24% did have details but Board members could not make a decision. This will still need to be addressed.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches has been advocating for full day kindergarten since her oldest son was in preschool. The need for full day kindergarten is needed and important. Every dollar spent on early education saves us $7.00 later.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated that sports at the middle school and freshman sports are necessary costs. All programs are necessary, but sometimes necessary things need to be cut. We need to prioritize. Education is a service industry. A person needs to be involved. When we pay salaries, we are paying for services that are needed.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated the gentleman she spoke to was Frank Woods a former Board member. Mr. Woods commented how the demographics in Enfield are changing. We are hoping families will remain and their children will remain in Enfield. We are raising community members.

FHS Student Representative Meghan Ruff stated the 44th Woman's Arts Club will be held on Friday, March 26 and Saturday March 27th. Ms. Ruff urged everyone to attend and to support the arts while they are still here in Enfield. Ms. Ruff stated programs get cut. It is our obligation to educate to help prepare our youth and she does not see that happening and is very disappointed.

Mr. Jonaitis commented on something a Board member said about a zero percent budget and they should be ashamed. Mr. Jonaitis asked who "they" is. The Town Council did not vote on anything. The Town Manager presented his proposed budget recommendation.

Mr. Jonaitis addressed several audience members. Mr. Jonaitis agrees that an adequate budget and rebuilding the school system is needed. Mr. Jonaitis agrees it is not about the money but the education.

Mr. Jonaitis asked about Mr. Grady's ideas. Tell us where the money will come from. Mr. Jonaitis believes it is time to stop grand standing. Mr. Jonaitis sympathizes with everyone. He has spent many years in the classroom. Mr. Jonaitis wished we had more money, but we don't. We need to do the best we can with what we have. This will mean making changes. Just don't keep saying we need to do for the kids. Come up with some ideas.

Mr. Jonaitis asked when Board members will start the process. There are things we can do now. Some things will take longer. It is time that we have some meaningful discussions on what we are going to do.

Mrs. Szewczak stated she sat on the other side fighting for grade 4 music. She learned a lot. Education is big business. It is touchy and feely because our children are involved. We transmit a lot of our feelings onto the teachers and the administration. The bottom line is it is big business and we have no control over salaries. If we were a regular business we would have controlled salaries and kept what we had. We now have to work on what we have to do and have a little less control than a Board should have.

Mr. Johnson stated Enfield Street held their CMT Family Night and it was very well received. More than 125 people attended. Mr. Johnson applauded everyone involved. The Enfield String Festival was held and it was truly amazing.

Mr. Johnson thanked Senator Kissel. Both of our State Representatives will here on April 13. That should also be interesting.

Mr. Johnson supports going back to the First Cathedral. We have been threatened by bullies and it is reprehensible that we are listening to them. We have attorneys that are willing to represent us at no cost. This would be money well spent.

Chairman Stokes stated we appreciate everyone speaking about the budget. We do need systemic change. We need to address some items to lower class sizes for fall and to level out class sizes. We also need to look at our high schools. Our caucus has been meeting and putting together information and hopes the other Board members are doing the same. All Board members want to make changes that are positive, that will be better for education and will be fiscally sound. Past Boards have said there is no money. There is no bluff games being played – there is no money. The State is in trouble. We are in deficit by billions of dollars. Only school districts that are putting their house in order will be able to maintain and sustain themselves in the future. If you have any suggestions, please contact us.

Chairman Stokes stated we have always been able to address audience members by their names. Due to the climate in the room, Chairman Stokes thought it would be best not to do this tonight.

Chairman Stokes welcomed Pastor Bailey from the First Cathedral Church. We appreciate your staff and your facility. Thank you for what you have offered.

Chairman Stokes contacted the ACLJ in the spring. At that time, they were not interested in representing us. When Chairman Stokes was on vacation he was contacted by the ACLJ and they wanted to represent us pro-bono. Chairman Stokes thanked the ACLJ for their offer. This is not an easy decision regarding graduations. Chairman Stokes agrees with Mr. Johnson that they look for weaker opponents and they go after them. Morally, ethically and spiritually each Board member will get their vote.

Mr. Grady commented that he would like to address Mr. Jonaitis. Chairman Stokes would prefer this not be done now. Mr. Grady stated this has been done in the past. Chairman

Stokes stated if we allow you to speak, we would need to allow each Board member the chance for a rebuttal and it is currently 10:10 PM and the meeting will need to be concluded by 11:00 PM.

Chairman Stokes called for the Superintendent's report.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Fall 2009 Kindergarten Inventory Results – as presented
b. CMT/CAPT Testing – as presented
c. Schools & Offices Closed on Good Friday – as presented
d. ITPC Update – as presented
e. Grants Report – as presented
f. Personnel Report – as presented

12. BOARD COMMITTTEE REPORTS

Ms. Hall reported that she attended a CREC Council meeting last week where they discussed one of the education bills Senator Kissel discussed earlier. Two additional bills are #438 An Act Concerning Charter Schools and Open Choice Program Funding and bill #5487 An Act Concerning the Open Choice Program. Ms. Hall further reported that the Race To the Top Bill will affect us in 2018 and 2019. Ms. Hall reported that the Public Safety Academy is planning to bring in portable classrooms for next year. Tom Mooney was a speaker and discussed a policy regarding social networking. Ms. Hall will forward this to the Policy Committee.

Mrs. Szewczak reported the Curriculum Committee met and were presented the Grade 7 & 8 English /Language Arts Curriculum Guides. Mrs. Szewczak is requesting that these be placed on the April 13th Board Agenda for adoption. Both Ms. Hall and Mrs. Szewczak are in favor of these curriculum guides being adopted.

Mr. Jonaitis reported the TAG committee is in the process of looking for funds to have some teachers to attend a class being offered this summer at UCONN. We plan to keep the public informed of all developments.

Chairman Stokes was looking for the consensus of the Board extending the Board meeting past 11:00 PM.

13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

a. For the Month of January FY2009-10

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of January FY2009-10, total expenditures amount to $3.426,660.30 broken down between payroll totaling $1,667,563.48 and other accounts totaling $1,759,096.82. 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 7-0-1**, motion passes with Mr. Grady abstaining.

b. For the Month of February FY2008/09

Mr. Szewczak moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of February FY2008-09, total expenditures amount to $47,637.49, broken down between payroll totaling

$.00 and other accounts totaling $47,637.49. 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 7-0-1**, motion passes with Mr. Grady abstaining.

c. For the Month of February FY2009/10

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification as follows: "I hereby certify that in the month of February FY2009-10, total expenditures amount to $5,418,037.92, broken down between payroll totaling $3,536,951.32 and other accounts totaling $1,881,086.60. 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 7-0-1**, motion passes with Mr. Grady abstaining.

d. Line Item Transfers, if any

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Ms. Hall that the following Line Item Transfers be made as presented.

From:	Certified Salaries	$4,048,853.00
	Educational Services	$ 45,000.00
	Educational Supplies	$ 220,860.00
	Certified Salaries	$ 64,600.00
	Non Certified Salaries	$ 19,906.00
	Admin & Board Expenses	$ 115,000.00
	Total	**$4,514,219.00**
To:	Certified Salaries	$4,048,853.00
	Educational Supplies	$ 45,000.00
	Admin & Board Expenses	$ 335,860.00
	Admin & Board Expenses	$ 64,600.00
	Transportation	$ 19,906.00
	Total	**$4,514,219.00**

A vote by **show of hands 7-0-1**, motion passes with Mr. Grady abstaining.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Discussion on Graduation Site(s), and Action if any

Chairman Stokes is concerned with the time. Dr. Gallacher would recommend the Board take Item 15a out of order. Item 15a is extremely time sensitive.

Suspend the Rules to Address Item #15 New Business

15. NEW BUSINESS

a. "Receipt of and Action upon Recommendations of Superintendent of Schools Concerning Teacher Contract Non-Renewals in Accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 10-151"

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Szewczak that the Enfield Board of Education that the contract of employment of…

Caroline Adams
Heather Aselton
James Barrett
Maureen Bechard
Melinda Bedner
Judith Behling
Melissa Bergeron
Danielle Bourassa
Leigh-An Boyer
Heather Brunelle
Jenny Bunick
Jon Butterick
Megan Champion
Gregory Chandler
Erin Clark
Daniel Clement
Michelle Crawford
Justin Cote
DeCormier
Carole Donahue
Vanessa Donovan
Lisa Doughney
Jenifer Egan
Pamela Estes
Rachel Fadziewicz
Carrie Fleischer
Kyllie Freeman
Matthew Gaffney
Giselle Richards-Genece
Colleen Guertin
Karen Gustafson
Barbara Hallak
Jessica Hildahl
Bethany Holland
Mary Horn
Amber Hovland
Kimberly Jackle
Kimberly Jacques
Stephen Jewell
Melissa Karwoski
Karen King
Rachel Klein
Alexa Kulinski
Jason LaMesa
Katherine Lancaster
Tracy Langevin
Kristen Lavelle
Jennifer Ann Lewis
Nicole Long
Dawn Marchese
Caroline Martin
Melanie McCann
Emily Miarecki
David Mourad
Michelle Pansius
Tracy Pell
Melissa Pelletier
Michael Pescitelli
Kara Petrucci
Michael Petrucci
Christopher Ponte
Alexandra Pyznar
Shannon Robar
Danielle Ruggiero
Kathleen Ruggiero
Jill Sahlin
Yvette Santiesteban
Donna Schroyer
Christopher Scioscio
Jennifer Scioscio
Joel Senior
Patrick Smith
Amy Snyder
Laurie Somma
Christine Spelman
Laura Stalgaitis
Krista Sullivan
Sarah Szotak
Ruth Thomas
Jeanne Tornatore
Christine Turcotte-White
Brendan Walsh
Tyler Wells
Laura Wisnesky
Jennifer Wood
Doris Wyse
Todd Zenczak
Michelle Zimmer

…not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2009-2010 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to advise such person in writing of this action.

A vote by **roll call 6-2-0** passed with Mr. Grady and Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

b. Discussion on RFP for Reorganization and Action(s), if any

Chairman Stokes asked Dr. Gallacher explain the RFP. Dr. Gallacher would like to call upon Chris Chemerka since she is the point person on this. Dr. Gallacher would like Board members to look at the RFP and let us know if there are any changes needed.

Motion to Table Discussion on RFP for Reorganization and Action(s), if any

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches to table the RFP discussion. We need to address graduation sites. Board members were in agreement to table this item until the next meeting.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Discussion on Graduation Site(s), and Action if any

Dr. Gallacher stated in your packets is information prepared by Mr. Newton, Mr. Duffy and the Town Council regarding graduation sites. Dr. Gallacher would recommend both high school principals address any questions from Board members.

Chairman Stokes welcomed both Mr. Newton and Mr. Duffy. Mr. Duffy shared Chairman Stokes sentiments regarding using the First Cathedral. They have been courteous,

professional and top rated. The entire process was 100% professional. We appreciate them as an organization.

Mr. Duffy stated the Connecticut locations he contacted all said that it would be a far better deal to hold both graduations on the same day. The price doubles for two days. They could not meet our budget allotment for two days.

Mr. Newton gave a brief overview for each site and a glance overview. Each site has their strengths. Mr. Newton agrees with Mr. Duffy. The First Cathedral served us well and they were extremely hospitable. Any of the sites in Massachusetts would be suitable. Mr. Newton also provided information for two separate graduation dates or two on the same day. Mr. Newton can answer any questions the Board may have but the decision is up to the Board.

Mr. Grady asked if we are considering a one day graduation for both high Schools. We spoke with the SAFE Grad Committees and this would not work since they both are using the same site and deposits may have been made. Mr. Newton did not interface with the SAFE Grad Committees. Mr. Duffy stated we were asked to get the prices for one or two days not the information regarding SAFE Grads.

Ms. Hall inquired about the handicapped accessibility at the Springfield Symphony Hall. Mr. Newton stated they are fully handicapped accessible. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches has indicated that it is not that easy to get to. The elevator only holds one person at a time. If we have numbers it could be a problem.

Mr. Jonaitis stated it is an inconvenience to go up to the top level. They could be accommodated on the lower levels. Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated it is handicapped accessible but not conveniently accessible.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated the Mass Mutual Center was impersonable and using the jumbo-tron was not clear according to a parent she spoke to. Has anyone seen how a graduation has been done?

Mr. Jonaitis stated if we want coziness, we can use La Renaissance. They were also accommodating for holding two graduations on the same day.

Mr. Newton does not believe we need the curtain at the Mass Mutual Center. The price listed is inclusive.

Mrs. Thurston stated she has attended a graduation at the Mass Mutual Center for a college graduation. The students sat on the floor and there was a stage for them to cross.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches asked about the costs for the diplomas. Mr. Newton did not bring the figures. Mr. Duffy stated the money has been encumbered with the business office. Any of these options in Massachusetts would work if we did them on one day.

Mr. Jonaitis stated on back-to-back days, they would leave everything set up. Mrs. Szewczak commented that it would be a small savings.

Chairman Stokes would like graduations held on two nights because SAFE Grad has already made plans. Graduations should be held on June 23 & 24th.

The Mass Mutual Center would be around $28K. Mr. Newton stated Symphony Hall would not give students unlimited tickets. They would receive around 7-8 tickets. The draw back to WNEC & Symphony Hall is the room for the students is small. We would not be able to have them sit in the order they would be assembled. We would need to work around this.

Mr. Duffy stated there is a lot to do during and after a graduation. Mr. Newton stated we can make it work.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated WNEC is not available on both nights. Mr. Newton stated they could not give me firm numbers. There is no guarantee.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches stated tickets at WNEC would be unlimited. Video services would be needed. Mr. Duffy stated most places have some kind of video services.

Mr. Newton stated the Mass Mutual Center can video tape this. At WNEC, we would need to sub contract with them. Symphony Hall is a closed union shop and Mr. Newton is not sure if they would let us video tape. Mr. Jonaitis stated they would video tape. Henry Dutcher told Mr. Newton the quality might not be that good.

Mr. Johnson stated the Mass Mutual Center is also a union shop and we would need to use their personnel.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches reviewed bringing the graduations back home and asked if this is not being considered. We need this information. We are not seeing anything that will please everyone.

Mr. Duffy stated we could go to Mohegan Sun.

Chairman Stokes stated he is looking at the $32K and we can not go over it. Can you guarantee these prices? Mr. Newton is confident.

Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches would still like to use the grass. Mr. Duffy stated there were costs associated with holding the graduations outside. The chairs would be a big concern.

Extend Meeting Past 11:00 PM:

Chairman Stokes stated by our by-laws, we need to make a motion to extend the meeting past 11:00 PM.

Mrs. Szewczak moved, seconded by Mr. Johnson to extend the meeting past 11:00 PM.

A vote by **roll call 4-4-0**, motion fails with Mrs. Apruzzese-Desroches, Ms. Hall, Mr. Grady and Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

c. Ratify Clerical & Library Aides Contract

d. Ratify Cafeteria Employee's Contract

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Grady moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2010. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 11:00 PM.

Joyce P. Hall
Secretary
Enfield Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary