

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 12, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on March 12, 2024.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Riley.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Amanda Pickett
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Amanda Pickett
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Peter Jonaitis, Philip Kober, Tina LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder and Charlotte Riley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey Assistant Superintendent; Student Representatives Alicia Lizotte & Isabella Dinnald

**6. BOARD GUEST(S)**

**a. EHS Student Athlete**

Mr. Drezek welcomed our Athletic Director Cory O'Connell and EHS Wrestling Coach Jason Flynn. He is extremely proud of Keonta Crawford, and he could not be a better representative of Enfield High School and everything we stand for.

Mr. O'Connell also thanked the Board for this opportunity for recognizing student athletes for great accomplishments. He is an outstanding member of our school society. He has accomplished amazing things on the wrestling mat. He exemplifies what a student athlete should be.

Mr. Flynn also thanked the Board for recognizing Keonta, Mr. O'Connell and the administration for providing us with what we need along with our trainers, bus drivers, and our parents and wrestling team supporters. We could not do this without you.

Mr. Flynn reviewed Keonta's accomplishments – he has had 95 wins and 17 losses. He is a two-time All-State Wrestler, three-time All-Conference Wrestler, 2023-24 CCC Tournament Champion, Honors and High Honors Student while at EHS. He has the most wins since combining both high schools. He has the most tournament wins – 8 individual records this year. He is the first Enfield Eagle Class LL Tournament winner. He is a two-time place winner, fourth place last year and first place champion this year. He is the first Enfield Eagle to qualify and place for the New England Tournament. He is the first Enfield Eagle to win the open tournament and is the State Champion, last year he placed fourth and this year he placed first. He is one of 50 in the United States in the weight class of 285 lbs. state champion. He is one of fourteen kids in Connecticut who can say they are open champs. He is one of eight from Enfield Wrestling. The last open champion from Enfield was 20 years ago. He proudly introduced Keonta Crawford as our State Open Champion.

Mrs. Pickett stated we met during a youth Track and Field event that was held a few years ago. We also met at Meet the Candidates Night. She congratulated him for winning these prestigious athletic awards. Hearing that you are also a scholar is equally important. What are your future plans? Mr. Crawford stated he will attend Castleton University for Physical Therapy. Mrs. Pickett wished him all the best and knows he will be a success in his future endeavors. She also thanked the staff for recognizing everyone that has helped him along his way. It truly does take a village.

Mrs. LeBlanc also congratulated Mr. Crawford. She is good friends with your coaches and remembers when you went to the New England meet, we were all waiting to hear how you did. She is extremely proud of your accomplishments. You are our first Eagle to earn this honor. She cannot wait to see your name up on the wrestling room wall at the Annex. She also remembers seeing you at Meet the Candidates Night and you were playing Football then. You are a well rounded student athlete on the mat and in the classroom.

Mrs. Acree congratulated Mr. Crawford for being our State Open Wrestling Champion. Great job with your academics, this is really important. Keep up the good work and good luck at the university next year.

Mr. Jonaitis also thanked Coach Flynn for including records from both high schools. We have had some real giants in wrestling over the years. He also congratulated Mr. Crawford.

Chairwoman Riley also congratulated him. This takes a lot of dedication and discipline being a scholar athlete. She is extremely proud of your accomplishments. This is such an amazing accomplishment. She also wished him good luck with his future endeavors. She knows you will go places for sure.

Mr. Drezek stated on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, he received a text from our Athletic Director about how Mr. Crawford won the first Eagle Wrestling State Championship. He replied that that is my guy, and he is getting a parade. You should talk to the new superintendent about a parade. Congratulations again!

Chairwoman Riley thanked them for coming.

#### **b. Accountability Index**

Ms. Middleton stated that both she and Mr. Dague are here to discuss Indicators #5 Post Secondary Preparation and #6 Post Secondary Readiness. She further explained the indicator definition for #5 – Preparation for College and/or Career Readiness, Percent Taking Courses and the Indicator Score. Mr. Dague explained about the Influencing Factors for Indicator #5 and district comparisons.

Mrs. Middleton explained about Indicator Definition for Indicator #6 Preparation for College and/or Career Readiness – Percent Passing Exams and the Indicator score. Mr. Dague explained about the Influencing Factors for Indicator #6 and District Comparisons. He also explained about ongoing actions.

Mrs. Pickett was not surprised by our success with Indicator #5. Indicator #6 is predictable based on some of the assessment data we have seen. She would love to see a presentation about our program of studies. She has seen the progress we have made at our curriculum meetings and programs we offer. We are proud of our consolidation of high schools and the students progress. She asked about the courses that are offered for workplace experience.

Mr. Dague stated students will get credit for working at a job for 2 semesters. They will leave high school during the day and go to a job. The Career Center coordinates this for our students. The job needs to be related to one of the Federal Career Clusters.

Mrs. Pickett asked about professional learning support at our schools. What will be the outcomes from some of these professional learning opportunities for our classroom teachers? She supports meeting the diverse and unique needs of our students and supports the work that is being done. Thank you.

Chairwoman Riley asked about benchmarks for SAT testing for Math and English. Ms. Middleton stated it is 480 for English and 530 for Math.

Chairwoman Riley asked about SAT's being taken on digital platforms and when will this occur? Ms. Middleton stated it is happening this year. The high school SAT's will be taken on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. She just had a conversation about this with one of the testing coordinators from the State about SBAC testing today. They want her to let them know how the testing went.

Chairwoman Riley is pleased at how well we did with Indicator #5. Your plans for Indicator #6 and universal design for learning will move us forward. It looks like we have already started moving forward. Thank you for the presentation.

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

### **a. Student Representative Update**

Mr. Drezek stated he was notified that our two student representatives participated by testifying today at the State Legislature. He will forward this video to the Board so you can see our representatives in action. We are extremely proud of you. Thank you.

EHS Student Representative Alicia Lizotte reported spring sports will start on March 16<sup>th</sup>. The track team will hold a car wash on March 30<sup>th</sup> at Raffia Road Service Center. Buzz Robotics came in 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Hartford Regional Competition. Track will also hold a fundraiser event at Red Robbin on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Gardening Club will sell green carnations for St. Patrick's Day on March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. If any teens are looking for summer jobs, Enfield Recreation is hiring.

EHS Student Representative Izzy Dinnald reported the student equity team held a welcome walk through event on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Parents will give us feedback on how welcoming the school is. The student vs. faculty Basketball game will be held on Thursday at EHS. On Friday, we will hold a talent show. The National Honor Society is volunteering at Enfield Loaves & Fishes on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Juniors will take SAT's on March 22<sup>nd</sup> with their iPads. The Junior Prom will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Enfield Strings Festival will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Student Council nominations are due on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Seniors cookie dough pickup was yesterday. Scholarships are available for any seniors, please talk to your counselor.

### **b. JFK National Honor Society Induction Ceremony – as presented**

### **c. EPS Update -**

Mr. Drezek stated he was not at the last Board meeting. He had previously made plans to visit his daughter.

Mr. Drezek supports the tough decision the Board made at the last meeting regarding the SSO Program. As the superintendent, he would like to share his opinion on this. He fully supports this plan 100% and understands this was a tough decision and some of you were not in full agreement about this. He appreciates the Town Council resurrecting and approving this program. There are a lot of things that happen and one of the biggest concerns is the safety and security of our students and staff. He will always be in favor of anything we can do for that reason. We did this before and some of you were here the last time we did this. There was controversy about this 11 years ago. Our focus was to make sure it was the best program we could provide for the safety of our students and staff. He has full confidence that we will be able to replicate this again. The safety of our students and staff is a priority. He wants

whatever we can get to make our schools safe. Our SSO's and SRO's are wonderful and do so much for us. We have been given an opportunity to expand on what we currently have. SRO's will need to meet qualifications and the correct certifications to hold these positions.

He would love to see more social workers and mental health providers like Dr. Calnen mentioned. The budget he presented did not eliminate any social workers or certified teaching staff member. He did not have enough funds to enhance our security program. This opportunity was presented to us, and he supports this program. He urged Board members to ask this question a year from now. Living through this once before and if this is done correctly like we did in the past, these SRO's will become members of our school community. The outpouring from the community on their last day was amazing. You need to trust those that will do the hiring and that will oversee the program. He supports this program and is confident in the people that will be doing this right a second time.

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Chairwoman Riley read a prepared statement regarding audience participation. We will allow 4 minutes for each audience member to speak.

Robert Buczkowski, Francis Avenue – Mr. Buczkowski stated he was offended by comments that were made by a Board member at a Board meeting about people on the town square forum about PJ day and videos that were made along with pizzagate and inappropriate library books and drag shows. Raising money for charities is a good thing. He would like us to focus on STEM and not on being woke. You also need to look at line item allocation for your budgets. More details are needed.

Shiela Munroe, Stacy Lane – Mrs. Munroe clarified her comments about PJ day that were twisted. Standards and expectations need to be set. She asked about dress codes, and they need to be enforced. You need to look at your mission statement. She does not believe we are preparing our students for success. She brought some items for the teachers that were looking for paper at the last Board meeting. Our teachers are valued and appreciated. She used to volunteer in our schools years ago. We need to have more parent volunteers in our schools. She congratulated Mr. Crawford for his athletic and academic achievements. These are successes we want to see in Enfield.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin thanked Mr. Dague and Ms. Middleton for the presentation. Our AP/ECC courses help our students financially for college. When it comes to the budget, you need to remember that our kids need many different things, and one size does not fit all. Increasing class sizes will cause many concerns and more needs. We need more para's and BT's. Supports are needed in the primary grades. Invest in our younger grades. You need to remember this is a public school system with families of every makeup. Treat our families with respect.

Karen Pashos, Lancer Drive – Mrs. Pashos was a volunteer at Prudence Crandall for many years and is now a bus driver for Smyth Bus. She urged people to apply to become a teacher, para bus drivers and mentors and see what our staff are doing every day. We need to support our para's and bus drivers. Her sister is Tina LeBlanc and she spoke about the unsensitive remarks that were directed towards her at a previous meeting. Tina has given everyone respect and kindness. We got our character from our parents, and Tina has an excellent character. Our mom raised 5 well-adjusted children. We are very proud of Tina. She understands that everyone is entitled to their opinions. Try using compassion. Smyth bus loves PJ day. This is an important day for our kids.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Ryder provided an update about Eli Whitney events. Fundraiser butter braids are available

for pickup on March 21<sup>st</sup>. He congratulated Jacob and Chase who will move on to the next round for the Invention Convention. Families on March 22<sup>nd</sup> can attend our Influential People and Places of America Exhibit.

Dr. Calnen provided an update about Head Start events. They will have summer school starting on July 8<sup>th</sup>. He reviewed the Head Start Self-Assessment that will be conducted in the spring, the unit they are currently using, Ready Rosie, and the Intake Process for September. If anyone is interested in enrolling, please call 860-253-4717.

Mrs. Acree provided an update about Prudence Crandall events. The One Book Three Schools unveiling will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Enfield Public Library from 6-7 PM. A flyer will be going out to intermediate school families soon about this event. The Barnard/Crandall PTO meeting will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> virtually at 6 PM. Crandall is still collecting shoes to reach their goal of 1,000 pairs.

Mr. Kober provided an update about Henry Barnard events. Their spring picture day will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. They will hold family math literacy nights and CT Science Center events. These events will be held by grade levels. These events can also be found in the Big Cat newsletter. The Welcome to Kindergarten night will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at JFK for students that will be entering kindergarten in the fall. He reminded parents about the kindergarten age change. A press release has been sent out about requesting waivers from parents. Parents/guardians who request waivers will be contacted by the principal's at the primary schools.

Mrs. Pickett stated the Ramadan holiday will be celebrated on March 10<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss our calendar later tonight. She has asked that we include multiple holidays that are celebrated by our families on the backside of our calendar. Happy Ramadan to those that celebrate this holiday.

Mrs. Pickett congratulated Mr. Longey on being appointed as our next Superintendent. She looks forward to continue working together for our students and staff. Thank you for stepping up for us.

Mrs. Pickett stated there are some concerns about our budget. She understood that joint meetings with Board and Town Council Leadership were held about our budget. She has heard that they do not have our budget.

Chairwoman Riley stated we had a discussion about where we are. At that point when we met, we did not have a final number to give them. We still need to present our budget to the Town Council. They do not have our final numbers unless they proactively went to our website and look at our budget. Mrs. Pickett thanked her for this clarification. She will continue to advocate for our budget needs.

Mrs. Pickett stated per pupil expenditures are calculated with a formula by the State and can be found on the State website.

Mrs. Pickett added that additional resources are needed for our buildings. Our roofs are leaking, parking lots are unsafe, some playgrounds and buildings are in disrepair. We need to look at our buildings and make investments. This also links together our needs for security. She agrees that safety and security are priorities. It is more than just armed guards in our schools but investments in our buildings.

Mr. Pickett visited Hazardville Memorial and their Paws Time program is a proven success. We need to invest in our Tier I supports at our K-2 schools.

Mrs. Pickett asked about the electronic sign JFK has. Would there be a way to put other

messages on it like half days, early releases and town events?

Mrs. Pickett stated we will address safety in executive session tonight. Have we received any updates about the signs on Enfield Street by Enfield Street School? There are school times that are posted by STOWE. She is not sure if these times are current with the programs at STOWE. She would like to see School Zone Hours posted.

Mrs. Pickett stated Enfield Little League held evaluations. She thanked the high school baseball players that were there to assist. They also had an equipment swap for the kids.

Mrs. Pickett added that Enfield Street will continue with their read-a-thon. Parkman will hold a fund raising event at Red Robin on March 14<sup>th</sup>, their butter braids event will end on March 15<sup>th</sup>, and they will hold a spirit week next week.

Mrs. Cushman urged families to take part in the Screenagers series being put on by ETC Mental Health and Wellness Coalition. Part 1 was held last week, Part 2 will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at JFK from 6-8 PM, and Part 3 will be held on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at EHS from 6-8 PM. For more information about this program, please call 860-253-6382.

Mrs. LeBlanc also congratulated Mr. Longey for being appointed as our next superintendent. It is well deserved, and she appreciates your time spent in various roles here. You understand and know Enfield. She also congratulated Mr. Drezek on his new role as Superintendent in Old Saybrook. You were chosen out of 32 candidates. That is quite an accomplishment. Your vision and improvements made here in Enfield while you were Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent have not been unnoticed.

Mrs. LeBlanc also wished those that celebrate Ramadan – Happy Ramadan. She also looked into this and learned about their celebration of intense spiritual rejuvenation and devotion. March is also Woman's History Month. She congratulated woman that have made huge impacts and advances in arts, sciences and mathematics as well as in the medical fields along with our Vice President is also a woman.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the Joint Security Meeting. One of her concerns was what will the program look like. She knows what the program looked like in 2011 for our security guards. It is important for us to get information about the security program. The security guards will wear the same uniforms as our school security officers. They were part of the school community previously. This can be scary for parents. Chairwoman Riley had some good ideas about what to expect when we open school up in the fall. In 2011 there was no State Legislation like there is now that we are required to follow. She added this was not requested by the Board of Education.

Mrs. LeBlanc also addressed the misinformation about the per pupil expenditures that was mentioned at a Town Council meeting. All districts are put on the same playing field when they are calculating the per pupil expenditures. Some budgets include buildings and grounds, and some don't.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated politics has turned ugly especially when people are talking about her mother's passing. No one's family should ever be included in any dialog or attacked. This is something that should not be done. We can be questioned about our political differences, but our characters should not be questioned. This is wrong. She thanked her sister for speaking tonight. This has upset her family, and we miss our parents. They have missed many important family milestones. She appreciates her families continued support.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked Mr. Buczkowski for speaking tonight and for your thoughtful comments. He likes the idea from Mrs. Munroe about parent volunteers in our schools. Mrs. Griffin you are spot on about education and class sizes. He hopes we do not go back to larger class sizes

either. Reading is extremely important in the lower grades and our kids need to have a mastery of a reading level by grade 4. If they are falling behind, we need to have a solution for them. Our kids need to be able to read. Reading is important. Mrs. Pashos you are entitled to your comments whether you like what is being said or not. A lot of us do not have children in our school system anymore.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked Principal Dr. Berrios for the tour at John F. Kennedy Middle School. JFK is a beautiful school. He was very impressed with the equipment and classrooms. What a change, it is quite impressive, and he was equally impressed with Dr. Berrios. He asked about the lights being left on at night again at JFK.

Chairwoman Riley stated our student representatives testified at a General Assembly Law Committee live public hearing about proposed Bill #199. This bill would require tobacco retailers to be educated on how nicotine affects young people when they apply or reapply for licenses. She congratulated them both for stepping up. This is not an easy thing to do.

Chairwoman Riley congratulated Buzz Robotics for their win with their robot Optimist Rhyme. They will go to the district championship at the Big E on April 4-6<sup>th</sup>. They will hold a pasta supper fund raiser event on March 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Bernard's. The money they raise will be used for the admission fee.

Chairwoman Riley stated we will discuss later under Board Committee Reports about moving bonds from short term to intermediate investments to take advantage of better interest rates. We will just need a general consensus to proceed.

Chairwoman Riley stated we have reading supports in place for students that are having difficulties. We can elaborate on this when we get to the Curriculum Committee about how this exactly works.

Chairwoman Riley also addressed the per pupil expenditure. We give our information to the State (all the data from buildings, grounds, curriculum, etc.) and they come up with a number using a formula. There can be many different numbers that are listed on the State website. It would be great to know the true source. It is disheartening when you see different numbers on multiple pages.

Chairwoman Riley provided an update about happenings at Hazardville Memorial. International Read to me Day will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for volunteer readers to read a story to the students or conduct an activity about a book. If you are interested please contact Principal Fitzsimons. They will also have a local author visit on March 12<sup>th</sup>. A Vision of a Graduate and parent focus group will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup> for both Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney at 5:30 PM. Prudence Crandall is also doing this. It was in their newsletter. This vision will carry them from Kindergarten until they graduate. Memorial held a Literacy Night on March 6<sup>th</sup> that was well attended.

Chairwoman Riley also spoke about Paws Time. She would love for Amber Venoutsos and Kelly Rossetti to share this program with our other K-2 schools it would be awesome. The kids stay in their classrooms and the teachers go from room to room. They discuss a book they have read and then a craft is done about the book. The teachers get to know all the students. She went to three different classrooms and was able to continue where they left off in the other classroom. The data shows the students have increased their attendance, increased morale, have less behavior issues and the students know all the adults in the building, which is great. The teachers and students love this program. She would love to see them present this at a Board meeting and start it at our other primary schools.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked Mrs. Pickett for bringing up Ramadan. He added that when he was teaching history at JFK, he would have the students compare religious holidays in his class for

a week. He would love to see something like that being done on a small scale. It opens up a lot of eyes when you do this.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. Policy Revisions – Second Readings**

**Policy #5111 Kindergarten**

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves the second reading of Policy #5111 Kindergarten as presented.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Kober proposed an amendment to the policy. He would like to change the word exception to exceptions.

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the second reading of Policy #5111 Kindergarten as presented with the amendment.

A vote by **roll-call – 9-0-0** motion passed unanimously.

**Policy #5112 Ages of Attendance/Dropouts**

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves the second reading of Policy #5112 Ages of Attendance/Dropouts as revised.

A vote by **roll-call – 9-0-0** motion passed unanimously.

**Policy #9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings**

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves the second reading of Policy #9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings as revised.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Ryder asked where we put it in the policy about simple majority vote. Mr. Kober stated the text can be found in green and it is under Adjournment of Meetings. Mr. Ryder just wanted to make sure that was in the policy.

A vote by **roll-call – 7-2-0** passed with Mrs. Pickett and Dr. Calnen in dissent.

**Policy #9325.2 Order of Business and Meeting Conduct**

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree that the Enfield Board of Education approves the second reading of Policy #9325.2 Order of Business and Meeting Conduct as revised.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Kober stated one of the benefits of this proposed revision of this policy is it will help to facilitate our meetings with separate categories and end our meetings at 10 PM. It sets better parameters for audience and Board member comments.

A vote by **roll-call – 7-2-0** passed with Mrs. Pickett and Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

**Policy #9325.3 Meeting/Parliamentary Procedures**



Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves the second reading of Policy #9325.3 Meeting/Parliamentary Procedures as revised.

A vote by **roll-call – 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

**b. Discussion and Action if any Regarding the 2024-25 School Calendar (Tabled on 02-27-24)**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education places this item back on the table for discussion and action if any.

A vote by **show-of-hands** 9-0-0 passed unanimously.

Mr. Drezek stated the Board had requested different versions of the school calendar. The Board has received 4 draft calendars and tonight we have given you draft #5 for your consideration. We have notified both the teachers and administrators union with draft copies of the school calendar. Based on feedback, you now have the 5<sup>th</sup> draft calendar for your consideration. The decision on the calendar is solely made by the Board. Prior to today, your consensus was around draft #4. The only difference with draft #5 is a later start date and end date. Draft #4 – the 181<sup>st</sup> student day will be on June 9, 2025 and the firm graduation date will be on June 13, 2025. Draft #5 – the 181<sup>st</sup> student day will fall on June 11, 2025 with a firm graduation date on June 17, 2025. You just need to keep in mind snow days that might be used. Please keep in mind that nothing can happen on June 19, 2025 since this is a Federal holiday. Draft #4 gives you more flexibility in June in the event of a bad winter. Draft #5 will give you a later start.

Chairwoman Riley stated some Board members like Draft #1, #4 and #5. How should we proceed? Mrs. Zalucki stated you can poll the Board members and then proceed based on that.

Mrs. Pickett, Mrs. LeBlanc, Mrs. Acree, Mr. Ryder and Mr. Jonaitis like Draft #5. Mr. Kober likes Draft #1.

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2024-2025 Draft School Calendar #5 as presented.

A vote by **roll-call – 8-1-0** passed with Mr. Kober in dissent.

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Acree reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Pickett added that Mr. Jonaitis asked about reading interventions. This was discussed at one of our meetings. It would be helpful to have discussions about our tiered intervention supports at an upcoming meeting. Also when we are talking about high needs students we need to be careful. She received some feedback about this, and she just wants to clarify that families and students should never feel you are a burden to us. We do receive funding for special education supports. It is our job to provide equitable education for all students.

Mrs. LeBlanc agrees with Mrs. Pickett. When it comes down to funding and the budget, our high needs students need to receive every resource available. Parents with high needs students or special education students should not feel that they are a burden to the school

district. Every student that attends school in Enfield Public Schools is valued.

Chairwoman Riley echoes those comments, and she hopes no one feels that way. The State just needs to help us and deliver what they promised us.

Mr. Jonaitis remembers the Curriculum meeting where we discussed the various tiered levels. He also agrees this is not enough. When we identify these students, they need more supports.

Chairwoman Riley added when we roll out our new reading curriculum, it will focus on phonics, which will be a big help with reading. Once this gets going, maybe we can have a presentation on this.

Mr. Jonaitis added we are enrolling more ELL students and that is another reason to concentrate on reading.

Finance Committee: Mr. Kober reported the Finance Committee met on March 4<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss financial reports later. We will meet on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chairwoman Riley asked each caucus to discuss moving bonds from short term to intermediate investments. Based on your discussions, we can discuss this further at the next Finance and Budget Committee meeting so we can inform MML Investors how to proceed.

Policy Committee: Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee will meet on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Leadership – Chairwoman Riley reported Board Leadership met on March 5<sup>th</sup> where we discussed the budget and agenda items. We will schedule another meeting for next week.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the JFK Building Committee will meet on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Chairwoman Riley asked about when this committee will end? Mr. Ryder will ask this question at the next meeting.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if they are addressing any of the problems in the building with the hinges and drains. Mr. Ryder will ask about those items at the next meeting. Chairwoman Riley also heard about items. She will give you a list of items to check on.

Joint Security Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chairwoman Riley stated we discussed next steps with the SRO's. We also discussed the signs on Enfield Street. DOT has given DPW some options on different kinds of signage.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree shared the data they received from the surveys about the needs of our students and what the administration would like to see.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked them for the work they are doing with this committee. You mentioned there is an issue with getting resources outside of the school system. With mental health concerns, people do not reach out until they are in a crises. It usually takes several months to seek and receive professional help. It looks like you have created a real partnership with the administration. This committee has been targeted by FOI requests. This is nothing but good and positive work. Both you and Dr. Calnen have said that we need to understand the needs first in our district before we can address any fixes and supports. We need more supports. The mental health of our teachers is just as important. We are trying to find a balance to make

our students and staff feel supported. She looks forward to additional updates.

Chairwoman Riley asked for an explanation of the traumas that are occurring in our schools and what kind of training is needed. Also having a directory of mental health resources would be helpful. During Covid, we put together a list with resources for families where they could find food, etc. By doing this for mental health resources, it will give people a starting place. We could also place this information on our and the Town websites. She is available to assist. She knows the list we put together during Covid with resources helped families.

Mrs. Pickett added schools and families can also call 211 or [www.connectingtocarect.org](http://www.connectingtocarect.org) which is a behavioral health website. This site will list local resources by towns.

Mrs. LeBlanc added PLA graduates last May created the Enfield Hub with many different kinds of resources for families as their community project.

Chairwoman Riley added having links to these places on our website would be very helpful for families.

Dr. Calnen agrees these lists are helpful but the waiting lists at these places are very long. There is also a large turnover with therapists. He urged families to start a dialog with your child's pediatrician. They also have resources and are becoming more involved with the management of behavioral health issues. They can also treat patients along with a psychologist.

Mr. Jonaitis added maybe we can contact our teaching colleges to see if they can assist.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mrs. LeBlanc reported ECAC will start their robust summer concert series. We also discussed having student involvement and having them perform at the band shell their performances. Usually the only ones that see our students perform are their families. This way, the community could hear our students perform. Concerts will be held on Tuesday's which will impact Board meetings on June 11 & 25, July 9 and August 27. She would suggest that we start our Board meetings earlier on those dates due to not being able to hear while the concerts are happening, plus parking is another concern. We also discussed photography projects that have been displayed in the halls. Mayor Nelson and Mrs. LeBlanc would like to see student art displayed in more public places. She suggested Council Chambers. ECAC is dedicated to partnering with Enfield Public Schools and showcasing student artwork and their talents.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the ECAC has considered the public library. Mrs. LeBlanc stated they are showcasing student art already. There is a big display at the Pearl Street Library. The ECAC is looking to showcase student artwork in more of our town buildings.

### **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Special Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mr. Jonaitis abstaining.

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2024, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

### **14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL**

#### **Month of February 2024**

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mr. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of February 2024 the total expenditures amount to \$7,174,299.24, broken down between payroll totaling \$5,037,644.75 and other accounts totaling \$2,136,654.49 and;
- 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 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of February 2024 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$570,767.18 broken down between payroll totaling \$410,426.74 and other accounts totaling \$160,340.44 and
- 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 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

No Line Item Transfers.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Ryder reminded Board members about the invitation to the JFK Jr. National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education enter into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Security.

A vote by **roll-call - 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 9:10 PM.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:**

The Board returned to open session at 9:47 PM.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 12, 2024.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Scott Ryder  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary