

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on October 10, 2023.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Jonathan LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire, and Tina LeBlanc

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent; Student Representatives Kayla Surprenant and Isabella Dinnald

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. EHS Youth Vote Students

Mr. Drezek welcomed Mr. Joel Senez, our Social Studies Coordinator, and Enfield High Youth Vote students Rebecca Bemiss, Emily Kokoszka and Omar Atwah. The students thanked the Board for inviting them. They spoke about the Youth Vote Program. They invited the Board to attend the Meet the Candidates Night that will be held on Wednesday, October 18th at 6 PM in the EHS Cafeteria. The questions that will be asked to candidates will be developed by the students. Students at JFK will also participate in Youth Vote events. Students in grades 4 and 5 will participate in the Connecticut Kid Governor program. Students can vote in the mock election that will be held on election day. They also thanked Mr. Crane, Mr. Allegro and Mrs. Witbro for all of their assistance.

Mr. Senez added that both Mr. Crane and Mrs. Witbro both work tirelessly on this program each year. Mr. Crane is teaching a citizen learning class tonight at the Annex. Mr. Allegro just got off of the soccer field. This speaks about their continuing dedication to our students that go beyond the regular school day. He thanked the students for a great job.

Mr. Ryder asked about the hours for the polling sites for the Kid Vote Program. Mr. Senez added the students will be there at 8 AM until 8 PM.

Mr. Hamre loves Youth Vote and his children have participated for years and now they are voting on their own. Youth vote is a semi annual event that coincides with elections. He would love to see this happen each year so we could have discussions with the students. He appreciates you being here tonight and looks forward to the Meet the Candidate night.

Mr. Senez added on the off years we will hold senate, representative and congressional candidate elections.

Mrs. Pickett thanked them for coming. She appreciates the work you are doing and sharing your vision about democracy. She is also glad that our student representatives are also here. She also likes Meet the Candidates night. Her children come with them when they vote. When you hold spring voter registration, is there anything we can do to help? She also thanked our staff that go above and beyond for this program.

Mrs. Acree also thanked Mr. Senez, support staff and students. Learning about our election process and government is important. She looks forward to the Meet the Candidate night.

Dr. Calnen stated the municipal election is an excellent opportunity where you could teach the adults a lot. Typically this election has a lower turnout. They are extremely important because all politics are local. Congratulation on a job well done.

Mr. Unghire also thanked them for attending tonight and promoting democracy. As you are aware there are many people in this world that do not have the opportunity to vote and choose their leaders. Our leaders are accountable to the people that they serve. What you are teaching and helping to promote is the finest form of government. What a privilege it is to be part of this and to promote it.

Madam Chair agrees with Dr. Calnen about our local elections and how they directly affect us. Turnout is typically much lower, and she wished that more people would go out and vote. She appreciates you being involved with Youth Vote and your school government. When she was in high school they would hold voter registration events for students that were eligible. Does Enfield High hold an event like this?

Ms. Kokoszka stated we just handed out registration flyers during Eagle Block to eligible seniors. We also spoke about voting and have the flyers in Spanish for Spanish speaking students. Around 30 to 40 people took the forms. We will also hold an event where they talk directly to the voter of registrar.

Madam Chair stated it is extremely important to vote and express your voice by voting for your candidates. Thank you for your involvement. She wonders if any of you will run for office someday? There are different things that motivated us to run for office.

Mr. Senez thanked Mr. Bourassa for sending you information about this. Please check your e-mails. Thank you.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Kayla Surprenant provided the Board with an update. Councilor college session will start tomorrow to assist students with common applications. Buzz Robotics will compete on Saturday, October 14th. Tri-M held their induction ceremony on Wednesday, October 4th and inducted 21 new members. Senior athletes will hold their senior nights for Girls Soccer, Field Hockey, Boys Soccer and Football. All games will start at 6:00 PM and senior celebrations will start at 5:30 PM.

Mr. Drezek welcomed our new student representative Izzy to tonight's meeting.

Student Representative Isabella Dinnald also provided the Board with an update. She gave a shout out to our PE teachers and student council members who helped with our homecoming held on Thursday, September 28th. CHC will hold a mobile dental clinic starting on Wednesday, October 18th for the next two weeks at EHS. PSAT's will be coming up soon. The National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 9th. Progress reports have just come out so report cards for the first semester will be coming out next.

- b. **Columbus Day & Staff PL – NS**- as presented
- c. **EPS Update** – as presented

8. **AUDIENCES**

Madam Chair stated she will allow 4 minutes for audience member participation.

Christina Tetreault, Green Manor Road – Mrs. Tetreault spoke about an FOI that was filed about a candidate that is running for the Board of Education that was a former teacher. Based on the complaints about this person, she will not support this candidate. Student safety should be a priority.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin thanked Mr. LeBlanc for his service to our students. Everyone can learn by his examples. You have served the needs of every student and will be missed. She hopes to see Mrs. Acree on the Board next term. She was also concerned about the FOI documents that were posted on the Enfield Forum. Our children's needs are important. A late bus is needed. She would also like to see Eagle Block returned completely. Three days is insufficient.

9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Acree thanked Mrs. Griffin for her support. Crandall's open house was a huge success. Friday, October 13th students and staff will participate in our Pink Out day. Students will also be collecting donations for the Enfield Food Shelf. The classroom that collects the most food items will participate in the November assembly. Mr. Barrett's students are learning to code. They will hold a virtual PTO meeting on October 17th. Lego Club will meet on Tuesdays and that club will end on November 7th.

Dr. Calnen attended KITE's annual meeting on Wednesday, October 4th where we discussed plans for the upcoming year. He provided an update about the Head Start Policy meeting that was held on Friday, September 15th. They also discussed the new entrance date for Kindergarten and the hardships this will create. Head Start held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 4th. He reviewed the goals for their upcoming grant application.

Mrs. Cushman stated she visited the EHS Career Center last year and met with Mrs. Ceniglio and her team. Junior Achievement published an article about the EHS career center and named her as an inspiring educator. She congratulated Mrs. Ceniglio and her team for inspiring our students.

Mrs. Cushman spoke about a guest speaker that attended a Town Council meeting that addressed child and human trafficking. A program about this will be held on Wednesday, November 15th at 7 PM. Digital Citizenship is something our district teaches our students. There are healthy technology resources for parents to use (defendyoungminds.com). She also brought two books from their website for two different age groups "Good Pictures Bad Pictures". These books can help to teach students to turn, run and tell just like stop, drop and roll to stay safe and learn how to protect themselves. She hopes to see these books in our library shelves.

Mr. Hamre stated the JFK PTO will meet on Wednesday, October 11th at 6:30 PM. Students just finished their first fund raiser event and will participate in the Pink Out event on Friday, October 13th. The Enfield Instrumental Music Association will hold a fund raiser event at the Texas Roadhouse in Springfield on Thursday, October 19th. He thanked KITE for the invitation to attend their annual meeting. It was very rewarding to see the work they are doing that benefits our youngest students and families.

Mr. Hamre spoke about the Town Charter. There has been discussions about banning books and removing policies that protect the LGBTQ community. When the Town Council discusses the Town Charter next year, he would like them to look at the Board make-up. The Board is comprised of Republicans and Democrats. He would like the Board to be comprised with non-partisan group of individuals that will do the best for our families and students. Over the years he has seen many good people get involved but their voices are not heard because of the current structure that is in place. He would like to see the Town Charter be revised for the Board make-up. This is being done all over the country and state.

Mr. Hamre would also like to see lights placed outside behind town hall and a taller fence installed so the basketball doesn't roll down the hill so far. He would also like to see a traffic light placed on Enfield Street by the high school entrance. This is a safety concern. He also urged student drivers to be careful.

Mr. Hamre expressed his condolences to Cardo's family, friends and colleagues. He also expressed concerns to the people in Israel and what they are enduring.

Mr. Hamre congratulated the Enfield High Football team for being 4-0.

Mr. Unghire stated he was recently in Israel and made many new friends during this trip. It is a very diverse country where people of many faiths live. What happened on Saturday is horrible. Life can change quickly in just one day. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Mrs. Pickett stated these tragic events have impacted many. She thanked both audience speakers for your comments. Regarding opening up the Town Charter and candidate qualifications, she encourages everyone to look at it and get involved with your party affiliate. This is where decisions are made. She thanked Mrs. Griffin for her comments about scheduling at the high school and Eagle Block. Our career center is doing amazing things as mentioned by Mrs. Cushman. We have discussed on-line program of studies, the multiple pathways programs and college credit courses that are available for our students at our Curriculum meetings. She would like them to present to the Board at an upcoming meeting. The town has invested so much into our high school so we could offer more opportunities for our students.

Mrs. Pickett added that Stowe Early Learning Center has been named as an Apple Distinguished School. She thanked Mrs. Valley and her staff for their continued commitment to teaching our youngest students.

Mrs. Pickett added Enfield Street will hold their Lyman Orchard fund raiser event. They will hold a purse Bingo, participate in the Pink Out event, a Wolfpack event and their PTO meeting will be held on October 18th. They will also hold a Red Robbin fund raiser event and participate at the community Jack-o-Lantern festival. The Parkman open house and picnic was a huge success. Thank you PTO for this great event. It was nice seeing families and touring the school. They held their ROAR assembly, and the grade 5 students lead this event. They will hold a spirit wear fundraiser event, a DiAngelo's fundraiser event and a PTO meeting on October 17th. Also, all grade 5 students can attend a dance on October 15th.

Mrs. Pickett is also concerned about traffic at our schools. When we think of our plans for renovating our elementary schools, we are looking at major roads and we need to think about the traffic and impact in order to make our students safe.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. LeBlanc for his service. You have always consistently stayed focused on our students and that has driven the decisions you made. She is honored to have served with you. You will be missed, and our community was lucky to have you.

Mr. Ryder stated iPad insurance is due on Saturday, October 15th. The cost is \$25, which is required annually. You can pay for this on your child's myschoolbucks.com account. If you have any questions, please reach out to your building principal.

Mr. Ryder would like to schedule a meeting with the Superintendent and the PTO presidents. We try to meet two times a year.

Mr. Ryder added he will visit all of the schools to collect monies for the districtwide Pink Out event on Friday, October 13th. There is a link on the website. He thanked Principal Duperre and Dr. Berrios for arranging this event. PJ Day will be held on Friday, December 8th. All of the JFK club links have been posted for any student that would like to participate in afterschool club activities. There are lots of options for our students.

Mr. Ryder added Eli Whitney celebrated Latino Heritage month with a schoolwide parade on Friday, October 13th. Each classroom participated by making posters and flags. This is one of the ways our equity team is helping our students to feel recognized and seen in our school community.

Mr. Ryder stated Trick or Trunk will be held on November 2nd at EHS for Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney students. They are collecting candy for this this event. Picture day will be held on Wednesday, November 18th and the grade 5 dance being held at Alcorn on Friday, October 20th. Tickets will be sold, and the cost is \$5. You will need to call 860-253-5004 to RSVP for this event. The Jack-O-Lantern Festival will be held on Saturday, October 21st from 4-8 PM. Also Jack will be visiting our schools again.

Mr. Ryder also thanked Mr. LeBlanc for his service. It has been a pleasure serving with you.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked everyone for their kind words. He thanked Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey and your administration team, it has been great working with you. Thank you for keeping Enfield on track. He thanked the staff at our schools, you encompass what our students need and are the backbone of our school system. He thanked the Town of Enfield for their support. It has been an honor and privilege, and he hopes he has served you well and made you proud. He thanked his fellow Board members. Each one of you brings something special to the dais. Your volunteer service does not go unnoticed. He thanked his family for their support and his grandparents for watching every meeting. It has been awesome being here with his Aunt Tina. This has been a great experience and we have worked well together. He loves Enfield and will miss you all. Thank you.

Madam Chair stated we were sent a link from Mrs. Ceniglio about the career center. They have developed such a great partnership with Junior Achievement. She would like Mr. Ryder to post this link on the Enfieldpto.com website. Our career center is such a great opportunity for our students. She thanked them for everything they are doing for our students.

Madam Chair congratulated our Stowe Early Learning Center for receiving the Apple Distinguished Educator Award. This is another great program we have in Enfield.

Madam Chair also attended the KITE dinner. Whenever she attends a KITE event she feels like she is among friends. It was a great event. Two of our Enfield parents received awards. She congratulated Danielle Girard and Melissa Griffith. KITE would like to hold a conversation about family engagement with the Board on October 17th at 6:30 PM. Please keep this date in mind. More information will be forthcoming.

Madam Chair stated today is world mental health day. Some of the strongest people in your lives may be suffering with mental health. Please check on your family and friends.

Madam Chair welcomed our students representatives back. It is nice having you both here and

getting input from our representatives about the high school. If you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Madam Chair thanked Mrs. Griffin for her comments about Eagle Block and bussing is still a concern. She congratulated our EHS Football team and coaches. They are having a wonderful season. Our coaches are amazing whether they are winning or losing.

Madam Chair thanked Mr. LeBlanc for his integrity when dealing with any political issues and wanting to know all sides of an issue. He always made his own decisions. We will miss that next term. It is important to make your own decisions that may go against your party. You always made your own decisions and by doing this, you have gained so much respect in our community. She knows our grandparents are watching us. Your contribution to the Enfield Board of Education, students, staff and the Town of Enfield is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Madam Chair added that Cardo taught automotive classes at EHS and touched the lives of so many students, families, and staff. He was one of a kind and will be deeply missed. She expressed her condolences to his family

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Policy Revisions – First Reading

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed policy revisions as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett would like to get student feedback on our policies. Our policies impact our students and families. This might be a way to have our student representatives be part of these discussions especially regarding policy #9160 Student Representatives. She also appreciates the changes being made to policy #5131 Conduct and Discipline. She supports the recommended changes. Her concerns are about the action of the policy. We are notified about 911 calls and suspensions. What are our plans to address data? She spoke as a parent about the disproportionality around our students of color and students with disabilities before she became a Board member. She would like to hear more around our equity plan with our bias and discipline process and how we can help families and students. It is her hope that our families are supported through these processes. Our policies help to drive our decisions. She looks forward to hearing more about the districts strategic and equity plans and how our students needs are being met.

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

Mr. Drezek added as mentioned by Dr. Calnen, we are still learning about the kindergarten entrance age, and you will be hearing a lot about this in the upcoming months. Childcare is a huge issue. The decision about waivers is up to the principal. There are no metrics for the waivers yet. The State may provide us with more information on this. There are many conversations happening about this, so stay tuned. This will also affect one of our policies.

b. Approve the Schedule for Regular BOE Meetings for 2024

Mr. Unghire moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2024 Schedule for Regular BOE Meetings as presented.

A vote by **roll call 9-0-0** passed unanimously to table this item.

c. Action if any regarding the ESAA Contract

This item will be addressed after Item #16.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett reported the Curriculum Committee met on September 21st and discussed the book approval process. We discussed some items from the table that we will further discuss at an upcoming meeting about our Health Curriculum and opt-out lessons. We also discussed our K-3 reading program. We are no longer using iReady and are using CBM. This is a new universal screener for our readers. We will also be getting an update on our K-3 reading curriculum and Tag. Our next meeting will be on October 19th.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee met on September 18th to review financial reports and end of year reports. Our next meeting will be held on October 17th.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee cancelled their October meeting and will meet again on November 21st after the elections.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Board Leadership has not met. She will try to set something before our next BOE meeting.

PK-5 School Modernization Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the SMC Committee members attended our joint TC-BOE meeting on September 26th. We will meet soon to discuss our next steps as we move forward as a prebuilding referendum committee. He encouraged all current SMC members to apply to be a member of this committee.

Madam Chair urged community members to watch the September 26th Special BOE meeting on E-TV. Plans and site recommendations were discussed. This information can also be found on our website.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee met on September 28th and our next meeting will be on October 26th.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the JFK Building Committee met on October 5th. He was unable to attend the last meeting and the minutes from that meeting have not been posted yet.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder is not sure when the Joint Security Committee will meet next.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup – Dr. Calnen does not have an update for this committee.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mr. Hamre provided an update about the Valley Rep Theater group. All events are posted on the ECAC calendar that can be found on the Town website and on Facebook. He spoke about Natalie Needs a Kidney. The Opera House Players will be selling Halloween costumes on Friday and Saturday at 100 High Street. They will also hold a Cabrera. He participated at the community paint day and helped to paint strawberries at the Enfield produce & deli store on Enfield Street. PFLAG will hold an event on October 21st on-line at 6:30 PM.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 12,
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2023, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Special Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

Madam Chair wished her son Colin a happy birthday.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Unghire moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education enter into Executive Session for matter(s) related to collective bargaining.

Both Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session.

No Board action occurred while in executive session.

Return to Open Session:

The Board returned to open session at 8:39 PM

Item #11c. - ACTION IF ANY REGARDING THE ESAA CONTRACT

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves the ESAA Contract as presented.

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

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 10, 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary