

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on October 14, 2025.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Riley.
2. **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, Dean Gousse, Philip Kober, Tina LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder and Charlotte Riley

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Steven A. Moccio, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Deputy Superintendent

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**
 - a. **John Dague – Attendance Update**

The Board welcomed the Director of Operations, John Dague to present the Attendance Update/LEAP 2024-25 Summary. He explained that the LEAP Program was implemented last year to improve chronic absenteeism within the district, and that the grant allocation has been extended to the end of the 2025-26 school year. He shared data collected last year and how feedback is helping to make changes to the program this year. He also showed how the new data management system (eduCLIMBER) links directly to PowerSchool to be able to track absences and help the Attendance Teams work with LEAP to target chronically absent students and implement interventions.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. **Student Representatives**

Jennifer Vazquez-Ramos (Grade 12 Alternate) – Senior Superlative nominations due Friday, October 17; Parent/Teacher Conferences are Wednesday, October 29 and Thursday, November 13 – see ParentSquare notification for details to book your conferences; AP Exam payments are due by Wednesday, November 5; annual Board of Education survey will be given to students on Thursday, October 16; Meet the Candidates is Thursday, October 16 at Enfield High School; NHS Ceremony is Tuesday, October 28.

Chase Menard (Grade 11 Representative) – Last week was Spirit Week for Homecoming; thank you to all of the staff who volunteered at the Homecoming Dance on Thursday; PE Department did a phenomenal job with the Pep Rally on Friday; PSAT Day is Wednesday, October 22 for grades 9 through 11 – this is a full day of school, not a half day; Class of 2027 is hosting a car wash on Sunday, October 19 from 9:00-2:00 PM at the Raffia Road Service Center; late buses will begin on Thursdays at 3:30PM – students must sign-up the day before in the Assistant Principal's office.

b. EPS Update

Mr. Moccio shared that the PK-5 Pre-Referendum Committee is holding the first Community Conversation on Wednesday, October 22nd at JFK from 6:00-7:00PM. The theme for this conversation will be the existing conditions of the building. There will be two more sessions – one in December and one in February.

He emphasized that the half day coming up on Wednesday, October 29 is only for EHS/JFK (Grades 6-12) and Grades PK-5 are in school a full day.

The Board was given an invitation to the 2025-26 Teacher of the Year Celebration for Amy Santanella on Thursday, October 30 hosted by Alpha Delta Kappa.

Mr. Moccio reminded the Board about the upcoming Veteran's Day Parade. Anyone who would like to participate must RSVP by October 27.

The 2026-27 Budget Development Calendar was shared with the Board. He stated that the School Administrators and Department Heads are currently working on their budgets and will be presenting them to the Cabinet during the first and second week of November. Mr. Moccio also mentioned that if the Charter Revision passes in this November's election, the Board of Education budget will be due at the beginning of February (a month earlier than previous years).

8. AUDIENCES

Chairwoman Riley read a prepared statement for Audience member participation. Audiences will be allowed 4 minutes to address the Board.

Kelsey McGuire-Bruce, Neelans Road – Kelsey is one of the three Directors of the Jack-o-Lantern Festival, being held on Saturday October 18th from 4:00-8:00PM. In honor of their 25th Anniversary, the entrance fee for any child who brings a carved pumpkin is only \$1. The cost of a wristband for children who do not bring a carved pumpkin is \$10. There will be bounce houses, obstacle courses, hayrides, trick-or-treating, face painting, music and dancing. Costumes are encouraged but not required. Food vendors will be on site for purchase. She thanked the Board of Education for their continued support of this annual event.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin encouraged the new Student Representatives to speak freely and honestly about how decisions made impact the schools. She reminded everyone that early voting starts on Monday, October 20th at Town Hall. She shared how the budget cuts have affected her own children.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kober reminded everyone that October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and for families to complete the Back-to-School Technology Checklist by Wednesday, October 15. He reiterated that the Enfield High School and Enfield Youth Vote are hosting Meet the Candidates on Thursday, October 16 from 6:30-8:30PM in the EHS cafeteria.

Mrs. Pickett encouraged families to attend the Jack-o-Lantern Festival and Meet the Candidates, as well as attending the Community Conversation on October 22 at JFK.

Dr. Calnen shared that the ACES study provided a way to score the severity of childhood trauma and found that serious childhood trauma is not uncommon. He recommended a book called The Body Keeps the Score by Dr. Bessel van der Kolk.

Mrs. Acree congratulated all the inductees to the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Mr. Gousse welcomed the Student Representatives and added to Mr. Kober's comments regarding cybersecurity by reminding everyone to be careful with their data.

Mr. Ryder acknowledged Mr. Moccio's one year anniversary with Enfield Public Schools and thanked Mr. Longey for his leadership.

Mrs. LeBlanc shared that October is National Book Month and challenged everyone to put down the electronics and pick up a book.

Chairwoman Riley thanked the Board Leadership Team for the extra time and effort they have put in this year.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of Teacher & Administrator Evaluation Plan, as Amended

Sarah Brown presented the Educator and Leader Manual Updates to the Board. She explained that the state model had been adopted and the PLEC (Professional Learning and Evaluation Committee) wanted to align the Leader Manual to the Educator Manual.

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to approve the Teacher & Administrator Evaluation Plan as amended.

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

b. Policy Revisions

i. First Reading – Transportation Policy #3541

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy #3541 Transportation of Student as a first reading.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober commended the responsiveness of the current board regarding the recent bus route changes and public dialogue surrounding this policy.

Mrs. Pickett stated that she was excited that the Policy Committee discussed this policy so quickly and is taking action, but she has some concerns regarding sibling ridership, speed limits and snow removal.

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education tables Policy #3541 Transportation of Students to allow for further discussion.

A vote by **roll call 3-6-0** failed with Mrs. Acree, Mrs. Cushman, Mr. Gousse, Mr. Kober, Mr. Ryder and Chairwoman Riley in dissent to table this policy.

Mr. Ryder acknowledged Mrs. Pickett's questions and suggested more discussion regarding this policy at the December Policy Committee Meeting. He also recommended she email Mr. Moccio a list of questions that are able to be addressed with the town prior to the next meeting.

A vote by **roll call 8-1-0** passed with Mrs. Pickett in dissent.

ii. Renumber Policy #0521

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves to renumber and rename Policy #0521 Non-Discrimination to Policy #1521 Non-Discrimination.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober stated that this is just a clerical adjustment without any changes to the wording of the policy.

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

iii. Possible Repeal of the Remaining 0000 Mission, Goals and Objectives Section

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education tables the repealing of the remaining policies in the 0000 Series until the Policy Committee has adopted the Shipman & Goodwin 4000 and 5000 Series Non-Discrimination policies.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the next Curriculum meeting is on October 23.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported the Finance & Budget Committee met on October 6. He will address approval of Accounts & Payroll for September during Agenda Item #15.

A Summary of the FY26 Budget is as follows: the final revised appropriation amount is \$79,098.23; net expenditures year-to-date are \$14,042,766.39; estimated total expenses for this year inclusive of revenues is \$76,539,435.77. As of this report, the projected unexpected funds for the current year would be \$2,591,587.20 and note that this is predominantly driven by the 19 vacant positions across the district where funds have been budgeted but not yet encumbered.

A Summary of the FY26 Grants is as follows: the district applied for a total of \$3,529,173 and to-date have been awarded \$3,483,581. Our available funds are presently \$2,831,753. For FY25 Grants, we still have \$447,457 in available funds due to a multi-year grant (several of which will be open until June 30, 2026). We also still have \$206,146 in available funds in open grant line items from FY24 – more to follow on funding of this specific grant.

Mr. Kober also shared recommendations from Wolff Financial Group regarding the TAG (Talented & Gifted) Fund Account and swapping out one underperforming fund. After receiving consensus from the Finance Committee, Mr. Moccio will include information in his weekly update about the fund that the advisor recommended.

The next Finance & Budget Committee meeting that was scheduled for November 4 has been cancelled due to Election Day. The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, December 1 at 5:00 PM, however a Special Meeting will be scheduled prior to the end of the current term if needed.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Cushman reported that the October Policy Committee meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for December 16.

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported that Leadership met on October 8.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Henry Barnard - Mr. Kober

Picture Day is October 29 – please note that this is not an early release day for PK-5 students
Please see the newsletter for information about wearing costumes to school on October 31

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder

Next PTO Meeting is October 20 at 6:00 PM in the library

Wolf Walk is October 31 – school appropriate costumes may be worn

Congratulations to Ben Grimsley – Kid Governor for Whitney

Trunk-or-Treat is October 28 at Whitney from 5:30-7:30 PM (with HMS families)

Prudence Crandall – Mrs. Acree

Annual Food Drive is off to a great start

If they collect 4,000 lbs. of food Mr. Duperre will shave his head at the November Assembly

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the district-wide Pink Out Day

Parent/Teacher Conference links will be sent out to families from Teachers

Hazardville Memorial – Chairwoman Riley

Monitoring attendance – see the newsletter for attendance tracker tips and updates

Spirit Week is coming October 27 - October 31

Trunk-or-Treat at Eli Whitney this year on October 28

Spirit Run is October 27 during the school day

Parent/Teacher Conference links will be sent out tomorrow through ParentSquare

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported that the committee met on October 9 and discussed the roof projects. The next meeting is scheduled for December 11. Chairwoman Riley welcomed the new Facilities Manager to Enfield.

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported that no meeting has been scheduled.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee met on October 10 and the next meeting is Friday, December 12.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree presented the final report for the Mental Health Committee.

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. LeBlanc reiterated that the first Community Conversation is coming up on October 22 from 6:00-7:00 PM at JFK to discuss the existing conditions of our elementary school buildings. The Committee wants to hear from residents and community members regarding the plan for Enfield Public Schools going back to the K-5 model. This is a long-term community project and will be going to referendum in June 2026.

Mrs. Cushman encouraged residents to check out the information provided by the architects around town for more information. Boards have been placed at all schools, the Senior Center, the library and Central Office. Information can also be found on the Enfield Public Schools website under the Community tab.

Mrs. Pickett added that an important piece of this project is considering the impact on our early learning programs and town supported services.

Mr. Ryder informed everyone that each Community Conversation will be recorded and posted to the EPS website.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2025 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Month of September 2025

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

- The month of September 2025 total expenditures amount to \$6,721,514.32 broken down between payroll totaling \$4,723,889.77 and other accounts totaling \$1,997,624.55.
- 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 Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of September 2025 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$731,206.42 broken down between payroll totaling \$372,728.14 and other accounts totaling \$358,478.28.
- 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.

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION:

Mr. Ryder reiterated that the Board was given an invitation to the Teacher of the Year Celebration for Amy Santanella on Thursday, October 30 at JFK.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education enter into Executive Session for Matters Related to Collective Bargaining – Enfield Teacher's Association Negotiations.

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

Both Mr. Moccio and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 8:55 PM.
No Board Action occurred while in Executive Session.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Kober to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:21 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Lawlor, Recording Secretary

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