

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on September 23, 2025.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman (virtual), 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

**Motion to Move Agenda Item**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to move agenda item 11a to agenda item 6b.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Kober pointed out that this change would bypass public communications.

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed, with Mr. Kober abstaining.

**Motion to Add Agenda Item**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to add agenda item 11b to appoint the 2025-26 Student Representatives and Alternates as Board liaisons.

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **MICHELLE MIDDLETON:**

The Board welcomed Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Michelle Middleton to present EPS Portrait of a Learner, the District Improvement Plan, and the Alliance Grant Plan. Mr. Moccio explained how these three topics are interconnected, and that's why they will be presented together.

Board members thanked Ms. Middleton for her presentation.

Mr. Kober asked for clarification as to how the District Improvement Plan was developed. Mr. Moccio explained that it was based off feedback from staff and students which clearly identified systems and structures as the first focus area, teaching and learning, and an obvious need for

climate and culture. The suggestions were brought to the Cabinet for discussion and then to the Administrative Council.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the difference between Tutors and Instructional Coaches, as well as the role of the Administrators in implementation and support. Ms. Middleton shared that she has been meeting with school Administrators to discuss their school improvement plans, which are aligned with the District Improvement Plan.

Mrs. Pickett clarified that the Alliance Grant Plan was presented as part of the budget. Mr. Moccio explained that the Board of Education approved the budget for 4.32% and it was reduced by the \$1.44M amount of the Alliance Funding, which included the additional supports Ms. Middleton described in her presentation.

Mr. Gousse asked for more information on Trauma Informed Restorative Practices. Mr. Moccio shared that Mr. Longey would be giving a full description during the Superintendent's Report.

Chairwoman Riley reiterated that the District Improvement Plan and the Alliance Grant Plan go hand-in-hand. Teachers are the front lines, so the success of the school depends on the Administrators effectively assisting the teachers, and the Cabinet/Superintendent making sure the Administrators have what they need. Everyone is being held accountable.

#### **b. Discussion & Action if any regarding the Alliance Grant Plan**

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to approve the 2025-26 Alliance Grant Application.

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

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

#### **a. EPS Update –**

Mr. Moccio announced the Board of Education Student Representatives and Alternates for the 2025-26 school year. The Student Representative for Grade 12 is Olivia Nuccio and the Alternate is Jennifer Vasquez-Ramos, and the Student Representative for Grade 11 is Chase Menard and the Alternate is Avery Leloup. Mr. Moccio and Mr. Longey will be meeting with the students for a training session and upon Board approval, their first meeting will be October 14<sup>th</sup>.

A copy of the 2026-27 Budget Calendar was provided to the Board. The new calendar will go to referendum as part of the Charter Review Committee and if it passes, the timeline to complete and approve the budget will be a month earlier.

Mr. Longey presented information about Public Act 23-167. He stated that according to the law every school in the state of Connecticut needs to have a School Climate Committee. Mr. Longey is currently meeting with each school to start off these new committee meetings and review their responsibilities. The task of this committee is to create evidence-based climate surveys. They will complete a pre-assessment of their building based on the 15 standards set by the state. Committees are now in the beginning phases of gathering data and developing their plans. Restorative training sessions with a trauma focus are beginning this week. Teams from each building will be sent to training from now through December.

### **8. AUDIENCES**

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

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin shared that Safe Grad for the graduating Class of 2026 will be holding Jingle Jam on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> instead of Saturday due to scheduling conflicts.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Kober reiterated that September is Suicide Prevention Month and shared that along with 911, there is also the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number 988. October is National Fire Prevention Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month and National Principals Month. Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Custodian Day.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated Maria Griffin and Bridget Kelly for being named as commended students for the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Mrs. Pickett recognized that Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>. She stated that the walking paths and sidewalks are being assessed by DPW for our student walkers. She is concerned about the budget referendum being included in the Charter.

Chairwoman Riley extended her sympathies to the families that have lost loved ones over the past few weeks and asked everyone to remember to be kind. She also has concerns about the budget calendar change. Buzz Robotics are reviving the tradition of the STEAM Family Night on November 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM at EHS.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **11. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. This Item was moved to 6b.**

**b. Discussion & Approval of Student Representatives & Alternates**

Mr. Gousse moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder to approve the 2025-26 Student Representatives Olivia Nuccio and Chase Menard and Alternates Jennifer Vazquez-Ramos and Avery Leloup.

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

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Curriculum Committee met on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported that the next Finance & Budget Committee Meeting is Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. They will be discussing the new budget calendar.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee Meeting is Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the next Leadership Committee Meeting is Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **13. LIAISON REPORTS**

Henry Barnard - Mr. Kober  
Fall Open House had an amazing turnout  
Picture Retake Day is Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder

PTO meeting tonight – email for info [EWPTO@yahoo.com](mailto:EWPTO@yahoo.com)  
District-wide Pink Out Day is Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>  
Fall picture day Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Prudence Crandall – Mrs. Acree  
Megan Dowd Lambert this Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup>  
Picture Day is Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>  
Pink Out Day is Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – donate an optional \$1 for breast cancer awareness

JFK Middle School – Mr. Gousse  
Hat Day raised \$825 for childhood cancer  
Grade-level Expectation Assemblies have been completed

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder  
Next meeting is Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6PM

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairwoman Riley  
Nothing on the schedule

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder  
Next meeting is Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Enfield Mental Health met on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and will share the work and accomplishments at the next Board Meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. LeBlanc  
Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> probably won't happen due to not having a quorum

#### **14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mr. Gousse that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025 be approved.

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

#### **15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None**

#### **16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None**

#### **17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Gousse that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) 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 8:38 PM. No Board Action occurred while in Executive Session.

#### **18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Acree moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 23, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Scott Ryder  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Lawlor, Recording Secretary