

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on October 28, 2025.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Riley.
2. **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, 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. Michelle Middleton – State Assessment Results

The Board welcomed the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Michelle Middleton, to present the State Assessment Results. She shared the district-wide goals for 2025-26 in Math and ELA and the assessments used for data monitoring. She showed trend data from 2021-2025 and cohort comparisons, where applicable, from 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Mrs. Pickett appreciated the beginning slides showing what other assessments we use as a district, and how that data is shared through administrative meetings. She would like to hear more about what that looks like in practice and how the multiple data points are used in the District and School Improvement Plans. She would also like to look at the strategic goals implemented over the years and see how the recent challenges in the district have impacted the data.

Mr. Ryder confirmed that the after-school math tutoring sessions are at EHS on the same day as late buses. Ms. Middleton added that sessions should be starting at JFK after the holidays once staff are in place.

Mr. Kober asked for clarification on how students are identified for Tiered Intervention and what apps/programs are available to students to use for Math.

Mr. Gousse questioned if there were resources and materials available for parents to be able to help their students at home.

Chairwoman Riley spoke about the internal audit of the curriculum to make sure we are teaching at the right times to stay in line with the state standards.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representatives

Jennifer Vazquez-Ramos (Grade 12 Alternate) – Fall regular season sports are done; Girls Soccer game Friday, October 31 at 2:00 PM; Boys Soccer game Saturday, November 1 at 11:00 AM; Field Hockey game Wednesday, November 5 at 3:00 PM; Football Senior Night is next Friday, November 7 at 6:00PM; EHS National Honor Society Induction Ceremony to welcome 50 new members; Buzz Robotics is hosting a Family STEAM Night on November 5 at EHS; Cap and gown fittings for Seniors on Thursday, October 30 – extra tassels are \$6; Senior Brags due by November 26; Parent/Teacher afternoon conferences are Wednesday, October 29 11:30-2:20 PM; AP Exam registration and payments are due by Wednesday, November 5; Information is available for students interested in the Quebec Field Trip.

b. EPS Update

Mr. Moccio shared that there was an update to the posted School Hours schedule. Integrated PM Pre-K at ESS will have school if there is a two-hour delay. The EPS website has been updated, and families have been informed.

Building walkthroughs have begun. Mr. Moccio extended a thank you to the classroom teachers for accommodating the visits. Since the last Board meeting, the Cabinet has visited every K-2 specialized program. The EHS walkthrough was outstanding in terms of the detailed schedule provided. Today's walkthrough at Crandall was focused on Grades 3 and 4, specifically Tier I small group instruction to identify areas of strength and room for growth.

Mr. Moccio and Mr. Longey will resume the Student Focus Groups with Grades 6-12, beginning next Friday, November 7 at EHS. He is looking to meet with a wide range of students and will be focusing on school culture and climate. They are looking forward to hearing directly from the students regarding how they feel it is going and what our next steps might be.

Mr. Moccio acknowledged the immediate action of the town and crisis team members in response to the tragic loss of an EHS student on Friday afternoon. The team worked all weekend to make sure supports were ready for students at JFK and EHS when they arrived at school on Monday morning. He explained the delicate balance between giving the family time and space to grieve and honoring their wishes in terms of what information we are able to share. The team utilized the best practices from the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention toolkit designed for schools to access during these difficult situations. Additional counselors from our schools, Youth Services and CHC were available for students. Resources are available for families as well. He reminded everyone in need of Mental Health assistance to dial 988 or 211 for support.

Mr. Moccio ended his EPS Update by thanking the 5 outgoing Board Members for their time and efforts.

8. AUDIENCES

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

The following audience members shared their thoughts and gratitude to the outgoing Board members at their last official Board meeting.

Danielle Girard - Parent

Bob Cressotti - Councilman

Maureen Griffin - Parent

Kelsey McGuire-Bruce - Parent

Walter Kruzel - Former Chairman

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Acree thanked the audience members for their kind words of gratitude. She shared her experiences over the last 4 years on the Enfield Board of Education and thanked everyone for their expertise and support. She expressed her wish for the best for the students, staff and families of the Enfield Public Schools.

Mr. Kober reminded families that the early release on October 29 is for grades 6-12 only, that there is no school for students and professional learning for staff on Tuesday, November 4 for Election Day, and no school for staff and students on Tuesday, November 11 in honor of Veterans Day. He extended his thoughts and sympathies to the family of the EHS student, as well as her friends, the class and community at large. Mr. Kober attended the Enfield Together Coalition (ETC) Enfield Connects kick-off event, where speakers shared stories and examples of social connections, as well as tips and tools to strengthen community bonds and ideas to help support health and well-being. He acknowledged the achievements of his fellow board members and encourage residents to attend the organizational meeting on Tuesday, November 18 at 6:00 PM for a proper farewell to the outgoing members and to welcome the 2025-27 Board.

Dr. Calnen expressed his admiration for the members of the Board and his gratitude to Mr. Moccio and Mr. Longey. He thanked the town of Enfield and shared his deep sense of gratitude and debt to the town and its citizens.

Mrs. Pickett is excited to see communications being posted on the JFK electronic sign. She has some ideas about how the district can be more transparent moving forward. She asked for an update on the draft audit and if there have been any communications with the town about food insecurity with SNAP benefits being withheld as of November 1. Mr. Moccio confirmed that he is working with Nutrition Services to ensure that snacks will be made available to students. She thanked the staff, students and residents who attended Meet the Candidates. She ended her comments by reflecting on the 5 Board members not seeking re-election, sharing moments of honor and recognizing their service and deep commitment, collaboration and care for Enfield Public Schools.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that 3,000 residents in Enfield are losing SNAP benefits. There is an Urgent Food Drive at the Enfield Food Shelf on Saturday, November 1 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM. She shared her honor and privilege for being able to serve on the Board of Education for the last fourteen years. She thanked the voters, shared various building projects that she was able to be a part of, and reflected on how her journey with EPS began. She personally addressed family, friends and Board members who have supported her throughout the years.

Mr. Gousse thanked everyone on the Board and shared that it has been an honor.

Mrs. Cushman also attended the ETC event last week. She shared a challenge they provided as a way to consider how to be more intentional about connecting. She thanked Dr. Wiley for the posts about Digital Citizenship Week and encouraged parents to check out the website commonsensemedia.com as an excellent resource for families. She recommended a book called The Tech Exit: A Practical Guide to Freeing Kids and Teens from Smartphones. She ended her comments by thanking those serving beside her on the Board and how she appreciated the opportunity to develop friendships and be encouraged and supported.

Mr. Ryder encouraged everyone to come out to the last home Football game on Friday, November 7. He reiterated that it is Senior Night for the football players, cheerleaders and marching band. He spoke of his history in Enfield and how he got involved after moving here. He recognized his family, current and past Board members he has served with over the last 8 years, and his PTO mom friends who were there at the start of his volunteering journey. He shared that he will remain involved through the PK-5 school modernization project, as we fix

the last piece of our educational facilities puzzle.

Chairwoman Riley expressed her deepest sympathies to the family of the student who passed away. She thanked everyone who attended the ETC Enfield Connects event. As one of the Tri-Chair, she asks that we all take the time to wave or say Hi to a neighbor. We are trying to build togetherness as a way to combat loneliness and social isolation. Kudos to Enfield for being the first in Connecticut to make this a community-wide initiative. She shared her overwhelming sense of gratitude for having the opportunity to serve her community on the Board and Council for a cumulative 7 years. She expressed her heartfelt appreciation to her fellow Board members, the dedicated educators and staff who work tirelessly to ensure our students are safe, supported and have the tools they need to succeed and her family for their unwavering support. She urged everyone to remember that our students are our future and that they deserve our best efforts – every day.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Policy Revisions

i. Second Reading – Transportation Policy #3541

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc, to approve the second reading of Transportation Policy #3541.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett is supporting this motion tonight and thinks there are some other adjustments to consider to make it more family and student friendly.

Discussion:

None

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

b. Repeal Obsolete Policies

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Kober, that the Enfield Board of Education repeal five obsolete policies in the 3000 Series as they are now redundant based on the approval of the Transportation Policy.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported that the Curriculum Committee met on October 23. A possible Program of Study change for a new music class at EHS has been tabled and will be discussed again in the spring.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported the Finance & Budget Committee has not had a meeting since the last update. The November 4 meeting has been cancelled due to Election Day. The town auditors have sent preliminary notice that our FY24 EFS Report has no findings, which brings us one step closer to completing the town's FY24 Audit. As far as funding from U.S. Department of Education and Agriculture, we have received all of the funds we were anticipating. The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, December 1 at 5:00 PM.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Cushman reported that the next meeting is December 16.

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported that there is nothing to report.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Henry Barnard - Mr. Kober

Trunk-or-Treat last week was a successful evening of costumes, candy and smiles

Picture Retake Day is October 29

Please take time to review the November School Calendar for many No School days and Early Release days coming up this month

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder

Reminder to sign up for ParentSquare – visit enfieldpto.com for a direct link to register

Prudence Crandall – Mrs. Acree

Pink Out - \$4,050 raised to be donated to the American Cancer Society

Three-year donation total - \$12,624

Veterans Day Assembly – November 10

Costume Spirit Day – Oct 31 (no masks or accessories)

Family Engagement Day on November 25 – flyers going home Friday with RSVP information

Still a few more days to donate to the Annual Food Drive

Safe Grad 2026 – Mrs. LeBlanc

Annual Jingle Jam Auction – Friday, Dec 5 at the American Legion

Tickets are 1 for \$25 or 2 for \$40

Doors open at 5:00PM and the Auction starts at 6:00 PM

Joint Facility – next meeting November 13

Joint Insurance Committee – no update

Joint Security Committee – no update

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. LeBlanc

Community Conversation held last week

Link is available to rewatch the conversation

Next Meeting is October 29 at 6:00 PM

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Gousse, that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2025 be approved.

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

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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Contract.

A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously. Both Mr. Moccio and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 9:00 PM. No Board Action occurred while in Executive Session.

Return to Open Session

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:07 PM.

DISCUSSION & ACTION, IF ANY REGARDING THE ENFIELD TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION CONTRACT

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc, that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2026-2029 Enfield Teacher's Association Contract as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober explained the timeline for contract negotiations and looks forward to supporting the contract.

Mr. Ryder agreed that it is a fair contract and is happy to support it.

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

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Kober, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 28, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Lawlor, Recording Secretary