

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on February 10, 2026.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Board Chair Pickett.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Danielle Girard
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Danielle Girard
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT**
5. **ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Anderson, Rosalee Brocuglio, Janet Cushman, Danielle Girard, Dean Gousse, Roberta Kiner, Philip Kober, Kelsey McGuire-Bruce, Amanda Pickett

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT:

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

6. BOARD GUESTS

a. Student Recognition – HOBY Award Winners

The Board welcomed Joel Senez, Director of Humanities, to congratulate Brinlee Hutchings and Mackenzie Moore on being selected as Enfield High School's representatives to attend the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation (HOBY) Connecticut Leadership Seminar this summer. HOBY's mission is to unite outstanding high school sophomores who have demonstrated exceptional leadership potential and provide them with opportunities to learn from distinguished leaders at the state, national, and international levels. EHS is proud to recognize Brinlee and Mackenzie as exemplary sophomores, nominated by our faculty and administration. Their selection as delegates reflects their strong leadership skills, dedication, and commitment to excellence.

The program welcomes school and community nominated students to seminars each spring and summer. These student ambassadors participate in facilitated dialogue and abilities-based workshops to develop awareness of their leadership strengths and an understanding of their leadership values. Through these dynamic activities with their peers, students hone their skills and learn to recognize, amplify, and collaborate with the diverse strengths of others. One weekend at a HOBY seminar unlocks a student's leadership potential and helps them gain the confidence to make a positive impact on the world around them.

b. R.I.S.E. Program Proposal

The Board welcomed Julie Carroll, Director of Pupil Services, Lauren Andrews, Director of Eagle Academy and Derek Morrison, Special Education Coordinator at Eagle Academy to present the R.I.S.E. Program Proposal.

R.I.S.E stands for Respect, Independence, Support and Empowerment and is a new program for the 2026-27 school year to accommodate students who have demonstrated a readiness for transitioning to EHS. High school aged students would have a home base at EHS, with continued support from Eagle Academy, and have the opportunity to access more course

offering and post-secondary planning such as college and career readiness.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representatives

Olivia Nuccio (Grade 12) – Blues and Beyond Assemblies will be this week and next week in honor of Black History Month; 2026 CAS Award Winners Sadie Minagla for music and Haley Fausel for visual arts; Red Robin fundraiser for Girls Lacrosse on February 17; Safe Grad flower sale fundraiser on February 13; EIMA will be performing at the Springfield Thunderbirds game on February 27; EHS Girls basketball defeated East Catholic and are now #1 in their division; EHS Boys Hockey defeated Rocky Hill on Senior Night last Friday.

Avery Leloup (Grade 11) – Save a Life Tour safe driving education for Juniors on February 12; The Future of Education panel discussion is February 17; CIAC Scholar Athletes are Cameron Colman and Olivia Nuccio; February 24-25 will be a two-day discussion about having courageous conversations about race; Program of Studies night was a big success; Course Requests are open for students through PowerSchool; UCONN ECE and AP Shadow Day for college level courses; EHS celebrated as being an Apple Distinguished School for innovation and technology during an assembly, as well as Buzz Robotics on their State Championship.

8. AUDIENCE

Board Chair Pickett read a prepared statement for Audience member participation. Audience members will be allowed four (4) minutes to address the Board.

Maureen Griffin (Parent) – Mrs. Griffin is happy with the addition of the holidays and observances on the proposed calendar. She attended the Community Conversation #3 and is excited for the pre-referendum. Regarding the 9000 series revisions, she is encouraged to see that the Board is focusing on what their roles are and the direction of the district, not the implementation.

Charlotte Riley (Parent and President of First Readers) – First Readers recognizes and celebrates emerging readers in Enfield. They hold two ceremonies each year. The first ceremony is on March 17. They were awarded a grant from 100 Women Who Care and matching funds from the Richard Shultz Foundation, and a book donation from Enfield America 250 committee. Trivia Night fundraiser is on February 28 at Mt. Carmel. The doors open at 6:30 PM and trivia begins at 7:00 PM. A table of ten is \$145 or \$20 per ticket. Donations are welcome. Contact through website at firstreaders.org or on their Facebook page at Enfield First Readers Associated of Enfield, CT.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kober shared the observances throughout the month of February and reminded everyone to focus on a healthy lifestyle for improving heart health during American Heart Month. He shared that the district is closed Monday, February 16 to recognize President's Day, and on Tuesday, February 17 there is no school for staff professional development. He encouraged all stakeholders to watch the recording of the Pre-Referendum Community Conversation and review all of the information online. He shared that the quarterly financial reports are available for public viewing on the district website. He also summarized the Governor's budget adjustments for 2027 in regard to education.

Mrs. Girard that Random Act of Kindness Day is February 17.

Mr. Gousse attended the Apple Distinguished School Assemblies at EHS, JFK, PC and HMS.

Board Chair Pickett affirmed the importance of celebrating Black History Month. She thanked Mr. Kober for his reminders about American Heart Month and agreed that healthy habits and awareness are critical. She thanked Mr. Moccio for attending the event at the State Capitol. She also attended the Apple Distinguished School Assemblies and added that Stowe also received that distinction earlier.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Policy Manual Review and Suggested Revisions – First Reading 9000 Series

Mrs. Pickett thanked the Policy Committee and staff liaisons for their work on these policy revisions.

Mrs. Brocuglio explained that the revisions to the 9000 Series are a result of a bi-partisan collaboration. The revisions are about governance and clarity.

Mrs. Brocuglio moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire-Bruce, that the Board approve the first reading of the 9000 Series with the amendments.

Discussion:

Mrs. Brocuglio provided a document summarizing the amendments. Revisions included grammatical errors, changes already discussed in committee that did not make it into the first reading, policies being retained, organizational and clarity of language, as well as bi-partisan governance.

Mr. Kober asked to clarify if the motion was for the entire slate of policies. Mrs. Pickett confirmed that there is one motion for all of the new policies as amended. He shared his thoughts on each policy in the 9000 Series.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce agreed that there is a good balance blending CABE and Shipman policies. She also shared her thoughts regarding the removal of Board Member Comments from the agenda and clarified that comments can be made on any item of board business that is already on the agenda. Also, that Leadership meets to discuss the agendas, so that helps to make sure that any concerns are added to the agenda so the Board can speak on them.

Mrs. Brocuglio addressed the renumbering of the policies and the thought process behind removing Board Member Comments from the agenda.

Mrs. Cushman addressed that the time limit for public comments was not included and thought it was an important point for anyone planning to speak at a meeting. She also shared the thought process involved regarding factual clarification and correction of the record.

Mrs. Pickett confirmed that there will be discussions between the first and second reading.

Mr. Gousse agreed that Board Member Comments should remain, possibly with a time limit.

Mrs. Pickett encouraged Board Members to email any questions or considerations to the Policy Chair to be discussed in subcommittee.

A vote by **roll call 8-0-1** passed with Mr. Kober abstaining.

b. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the 2026-27 School Calendar

Mrs. Kiner moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire-Bruce, to approve the 2026-27 School Calendar as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Kiner, to suspend policies 6111 and 6111.1 to move forward with the approval of the 2026-27 School Calendar.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober clarified the suspension of the graduation date policies.

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-2** passed with Mr. Kober and Mr. Anderson abstaining.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober identified the only change to the calendar is the addition of the holidays and observances on the School Hours page. He cautioned finding an effective way to balance inclusivity with information overload for easy display. He shared his thoughts about the calendar. He stated that the calendar is one of the most important things that the Board does and believes that all members should have a say.

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mr. Gousse, to amend the 2027 graduation anticipated date to a firm date of Friday, June 18.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett believes that moving the graduation date to a week later is excessive.

A vote by **show-of-hands 3-6-0** failed with Mr. Anderson, Mr. Kober and Mr. Gousse in support.

Discussion (on the original motion to approve the 2026-27 School Calendar):

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce is glad the calendar is now highlighting cultural holidays. She recommended adding information about each holiday through the QR Code.

Mr. Gousse does not believe the cultural observances and holiday listing is inclusive enough and will be out of date as soon as it is published. The QR Code will allow for the list to be updated as needed.

Mrs. Pickett clarified that the QR Code does not go to a live page yet but will soon. She believes that the addition of the observances and holidays is a way for the district to demonstrate inclusiveness and diversity.

Mrs. Girard confirmed that the calendar has always been two pages and asked how the holidays listed on the calendar were specifically chosen. Mrs. Pickett explained that she researched Enfield's student and community demographics, and those of surrounding communities to create a shortened version for the calendar.

Mr. Anderson expressed his opinion about adding too much information to the calendar.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce agreed that the calendar is one of the most important things the Board does.

Mrs. Girard added that it has a lot to do with inclusivity and may be important to our students to see their holidays represented.

Olivia Nuccio confirmed that there are so many different backgrounds and beliefs at EHS and

that including it on the calendar is important.

Mrs. Pickett believes it is an opportunity to increase awareness, create a sense of inclusion for all and support the district's mission of building global citizens.

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

c. Continuation of the FY27 Budget Presentation

Mr. Moccio shared updates to his proposed Budget presentation for 2026-27. Board members received revised documents for their budget binders.

Mrs. Pickett reminded the Board about utilizing the shared Q&A document.

Mr. Moccio offered to post a PDF of the shared Q&A document periodically on the district website for the public to be able to access the questions being asked and answered.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober highlighted the grants and revenue slide. He summarized the changes from the first presentation at the February 10 meeting. He asked Mr. Moccio how comfortable he is with the incoming Kindergarten projection.

Mr. Moccio shared that it is a hard projection to make, but that he is comfortable with the projections because they came from two different enrollment studies completed for the pre-referendum work.

Mr. Kober asked for information on the decision to bring back Instructional Coaches rather than adding additional elementary teachers. Mr. Moccio explained that one of the strongest ways to improve instruction is through the coaching model.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce is concerned by the reduction in student-centered supports, especially tutors who provide academic support while helping teachers manage classrooms. She advocates for maintaining tutor positions during the first year of Instructional Coach implementation to evaluate the impact of coaching without removing the support that teachers and students rely on.

Mr. Moccio explained how adding classroom teachers also means adding more specialists to accommodate the required prep time as outlined in the ETA Contract. He believes that with additional professional development, teachers will learn additional ways to provide instruction in their classrooms. There is a lot of work to be done, and he feels the Instructional Coaches will be beneficial. He is trying to be slow and purposeful about not adding positions that will not be sustainable in the future.

Mrs. Pickett shared that she hopes for a conversation about behavioral mental health supports. Mr. Moccio confirmed that our School Counselors are not the same as Guidance Counselors. The financial system is being updated to fix some of the outdated terms. Mrs. Pickett is thinking about equitable distribution and ensuring we have the capacity to address all student needs. She also wants to make sure there is a clear delineation of responsibilities between Administrators and Instructional Coaches.

Mrs. Kiner commented on the proposal of the Career Center. She is concerned that the depth and effectiveness of this program cannot be replicated by a single part-time administrator. Mr. Moccio referred back to the goal of prioritizing the sustainability of funding over time. He has been working with David White, the Director of Counseling, to meld the School Counselors with the Career Center for oversight and connection in college and career transition programming.

Mr. Kober motioned, seconded by Mrs. Girard, to suspend the rules and continue the meeting past 10:00 PM.

A vote by **show-of-hands 6-2-1** passed with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Kober in dissent, and Mrs. Cushman abstaining.

Mrs. Pickett wrapped up the discussion by reminding all members to continue to utilize the shared Q&A document. She offered to share a link to the State Department of Education framework on school counseling with the Board.

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Committee – The next meeting is Wednesday, February 25 at 5:00 PM.

Finance Committee – Mrs. McGuire-Bruce shared a recap of the February meeting. The next meeting is Monday, March 2 at 5:00 PM.

Policy Committee – The next meeting is Tuesday, March 17 at 5:00 PM.

Leadership Committee – Board Chair Pickett shared a summary of the February Leadership Meeting. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 4 at 5:00 PM.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Enfield Street School – Mrs. McGuire-Bruce
Restorative Practice Training
Chick-fil-A Fundraiser on February 17
March Calendar Raffle (with Parkman)

Edgar H. Parkman – Mrs. Girard
100th Day of School Assembly
Over 70 pieces of clothing donated to Enfield Safe Harbor
8 students attended the Elementary Leadership Conference at ACC
Thank you to the PTO for the Special Persons Dance
Next PTO Meeting is March 10 via Zoom

KITE – Mrs. Girard
Next Meeting March 4 at ACC

Mr. Kober reiterated that ParentSquare is a great resource for parents. All PTOs are seeking support for anyone looking for a way to get involved.

Joint Committees:

Joint Facility – The next meeting is February 12 at 6:00 PM.

Joint Insurance Committee – The next meeting is February 13 at 2:00 PM.

Joint Leadership Committee – The next meeting is February 18 at 8:30 AM.

Joint Security Committee – The next meeting is February 13 at 9:30 AM.

Pre-Referendum Committee – The next committee meeting is February 18 at 6:00 PM in the Scitico Room. Information is posted on the district website.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Girard, that the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2026 be approved.

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

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce moved, seconded by Mr. Kober, that the Certification of Expenditures for January 2026 be approved.

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

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Girard, that the Certification of Grants and Head Start Expenditures for January 2026 be approved.

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

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mr. Gousse, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 10, 2026.

Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 10:06 PM.

Janet Cushman
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Lawlor, Recording Secretary

**This meeting can be viewed in its entirety on
YouTube - <https://youtube.com/live/w3Wg48HniqY>*