

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on February 24, 2026.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Anderson, Rosalee Brocuglio, Janet Cushman, Danielle Girard, Dean Gousse, Roberta Kiner (virtual), 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. Next Generation Accountability Index

The Board welcomed Michelle Middleton, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction to present the 2024-25 Next Generation Accountability Index data. She shared performance and growth data broken out by all students and high needs students for a number of specific indicators from 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Board Chair Pickett shared the EdSight link with the Board members to access the accountability index.

Ms. Brocuglio asked about the ongoing Restorative Practice Professional Developments and if there has been any data analysis since implementation. Ms. Middleton confirmed this is “year zero” since not everyone is trained yet. Next year is the full rollout, so that is when the data will be looked at. Mr. Longey added that they are gathering anecdotal data and have found that they are starting to see that discipline has gone down tremendously this year, especially at the younger levels. There is real buy-in from the staff as they start to see the positive outcomes.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce looks forward to the training and support for new teachers. She asked why the ML progress went down significantly. Ms. Middleton shared that the data is hard to track since students are entering our schools at different times and different levels throughout the year. We have a large group of newcomers at the secondary level this year. Mr. Flynn is creating an EL Learning Plan to do more progress monitoring for next year.

Mr. Anderson asked about the discrepancy between the performance numbers and the number of students taking college courses and on track to graduate. Ms. Middleton clarified that the index numbers are only based on one standardized test (SBAC/SAT) given once a year. Board Chair Pickett reminded that this is just one data source versus multiple data points that we use to assess students.

Mr. Gousse questioned post-secondary results and asked if they are negatively reflected by students who do not go on to college. Ms. Middleton mentioned that there are discussions about including pathways and giving schools credit for those as well. He also wondered if there is still a plan to post our curriculum online. Ms. Middleton confirmed that scope and sequence will be online by July 1.

Mr. Kober explained how the categories are weighed and asked if our District Improvement Plan is tied to these goals. Ms. Middleton shared that many of the indicators are in the Alliance goals that we submit to the state. He asked for clarification on the proficiency levels for the SBAC. He is glad that HR is in the plan because talent management is really important.

Mr. Moccio added that Ms. Middleton's staff is doing this work every single day. A training can be provided to the Board to dive deeper into the Accountability Index. The Leadership Committee will brainstorm what that might look like.

Board Chair Pickett shared that Leadership has been discussing data reporting and more meaningful ways to share that information. She also stressed the importance of growth and students meeting their individual growth targets.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce confirmed the importance of being intentional about directing resources towards those key priorities.

Mr. Anderson asked if Technical/Trade Schools are considered in the index. Mr. Moccio confirmed that all 2- and 4-year schools are included. Mr. Gousse stated that most Technical Schools are only one year.

Board Chair Pickett looks forward to additional conversations on this topic. She believes that MTSS is a huge area of growth for the district and is excited to learn about what interventions will be added and what supports are needed. She hopes for an update on LEAP and how home visits are going. She shared that there are learning opportunities linked at the bottom of accountability index on the EdSight webpage.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representatives

Olivia Nuccio (Grade 12) – EHS Girls Basketball Team CCC tournament February 25 at 6:00 PM – finished 1st in their division for their regular season; Blues and Beyond Assemblies had a lot of active participation; many students celebrating Ramadan – supports available as needed; reminder for Seniors to apply for scholarships – most are due April 10.

Avery Leloup (Grade 11) – February 26 there is a Blood Drive in the gym; Enfield Music Night at the Springfield Thunderbirds game February 27; Panel discussion for the future of education with staff, families and students last week; Junior Prom tickets on sale March 4 through March 11 during lunch in the cafeteria.

A follow up survey was given to students to get regarding their interest in college and career readiness. The 3 areas that ranked most important were: increasing opportunities for students to learn about applying to college (82%), improving preparation for the SAT (80%) and field trips tied to career exploration (73.9%). They are planning a panel for students to learn about possible career and college options. They will be inviting people working in trades, serving in the military, and college students who have gone through the application process. The panel will take place at the end of May with a question-and-answer session and breakout groups. More information will be provided to the Board as it gets closer.

Mr. Moccio shared that we have had 2 snow days and the last day is now June 15.

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 agrees with Mr. Gousse about all after college choices are success. She feels that the SAT metric is useless because progress is really what matters. She attended the Imagine the Future panel at EHS. Speakers helped define what the modern world needs from our graduates. She thanked the EHS teachers for their support of the seniors at this high stress time.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kober shared the Board policy on weather-related decisions. He thanked essential employees and DPW. He reminded residents and property owners to clear their own sidewalks for the safety of our walkers and bus stops. He reminded about First Readers Trivia on February 28 and Conferences coming up in March. He asked for an update regarding the new Instrumental position and the status of the property being purchased for the schools. Mr. Moccio confirmed that the new hire will start March 2 and that quotes have been received for the new furniture. He asked for more information about the professional learning from the CSDE regarding suspension rates. Mr. Moccio shared that the state collects information about the discrepancies regarding minority groupings. While our suspension rates dropped by 4%, Enfield is still an outlier. The state invited Mr. Moccio and Mr. Longey to attend a professional development opportunities.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce mentioned that the Enfield 4th of July Celebration has a scholarship available for Seniors due in May. They are hosting a fundraiser Dance on March 7 at the Enfield Elks.

Board Chair Pickett shared that Music Fest on March 5 to celebrate all of our EPS students. She thanked DPW and Buildings & Grounds for their snow-related work.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Second Reading - 9000 Series

The second reading of the 9000 Series will be addressed at the March 10 meeting, so no action at this time per Board Chair Pickett.

b. Review and Possible Adoption of the FY27 Budget

Mr. Moccio shared updates to his proposed Budget presentation for 2026-27. Board members received revised documents for their budget binders. The proposed recommendation is 4.97%.

The updated budget includes 6 Academic Tutors (2 for each primary school) to bridge the gap next year while implementing the Instructional Coaches. In response to the concerns regarding the Career Center, he added an additional full-time non-union staff member. There is a budgetary impact as there will be a cost for this new position. As mentioned previously, Mr. Moccio is focused on building a budget that will be sustained over time. He is cognizant of the fact that this is a reevaluation year for Enfield.

All updated Budget documents are available on the district website.

Questions:

Board Chair Pickett thanked everyone for their work on the budget. She clarified that

budgeting for grants in the presentation are entitlement grants that we have already received and that this budget allows for teams at all three grade levels at JFK.

Mr. Kober asked for clarification about the district activity, student activity and TAG accounts. Mr. Moccio explained that they are considered offsets within the Object Breakdown sheet. He also asked about how the areas of responsibility are designated between the Board and the Town. Board Chair Pickett stated that these discussions are being had in Leadership to decide who is responsible for what.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce asked if Behavior Technicians work with the general education population. Mr. Moccio confirmed that Behavior Technicians are only for specialized programs.

Mr. Anderson asked if we know how the budget increase will affect the average household. Board Chair Pickett stated that once approved, the budget will go to the Town Council and be added to the Town's Budget. The Board portion is a \$3.96M increase. Mr. Moccio shared that he will include a mill rate increase comparison when the BOE Budget is presented to the Town Council.

Mrs. Cushman asked about the cost of the transportation software and anticipated savings in the future. Mr. Moccio explained how the software helped with the routes and allowed for fewer buses this year. Each bus is approximately \$70k. He shared the next steps in progress to prepare for transportation next year. Mr. Dague is working on the walk-zone maps so families have a better understanding of where those zones are and who qualifies for bus transportation. There will be communications going out to families since transportation will be part of the student yearly update that is completed each year. There could be potential for additional savings once we know how many students will be riding the bus.

Mr. Gousse asked for clarification regarding the bus routes. Mr. Moccio clarified that families will still need to qualify for transportation based on the Board Transportation Policy.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Girard, to approve the Superintendent's 2026-27 Budget as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Brocuglio feels this budget reflects many hours of thoughtful discussion, difficult tradeoffs and a shared commitment to moving the district forward in meaningful, responsible ways. She is proud to support the budget as presented.

Mr. Kober thanked Mr. Moccio and his team for their efforts in preparing the budget. He considers the increase of 4.97% more palatable than in years past. The goal of sustainable funding with measured additions of staffing and programs appears reasonable. He shared his thoughts on budget specifics and looks forward to moving forward on this product.

Board Chair Pickett clarified that it is critical for budget discussions and deliberations to be done in public for transparency.

Avery Leloup attested that the career center was very useful to her during her freshman year. The field trips provided were very useful and a valuable experience for students.

Olivia Nuccio shared that the survey in September/October found that the top concern from the students was restoring the Career Center. She feels that EHS should offer this service, but it is up to the students to take advantage of the opportunities presented.

Mrs. Kiner offered her appreciation to the superintendent and his team for the work, time and care that went into developing this proposed budget. She appreciated the approach of not

adding positions that cannot be sustained in future years. She is grateful to see the strong support for our special education students reflected in the proposal but still remains concerned that the elementary classes are too large to meet the needs of students. She will be supporting the budget proposal.

Mr. Gousse likes that the budget is growing incrementally. He asked about the addition of AP classes. Ms. Middleton stated that there are 2 more AP classes being added next year. Also, one of the culinary classes will be weighed as an Honors class with an opportunity for certification.

Mrs. Girard takes pride in this town but also sees a decline in the things we truly value. She shared priorities she would like to see in future BOE budgets. She strongly believes that the Family Engagement model used at Stowe should be used throughout the district and that the Social Worker positions should be expanded. She also agreed with Mrs. Kiner regarding smaller class sizes. She appreciates the clear and thorough presentation of the budget and the detailed budget book provided.

Mrs. Cushman recognizes the need and desire to move forward sustainably and how to balance the needs of the schools. She supports the budget and appreciates the detail, thought and rationale that go into it.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce thanked Mr. Moccio for finding a way to preserve the tutor positions. She appreciates the focus on maintaining services that have clear and immediate impact on student learning. She believes the budget reflects thoughtful balance while staying under the 5% increase. She agrees that smaller class sizes and expanding behavior supports in effective ways should both be a long-term priority. She will vote yes for this budget.

Board Chair Pickett thanks the superintendent and central office team for the tremendous amount of work that went into building the budget. Adding back the tutors and the career center reflects a willingness to listen and respond to board concerns in a way that directly impacts students. She thanked the Board members for their thoughtful and sometimes tough questions. As we move forward, she is eager to monitor implementation and impact. She will also be voting yes on the budget.

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

Mr. Moccio shared that the next step is to present the budget to the Town Council.

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Finance Committee – The next meeting is Monday, March 2 at 5:00 PM.

Policy Committee – Ms. Brocuglio shared an update from the last meeting. 9000 Series changes will be presented at the Board meeting on March 10. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 17 at 5:00 PM at EHS prior to the First Readers Ceremony.

Leadership Committee – The next meeting is Wednesday, March 4 at 5:00 PM.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Enfield Street School – Mrs. McGuire-Bruce
Read across America week March 2 – March 6
Raffle calendar tickets are on sale

KITE – Mrs. Girard
March 4 at 5:30 at ACC

Edgar H. Parkman – Mrs. Girard
Read Across America week March 2 – March 6
Spring Conferences - sign-ups sent out through ParentSquare and email
Pasta fundraiser due tomorrow
Next PTO Meeting March 10 on Zoom
Enfield Music Fest March 5 at EHS

Prudence Crandall
Book Fair rescheduled to Wednesday and Thursday from 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Mad Science additional session added in the spring
Read Across America week March 2 – March 6
Read-A-Thon on Friday March 6

Headstart
Policy Committee is updating selection criteria for new student applications
Annual Science Night is March 25 at EHS

Eli Whitney
Links to Library through a partnership with LEGO
Magic Show Night Event on February 25
Math and Literacy Night March 4
Read Across America week March 2 – March 6

ERfC
Summer Escape Camp enrolling now

HMS
Assembly on February 26
Conferences on March 11
Kindergarten Registration opens on March 13
First Readers Ceremony March 17

Joint Committees:

Joint Facility – Mrs. Girard shared that the committee focus will now be on roofs. The next meeting is March 12 at 6:00 PM.

Joint Insurance Committee – Board Chair Pickett shared that they are working on drafting policy regarding the funds in the employee benefit fund. Mr. Moccio added that he is working with the Town Manager to ensure the appropriate percentage is maintained in the insurance fund. No date at this time for the next meeting.

Joint Leadership Committee – Board Chair Pickett recapped the last meeting - bus safety measures, EHS auditorium equipment needs, unused funds in employee benefits and insurance line, and long-term budget planning.

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

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. Girard shared that the next major step with the design team is the environmental assessments. There is talk about possibly holding another Community Conversation. The next committee meeting is March 11 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 February 10, 2026 be approved.

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

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mr. Gousse, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2026.

Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:27 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/1R9ZI2fFiF0>*