

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

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Board Chair Pickett.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Roberta Kiner
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Roberta Kiner
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. Pre-K Programming Update

The Board welcomed Director of Pupil Services, Julie Carroll; Director of Early Childhood Initiatives, Jaclyn Valley; PK-2 Special Education Coordinator, Amy Dennis and Enfield Street School Principal, Mark Lord, to provide an overview of the plan to reconfigure our Integrated Pre-K Program at Stowe Early Learning Center and Enfield Street School next year. Currently there are four half-day sessions at ESS and 7 half-day sessions at Stowe. The plan is to increase access to full-day programming for eligible Pre-K children who turn five after September 1. We will offer one full-day classroom at Enfield Street, as well as one AM session and 1 PM session for three- and four-year-olds. At Stowe, we will offer two full-day classrooms, as well as one AM session and two PM sessions for three- and four-year-olds. The class sizes are based on current enrollment numbers from September to December 2026 and our current Birth to Three program.

Board Chair Pickett thanked the Board Guests for their presentation. She asked about the class cap size for peer versus students with an IEP. Mrs. Dennis clarified IEP students cannot be capped because they are mandated by law. Mrs. Carroll added that they will be monitoring the needs of the students and working collaboratively with the teachers to make sure they have the supports they need to meet the needs of the students.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce also asked about staffing ratios. Mrs. Dennis shared that ratios would be approximately 4 students per adult - 3 paraprofessionals and 1 certified teacher. She explained that it is a "strive to" number of 18 and not necessarily a cap.

Mr. Kober asked for further clarification regarding whether the number of students with the IEP's being accepted would affect the number of peers in the class. Mrs. Dennis confirmed and noted that there are other opportunities for full-day Pre-K including STEAM and Headstart. She also added that the decision will be based on family needs as well. Mr. Kober questioned the budgetary impact of this plan and Mr. Moccio confirmed that there are no budgetary

staffing changes as existing staff will be used to fill these positions.

Mr. Gousse questioned the 1-to-1 ratio of Special Education to peer. Mrs. Dennis confirmed that the 50/50 is also a “strive to” number and something that will be continually evaluated. She also shared that their plan is based on the three-year average of adding approximately 50 students to the program.

Mrs. Girard provided her perspective as the parent of a child who had a full day at Stowe, and how beneficial it was for her daughter to be able to attend for a full day. She fully supports this plan.

Mrs. McGuire Bruce shared that the students will IEP’s are being pulled out of their preschool experience for services throughout the day, so with a full day program they will have more opportunity to be in the classroom with their peer models.

Board Chair Pickett asked about how they are monitoring the LRE (least restrictive environment). Mrs. Dennis explained that the Peer Screener is used to define what it means to be a peer. The team is looking at what it looks like to be a peer and what they need to be able to do. Board Chair Pickett asked for clarification regarding the supports for Pre-K being that the program is in two locations. Mrs. Carroll explained that there are dedicated Speech and Language Pathologists who provide services at ESS and at Stowe, however we have district wide Occupational and Physical Therapists who travel between buildings. She wrapped up her comments by saying she is excited to see this program being piloted and that the work aligns with the pre-referendum work.

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Student Representatives

Olivia Nuccio (Grade 12) – EHS Culinary Team are State Champions and going on to Nationals in Baltimore; Music Fest was a huge hit and it was great to see the development of talent from grade 5 through grade 12; Class of 2026 is hosting a Can Drive this Saturday at EHS; Valedictorian is Anthony Mammano and Salutatorian is Bridget Kelly; Senior Prom is May 22 at Springfield Marriott Downtown Hotel; Check with the Guidance Office for new Scholarships available; Senior dues can be paid through ParentSquare

Chase Menard (Grade 11) – EHS Girls Basketball has a States game tonight and Boys Hockey won a States game and will play again on Thursday; Spring sports starting March 21; Reach out to any of the coaches with questions; Talent show on March 19; Spanish 4 classes are testing next week so permission slips need to be signed and turned in.

b. EPS Update

Mr. Moccio distributed an invitation to the Board Members for the National Junior Honor Society at JFK on March 31 at 6:30 PM.

He provided each Board Member with a copy of the Reminder Design an Ad publication. Local businesses signed up for ads with the Reminder, and students from Enfield schools were assigned to design the ads. There is a contest and the winning ads are printed in the publication. Students received a certificate and a family four-pack of tickets to a Springfield Thunderbirds game. Publications were distributed to all students in the district.

Invention Convention is Saturday March 14 at JFK. They are looking for judges if anyone is interested in volunteering please email Mr. Ponte.

Teacher of the Year nominations opened this week. Any staff member can submit a nomination, and they are due March 20.

The 5th grade Instrumental Program information night has been delayed due to weather and now will be held on March 17 at 6:30 at JFK. If anyone is unable to attend due to the First Readers Ceremony, reach out to Mr. Dube for information.

The Science of Reading work has also been slowed down due to weather. The third classroom walkthrough was completed today at Henry Barnard. He recognized our Literacy Director, Nick Flynn, for the work he is doing. Thursday the team will be in Rocky Hill to attend a day of training on Skilled Reading Comprehension and Fluency. Training will continue through the rest of the year.

EHS Girls Basketball won tonight, and the next game is this Friday at 6:00 PM at EHS.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Tricia Wright (66 Oakwood Street, Alumni Parent) – Ms. Wright attended Community Conversation #3 and was blown away by the thoroughness and thoughtfulness. She said it is nice to see that a plan with ripple effects. Town Manager also has great plans for the town. She encouraged communication between the Superintendent and the Town Manager, and for the Board Members to keep talking to their caucus about the referendum. There is no Plan B. We are all responsible for where we are today and the choices we made that got us here.

Maureen Griffin (Abbe Road, Parent) – Congratulations to EHS for coming in 2nd place at the Science Bowl. She agrees that the Integrated Pre-K program is incredible, especially for the students that are turning five and can't enter kindergarten yet for services. She feels that this program will benefit our kids. True investment requires thoughtful spending. There is so much collaboration in that transition from Birth to Three and Pre-K to Kindergarten. Staff at Stowe are incredible and are there for the students and the families.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce reiterated that the Invention Convention is this Saturday at JFK at 10:00 AM. This event is open to the public. She feels this is one of the best programs offered in the Enfield and encourages everyone to attend.

Mr. Kober shared that pending policy changes might be the last opportunity for comments. He hopes for streamlined agendas and additional presentations and board guests. He celebrates music education because it builds confidence, discipline, collaboration and gives students an opportunity to shine. The full Grade 5 instruction will begin soon at our primary elementary schools. He had the opportunity to read at several schools for Read Across America week. He also attended the First Readers Trivia Night fundraiser last weekend. First Readers identifies students as independent readers and these students will be celebrated at a ceremony on March 17 at 6:00 PM at EHS. The Board approved the Superintendent's budget at the last meeting. The 2026-27 budget demonstrates a reasonable compromise which balances district needs with fiscal responsibility regardless of affiliation. He thanked LEGO for donating furniture to EPS. LEGO is closing their Enfield headquarters and moving to Boston. In accordance with Board Policy 3620, we were able to return old furniture to the town for recycling or disposal. On February 20, the CSDE published a report called The Effectiveness of the Alliance District Program. Enfield should continue to monitor these changes as they go through the legislative process. He mentioned also watching for the possible act regarding Homeschooling. In the Fall of 2027, districts will no longer be able to offer Kindergarten waivers to students who turn five after September 1. He applauded the efforts of the prior Board for creating the Mental Health and Wellness Committee during their term. He would like to see a committee created to focus

on state and federal Special Education law.

Mr. Anderson explained his mixed feelings about the change to remove Board Member Comments during the approval of the 9000 Series.

Mr. Gousse also attended Music Fest and spoke about his own experience with music education and how it benefits students and parents.

Board Chair Pickett echoed the comments about Music Fest. She offered congratulations to the Culinary Program. She shared that they are working to make a more structured agenda around Board guests and Board reports. She shared how proud she was of Chase for his leadership while doing humanitarian work in Belize. She encourages the public to check out the Alliance Report at CT.gov and the public testimony at the legislative session on the CT General Assembly website as there are many that impact education. She appreciated the partnership with the Youth Center and the programming they provide. She also got a chance to read at a couple of schools during Read Across America week. On March 30, the superintendent will be presenting the BOE budget to the Town Council.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Possible Approval of the 9000 Series (Second Reading)

Board Chair Pickett reminded the public of the process of approving policies.

Mrs. Brocuglio moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire-Bruce, to repeal the existing 9000 Series and adopt the revised 9000 Series in its entirety.

Discussion:

Board Chair Pickett shared her thoughts on removing Board Member Comments and reminded members that many comments can be shared during School Updates or through the Secretary during Correspondence and Communications.

Mr. Kober is glad that Board members worked collaboratively on these policies to date. He is in favor of the reduction of policies, while finding a balance of keeping policies. He questioned actioning an entire series at once instead of individually. He addressed his thoughts surrounding a few proposed amendments and referred to his comments during the first reading of the 9000 Series. He is not proposing any amendments or changes at this time.

Mr. Gousse also opposes adopting the entire slate at once. He is bothered by the plan to make the meetings more efficient since he feels this Board has been more efficient than past Boards. He believes that sometimes things need to move slowly and take a little more time to think and respond appropriately.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce thanked Mrs. Cushman for bringing forward the suggestions from the caucus. She appreciated her knowledge and perspective on the policies.

Mrs. Cushman appreciates the process and feels that both sides felt heard. Everyone felt that their perspectives were taken into consideration. For the majority of the policies, there was strong majority support. She does regret voting for the whole series at once because she feels it won't reflect the support the Board has had for the majority of the policies. She looks forward to working together on the upcoming series.

Board Chair Pickett shared that she reached out to Mr. Moccio to discuss how to work through policies going forward and possibly adjust the procedures. She acknowledged the overall support of the policies and mentioned only two questionable ones.

Mr. Anderson motioned, seconded by Mr. Gousse, to pull out Policy 9220 and Policy 9180 and vote on the rest of the series.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober offered clarification on the amendment motion.

A vote by **show-of-hands 4-5-0** with Mrs. Kiner, Mrs. Brocuglio, Mr. Girard, Mrs. McGuire-Bruce and Board Chair Pickett in dissent.

Discussion:

None

A vote on the original motion to repeal the existing 9000 Series and adopt the revised 9000 Series in its entirety by **roll call 6-3-0** passed, with Mr. Anderson, Mr. Gousse and Mr. Kober in dissent.

Board Chair Pickett clarified the changes to Board meetings going forward based on the approval of the 9000 Series.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Cancellation of the Regular Board of Education Meeting on April 14, 2026

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Girard, to cancel the regular Board of Education Meeting on April 14, 2026.

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

b. Special Meeting of the Board of Education on April 8, 2026

Board Chair Pickett shared that a Special Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 associated with the pre-referendum work.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Kiner gave a summary of the February Curriculum Meeting. The next meeting is Wednesday, March 18 at 5:00 PM.

Finance Committee – Mrs. McGuire-Bruce gave a summary of the last Finance Committee Meeting. The next meeting is Monday, April 6 at 5:00 PM.

Leadership Committee – Board Chair Pickett gave a summary of the March Leadership meeting. The next meeting is Wednesday, April 1 at 5:00 PM.

Policy Committee – The next meeting is Tuesday, March 17 at 5:00 PM at EHS prior to the First Readers Ceremony.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Enfield Street School – Mrs. McGuire-Bruce
Read-A-Thon Fundraiser is March 16 - 30

KITE – Mrs. Girard
Puzzle Connection March 28 at Alcorn
PLA Community Resource Fair is this Thursday, March 12

Play and Science Night is March 25 at EHS
Transition to Kindergarten Night on April 7 at JFK
First Readers Ceremony on March 17 at EHS
Play Lab held their first event – the video can be found on the KITE website
FRC has openings for playgroups and Circle of Security

Edgar H. Parkman – Mrs. Girard
Next PTO Meeting is April 21 via Zoom

Prudence Crandall
Dessert for Dinner flyer for Grade 5 students going out
Conferences on March 11
Report cards were issued on March 6 via ParentSquare

Headstart
Next Policy Meeting is March 12

Henry Barnard
Family Fun Night March 18
PTO is looking for a Co-President

Joint Committees:

Joint Facility – The meeting on Thursday, March 12 has been cancelled. The next meeting is April 9.

Joint Insurance Committee – nothing scheduled yet

Joint Leadership Committee – The next meeting is Friday, March 13 at 8:30 AM.

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

Pre-Referendum Committee – The next committee meeting is Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00 PM in the Scitico Room. Information is posted on the district website. Send questions to the email address.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce moved, seconded by Mr. Kober, that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 24, 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 Mrs. Girard, that the Certification of Expenditures for February 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 February 2026 be approved.

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

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. Girard, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2026.

Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:53 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/Rif9VcSh3xY>*