



**MINUTES
TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
September 2, 2026
6:00 PM - Town Hall Council Chambers
<https://youtube.com/live/GeLWexpOKaQ>**

1. Roll Call

Present: Linda Allegro, Gina Cekala, Robert Cressotti, Carol Hall, Cynthia Mangini, Maya Matthews, Marie Pyznar, John Santanella, Aaron Thomas, Zach Zannoni

Absent: Lori Unghire

Also present was Assistant Town Manager, Steve Bielenda.

2. Call to Order

The Chair called the Public Hearing to order at 6:02pm.

3. Legal Notice and Ground Rules

The following Notice of Public Hearing was published in the Journal Inquirer on Thursday, August 27, 2026.

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the TOWN OF ENFIELD shall hold a PUBLIC HEARING in the Enfield Town Hall Council Chambers, 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, Connecticut Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 6:00pm to allow public comment on the proposed "Appropriation of \$511,000,000 for the new construction of Hazardville Memorial Elementary School, Prudence Crandall Elementary School, Parkman Elementary School and Barnard Elementary School and for the conversion of Eli Whitney Elementary School into the Eagle Academy Therapeutic Day School, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes of the Town in an amount not to exceed \$89,000,000, with the balance funded by grants and other available funds".

Dated this 26th day of August 2026 Sheila M. Bailey, Town Clerk

Chair Cekala announced the ground rules.

4. Public Hearing - Proposed Schools Modernization Appropriation

John Malinoski, 1302 Bigelow Commons

Mr. Malinoski feels that the elementary schools are in poor condition. He drives by Hazardville Memorial quite often and sees the visible rust on the building. This goes far beyond putting on a fresh coat of paint. The teachers, administrators and students are the ones who have to live with the conditions of failing infrastructure. He feels that the learning

environment matters. When students and teachers spend their days in a neglected or outdated building, it affects morale, motivation, and engagement. The condition of a school building also sends a message of how much we value what goes on inside. Mr. Malinoski also commented on the conditions of the Enfield Street School as being poor. He feels that change is necessary. It is his opinion that the elementary schools have outlived their usefulness. He urged the residents to vote yes on the referendum.

Amanda Pickett, 33 Guild Street

Ms. Pickett began by thanking the Council for the opportunity to speak on this important issue. She wished to emphasize that this decision is about responsible decision-making. One of the most important skills we can teach our children is how to make informed decisions, understand facts and listen to different perspectives to determine the best path forward. In her opinion, we should approach this decision the same way. Based on the conditions of the schools, the costs to maintain them and the funding available to us, she feels this is the plan before us is the most cost-effective and what betters our community. It provides the best long-term value that our investment can make and is responsible decision-making. She also urged the residents to vote yes.

Kelsey McGuire Bruce, 63 Neelans Road

Ms. McGuire Bruce is in support of the modernization plan. She understands that the \$511,000,000 price tag can be overwhelming but it is important to understand that after state reimbursement, Enfield's share is less than 20%. This is an opportunity to address a need that isn't going to go away. The issues have become too significant to be addressed with band-aids. Our children deserve schools that are safe, modern, and designed for the way they learn today. She also feels that we need schools we can be proud of to attract young families to come to our community. This referendum isn't just about replacing old buildings, it's about investing in our children and the future of Enfield. She believes this referendum is an investment worth making.

5. Adjournment

The chair declared the public hearing adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Bielenda, Assistant Town Manager	Kenzy Lee, Deputy Town Clerk
	Acting Secretary of the Council