

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on August 25, 2026.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Board Chair Pickett.
 - a. **Moment of Silence:** Janet Cushman
 - b. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Janet Cushman

2. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

3. **ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Roberta Kiner

ALSO PRESENT:

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

4. **BOARD GUESTS**

- a. **Support Staff of the Year**

The Board welcomed Lauren Andrews, the Director of Eagle Academy, to introduce Eagle Academy Behavior Technician, Quinn Hannagan as the 2026-27 Support Staff of the Year.

- b. **Teacher of the Year**

The Board welcomed Director of Humanities, Joel Senez, and EHS Principal, Erin Clark, to introduce EHS Social Studies Teacher, Nicole Catuccio as the 2026-27 Teacher of the Year.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. **Beginning of the Year Update**

Mr. Moccio shared that we welcomed Staff back on Monday for Convocation, followed by two days of Professional Development before the first day of school on Thursday, August 27. He thanked everyone who helped put Convocation together. Teacher of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year recipients were honored, along with staff members who were recognized for 30 or more years of dedicated service to the Enfield Public Schools. He also shared that a change was made this year to honor all staff members reaching the 30-year mark, and not just certified staff.

- b. **Staffing Update**

Mr. Moccio stated that the school district is in a much better position this year than we have been in years past. Many districts are seeing layoffs and a reduction in staff this year. He shared that we saw large candidate pools for open positions, and that we currently have eight certified staff positions open, and around thirty non-certified openings. Board members will get a full detailed breakdown by school in their weekly update on Friday.

c. Special Primary Accommodations

Mr. Moccio introduced our Town Registrars, Tom Kinzler and Beth Jerez, to discuss the Special Primary for the 58th District on September 1, 2026. Ms. Jerez shared that early voting is available at Town Hall and early voting hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM; Tuesday and Friday from 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM. She confirmed that the schools where voting will occur will be open (Henry Barnard, Enfield Street School and JFK Middle School) and that voting will be in the gym at each school. She asked that voters please drive safely when entering and exiting the parking lots during school hours. Specifically at Enfield Street School, she directed voters to drive around to the back of the school to park and enter the building.

Mr. Kinzler shared that the town and Superintendent worked together to find a way to hold voting without closing schools. He mentioned that Henry Barnard is going to be a challenge, so he asked residents to avoid voting during arrival and dismissal times. He shared that there will be extra staff in the parking lot, but by avoiding these specific times when traffic is heavy, it will be safer and easier for everyone. Ms. Jerez and Mr. Kinzler explained how well they work together regardless of parties, biases and beliefs.

Board Chair Pickett thanked them for the work that the Registrar's office does and the collaboration with the town. She requested clear communications to the families at these three schools to ensure everyone is aware of the procedures.

Mr. Gousse asked if they could share what the special election is for.

Mr. Kinzler stated that the election on September 1 is a special election between Tom Tyler and the incumbent, John Santanella, for the 58th District legislative seat. Only Democratic voters who live in the 58th District are eligible to vote.

Mr. Anderson asked for clarification regarding unaffiliated voters. Mr. Kinzler explained that unaffiliated voters can change their affiliation to Democrat and vote in this election, however if a Republican or Independent changes their affiliation, they must wait 90 days to be able to vote.

Mr. Moccio thanked them both for being willing to sit down and find a way to keep schools open for this primary.

d. PK-5 Schools & Eagle Academy Project Update

Mr. Moccio shared that Town Council held a Public Hearing regarding the project the prior evening. He explained that due to a cautious concern regarding one of the postings on the website for the August 24 Public Hearing, the Town Council decided not to hold a vote. The Town Council met earlier this evening to vote and approved an additional Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 2, at 6:00 PM. A Special Meeting will be held immediately following the hearing to vote whether they will move forward with the resolution.

He clarified that the entire project is \$511M if no state funding is provided, however there will be a significant amount of funding coming from the State of Connecticut. He shared that they are conservatively estimating an authorization for issuance of bonds not to exceed \$89M. This amount does not consider special education reimbursements or the 5% housing incentive. With all of incentives, estimates are that it will cost closer to \$55 - \$60M based on the amount of money the state would be putting forward for this project. He suggested that residents should come to the September 2 Public Hearing or watch it on YouTube. He welcomed residents to call his office with any questions about the project. The Town Council Special Meeting will hopefully vote to set the referendum date as November 3, 2026.

He shared that the Town Council approved a resolution to move forward with a Public Hearing on Wednesday September 9 at 6:50 PM regarding the School Bus Stop Arm and Enforcement Program. This new program will hopefully stop people from driving by school buses when the stop sign is out. This is a video monitoring program that will automatically generate tickets for anyone passing a stopped school bus. The Town Council will vote at their next Town Council Meeting on September 21.

Mr. Kober asked Mr. Moccio for a summary of the relocation of Alternative Education from the Enfield Annex to Alcorn. Mr. Moccio confirmed that the Alternative Education program has been fully moved into the 3rd floor at Alcorn.

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce thanked the superintendent for working with the town to make sure voting at schools will be safe.

Mrs. Pickett thanked the board members who attended the Public Hearing last night for being active and engaged in this project.

6. 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.

Maureen Griffin (parent, Abbe Road) – Mrs. Griffin asked if there is a way for the schools to be made available to tour before the referendum vote, possibly on a weekend or in the evening after school hours. She thanked the last three Board Chairs for letting people have their say, no matter how contentious the topic is. She appreciates the recaps from the sub-committee meetings and how the Board works together. She shared a quote regarding walking into conversations with an open mind, without having already made a judgement, and a quote about being willing to move beyond the caricatures we have of people and leaving them at the door to have good faith conversations.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Consent Agenda

Mrs. McGuire-Bruce moved, seconded by Mrs. Girard, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Committee – The August Meeting was cancelled. The next meeting has been changed from Thursday, September 17 to Thursday, September 10.

Finance Committee – The next meeting is Monday, September 14, at 5:00 PM. Mr. Kober asked for a summary of the final FY26 budget. Mr. Moccio confirmed that Hartford Choice was fully paid and after the health insurance money was transferred to the Town Insurance Fund, approximately \$600K will be deposited into the non-lapsing account. He will include detailed information in the Friday update.

Leadership Committee – Board Chair gave a recap of the August meeting. She shared that the

Board held a Board Retreat in July. The members met to reflect on how they can best support the Enfield Public Schools through strong, thoughtful governance. They reviewed the District Improvement Plan and the Superintendent's goals. The goal was to identify common areas to focus on and continue to strengthen support of the district's priorities. Themes that came up during the discussion centered around teaching and learning, understanding of core instruction and the academic coaching model, MTSS, Special Education, Student wellness and behavioral health, TAG programming, and the importance of the student voice. She truly appreciated everyone's engagement in the activity.

Policy Committee – The next meeting is September 15, at 5:00 PM.

10. LIAISON REPORTS

Enfield Street School – Mrs. McGuire-Bruce

Welcome Back Picnic September 9, at 5PM followed by Open House 6PM – 7PM

KITE – Mrs. Girard

Next meeting is September 2, at 5:30PM at ACC

Edgar H. Parkman – Mrs. Girard

Welcome Back Picnic September 2, at 5PM followed by Open House 6PM – 7PM

PTO Meeting September 8, at 7:30PM on ZOOM

Prudence Crandall – Mrs. Kiner

Newsletter every Monday and is the primary source of information

Joint Committees:

Joint Facility Committee – Mrs. McGuire-Bruce provided a recap of the August meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 10, but will potentially be postponed if not yet discussed by Town Council. They discussed the possibility of moving to quarterly meetings going forward. Mr. Kober shared that the committee's scope was changed last year to focus on school building roofs only.

Joint Insurance Committee – Mr. Moccio shared that they came to an agreement regarding any budgeted funds leftover at the end of each fiscal year. This resolution was approved by the Town Council last night and places guidelines on what we must do with the funds budgeted for health insurance. Mr. Moccio thanked Mr. Coppler for his communication and collaboration with the Board of Education.

Joint Leadership Committee – Board Chair Pickett shared a recap of the July 25 meeting. The next meeting is Friday, August 28.

Joint Security Committee – The next meeting is Friday, September 11, at 9:30 AM.

Pre-Referendum Committee – The next meeting has not been scheduled yet. Mr. Moccio shared that two dates towards the end of September are being considered. Mrs. Girard mentioned that another Community Conversation is being planned. The P.A.C. is putting together fact-based information to share. The website for the P.A.C. is enfieldpto.com and has been updated with all the information.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. Girard, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of August 25, 2026.

Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 8-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 6:38 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/qZSp9iOBJxU>*