

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on June 8, 2021.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Walter Kruzel.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Stacy Thurston

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Stacy Thurston

4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**

5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan LeBlanc, Janet Cushman, John Unghire, Tina LeBlanc, Stacy Thurston, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joyce Hall and Bill Salazar

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent & Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

Chairman Kruzel reported that both Mr. Salazar and Mrs. Hall are unable to attend tonight's meeting.

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. Buzz Robotics

Mr. Drezek welcomed Buzz Robotics Advisor Caroline Marr, EHS senior students Michael Conroy and Matthew LeDuke; and Junior Aiden Howell. Ms. Marr stated this year's season was virtual. The students provided the Board with an update of their 2020-21 season. They also held a food drive to benefit the Enfield Food Shelf where collectively they collected 1,106 pounds of food and \$668 in cash donations. They thanked the Enfield Board of Education for their continued support. They are looking forward to next year's build and competing in person again.

Mr. Ryder congratulated the students and asked how their virtual season worked. The students stated we did not build but we needed to solve a problem that would help to engage the community members that are hearing impaired. We created a theory and we gave it our all.

Mr. Ryder added this was a great idea and thank you for bringing this up. Hopefully someone can continue with this idea.

Mrs. Cushman thanked the students for their presentation. Is this something that you could continue to work on? She taught at the School for the Deaf and this is where her passion is. Mr. LeDuke stated he is sure if we are looking for something to do, this is something we could look into again.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked the students for their presentation. This has been a trying year. You were planning to compete and build and COVID happened. She is glad you were able to get

something out of this year by using your creativity to come up with this theory. This has been a very challenging and frustrating year for everyone. She admires your engineering and math talents. This was not an area that she excelled in. She is grateful that we have students with such passion and dedication.

Chairman Kruzel stated you missed two build seasons 2019-20 and 2020-21. We went out just before your season started. He looks forward to the 2021-22 build season and competition. He apologized for what occurred. He also thanked the students for their dedication. We will be back to normal.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. EPS Update

Mr. Drezek stated Summer School will be held for students starting on July 6th thru August 12th, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. K-5 student summer school session will start at 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM and will be held at Prudence Crandall Elementary School. Students in grades 6-8 and 9-12 summer sessions will be held at Enfield High School. We are finishing up with the registrations and all registrations must be submitted by June 10th. We currently have 240 elementary students and 70 middle school students and around 70 high school students. This is the largest summer school program we have ever held. Transportation will also be available.

b. Last Day of School – as presented

c. EHS Graduation – as presented

Mr. Drezek added that we will be airing the graduation by live stream on YouTube. They were testing the equipment on the field today. He thanked Alex Giner, Guy Bourassa, Brad Mills and everyone else out there today making sure this works.

Mr. Drezek recognized the following students of Amanda Robustell-Price for receiving the 2021 COLT Student Awards of Excellence for World Languages (Connecticut Council of Language Teachers): Benjamin carrier – French 5 AP; Cassandra Fortune – French 4; Madison Veilleux – French 4; Leah Anderson – French 2 and Trevor Broxton – French 2.

8. AUDIENCES: None

9. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS:

Mrs. Thurston thanked Connie Provencher and her team for everything they did for the ERfC Toast of the Town fundraising event that was held. It was a lot of fun and they raised a lot of money that will benefit our kids.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the Toast of the Town event. It was a great event. It was nice to see everyone at this social event.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated the Enfield High School Girls Softball team. Unfortunately, they lost in the semi-finals. They fought hard. The Boys' Volleyball team is moving on to the State Finals. She wished them good luck tonight.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated Aislin Farris competed in the Olympic Trials in Nebraska. Unfortunately, she will not be moving forward. Thank you for representing us so proudly. We are very proud of you.

Mrs. LeBlanc also congratulated Lukas Phimvongsa for making it to the Tennis finals.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Football Team held a golf tournament over the past weekend. John LeBlanc participated. They raised a lot of money for the students and they had a great time.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we lost a longtime cafeteria employee over the Memorial weekend – Ann Berry. She expressed her condolences to her family.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we made it to the end of the year. We have lived through one of the most challenging times in our lives. Do not be too hard on yourselves. Someday we will say, remember the pandemic. We asked for your patience and you gave it to us. Thank you for persevering this with us. She thanked Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey for putting our students and staff health needs first.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated in honor of Pride month, she wore her “everyone is welcome here” T-Shirt. She read a poem and stated everyone matters.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished our students and staff a healthy summer. She is looking forward to seeing our graduates walking down the hill. She will see you on June 22nd.

Mr. Ryder stated he is wearing his Pride Ribbon he received from JFK. He purchased this for a \$1 on Pride Day to support the Trevor Project last week during the lunch waves. He thanked everyone that purchased one.

Mr. Ryder attended the JFK NHS Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony where 30 students were inducted to their hall of fame. The ceremony link can be found at www.enfieldpto.com website and can also be found in the JFK newsletter.

Mr. Ryder stated the link for the Virtual Arts Festival can also be found at www.enfieldpto.com website. He likes the virtual option better. The Virtual EHS Scholarship Night can also be found there as well. He also thinks the virtual scholarship night is a great option.

Mr. Ryder stated the JFK Virtual play Annie Jr. can be purchased like iTunes. It was all done virtually with the students at home. This can also be found at www.enfieldpto.com website as well as in the JFK newsletter.

Mr. Ryder stated iPad return instructions can also be found at www.enfieldpto.com website.

Mr. Ryder thanked ERfC and the Enfield Recreation Department for what they offer for our kids during the summer. Our town has a lot to offer our kids. There are many different kinds of activities for our kids.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will hold community day on June 11th. He presented the Board a gift from Eli Whitney – Community Cookbooks. All students and staff will receive these cookbooks.

Mr. Ryder wished everyone a safe summer. He will be seeing our graduating seniors soon.

Mr. Unghire thanked Mr. Ryder for the cookbook. He also attended the ERfC event. Everyone was there, masks were off, and it was great to be together again. It was a very nice event.

Mr. Unghire recognized our Seniors and for making this during the most challenging year - congratulations.

Mrs. Cushman attended the Adult Education ceremony and was honored to be part of this graduation and to celebrate with them. She looks forward to celebrating with the EHS graduating seniors.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for the summer school update. He asked if we would hold a middle school orientation for incoming students? Mr. Drezek stated Dr. Berrios will be sending out information about this.

Mrs. Thurston thanked the Eli Whitney staff for her cookbook.

Chairman Kruzel attended the indoor Memorial Parade on May 30th that was held at Enfield High School. He thanked the students that performed, as well as Band Director Chris Drezko and Assistant Director Aaron Osview. The vocalist that sang the National Anthem was Emily Vandal. The EHS students that performed were: Flute – Jackie Barrow, Sydney Hamre, Jonathan Legere, Aiden Payer and Robert Thoelen; Clarinet – Jackson Bouchard, Lindsey Ciechowski, Harley Griffin and Ariana Swanger; Alto Sax – Carter Bouchard, Eric Sirard and Josh Tetro; Tenor Sax – Leger Bartholomew; Trumpet – Aaron Coons, Ember Holcomb and Tyler Thibodeau; Trombone – Joseph Radziewicz and Harrison Youngberg; Baritone – Anna Bemiss; Tuba – Keonta Crawford and Aaron Justice; Percussion – Jeremiah Agard and Jacob Post

Chairman Kruzel also attended the Adult Education Graduation Ceremony. A total of 18 adults graduated. He thanked Mrs. Cressotti for everything she has done for our Adult Education students.

Chairman Kruzel attended the ERfC Toast of the Town. Just about all Board and Town council members were there. There was around 320 people in attendance at this event. It was great to be at this event maskless. This was the first event of many to come. He thanked Mr. Drezek for being our guest speaker. He thanked the committee for everything they did arranging this event.

Chairman Kruzel stated Claire Hall is retiring after 26 years. She came up with the plan for the Distant Learning Center. This program under her guidance, helped our town out during a difficult time. Thank you, Claire, for everything you have done for our students and families.

Chairman Kruzel is also looking forward to seeing our graduates marching down the hill. He thanked all our students for surviving the past year.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Innovative Enhancement Head Start Grant

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education endorses the Innovative Enhancement Head Start Grant.

Discussion:

Mr. Drezek stated the Board does not need a formal vote for this grant. Mrs. Valley is looking for the Board's endorsement. The Board has already voted on the existing grant. This enhances the grant for additional monies. You do not need to make a formal vote.

Chairman Kruzel stated this grant is for an additional \$100K. Mr. Drezek stated that is correct.

Mr. Unghire has concerns with a part of the grant supported by NAEYC's 4 core goals of anti-bias education. He is not sure how this will be implemented in year 3 of the grant and the

scope of the grant. Until he knows more, he cannot support this grant.

Mrs. Cushman also agrees with Mr. Unghire. She asked if this is included with what we already approved? Mr. Drezek stated NAEYC is the organization for the accreditation for our Head Start programs. In order to apply for any grant, we need to follow the recommendations from this organization. This is no different than any Head Start Grant that has been approved by the Board in the past.

Mrs. Cushman stated the anti-bias is already included with these grants. Mr. Drezek stated that is correct and it is part of the accreditation process.

A vote by **show-of-hands 5-2-0** passed with Mr. Unghire and Mrs. Cushman in dissent.

b. Discussion and Action if any regarding the June 22, 2021 Regular BOE Meeting

Mr. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education cancels the June 22, 2021 Regular Board of Education meeting.

Discussion:

Mr. Ryder stated the conflict is due to the 2021 EHS Graduation being held at the exact same time.

Chairman Kruzel added we cannot be in two places at the same time.

A vote by **Roll-Call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

c. Approve the 2021-22 Healthy Food Certification

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman that the Enfield Board of Education does not certify the 2021-22 Healthy Food Certification.

Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel stated this is something we do each year and vote not to certify the Healthy Food Certification. We would not be able to serve items at sporting and school events if we endorse this. Our food that is served in our cafeterias meets and exceeds all standards.

A vote by **Roll-Call 0-7-0** failed with Mrs. Thurston, Mr. Unghire, Mrs. Cushman, Mr. LeBlanc, Mrs. LeBlanc, Mr. Ryder and Chairman Kruzel in dissent.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Mr. LeBlanc reported the June 17th Curriculum Committee meeting has been cancelled. We will meet before the start of school.

Finance – Mr. Unghire reported the June 14th Finance Committee has also been cancelled.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee does not have any meetings planned at this time. We have completed reviewing the policies that were recommended by CAFE.

Leadership – Chairman Kruzel reported we do not have any meetings planned at this time.

Joint Facility – Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on June

10th. We are moving forward with the plans for the Memorial/Whitney roofs.

JFK Building – Mrs. Thurston Reported the JFK Building Committee is continuing with the work at JFK. Mr. Daigle would like to present an update to the Board in August.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on August 4th.

Joint Insurance – Chairman Kruzel reported he does not have a date for the next Joint Insurance Committee meeting.

Youth Mental Health – Mr. LeBlanc reported the Youth Mental Health Joint Committee will hold one additional meeting this year.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2021 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-1-0** passed with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Special Meeting Minutes of June 1, 2021 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION – Nothing to Report

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire to adjourn the Regular Meeting of June 8, 2021.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary