

Revised: 03-21-22

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Time-Place:

**Council Chambers
820 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT
7:00 PM Regular Meeting**

Date: 03-22-22

<https://youtu.be/XfLvB4WEhlw>

1. **Call to Order – 7:00 PM**
2. **Invocation or Moment of Silence – Jonathan LeBlanc**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance – Jonathan LeBlanc**
4. **Fire Evacuation Announcement**
5. **Roll Call**
6. **Board Guest(s)**
 - a. **EPS Kid Mayor**
 - b. **EHS Students**
7. **Superintendent's Report**
 - a. **April Vacation Week**
8. **Audiences**
9. **Board Members' Comments**
10. **Unfinished Business**
11. **New Business**
 - a. **Discussion and Action regarding the April 12, 2022 BOE Meeting**
 - b. **BOE Policy Adoption & Policy Revisions – First Reading**
12. **Board Committee Reports**

- Curriculum Committee	- JFK Building Committee
- Finance, Budget Committee	- Joint Security Committee
- Policy Committee	- Joint Insurance Committee
- Leadership Committee	- Youth Mental Health & Wellness Advisory Committee
- Joint Facilities	- Any Additional Committees
13. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - **Regular BOE Meeting Minutes: March 8, 2022**
14. **Approval of Accounts and Payroll:**
15. **Correspondence and Communications**
16. **Executive Session**
 - a. **Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Regarding Response to FOI Requests**
17. **Adjournment**



Date: March 22, 2022
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Board Guest(s)

- a. **EPS Kid Mayor:** Our Kid Mayor Chloe Clark is here to discuss Kindness Day for Enfield Public Schools. Kindness Day will be celebrated on Thursday, March 31st. Please join me by welcoming Kid Mayor Clark.
- b. **HS Students:** Tonight we also welcome Enfield High School Students Kayla Wrann and Madison LaValla. They hosted a forum to hear student concerns and ideas on how to better address student mental health and wellness. They organized a panel that included school and district administrators and teachers. Students shared ideas on how to assist students that are struggling with mental health challenges, anxiety, and/or stress. Topics discussed included flexibility for absences related to mental health concerns, safe locations for students when they need support, opportunities for socialization, and staff awareness of mental health concerns.

Updated: 03-21-22



Date: March 22, 2022
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Superintendent's Report

- a. **April Vacation Week:** All Enfield Public students and staff will be off starting on Monday, April 11th thru Thursday, April 14th for our Spring Vacation. All Schools and offices will be closed on Friday, April 15th in observation of Good Friday.



Date: March 22, 2022
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Discussion and Action Regarding the April 12, 2022 BOE Meeting

As the Board is aware, our April 12th Board meeting falls during April vacation week. In the past, the Board has cancelled this meeting. If the need arises, the Board can hold a special meeting if Board action is required.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding the April 12, 2022 Regular Board of Education meeting and notifying the Town Clerk with any changes.



Date: March 22, 2022
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: BOE Policy Adoption & Policy Revision – First Reading

Policy Committee members met on Tuesday, March 15 and approved moving (2) two policies forward for a First Reading tonight. These policies have been placed on the website for public input and are listed below.

Policy Committee Chair Scott Ryder and Policy Committee Liaison Assistant Superintendent Longey can address any Board member questions regarding the new policy and existing policy with revisions.

New Policy:

- 6172.6 – Distance Education – Remote/Online Courses

Policy Revisions:

- 6146.11 – The Weighted Grade System

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriately regarding the proposed new policy and proposed policy revision as presented for a First Reading.

Updated: 03-18-22



Date: March 22, 2022
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Executive Session

The Board of Education has the need to discuss the following item:

- Discuss of Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Regarding Response to FOI Requests

Therefore, I recommend that the Enfield Board of Education enter into executive session, with the appropriate personnel invited, for the reasons described above. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, and voting is required. Board members can remain in Council Chambers for the executive session.

Updated: 03-21-22

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT****Instruction****6172.6****Distance Education - Remote/Online Courses**

The Board of Education believes that education through remote/online courses or through university or college courses is an alternative (effective) means of instruction for students. A remote school is hereby defined as an educational organization that offers courses at various grade levels through Internet or Web-based methods. These schools can offer courses to enhance, supplement or enrich the existing curriculum and can also provide an alternative means of instruction. Interactive distance learning does not require the student to be physically present in the same location as the instructor or other students.

In order to earn credits in meeting the requirements for high school graduation through the successful completion of on-line coursework, the Board, in compliance with C.G.S. 10-221a (g) shall ensure, at a minimum, that (a) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional District classroom setting, (b) the content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate, (c) the course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (d) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic, and (e) the courses are (1) taught by teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (2) offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited; or (3) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of the board examination series permitting students in grades 9 through 12 to substitute achievement of a passing score on a series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education for meeting credit requirements for graduation.

The Board of Education recognizes students may benefit from on-line courses or post-secondary courses to assist students in obtaining credits necessary to earn a diploma, to maintain academic standings or to provide enrichment for those who might require special courses.

Enfield Public Schools will not use on-line courses as the sole medium for instruction in any required subject area for students in grades K-8.

High school students may also earn a maximum of 4 units of academic credit with no more than 2 credits per semester and earning no more than one credit towards the required credits in each of the core content areas, to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing online courses through agencies approved by the Board unless the Principal waives that provision in writing stating the reasons why, citing whatever circumstances that has caused this waiver. Board approved on-line course delivery must be from institutions accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges or Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Distance Education - Remote/Online Courses (continued)

or, if the institution is foreign, recognized by the Connecticut State Department of Education as having appropriate academic standards.

Credit from an online or remote course or a university/college course may be earned only in the following circumstances:

1. The course is not offered at the Enfield High School.
2. The course will serve as an alternative or a supplement to extended homebound instruction.
3. Enfield Public Schools has expelled the student from the regular school setting, and the student has been offered an alternative educational opportunity.
4. The Principal, or his/her designee, with agreement from the student's teachers and parents/guardians, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
5. Students taking such courses must be enrolled in Enfield Public Schools and take the courses during the regular school day at the school site.
6. A student has failed a course required for graduation and is unable to recover credits in that course area through normal scheduling.
7. The student's PPT or Section 504 Team has determined it to be an appropriate means of instruction.

As determined by Board/school policy, students applying for permission to take a remote/on-line course will do the following:

- Complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in an online/college learning environment.
- Obtain the written approval of the Principal or his/her designee before a student enrolls in a remote course or the university/college course.
- Adhere to the code of conduct of Enfield Public Schools to include rules of behavior and consequences for violations.
- Adhere to attendance requirements of Enfield Public Schools.

The school must receive an official record of the final grade before awarding credit toward graduation. Only approved courses shall be posted on student transcripts.

Distance Education - Remote/Online Courses (continued)

The tuition fee for a remote course shall be borne by Enfield Public Schools for students enrolled full-time. The Board shall pay the fee for expelled students who are permitted to take remote courses in alternative settings.

Through its policies and/or supervision plan, the school shall be responsible for providing appropriate supervision and monitoring of students taking virtual courses. Enrollment in an online course will be allowed only if an appropriately certified teacher is available and willing to supervise the student's participation in the course.

Students will have access to sufficient library media resources such as a "virtual library" available through the World Wide Web, laboratory facilities, technical assistance, and hands-on training and information.

District Review Committee

The Superintendent shall establish a committee to review all distance education courses prior to use by Enfield Public Schools. This committee will be comprised of: central office representative, representative(s) of high school administration, the department coordinator for that specific subject area, a school counseling representative, an educational technology representative, and a representative from special education, if appropriate.

Evaluation

Enfield Public Schools will evaluate the educational effectiveness of the distance education courses and the teaching/learning process to include assessments based on state curriculum standards as well as student outcomes. Enfield Public Schools will use this evaluation to decide to continue or discontinue the use of the distance education course.

(cf. 6141.321 - Computers: Acceptable Use of the Internet)

(cf. 6141.1 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.
 10-221a High school graduation requirements. (as amended by P.A. 00-124,
 An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II,
 P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School
 Graduation and P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for
 Private World Language Courses, Other Subject Areas) and P.A. 10-111,
 An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut.
 P.A. 21-46 An Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety and
 Education of Children.

Policy Adopted:

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Instruction**6146.11****The Weighted Grade System**

The Board of Education (**Board**) will offer a three level weighted grading system that encourages students to challenge themselves academically and rewards their efforts accordingly. Since it is recognized that courses vary in their complexity and the subsequent demands this places on student time, competency, and energy, certain courses are assigned a “greater weight” than other courses. The school system has adopted a weighted grade system of courses to offer more challenge and stimulation to students. This weighted grade system is in effect for computing all grade point averages.

A listing of all courses and their assigned weight offered each year will appear in the high school course of studies book. The course of studies book will be reviewed and approved annually by the Board of Education for the following school year. A course of studies ‘book will be posted on-line and copies will be available in the guidance department. Listed below is the weighted grade scale.

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	AP/ECE	Honors	College/ Career Prep	Honor Roll
A+	100-97	5.0	4.5	4.0	<u>HIGH HONORS:</u> 3.6 average with no grade lower than a B-.
A	96-93	5.0	4.5	4.0	<u>HONORS:</u> 3.0 average with no more than one (1) C.
A-	92-90	4.7	4.2	3.7	
B+	89-87	4.3	3.8	3.3	
B	86-83	4.0	3.5	3.0	
B-	82-80	3.7	3.2	2.7	
C+	79-77	3.3	2.8	2.3	
C	76-73	3.0	2.5	2.0	
C-	72-70	2.7	2.2	1.7	
D+	69-67	2.3	1.8	1.3	
D	66-63	2.0	1.5	1.0	
D-	62-60	1.7	1.2	.7	
F	59 and Below	0	0	0	

The above grade point averages will be in effect for grades 6-12. Grades 6-8 will use the College/Career Prep column for all course.

The Board shall create a student success plan for each enrolled student, beginning in grade six. Such plan shall include a students’ career and academic choices in grades six to twelve, inclusive. Beginning in grade six, such student success plan shall provide evidence of career exploration in each grade including, but not limit to, careers in manufacturing. The Board shall

utilize the Department of Education's issued and revised guidance regarding changes to such
Instruction

6146.11**The Weighted Grade System** (continued)

student's success plans. In creating such student success plans, consideration shall be given to career and academic choices in computer science, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

On or after July 1, 2021, the student success plans shall be created, if possible, in collaboration with each student and the student's parent/guardian. On or after July 1, 2022, the student success plans shall, to the extent it does not conflict with the career choices of the student or his/her parent/guardian, include an academic plan that is in compliance with the Board's challenging curriculum policy. (Note: such policy is to be adopted by July 1, 2022)

Per statute (C.G.S. 221a(f)) the determination of eligible credits is at the discretion of the Board of Education, provided the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements, etc.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
~~10-220g Policy on weighted grading for honors and advanced placement classes.~~
 10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, an Act concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II
 PA 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation
 PA 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas
 PA 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut
 PA 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform
 PA 13-57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans
 PA 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes
 PA 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill
 PA 15-237, An Act Concerning High School Graduation and PA 16-4(SS), Section 310)
 PA 17-42, An Act Concerning Revisions to the High School Graduation Requirements
 PA 17-29, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Seal of Biliteracy
 PA 19-58 An Act Promoting Careers in Manufacturing to Public School Students
 PA 21-199, Section 4, An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Education Statutes.

Policy Adopted: May 11, 2021

Policy Revised:

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on March 8, 2022.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Madam Chair LeBlanc.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Joshua Hamre
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Joshua Hamre
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Jonathan LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire (remote) and Tina LeBlanc

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

6. BOARD GUEST(S) – EHS Students

Madam Chair LeBlanc stated based on the recent loss of an Enfield High student, we have postponed this item to allow our school community time to grieve. We will invite these students to attend another meeting.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. EPS Update as presented

Mr. Drezek addressed the tragic loss of an Enfield High School student. Our Enfield community is at a loss. He shared a message from Jaylene "Jay" Gonzalez mother. He reminded everyone to be respectful of the family's privacy during this trying time.

Mr. Drezek stated we have crisis teams available for any students and staff that are struggling. Reach out if you need help or support. These supports will continue. Our teachers and staff do an amazing job. Call us if you need help.

Mr. Drezek added he knows this is a hard conversation to have with your children. If you need help, please reach out during the day to either Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Ingalls, or Joanna Fornwalt at youth services after hours. We are here to help our community heal. This town comes together in times of a crises. Thank you for respecting the family in their time of need.

8. AUDIENCES

Madam Chair stated we have a lot of people that would like to speak tonight. She read a prepared statement about expectations for audience participation. We will continue to utilize a 3-minute time limit for audience participation.

Christine Asselin, Pearl Street – Ms. Asselin stated that no policies will relate to all students.

We need as many policies as possible we can get to relate to all students. Being transgender is not a trend. Many Americans throughout time have been transgender. The study that was mentioned at a Board meeting is 15 years old and is not valid. There are many newer studies that have been compiled with up-to-date information. The statement of leave it alone and it will go away is false. These false facts are causing harm to our children. Don't tell us how to parent our kids and stop targeting transgender children.

Karyn Swanson, Garden Street – Ms. Swanson stated her children are part of the LGBTQ community. The report that was given by a Board meeting was outdated regarding transgender youth. Today's world is more accepting of our youth than they were years ago. Being transgender is not a social contagion. These individuals are born this way. Many of these youth consider suicide because they are not accepted. This kind of misinformation is shameful. You were elected to represent all children.

Sasha Miller, Roosevelt Boulevard – Ms. Miller stated she was born and raised in Enfield and her children are attending school in Enfield. She is grateful for the teachers she had when she came out. They supported her. All families are different. Being a lesbian is not contagious. School should be a safe place for our children. Her children have 2 mothers, and it really does take a village. Tough conversations are needed at home and in school. Our children should not be silenced and need to learn about these differences. The high school has a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Club, but they need more time for students to meet and more safe spaces are needed. We need to break the bias. You need to stand up for all kids.

Danielle Girard, Edgewood Drive – Ms. Girard stated she also came out and is married and a mother. She only received 50% of support from her family. The GSA meets once a month for 20 minutes. This is not enough time for the students to meet. She urged Board members to put themselves in our youth's place. Just because you don't understand something does not mean it doesn't exist. Ignoring will not make this go away. Families are not discussing these things. All families are different. We need to do better. Please give our kids the support they need.

Kari Monteforte, Lawncrest Road – Mrs. Monteforte stated her fear is what our students and staff feel every day. Change is uncomfortable. Changes are needed. Changing our calendar to be more inclusive was a needed change. The Republican Town Committee posted a message on their page about the calendar change. If we didn't make changes, women would not have any rights and changes would not have occurred. She read a quote. She asked Board members to think about this when you are looking at policies. Do not exclude students from your policies. Change is hard but necessary.

Matt Schmitt, Bigelow Commons – Mr. Schmitt stated the Enfield Community has been hit with a tragedy and sadness. He shares his deepest condolences with Jaylene's family and friends. We should honor what is most important. May the Gonzalez family find peace. He will postpone his comments until the next meeting.

Amanda Marquez, Hoover Lane – Ms. Marquez stated tragedy has stricken the Enfield Community. She expressed her condolences to the family. Our children's mental health is important. She will discuss the assignment and committee mentioned by a Board member at the next Board meeting.

Ryan Scheutz, Church Street – Mr. Scheutz also stated he will share his comments planned for tonight at the next Board meeting. He expressed his condolences to Jaylene's family. Please consider the adhoc committee that was mentioned for consideration.

Mary Ann Turner – Meadow Road – Mrs. Turner is going to refrain from discussing the Pizza topic. She posted a comment on the Republican Town page about Christmas and read the statement that was posted. She likes the idea of Mr. Unghire's Special Task Force. Thank you.

Trish Neild Barry, Buchanan Road – Mrs. Neild Barry expressed her condolences to the family. She thanked Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey for keeping our students, staff and administration safe. She thanked Mrs. Pickett for the inclusive language on the calendar. We are not removing Christmas. We are including all faiths. Board members need to represent all students and we need to protect all our kids, not just some of them. You do not grow out of being LGBTQ. If you are going to quote a scientific study, make sure you quote the entire study and not just portions. She urged Board members to do the research on screening. Thank you.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis extended her condolences and sympathy to the family. Anti-trans will not going away. Suicide takes their lives. We should not be targeting our youth. She is gay and is proud. This town has love. Religious beliefs should not come through these doors. You need to represent all children every day. She thanked Mrs. Pickett for making the school calendar more inclusive. All our children are all special and are loved. Believe in yourself. She thanked Mr. Drezek. You are the true meaning of a leader. You have integrity. She presented him with a military coin and saluted him.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Unghire stated he will give a presentation at the next Board meeting. He extended his deepest condolences to Jaylene's family. You are in his prayers and thoughts.

Mr. Unghire thanked the members of the Board for your condolences for the recent loss of his father in law. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Mr. Unghire left the meeting at 7:42 PM.

Mrs. Acree expressed her condolences to the Gonzalez family. Her prayers of comfort and peace are being offered to her family.

Mrs. Acree stated the mask mandate has been lifted. Now it is a parental choice which I know a lot of parents are more comfortable with.

Mrs. Acree stated that the Enfield High School students Kayla and Madison were going to speak tonight about health and wellness of our students. She is looking forward to working with Dr. Calnen on the Youth Mental Health & Wellness Committee so we can address issues that are happening in our school system and help our students that are struggling with emotional issues they are experiencing. They have been dealing with a lot over the past 2 years.

Mrs. Acree was asked if she is on Board with the proposed task force. She is on board and is looking forward to hearing his presentation at the next meeting. Parents are concerned about the lessons being taught.

Mrs. Cushman also expressed her condolences to the Jaylene's Family. The Enfield community is praying for you and supports you during this time.

Mrs. Cushman stated she is thankful for the opportunity to serve. She appreciates the audience members for coming tonight. Our children are worth protecting regardless of their race, religion or gender. They are all valuable and worth protecting. A lot of what she has shared was not written that long ago. She explained that she started her search out of concerns and for a better understanding. She appreciates you leaving information for her and for you coming tonight.

Mr. LeBlanc would like an update on the last day of school. Mr. Drezek stated our last day of

school is on Thursday, June 23rd and the Enfield High School Graduation will be held on Wednesday, June 22nd. He is waiting for clarification from the State regarding flexibility for Covid staffing days. The State is the only one that can grant us 180 days. He is waiting for additional information before he officially updates the Board about the last day of school.

Mr. LeBlanc stated there is the possibility that the last day of school may be on June 22nd. Mr. Drezek stated that would be ideal, but not legally at this time. The Board adopts a firm graduation date when you approve the school calendar. This date will not change and is etched in stone for our graduating seniors and families. The only thing that would prevent this would be the weather. We have rented the chairs for an additional day for inclement weather.

Mr. LeBlanc congratulated the students that have made the honor roll at EHS and JFK. Enfield has a higher amount of students making the honor rolls compared to other towns. This speaks loudly about our students and how serious they take their academics inside and outside of the building.

Mr. LeBlanc encouraged everyone to read our school newsletters. There is a lot of great information in these letters. It is also great to see our students smiling faces again. There are so many great things that are going on at our schools that are highlighted in the newsletters.

Mr. LeBlanc added that Enfield Little League will be holding signups for interested students that want to play baseball and softball. You can go to www.enfieldlittleleague.org to register.

Mr. Hamre also expressed his condolences to the family and friends of Jaylene Gonzalez. Your emotions should not be ignored. If you need help, reach out and get some. This pain will hurt for a while and will not lessen. Do not ignore your feelings, get help if you need it.

Mr. Hamre stated it is International Women's Day. He does not know any international women, but he wanted to recognize them. The theme this year is gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow.

Mr. Hamre stated he met with Enfield Pride group and the GSA Club meets for 20 minutes two times a month. An audience member mentioned they meet once a month. Regardless of if they meet once or twice a month, this is still not enough time for this group to meet and support its members. Can we accommodate this group with more time during the day or afterschool?

Mr. Hamre stated he is a member to the Enfield Cultural Arts Commission and would like to be a Board liaison to this worthwhile committee. He would like this to be added to our committee assignments.

Mr. Hamre stated the JFK PTO will meet on Wednesday at 6:00 PM. He will try to attend but if you can always reach out to him by e-mail. You can go to enfieldpto.com for information or the school website. The Enfield High School program of studies for incoming grade 9 students (current grade 8 students) is also posted on the website. The Enfield Invention Convention will be held on Saturday, March 12th. He is one of the judges and is looking forward to this event. JFK will hold Baseball and Softball informational meetings on Wednesday at 2:45 PM in the café for interested students.

Mr. Hamre thanked the audience members for speaking tonight. You all spoke for your heart. He appreciates the spirit of this town. It supersedes everything else, and it is evident. Thank you.

Dr. Calnen expressed his deepest condolences to the family. It is so tragic when a young life is taken.

Dr. Calnen congratulated the LGBTQ community members that came here tonight to demand

for respect on their terms.

Dr. Calnen stated a decision was made about masks. He hopes we are not jumping the gun. We are moving in the right direction, but we are still in the red zone. He hopes the downward trend continues. The percentage of vaccines are low in children and put them in a higher risk category. We do not know what the long term affects will be from Covid. We need to address mental health concerns. If there is an uptick, we will be prepared to protect ourselves and our children.

Dr. Calnen stated Head Start has an infant toddler care survey about accessing childcare needs of Enfield families. Our area childcare centers are full and family childcare has declined by 50%. We need affordable childcare options in Enfield for families. We discussed the 2Gen Initiative at the Kite meeting. We also discussed the Directors Report and Head Start criteria. Attendance at Head Start is at 91% and they are fully enrolled. We also reviewed the budget, objectives and disabilities related to speech and oral health services were also reviewed.

Mrs. Pickett thanked audience members for attending. We are here to support education, our children and our community. We need to understand better instead of judging. She recently met with a member of the Republican Party so they could better understand each other and move forward. We didn't agree on everything we discussed, but we both want to make our community better. She would like us to find ways to come together. She would like to hear from the Superintendent about how we are going to use the funds we received to lighten the load for our teachers and staff. We will receive this funding for the next 2-4 years. System changes take 3-5 years. She knows change is hard. We need to understand our needs of our staff, students and families and come up with solutions to make Enfield a better place. She is also interested in hearing about summer programs.

Mrs. Pickett stated Kite presented to the Town Council last night. She thanked Brianna Beckstrand and Leann Beaulieu for their presentation and the importance of partnerships and working smarter, not harder and for the amazing community supports we have.

Mrs. Pickett stated Parkman will hold a grade level penny competition on March 14th. They will hold a spirit wear week and a PTO fundraiser that began on Monday that will end on March 22nd.

Mrs. Pickett stated Enfield Street will hold a PTO meeting on Wednesday, March 9th. They will also have a read-a-thon starting on March 14th thru the 25th. Principal Lord sent out an e-mail with information on this tonight. It was posted in the newsletter that they are collecting box tops. They are also busy planning spring events.

Mrs. Pickett stated there was an article in the JI about Open Choice and Enfield's participation. She wants to thank Enfield Public Schools leadership including Mr. Drezek and Ms. Valley for your commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. This partnership only works if we embrace unique strengths, needs and perspectives of our students, staff and families. It was a great article.

Mrs. Pickett stated her child's teacher will hold an event at the Hartford Public Library on Wednesday for STEAM students.

Mrs. Pickett stated ERfC has slots available for their before and afterschool program. They also hold programs on Saturday as well as sport programs and programs during the summer. They will hold a free family event on Thursday, March 24th from 6-8 PM at Holy Family Church. They also hold programs for children during the April vacation break. For additional information you can go to their website at www.erfcinc.org.

Mrs. Pickett also wanted to acknowledge woman's history month and to thank the amazing

woman we have in the Enfield Public Schools and members on this Board. Thank you, ladies.

Mrs. Pickett also shared her condolences to the Gonzalez family.

Mr. Ryder also expressed his condolences to the Gonzalez family. He also expressed his condolences to Councilman Unghire for the loss of her father.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will celebrate Pi Day on March 14th which is 3.14. They will eat pie. They were challenged to complete 314 iReady lessons in math and reading for each class. The students that have completed the most lessons from each class will have the opportunity to smash pie in the faces of Mrs. Flanagan and Ms. Fitzsimmons.

Mr. Ryder stated during the month of February the students at Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney raised over 1,200 pounds of food for the Enfield Food Shelf by filling the food boat. Students were able to earn an extra recess for the classes that donated the most food. He thanked everyone that contributed to this worthy cause.

Mr. Ryder wished all the JFK students good luck that are participating in the Invention Convention on Saturday.

Mr. Ryder stated this is the last week to order your Eli Whitney spirit wear. All orders need to be in by Friday, March 11th. You can find additional information on the enfieldpto.com website.

Mr. Ryder stated Mr. LeBlanc mentioned the calendar. He updates the enfieldpto.com calendar any time we have any school closings. It does list June 22nd and June 23rd as early release days and June 23rd is listed as the last day of school.

Mr. Ryder stated the North Central Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Enfield Public Schools and Kite will hold an employment and resources fair on Thursday, April 28th. If you are hiring teens for summer jobs, please let us know so you can setup a table. This event is free and will be held at Enfield High School outside in the parking lot from 5-7:00 PM. This includes any childcare facilities that are looking for enrollment opportunities as well as any other organizations like the town wide tag sale or any volunteer opportunities like Enfield Food Shelf and Loaves and Fishes are also welcome to setup a table. This is a free opportunity to reach out to the community. We will also have food truck and entertainment.

Mr. Ryder stated this is International Women's Day. He thanked our woman Administrators, Board Members (past and present), and Town Council Members. He also welcomed our first woman Town Manager Ellen Zoppo.

Mr. Ryder thanked audience members for speaking tonight.

Madam Chair LeBlanc stated she was so ready for the Invention Convention, she showed up for it last Saturday. She looks forward to this event and will be there this Saturday, March 12th.

Madam Chair stated Mrs. Pickett reached out to a republican town council member that wanted to talk to us. It was a very productive honest conversation. She appreciates her reaching out to us. We need to build bridges and try to understand each other by asking questions. We need to appreciate and understand our differences without being negative even if we disagree.

Madam Chair stated the Enfield Cultural Arts Commission (ECAC) is amazing. She thanked Counselor Santanella mentioned this committee is missing a Board member liaison. We have so many talented students in our town, and this is a great step to include a Board member on the ECAC. We will look into this on appointing a Board liaison to this committee.

Madam Chair congratulated the Enfield High School Girls Basketball team in the state championship quarter final game. The semi final game will take place at a neutral location on Friday, March 11th. She wishes them continued success.

Madam Chair attended a Finance Meeting with Representative Tom Arnone for the State. It was very interesting. We discussed property taxes that support education and discussed how it is flawed. We also discussed ECS Cost Sharing. It was a very interesting meeting, and she thanks Representative Arnone for inviting her.

Madam Chair also read the Open Choice newspaper article. She loved the parent's perspective about her experience at STOWE and that we have Black educators. She appreciates the diversity that is provided for her child. She loves that we can offer this experience. Her children attended Enfield Public Schools and there were open choice students that were very successful and also participated in extracurricular activities and held jobs in Enfield. This is an amazing program for the town of Enfield, and we are proud of you.

Madam Chair stated we are celebrating Women's History month and today is International Women's Day. We celebrate the accomplishments made by women throughout the years. It is an opportunity to celebrate the trailblazing woman that led the way for change.

Madam Chair stated Enfield High Safe Grad will hold a purse bingo on Friday, March 25th at the American Legion Hall. They are still looking for donations for raffle baskets and items for the mystery bags.

Madam Chair stated there was a Cat in the Hat sighting last week at Stowe. We have our very own Cat in the Hat that pops up at various schools in March.

Madam Chair stated all EHS grade 9, 10 and 12 students will take the SAT's on Thursday, March 24th. Look out for e-mails from Mr. Clark.

Madam Chair extended her condolences to the Gonzalez family. The Enfield community is behind you, and we are thinking of you.

Madam Chair also extended condolences to Susan Boucher's family. She was a long time Enfield High School Science teacher.

Madam Chair received a packet from Mrs. Nuccio and Room 23 with all kinds of notes for the Board. She thanked the students at Crandall for these special notes. This reminds us why we are here.

Madam Chair read a poem called "Unity." This is something we are all trying to get to.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. BOE Policy Revisions & Adoptions – Second Reading

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the BOE Policy Revisions and Adoptions for a second reading.

Discussion:

Mrs. Cushman expressed concerns with Policy #6142.102 Administration of Social-Emotional Learning Assessment to Students. It has a strength based lens and when the assessments are done for grade 9 students it could identify some mental health problems. We need to address mental health issues. Her concern is when the problem will be addressed. There is an online

information session with the State about the SEL initiative and the 5 competencies are listed. The slide that offers feedback for self-assessment has examples for each competency except for the self-awareness one. So it leaves her to wonder for the self-awareness competency suggests there is gender confused or something synonymous. Is this possible.

Mrs. Pickett asked if you are asking about the screener? Mrs. Cushman stated is there a possibility.

Mr. Hamre does not understand the question you are asking. Mrs. Cushman stated the five competencies are addressed. In the various charts, there is feedback that is offered where a child is in these competencies except for the self-awareness one. If there is an issue, how will this one be addressed.

Mr. Hamre asked about what issue? Mrs. Cushman stated if they see an issue. The assessment that is being given identifies some students that might have suicidal tendencies is very serious. How is this taken and addressed in the classroom?

Madam Chair believes you are asking about the self-awareness competency is vague and more clarification is needed. Is this what you are looking for? Because the other competencies gave examples but not the self-awareness one.

Mrs. Cushman stated that is correct.

Mr. Hamre stated he is not sure where the gender confused phrase comes into this discussion. How does gender confused phrase come into play when asking about the self-awareness component?

Mrs. Cushman understands, and this is not happening in Enfield, she has a friend whose child attended preschool and there was gender identification for preschoolers. This is being done at an early age.

Mrs. Pickett stated the screening we are talking about with the SEL assessment and the tool the district is using, gender is not part of the eight (8) question screener we use. The questions are based on strengths related to social emotional learning skills. Any identifying information from the student would come from what we have in Power School. Students are not identified in any type or way on the screener.

Mrs. Pickett added you referenced students that might be suicidal or suicidal risks, which is not a measure on the SEL screener. It is a strength based assessment. She is not aware of a different screener the district uses for suicide. Some districts use QPR. We have done a lot of work in Enfield regarding that. The screener does not address gender. It is based on skills.

Mrs. Cushman stated it may the 7 or 8 questions at a young age, but the high school edition has 43 questions.

Mrs. Pickett stated that is a follow-up assessment you are mentioning, and it is not given to every student.

Mrs. Pickett apologized for speaking. Mr. Longey stated you are doing a great job and he is trying to stay out of the conversation. This is a second reading at this point. When you look at the policy, it lists we may administer. This does not lock the district in to any specific assessment. We do not have to use the Department of Education's assessment. We can create our own assessment which is the case of what we are using for our grade 9 students. This assessment is strength based and is done in collaboration with Youth Services.

Madam Chair asked if Mrs. Cushman had any additional questions, if not, roll call please.

A vote by **roll call – 6-2-0** passed with Mrs. Cushman and Mrs. Acree in dissent.

Mr. Ryder asked about Mr. Unghire. Madam Chair said he left the meeting a while ago.

11. NEW BUSINESS: None

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett reported the Curriculum Committee will not meet on March 8th our next meeting will be held on April 21st. We will continue to discuss TAG.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee met on March 7th and had another productive meeting. We reviewed the TAG endowment and will continue to monitor this.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee is scheduled to meet on March 15th.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Leadership did not meet due to Mr. Unghire's absence. We will try to reschedule this meeting.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facility Committee has received roof RFP's and we have also received some of the roof bids. The Deputy Mayor Gina Cekala stated the Town Council will fund the Transfer Station project.

JFK Building – Mr. Ryder reported that JFK Building Committee members met on March 3rd. He thanked everyone for the progress that has been made at JFK. He is excited for the next meeting. We are so close to this project being finished.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee meeting was postponed. Both Mr. Hamre and himself met with Chief Fox and he answered some of our questions. The committee should be meeting together again soon.

Joint Insurance – Madam Chair reported she has not received an invite yet for the Joint Insurance Committee. She will reach out to the Town Manager about the next meeting.

Youth Mental Health – Madam Chair reported we are working on starting Youth Mental Health Committee up again.

Dr. Calnen stated this is such an important committee during this time and age. There is a degree of urgency for us to meet sooner rather than later.

Mrs. Acree stated she reached out to Joanna Fornwalt, but she still hasn't heard anything back yet.

Madam Chair appreciates your commitment to this committee and will follow up on it. She knows if feels like we keep hitting roadblocks.

Mr. LeBlanc stated you can also reach out to Representative Arnone and Mr. Neville. Dr. Calnen stated he did.

Mr. Drezek added he met with Cindy Guerrieri, the Director of Social Services to start this process. We will be meeting again.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 8,

2022, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

For the February 2022

Mr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of February 2022 the total expenditures amount to \$7,689,911.91, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,561,310.63 and other accounts totaling 3,128,601.28 and;
- All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly document.

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

Mr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of February 2022 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$716,162.82 broken down between payroll totaling \$577,887.20 and other accounts totaling \$138,275.62; and
- All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly document.

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

Line Item Transfers, if any - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

Mr. Ryder thanked another administrator, Marilynn Cressotti. She is our Adult Education Director.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2022.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary