

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on September 24, 2024.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Riley.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Peter Jonaitis

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Peter Jonaitis

4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**

5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Peter Jonaitis, Philip Kober, Tina LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder and Charlotte Riley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Interim Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent and Ms. Michelle Middleton, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

**Teacher of the Year – Sheree Winans –**

Mrs. Winans thanked everyone for their support. She reviewed her teaching history with the Board. She currently teaches grade 5 at Prudence Crandall. She provided the Board with the same message she gave at our staff convocation this year. She spoke about three important people who are no longer here (her dad Carmen, her husband Keith and friend Amy Romano). She spoke about life and used the analogy that your cup is your life, and you decide how to fill it. She read a poem “The Little Red Wagon.” She added that working together and supporting each other is important. This is how she has made through 33 years of teaching. It is not always easy to ask for help. She believes in the concept of team. Together we are better, together we can survive the cuts and rise above for the betterment of our kids. Together we can move our students forward and close achievement gaps even when it seems impossible. Together we can encourage each other, together we are better. If you are going to do a job do it right and use your little red wagon and remember to fill your cup with positivity because life is good.

Mr. Jonaitis added you have taught for 33 years and in 4 years you won’t know what to do with yourself.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mrs. Winans for her dedication. Your entire family has done a lot for Enfield Public Schools. You have given us great life lessons.

Mrs. Acree congratulated Mrs. Winan for being our Teacher of the Year. She loves our tradition of honoring our teachers with this distinction. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our students. You give our students your best.

Mr. Ryder also thanked her for her years of service. Thank you for everything you do and have done for our students.

Mrs. LeBlanc added you have helped so many Enfield students for many years. You are dedicated to Enfield. We are very proud of you and everything you have done for our students. You son Jack is one of your biggest accomplishments. You have shown us how to love and care. Congratulations.

Mrs. Cushman also thanked her for being our Teacher of the Year. You are very dedicated to our students. You have given yourself to our students for many years. She attended this year's convocation, and your Teacher of the Year message was inspiring. She watched staff as they listened to your timely message.

Mr. Jonaitis loves what you said and your passion for teaching. That is what teaching is, a passion and that is something you will never lose.

Chairwoman Riley also congratulated Mrs. Winans for being our Teacher of the Year. She could not have chosen a more deserving person for this award. We are super lucky to have you as one of our Crandall teachers. Hearing your story brings me a whole other level of awe and admiration for you. You never know what someone is going through. The kindness you show all the time is wonderful.

Mrs. Winans thanked everyone for their kind words. They are really appreciated.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **a. EPS Update –**

Mr. Longey reminded parents about the early release tomorrow and to complete the Parent Square app to receive messages. Our student representatives will receive their training session on October 1<sup>st</sup> and will attend the October 8<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting.

Mr. Longey stated this is his last meeting as the Interim Superintendent. He thanked the Board for your patience and support and for everything we accomplished over the last several months. We have navigated through many areas together since June. He also thanked the incredible staff for all their support. Our new superintendent Steven Moccio will start on September 30<sup>th</sup>. He is confident we will rebuild our district, and he will move the district forward. He welcomed Mr. Moccio to Enfield.

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin stated our Teacher of the Year has a lot of wisdom. The district needs to reorganize from the top down. We need to assess and see what is working from the bottom up. We need to hear from those in our classrooms. The administration needs to listen to their staff and respect is needed from everyone.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Ryder reminded parents about Parent Square and to sign up to receive messages like tomorrow's early release day. He has been working with Dr. Wiley to share links and updates on enfieldpto.com. He thanked Mr. Longey for everything he has done for Enfield as our Interim Superintendent.

Mr. Kober welcomed students and staff back and hopes everyone has settled in. He thanked Chief Fox, Captain Nolan and SSO's for the SSO update that was given. He thanked Mr. Longey for being our Interim Superintendent and for everything he accomplished during this time. He looks forward to Mr. Moccio settling in. He congratulated Dr. Berrios for being appointed as our Human Resources Director.

Mr. Kober asked via the Chair to the Superintendent about receiving the schedules for the professional development day. Mr. Longey stated they will send that out to the Board.

Mr. Kober spoke about his transparency initiative and attending a Leadership meeting where this was discussed. We discussed reporting, data, metrics used with decision making and goals. Next steps will include policy revisions and working with on FY2025-26 budget.

Mr. Jonaitis also thanked Mr. Longey for guiding us through the troubled waters. We will get through this. This is reminiscent of the closing of Kosciuszko and Fermi, and movement of staff programs and increased class sizes. Thank you for your leadership.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Jonaitis for his opening comments. Her dad is a Vietnam veteran. Remembering and honoring is important. She thanked Mr. Longey for his leadership and support. She thanked Mrs. Griffin for her comments and looks forward to Mr. Moccio starting.

Mrs. Pickett would like us to look at our early release days that are being used for staff professional learning for our next calendar and to see if any changes can be made. She would also like to see a midyear conference added to the calendar.

Mrs. Pickett spoke about course changes and adjustments at the high schools. She is concerned about our partnership ending with Asnuntuck and the impact from this. She looks forward to our student representatives attending our meetings again. She supports our staff and looks forward to rebuilding our school communities. She attended Enfield Street open house with her children and only her sons grade 1 teacher was there. The staff at our buildings have changed and our kids have noticed this. Supports are needed and we need to do better.

Mrs. Pickett is interested with the data that will be included in reports from Mr. Kober's transparency initiative. She has expressed her concerns about safety and behavioral responses. We have already seen an increase with protective custody transports this year.

Mrs. Pickett spoke about the dugouts at Powder Hollow being removed and the Town will also be re-evaluating facility rental agreement fees. This concerns her.

Dr. Calnen congratulated Mr. Longer for a great job being our interim superintendent. We appreciate everything you did for our students and staff. He spoke about an article in the Journal Inquirer about school threats of violence. Our schools need to be proactive. If a student is in crises, they need to talk to someone. We need to encourage our students to report any concerns they may be aware of. Our resources are already stretched pretty thin. If you need help, talk to someone.

Mrs. Acree also thanked Mr. Longey for everything he has done over the past several months. Your dedication, support and hard work was greatly appreciated.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the girls soccer team will hold a pasta dinner on Sunday. She thanked Mr. Longey for the comparison of class sizes from last year and this year. Every school has lost teachers with the budget cuts. We have cut courses due to the lack of staff at the high school. All departments have been affected across the district. These cuts have hurt our kids. She added that we cannot fit every sport at Enfield High School, and we need to bus our teams to Fermi and Powder Hollow. Past reports have proven this.

Mrs. LeBlanc added we all agree that K-5 is what we would like to see here in Enfield. Universal PreK is eminent. We do not have space for this. Having 6 elementary schools would mean redistricting again. She would like Mr. Dague to provide us with his presentation again.

Mrs. LeBlanc agrees that mental health matters. She shared a story with Board members. You never really know about someone's mental health and what they are going through. People need to be aware of what is being said.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Longey for stepping up for our district as our interim

superintendent. She appreciates your leadership.

Mr. Jonaitis is tired of the bashing of our Town Council. Let them conduct their business and we will conduct our business. Mayor Nelson and Mr. Ludwick have heart and soul and are not trying to hurt anyone in this town and our community. They ran on a no tax increase platform. The town made budget cuts in every department just like we did. The blame game needs to stop. We need to be civil to each other and work together. This is not an easy process and people's feelings can be hurt. Let's keep the coffee in the cup.

Chairwoman Riley addressed Mrs. Griffins comments. We have discussed this at our leadership meeting. Mr. Moccio will be talking to stakeholders. Our principals meet with Ms. Middleton often and have very frank conversations. We will need their data to advocate for us during the next budget cycle. Mrs. LeBlanc addressed several areas tonight. She added students attending classes at Asnuntuck for welding started at \$1K per student and that cost has risen to \$3K per student which is a large increase. She also spoke about the AP classes and some of the courses could not be offered because our software program needs to be updated. The other AP course were not offered due to low enrollment.

Mrs. Middleton stated that is correct. The MacBook's are old, and the new program could not be used with them.

Chairwoman Riley added at the Town Council meeting, it was mentioned that there are 29 kids in kindergarten classrooms. That information is incorrect. Our intent is to not let the classroom sizes go over 18 students. Mr. Longey added our intent is to keep the class sizes as low as possible.

Chairwoman Riley stated we discussed the loss of Teen Leadership course at leadership, and this will directly affect one of our indicators. We also discussed looking at our AP catalog offerings. She updated the Board regarding CT DOT about the status of our schools and school zone sign reinforcement. This has been referred to Enfield Traffic Division. This is progress.

Chairwoman Riley received an e-mail about videotaping football games on E-TV. This is something that is currently being done now. The games are livestreamed. She just watched a volleyball game on the Athletic website page.

Chairwoman Riley attended a CREC Council meeting and provided the Board with an update. They discussed magnet school funding and increases. Their budget session will start in January and to be prepared for not receiving full excess cost funding.

Chairwoman Riley spoke about Joint Insurance, and we are still waiting for confirmation for the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. When Mr. Moccio starts, we will discuss our next joint TC/BOE budget meeting

Chairwoman Riley thanked Mr. Longey for everything he has been doing for us. She appreciates you and your dedication. You are always available to answer her phone calls and questions. She also thanked Mr. Iacobucci for everything he has been doing at JFK.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. ACTION IF ANY REGARDING APPOINTING THE JOHN F. KENNEDY PRINCIPAL**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education appoints Ms. Sarah Brown as the John F. Kennedy Principal based on the Interim Superintendent's recommendation.

## **Discussion:**

Mr. Kober asked Mr. Longey to provide an overview for the JFK Principal search.

Mr. Longey provided the Board and public an executive summary of the process used. Dr. Berrios developed a thorough process for interviewing the principal candidates. Mr. Moccio, Cabinet leadership and he unanimously agree that Ms. Sarah Brown is the right person for this position and will continue leading us forward.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he is not crazy about the process. He has discussed this during our leadership meeting. He liked the way we used to do this. He also feels 2 candidates should have been brought forward to the Board to interview. He is not taking anything away from your recommendation. We just need to work on the process.

Mrs. Pickett appreciates the process used including having students, staff and intermediate families part of this. She has confidence with our central office cabinet making this leadership decision.

Mrs. LeBlanc also respects the process. She also appreciated interviewing the candidate tonight prior to us making a formal decision.

Mr. Kober agrees with the process and the interviews held with each candidate and meeting with the finalist tonight. He will support this candidate.

Chairwoman Riley also agrees with the process used. BOE Policy #2151 Employment of Administrators was approved in May 2018 that explains the process for hiring administrators. The superintendent will make the recommendation to the Board which Mr. Longey did. She attended the JFK meet & greet and all 3 candidates were excellent and were extremely qualified for this position. Ms. Brown will build upon the work Dr. Berrios started at JFK. We have a great structure in place.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-1** passed with Mr. Jonaitis abstaining.

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Acree reported the Curriculum Committee met on September 19<sup>th</sup>. She provided an overview of the meeting and about dual enrollment textbooks. The next meeting will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Finance Committee: Mr. Kober reported the Finance Committee met on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. He provided a detailed overview of the meeting. We will review monthly expenditures for June, July and August including grant expenditures and line item transfers. We also discussed the FY2025-26 Budget process. The next meeting will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Board members asked Mr. Kober several questions about year end projections, expenditures, school nutrition free universal lunch program and grants. Mr. Longey stated that we do not have 2 schools that qualify for universal free breakfast and lunch. Stafford schools qualify for this, and Mr. Moccio can elaborate on this once he is here. We do not have accurate numbers. All families need to complete the free/reduced lunch applications as mentioned by Mrs. Pickett.

Mrs. LeBlanc spoke about the upcoming Joint Insurance meeting and possibly adding this item to a future Finance and Budget Committee agenda for discussion when it comes to budgeting. Mr. Kober will have this item added for Mrs. Cisneros to report on.

Chairwoman Riley spoke about the grants and the detailed discussion we had at the Finance and Budget Committee meeting. This grant information can be found on the State website

under EGMS where you can see all grants and funding awards. The new process only allows us to submit one grant reimbursement at a time until the first grant payment request has been paid per grant. We will pay for it and then the State will reimburse us. This process is a bit archaic. Mrs. Pickett stated you can see the grant and the reimbursements on the State site. Mr. Jonaitis asked about Federal Funds. Mr. Longey added the State will hold Federal monies just like the Town holds the money for us.

Chairwoman Riley explained the process for looking at grants to Mr. Jonaitis. Mrs. LeBlanc asked if you could see Alliance Grant funding. Chairwoman Riley added she only looked at FY25 and did not look at FY24 grants. Mr. Jonaitis asked if we would receive any Alliance Grant Funding this year. Mrs. LeBlanc stated we will not know until the next legislative session. Chairwoman Riley added if we receive anything it would be a gift.

Policy Committee: Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee met on September 17<sup>th</sup>. She provided an overview of the 4 policies they reviewed, and we will continue this discussion at our next meeting. Our next meeting will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Leadership – Chairwoman Riley reported Board Leadership met on September 18<sup>th</sup>. We discussed several items including Mr. Kober's transparency initiative, monthly data reports that will be coming from Mr. Dague, including suspension and arrests, SSO's and security items, policy #3113. We can discuss this further with Mr. Moccio about setting priorities.

Mrs. Pickett agrees that we have a lot of policies. Does CAGE have a recommended list of policies that we should have. Mr. Kober stated he received the most current list of recommended policies from CAGE and there is room for efficiencies to be made.

### **13. LIAISON REPORTS**

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder reported he will forward to Board members the minutes from the JFK Building Committee from the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Pickett asked about the membership for this committee and alternates. Mrs. LeBlanc stated the joint committees have all been done by a resolution that comes from the Town Council. There should be one for the Insurance and Security Committees. Mr. Kober agreed with Mrs. LeBlanc and added that the membership to the joint committees are created by the Town Council, and they are the primary members for these committees. Mrs. LeBlanc would like to know if these committees are adhering to the resolution or if they need to dissolve any joint committee.

Chairwoman Riley stated we also discussed at the Joint Security meeting that there will be regular police officers at some night games including staff members. Everything has been going wonderfully with the new program.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported they will attend the Enfield Together Coalition Mental Health & Wellness event on September 27<sup>th</sup> at Asnuntuck. After this event, we will schedule our next Enfield Mental Health Committee meeting to be held in October.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mrs. LeBlanc reported the Enfield Cultural Arts Commission will meet next on October 1st.

#### School Reports/Updates:

Mr. Kober reported that Henry Barnard held their open house on September 18<sup>th</sup>. He attended this event. The Barnard/Crandall PTO is still looking for volunteers. Barnard will be sending out information on Parent Square along with their Big Cat Newsletter.

Mrs. Pickett reported that both Enfield Street and Edgar H. Parkman also held their open house. We welcome new Enfield Street Assistant Principal Adrienne Snow, and she is very excited about this. Our PTO's are very busy, they will be holding a Purse Bingo along with other fundraising events to support our schools. She also encourages parents to look at Parent Square and PTO Facebook Pages. She asked JFK liaison Mr. Jonaitis about the electronic sign in front of the school could be used to place upcoming events on it.

Mr. Ryder reported that JFK will hold their curriculum night tomorrow night. He attended Enfield High's open house last week. There wasn't a large parent turnout. He encouraged parents to attend open house events. The club catalog for JFK came out today it will also be found on Parent Square. He is working with Dr. Wiley go have links posted and post principal newsletters. Parents can also signup for parent/teacher conferences that will be held in November.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he has spoken to Dr. Berrios a number of times about events/happenings at JFK about how they disseminate information to parents. He does not feel it needs to be repeated again. Now we have Parents Square that can be used as an additional tool for parents to use to keep abreast of events at our schools.

Mrs. Acree reported that Prudence Crandall will hold their Pride Assembly on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Picture day will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>, they will hold a PTO fundraiser event on October 1<sup>st</sup> at Moe's Restaurant, Butter Braid orders are due on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Mr. Duperre wishes everyone a happy fall!

Chairwoman Riley reported that Hazardville Memorial held their open house. They would also like parents to sign up for Parent Square and upcoming parent/teacher conferences. She looked at the club catalog for JFK students and they have 30 different extra-curricular offerings for students. Information about Suffield Vo-Ag, Prince Tech and Chenny Tech for students will be forthcoming.

Chairwoman Riley thanked Dr. Wiley for her assistance with Parent Square on her iPad. All of our schools have been working with her and Mr. Ryder, so everyone has access.

#### **14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2024, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-2** passed with Mr. Jonaitis and Mr. Kober abstaining.

#### **15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL**

##### **Month of June FY2024**

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

- The month of June 2024 total expenditures amount to \$1,561,129.22 broken down between payroll totaling \$1,440,084.99 and other accounts totaling \$121,044.23 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 documented.

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

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

- The month of June 2024 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$1,747,272.48, broken down between payroll totaling \$293,693.84 and other accounts totaling \$1,453,578.64 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 documented.

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

### **Month of July FY2025**

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

- The month of July 2024 total expenditures amount to \$3,015,439.01 broken down between payroll totaling \$703,022.64 and other accounts totaling \$2,312,416.37 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 documented.

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

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

- The month of July 2024 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$248,934.66, broken down between payroll totaling \$49,933.10 and other accounts totaling \$199,001.56 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 documented.

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

### **Month of August FY2025**

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

- The month of August 2024 total expenditures amount to \$4,814,059.93 broken down between payroll totaling \$2,830,053.54 and other accounts totaling \$1,984,006.39 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 documented.

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

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

- The month of August 2024 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$256,188, broken down between payroll totaling \$184,968.83 and other accounts totaling \$71,219.17 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 documented.

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

**Line Item Transfers:**

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the following FY2024 Line Item Transfers be approved:

|                                                  |                    |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| From: 200 – Personal Services – Employee Benefit | \$2,687,297.83     |
| 400 – Purchased Property Services                | 21,653.00          |
| 600 – Supplies                                   | 1,073,874.64       |
| 700 – Property                                   | <u>383,747.56</u>  |
| Total                                            | \$4,166,573.02     |
|                                                  |                    |
| To: 100 – Salary                                 | (\$2,416,425.60)   |
| 300 – Purchased Prof & Tech Services             | (1,138,671.76)     |
| 500 – Other Purchased Services                   | (591,313.15)       |
| 800 – Debt Service & Miscellaneous               | <u>(20,162.51)</u> |
| Total                                            | (\$4,166,573.02)   |

**Discussion:**

Board members discussed the line item transfers. Mr. Kober stated we started with \$75 million dollars and ended with \$75 million dollars to balance all FY2024 accounts. We are reconciling our accounts to zero them out for the FY2024. They also discussed funds received from the Town, MOU and grant funding.

A vote by **show of hands 7-0-2** passed with Mr. Kober and Mr. Jonaitis abstaining.

**16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION** - None

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 24, 2024.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Scott Ryder  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary