

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 22, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on October 22, 2024.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Peter Jonaitis

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Steven A. Moccio, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Deputy Superintendent; Student Representatives Izza Dinnald and Olivia Nuccio

6. BOARD GUEST(S)

Youth Vote – Both Joel Senez and Brianna Beckstrand provided the Board with an update about this year's Youth Vote program and Kite's Play Pak.

Mrs. Pickett thanked them for being here and forming this partnership. Community, school and civic engagement is important. Who can vote? Mr. Senez added that students in grades 4-12 can vote on the actual election ballot using iPads. The littles, PK-3 students can also vote on their favorite ice cream flavor.

Mrs. Pickett added having a plan along with early voting is important.

Mr. Ryder stated our students in grades K-3 will also be voting. The Youth Vote voting times are 8 AM – 8 PM.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the ballot for the Youth Vote students will be the same. Mr. Senez stated it is the same except for listing the 58 or 59 district. We are currently teaching our students curriculum about state government and civics.

Mrs. LeBlanc also thanked Kite for their partnership with Youth Vote. She did not get involved until her children were older with politics. Starting this engagement now is a great opportunity for our families to be more involved in our community.

Chairwoman Riley asked about the flyers. Mrs. Beckstrand stated we have been very involved on social media platforms and family engagement events at Stowe. We have visited the Enfield Food Shelf and the Enfield Produce & Deli. We have been posting tidbits about this process on our website at EnfieldKite.org.

Chairwoman Riley asked about the Play Paks and what items will be included. Mrs. Beckstrand added there will be a fidget, a book, scavenger hunt, and an etch-a-sketch to keep

the children entertained. The Play Pak flyer will be in Arabic, Spanish and English.

Mrs. Pickett is glad you mentioned our curriculum that is being taught. It is extremely important for our students to understand the process for elections. She also thanked Superintendent Moccio for the information he provided Board members about this.

Chairwoman Riley added this information can also be found on ParentSquare. Mrs. Beckstrand added that KITE saw a huge spike in registrations from this information being posted on ParentSquare.

Chairwoman Riley thanked them for being here tonight.

Registrar of Voters – Both Tom Kienzler and Christina Tetreault provided the Board with information about this year's voting process including voting drop boxes, absentee ballots, same day registration and early voting that is now being held at the Enfield Town Hall. They also thanked both Mr. Senez and Mrs. Beckstrand for the Enfield Youth Vote program.

Chairwoman Riley asked if first time voters after they have registered will need to go to the back of the line to vote. Mr. Kienzler stated no, we will bring them up to the front of the line to vote. This is a new law that is being enforced this year with any new registrations being done during early voting timeline.

Mrs. Pickett asked around how many Enfield residents will vote and vote early? Mr. Kienzler is expecting around 5-6K early voters. The last presidential election we had around 73% of registered voters vote. Having early voting will help with the voting on Election Day.

Mrs. Pickett added this will be the first time that JFK will be back open for voting in a presidential election.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Kienzler for helping her mother-in-law out with her absentee ballot. Her entire family will be voting early. The ballot is extremely confusing. This could cause voters to take extra time to vote.

Mrs. Tetreault added that pole workers can assist voters with any questions they may have about the ballot. Mr. Kienzler explained about the question on the ballot for absentee voting.

Dr. Calnen asked about voters that have difficulties walking and waiting in long lines. Do you have a process in place for those kind of voters? Mr. Kienzler stated we do have a process for this. It is a challenge, but we have a work around.

Mr. Ryder thanked them both.

Chairwoman Riley asked how can you volunteer as a poll worker? Mr. Kienzler stated you can call or e-mail us to volunteer. If you are on the ballot, you cannot be a volunteer.

Mrs. Tetreault asked voters to not wear political clothing or hats. We have asked voters to remove their hats and turn their shirts inside out.

Chairwoman Riley thanked them both for their hard work.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representative Update** – as presented
- b. Student conferences/Election Day/Veteran's Day – N/S** – as presented
- c. Spring Conferences** – as presented
- d. EPS Update** – Superintendent Moccio provided the Board with an overview of the staff entry level meetings, cabinet meetings, student improvement plans and student lunches

held. He met with school leaders from the parochial schools in Enfield. We have started on the next year budget process. We will meet with ADCO tomorrow. Both he and Mr. Longey met with Town leadership and will meet with them monthly. We are still trying to setup meetings with the Mr. Nelson, Chairwoman Riley, Mr. Bromson and myself. We are also looking at some of the larger classroom sizes at our K-2 and 3-5 schools. He has visited each building except for Stowe and Eagle. He also met with John Dague, and he was able to show me the modernization work and options. He sees that there is a need for more appropriate spaces and student support services as well as best practice classroom instruction. This is a long-term goal that we should look into

Mr. Moccio added that he received an e-mail today that our Stowe Early Learning Center, which has been previously recognized as an Apple Distinguished School. Stowe is now being recognized as an Apple Success School. We are one of 2 schools receiving this recognition. This is a huge distinction. Congratulations to everyone at our Stowe School. He will send Board members a link about this.

8. AUDIENCES

Chairwoman Riley read a prepared statement about audience participation and will allow each audience member 4 minutes to address the Board.

Joe Golas, Stardust Drive – Mr. Golas feels the Curriculum committee is the most important committee for Board members. He taught students science when he was a teacher. He also taught students about oceanography. We are surrounded by water. He previously spoke about professional teaching standards. Science addresses many questions about analysis, comparison, contrast, and evaluating. We need everyone to be professional at all times. He also spoke about measuring tools and displayed a vernier and micrometer. All students should know how to use these tools.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin spoke about the 504 process and terms parents should know about. The process can be frustrating. The school can only address what is occurring in the school setting. As parents things that go on at home cannot be addressed in school. She would suggest a webinar for parents so they can fully understand the process, terms and tests. This will give parents a reference of resources to use.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Calnen addressed Mrs. Griffin and added that parents should talk to their child's pediatrician about your concerns with your children. Pediatrics is changing. Children are having problems at school and are having developmental issues. This is also an area that needs to be expanded upon. He added that SELC is having a pediatrician residents from CCMC and they are learning about students with 504's, IEP's and management for children with mental health challenges. The other concern is reimbursement. Pediatricians cannot leave their offices to attend IEP's. This process needs to change.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mrs. Griffin for your knowledge and understanding of this process. Understanding Special Education is complicated, and this is something everyone should be aware of. She also posted information about webinars for families on her Facebook page for families to check out. We recently discussed at a Curriculum meeting support for our special education and regular staff.

Mrs. Pickett is wondering if there are any additional updates to Route 5 and about placing crossing guards and having one at Steele Road for students that attend JFK. Mr. Moccio has not received any additional updates since the last Joint Security meeting.

Mrs. Pickett spoke about spring conferences and the calendar for next year. November is a

tough month for parents with half days. She thanked Superintendent Moccio for your visits with students. She thanked Mrs. Griffin for her comments about our school modernization she made at the Town Council meeting. Security is not included in this plan. She would like the Joint Facilities Committee to update our school security and safety plan. She knows are plans cannot be publicly displayed and need to be protected. She is concerned with the impact of personnel changes and multiple officers covering schools. She also spoke about the potential of auditing firms the Town Council will use and if they monitor other areas. She also spoke about the different kinds of grants we receive.

Mrs. Pickett is happy to hear this news about Stowe. This is one of her favorite places and she is not surprised to hear about their continued success. She thanked Mr. Golas for his comments. She also thanked Mr. Wanzer, and she thanked him for his presentation at our curriculum meeting. She also thanked everyone that participated at the Jack-O-Lantern Festival.

Mr. Kober stated this is the last Board meeting before the upcoming election. He was glad to see us have Board guests that spoke about voting tonight. He thanked Mr. Moccio for the updates he has provided us with. He also wants to recognize the work of the Board with our subcommittees. He is looking forward to our next meeting where we will receive a more in-depth analysis about our enrollment and possible class size discussions.

Mr. Kober added that we have job postings listed on our district website. We are looking for paraprofessionals and Special Education teachers. He also attended the KITE annual conference. He will attend an upcoming CAFE Leadership Conference. He just completed a walkthrough with the Superintendent at EHS last week. He will also try to tour some of our other buildings since we have been discussing school modernization.

Mrs. Acree stated she attended the Teacher of the Year celebration for Sheree Winans last week. She congratulate our Teacher of the Year again. She enjoyed seeing all the Pink Out pictures including the one from Prudence Crandall where both she and Superintendent Moccio are in. She also congratulated Jaclyn Valley and her staff at the Stowe Early Learning Center for the great work they are doing for our students and district.

Mr. Ryder stated he also attended the Jack-O-Lantern Festival, KITE meeting and Enfield High Football game. He thanked Chef O. and his culinary students that catered an event for his work and for another event the town hosted. Our students are cooking for our community and are doing a phenomenal job.

Mr. Ryder added there will be a town-wide grade 5 student dance on October 11th from 6-8 PM at Alcorn Youth Center.

Mrs. LeBlanc also thanked Mr. Golas for his comments. She also thanked Mrs. Griffin for your parent insight for navigating special education. She also thanked Dr. Calnen for being part of the Board and for your insight over the past 3 years.

Mrs. LeBlanc also attended the KITE meeting and dinner. KITE does so much for our community, and it is appreciated. She also congratulated Jaclyn Valley and her staff. They are truly amazing. She remembers when we discussed having the SELC program. We always knew it would be something special. Congratulations to everyone at Stowe.

Mrs. LeBlanc also thanked Superintendent Moccio for your updates. She loves seeing how you are connecting with our staff and students and attending our subcommittee meetings. She appreciates the hard work you are doing. She also thanked our student representatives for their comments and being part of our meetings. Student voices are extremely important. She does not believe in the comment that was made about our students being used as pawns. The young adults in our schools are amazing.

Mrs. LeBlanc shared the School Modernization information with Councilor Santanella, and he has also shared this information with each Town Council member. This information was previously given to each Town Council member. We held a joint TC/BOE meeting where this presentation was given by John Dague. Feasibility studies have been conducted. Mr. Dague has presented this information at the August 29th Joint Facility Committee meeting. Members of the Town Council have received this information several times and this can also be found on our website. In order to receive State reimbursement, a Board representative must be included. She will always discuss matters mentioned by Town Council members at our Board meetings that will impact on student education and Enfield.

Chairwoman Riley stated that she looked at the School Modernization information again and she would like for John Dague to give us the high, severe and moderate needs list and what the exact items are for the schools.

Chairwoman Riley thanked Mrs. Griffin for her comments and ideas. Also as mentioned by Dr. Calnen, parents should discuss items of concern with their pediatrician. It is tough to navigate the mental health arena. Sharing links mentioned by Mrs. Pickett on our website can assist parents that are trying to navigate the special education process. She also thanked Mr. Golas for his comments about vernier calipers and this is something our students are learning at JFK. The students are using these instruments to measure and re-measure to translate a Lego into a 3-D print in their CAD class.

Chairwoman Riley also thanked Superintendent Moccio for reaching out to the Commissioner of Education about Enfield as an Alliance District and funding.

Chairwoman Riley is wearing her Pink Out shirt. This event means a lot to her. She thanked everyone that was involved and helped to raise funds for American Cancer Society and for Breast Cancer research. She loved seeing all of the pictures. It is great to see that everyone collectively is supporting this cause. She thanked Prudence Crandall for her pink shirt. She reminded community members to get your mammogram and added the best protection is early detection.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. DISCUSSION & ACTION REGARDING THE 2025 SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2025 Schedule of Regular Meetings as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Acree reported the Curriculum Committee met on October 17th. Mr. Dague and Mr. Wanzer attended the meeting and provided us with detailed information about the new education course syllabus and resources. Ms. Middleton reviewed support for our Special Education teachers. Our next meeting will be held on November 21st.

Mrs. Pickett thanked both Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Middleton for the update on special education supports for our teachers. She would like to know if our contracted services staff are included in our professional learning events and training for our Behavior Techs. She knows that everyone has taken on more. She just wants to make sure they are getting enough prep time and support.

Finance Committee: Mr. Kober reported the Finance Committee met on October 7th. He has had conversations with Superintendent Moccio and Mrs. Cisneros. We changed the date of our November 4th meeting and will now meet on November 12th.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if Mr. Kober will share the items being discussed with the entire subcommittee. Mr. Kober added we have been discussing agenda items. No decisions are being made.

Policy Committee: Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee met on October 15th. She thanked everyone for the lengthy meeting. We had some great discussions about the budget process and making the process more transparent. These items will be continued at our next meeting. Our next Policy Committee meeting will be held on November 19th.

Leadership – Chairwoman Riley reported Board Leadership met on November 7th. We have set Board Leadership future meeting dates. She thanked each Board member for their hard work on each committee.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on October 24th.

Mrs. LeBlanc added the last Joint Facilities Committee meeting was cancelled due to pending conversations with Mr. Nunes and Superintendent Moccio.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder reported he will forward to Board members the minutes from the JFK Building Committee from their last meeting.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on November 8th.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Enfield Mental Health Committee met on October 9th and will meet next on October 30th. We will receive a presentation from Dave White on trauma based professional development for our Enfield teachers.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mrs. LeBlanc reported the Enfield Cultural Arts Commission met on October 1st. She is not sure when the next meeting will be held.

School Reports/Updates:

Mr. Kober reported that Henry Barnard will hold parent teacher conferences in November. You can view this on the ParentSquare app. The PTO will hold a Trick or Trunk event on October 29th at Enfield High School.

Dr. Calnen reported that Kite held their annual meeting. This meeting was very informative, and we had many wonderful guests speakers. Mrs. Erin Grimes has been chosen as our Children's Champion Award recipient. Marlene Cianci was chosen as the Lisa Foy Dupuis Excellence in Early Education Award. We reviewed Head Starts standards which have all been met successfully.

Mrs. Cushman reported that on November 4th the students in grade 5 will attend a social media event during the day and parents can attend the presentation at night. Troupers First Class Officer James White is the Statewide DARE Prevention Coordinator, and he will again present this valuable social media presentation. She also reminded parents to check ParentSquare for announcements and to look for guidelines regarding spirit wear and costumes and any treats parents are planning to send in.

Mr. Ryder stated the presentation for parents is being held at JFK on November 4th.

Mrs. Acree reported that Prudence Crandall participated in the Pink Out day and as a district we raised \$4K. She reviewed fundraising events being held at Crandall. Crandall and Barnard students will hold a Trick or Trunk event at EHS on October 29th. They will hold a Veteran's Day Assembly on November 12th. They will also recognize any Veteran's at this assembly. They will celebrate Spirit Day on October 31st, and no masks or weapons are allowed.

Mr. Ryder reported that Eli Whitney students will take pictures tomorrow. Both Whitney and Memorial will hold their Trick or Trunk event on October 28th and both Whitney and Memorial will also celebrate spirit week. He also reviewed fundraising events. He has posted information on the EnfieldPTO.com website pages.

Chairwoman Riley reported that Buzz Robotics will hold a Pasta Supper fundraiser event tomorrow night at EHS in the Café. She attended the CREC Council meeting on October 16th and reported districts need to lookout for changes in education bills and legislation during their next session.

Chairwoman Riley reported that Hazardville Memorial kindergarten students went to Brown's Harvest. Friday was Pink Out day. They have raised over \$7K for PTO events which is amazing. Tomorrow they will hold a book fair and a literacy night. They are looking for donations and there is a link on ParentSquare for this. She urged parents to sign up for Parent Teacher Conferences.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2024, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

Mrs. LeBlanc has e-mailed Board members the two School Modernization presentations.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2024.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary