

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on November 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, Peter Jonaitis, Philip Kober, Tina LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder and Charlotte Riley

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Stowe Early Learning Center Success:**

Ms. Jaclyn Valley provided the Board with an overview of the Stowe Early Learning Center program and how they became an Apple Success and Apple Distinguished School. Joining her was Shannon Steere, Jen Maier, Ginny Prentiss, Melissa Towers, Patti Curly, and SELC student Ryleigh Drew. Ms. Drew is here as the videographer. Board members were shown Ms. Drew's favorite photos.

Mr. Ryder thanked Ms. Drew for sharing her pictures and looks forward to seeing the pictures you have taken tonight. He loves that you have a digital show and tell.

Mrs. Pickett thanked them all for coming tonight. Ms. Drew is a great photographer. She complimented the SELC staff for their use of technology, inclusion, and ways of learning. She loves Stowe. You mentioned we have 300 EPS students in your programs. How many are attending the Town program held at Stowe. Ms. Valley stated they have 80 infants through preschoolers, and around 120 students that attend the before school and after school programs at ECDC. Mrs. Pickett added this is important to note the collaboration of programs at Stowe.

Mrs. Pickett liked hearing about the K-2 partnerships. You are also aligning our curriculum with your use of rockets and ECE courses with high school students. She would like to see us continue to strengthen and develop these connections. We all struggle with technology, and it is great to see the students being so interactive.

Mrs. Acree congratulated Ms. Valley and her staff for the outstanding job you are doing. She also congratulated Ms. Drew. She loved hearing about your story of innovation and the creative lessons you provide for our students. Thank you all for the great job you are doing.

Mr. Kober added this is such a great success story. He also thanked Ms. Drew. This is a 3 year designation, what are your next steps? Ms. Valley stated she is not sure if they can apply again for this distinction again. We are about sustainability and grants. We will continue doing what we are currently doing innovatively and see what else we can attain. Mr. Kober thanked her for continuing to sustain this program.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked them all for being here tonight. She enjoyed seeing Ms. Drew's photos. She also likes the show and share with iPads. This is important and helps with you with public speaking that can be scary. It is interesting to see how the curriculum has grown over the years. When her kids attended Stowe, they did an egg drop, now they are using rockets and collecting data with technology. She loves peer to peer involvement. She asked the Community Service Action Club students to help our seniors with technology at the Senior Center. It will be interesting to see where we are with technology in three years. Thank you and congratulations.

Dr. Calnen stated he was very impressed with Ms. Drew's pictures. Technology and engagement with others is extremely important and this can bring us together. Congratulations on your successes at Stowe.

Chairwoman Riley stated Stowe is her happy place. You are thinking outside of the box. She is very impressed with your use of technology. Stowe is a distinguished school for a reason. Has Apple ever reached out to you about teaching other educators? Ms. Valley stated we are planning an Apple open house event for other educators around the state and Massachusetts to attend on December 16th in the morning. Part of being an Apple Distinguished school is sharing our success with others. We have presented at conferences and one of our teachers presented a webinar about literacy using an iPad.

Chairwoman Riley thanked Ms. Drew for her pictures and her favorite one is the photo with the mirrors. She also thanked her for taking pictures of us tonight.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if the students get to go outside and just play. Ms. Valley stated yes. When Ms. Drew took those pictures, they were outside on a nature walk. When they go outside to play, they do not have the iPads with them.

SUSPEND THE RULES AND MOVE AN ITEM UP ON THE AGENDA:

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves moving to move Item #11a. to Item #6b.

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

Chairwoman Riley thanked Ms. Drew and Stowe Staff members for coming tonight.

b. APPROVAL OF FY2024-25 HEAD START GRANTS

Ms. Valley provided the Board with detailed information pertaining to the FY2024-25 Head Start Grants. The Board approved the Baseline Grants last November, this is for year-2 continuation application. She reviewed the goals, objectives progress report and budget.

Board members asked several questions about the Head Start grants, residency program, parent education, staff, flu clinic, absenteeism, data, home visits, enrollment, languages spoken. Board members also thanked staff members for everything they are doing for our students.

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2024-25 Head Start Grants and Approval Statements as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representative Update** – as presented
- b. Early Release Days & Student conferences** – as presented
- c. CABE/CAPSS Convention** – as presented
- d. EPS Update – Enrollment Report** –

Mr. Moccio stated he is still in the process of meeting staff at our buildings. He will attend EHS's Academic Walkthrough on Thursday. He will attend the Black and Brown Student Union meeting on November 18th.

Mr. Moccio reviewed October 1, 2024 enrollment data with the Board including an overview of students attending EPS, students attending school outside of Enfield and not reported to the CSDE, and students Enfield is financially responsible for and not financially responsible for. He also provided the Board with a list of magnet schools Enfield students are currently enrolled at by grades and schools we provide transportation to. We will see some savings this year with magnet school tuitions due to changes made within the legislation. The magnet schools with an asterisk, we do not pay any tuition for these programs. We are financially responsible for 195 students out of the 210 magnet students. There are 292 Enfield students that are attending other schools of choice. As of today, we have 156 students that we know of are being homeschooled. There are 161 students that we do not have any financial responsibility for. Enrollment has decreased because there are more choices for them. If we added all of these students and we would be well over 5,000 kids.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if homeschooled students are allowed to participate in any sports or activities. Mr. Moccia stated the CIAC will not allow them to participate in sports. Mr. Longey added that we have allowed some homeschooled students to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Moccio for this comprehensive information that will assist us with budgeting. She asked about the amount we charge students for tuition. Mr. Moccio stated it will depend on the program. He will get the amount and will include it in his weekly report.

Mrs. Pickett stated we will pay for transportation to Cheney Tech. East Windsor has a partnership with CREC for transportation to Prince Tech. Do we have the same arrangement for Prince Tech? Mr. Moccio stated Cheney Tech is our identified regional technical school. Students can attend both technical schools.

Mrs. Pickett asked about outplaced students to different private and public facilities. Mr. Moccio stated that Julie Carroll will attend an upcoming Board meeting and will provide the Board with information about this. They are basically different programs. Some of these programs are for profit. It depends on what therapeutic program the student needs. When you look at outplacements, you are looking for what is the right fit for that student.

Mrs. Pickett added that magnet schools are complicated. You can go to the school choice website for additional information about magnet schools.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the cutoff date for students that attend magnet schools regarding tuition payments and refunds. Mr. Moccio confirmed that October 1st is the cutoff date. There is one student that came back to us on October 3rd, and we are addressing this with the magnet school now regarding the tuition payment.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated over the past 13 years, we have seen a decrease with the number of students attending magnet schools. A lot of our students came back when EHS and JFK were both renovated.

Mr. Kober stated homeschooled students are not required to notify the State. Is this an estimated number? Mr. Moccio stated that is the number that we are aware of. There is most likely more that are being homeschooled.

Mr. Kober asked if some of these students have come back over the past few years. Mr. Moccio stated we have students that will re-enrollment from being homeschooled.

Dr. Calnen added we do not have any control over the funds we need to spend for students attending magnet schools, but we do have control over students from other districts that attend our Eagle Academy. Mr. Moccio stated this is an area that we have discussed about expanding. We do not have any room to expand at this time. When we work with modernizing, we could relocate this program so we could generate revenue by taking students from surrounding towns. There are benefits from the State for any regionalization that can be done. Unfortunately, we do not have the space available to expand now. The same problem exists at Stowe. We have phenomenal programs but there is no room to expand.

Dr. Calnen asked about the homeschool numbers and are they continuing to increase. Mr. Moccio stated they are increasing. There is a lot of ebb and flow with these numbers.

Mr. Moccio stated that Enfield does a phenomenal job with our outplaced students. We only have 22 students that have been outplaced. Julie Carroll and her team are doing everything they can for our special education students with the programs we have here in Enfield. Our kids need to be here in Enfield. Our modernization work will be vital to keeping our kids here. The other side of this is the revenue stream to consider. We are doing what is right for our kids here in Enfield. Mrs. Carroll will provide the Board with a presentation in January.

Chairwoman Riley thanked Mr. Moccio for this information. It helps us to understand better. Our Enfield students are attending a lot of different magnet schools.

8. AUDIENCES

Chairwoman Riley read a prepared statement for Audience member participation, and you will be allowed 4 minutes to address the Board.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin spoke about what has been happening around our country and towns and the rhetorical comments that are being made. Placing labels on individuals hurts. She has faith with our Chairwoman. We need to honor and respect each other more.

Gregory Schoorens, Sam Street – Mr. Schoorens spoke about recent postings that are harming our students. There is a lot of ugliness out there. The internet is not the same and there are many negative platforms that are affecting our youth. Parents need to monitor what our kids are watching and seeing. Our kids deserve better. We have policies in place and have held programs that address this. This is a growing danger that our kids are facing.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kober wished our Veteran's a happy Veteran's Day. He attended Crandall's Veteran's Day recognition ceremony and was able to tour the school. He agrees with audience members comments that civil discourse is important and calming rhetoric comments down. He urged Board members to self-reflect on our first year as Board members and for the upcoming year. He reminded people to be careful about what you post online. Something was posted in another town something that was meant to be private.

Mr. Kober appreciates the enrollment information, and this will tie into future conversations about our school modernization. He asked about our strategic school profiles, and he would like to receive this information for the next year once it is available.

Mr. Kober added there are no updates regarding his transparency initiative. A lot of work is going on in our subcommittees. We are receiving weekly updates from the Superintendent, and we are on the right path. We are having conversations and are being transparent.

Dr. Calnen has spoken about CCMC Internships and Stowe previously, but the pediatrician interns are providing a great service to medical education and hopefully they will continue with their practices here in Enfield. They still are not aware about IEP's, 504's or managing mental health diseases that can have a profound impact on schools. This program at Stowe is very important. Involving the North Central Mental Health Department might be a good idea. Linking pediatricians to schools is important.

Mrs. Pickett thanked both audience members for their comments. We need to monitor what our children are seeing and doing. We need to be mindful that our comments have an impact on our children. Early Education matters. Our Stowe program is an exemplary example of this. She reminded everyone that this is also Native American month also. She urged Enfield residents to find out more about Native American History here in Enfield. She is happy to hear that the Heritage Fair is being planned.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Moccio for your report. She asked about instructional support staff for elementary schools for some of the larger class sizes. Mr. Moccio stated the larger class sizes will be a priority when we address the budget.

Mrs. Pickett asked about the tour of the Annex and is there any update on the School Modernization with DPW. Chairwoman Riley stated we did tour the Annex and looked at the spaces that are being used for a variety of programs for town, school, and storage. We were able to see everything that is currently housed at the Annex.

Mr. Moccio added it was an inventory of what is happening at the Annex. The Town also discussed potential outreach programs and utilizing the Annex. We had nice conversations regarding modernization and space. Chairwoman Riley, Mr. Longey and Mr. Moccio will follow up on this and another meeting has been scheduled.

Mrs. Pickett stated the pool at the Annex is our only town pool. This is a great community resource. She addressed safety on Route 5 (Enfield Street) and the need for signage. A student was recently injured, and she is concerned for the safety of our walkers. She would like to see our Joint Facilities Committee address this.

Mrs. Pickett was encouraged by our Youth Vote program. She thanked Kite, staff members and EPS students for their involvement. The turnout for this past election was encouraging. She also thanked our PTO's for everything they are doing for our schools and staff. She also thanked our staff members for working so hard.

Mrs. Cushman thanked Dr. Wiley for hosting the media presentation last week with State Trooper First Officer James White. Officer White was able to interact with our grade 5 students during the day and held a presentation that night for parents about ways to be safe when using social media.

Mrs. Cushman thanked audience Member Mr. Schoorens for his valid concerns and comments he made.

Mrs. LeBlanc also commented that this is also national Native Heritage month. This was

established by former president George Bush. She thanked all our Veteran's for their service. We will celebrate our national Wreaths Across American celebration in December. The Torchlight Parade will be held on Sunday, December 1st. This is also World Kindness Week. She also asked about Rachel's Challenge and if that is still happening in our Schools.

Mr. Longey stated we do not formally have any Rachel's Challenge clubs in our schools, but they are around. Mrs. LeBlanc asked if this was because of budget cuts. Mr. Longey stated it has run its course, and we are holding other kinds of events in its place.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked our audience speakers for their comments. She has been the target of many social media posts as well as other female Board and Town Council members. We have remained positive and hope we have been positive role models for young girls and women in our community.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Dr. Calnen for his dedication to our community.

Mr. Ryder thanked his family members and everyone else that has served in the armed forces protecting us. This is kindness week, and the North Central Chamber of Commerce will be recognizing some of our EPS students for their acts of kindness at JFK tomorrow. The football game that was going to be played on Wednesday, November 29th will now be played on Friday, November 22nd at 6 PM. That will also be their senior night.

Mr. Ryder congratulated both of our student representatives for being inducted into the EHS National Honor Society along with his daughter. They inducted 43 EHS students. JFK conferences were held, and he thanked all of our JFK teachers. He encourages parents to get involved and help our kids.

Mr. Ryder added the Wreaths Across America wreath laying ceremony will take place on December 14th. CCMC PJ Day will be held on December 13th for our district. We have raised over \$45k as a district during the past 6 years. He thanked everyone for participating. Flyers for these events will be forthcoming.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked Ms. Brown for the great job she is doing at JFK.

Chairwoman Riley thanked Mr. Moccio for the many attempts he has made with the State regarding information about Alliance funding. He has been trying to meet with the Commissioner. We have amazing students and teachers. She would like to see us get out from being an Alliance District. Her hope is they will eventually meet with us and our ECS funding will not be cut.

Chairwoman Riley commented about the signs the Lions Club has put out about being kind. She urged everyone to take that to heart as well as community members. You do not know what someone else is going through. Just be kind and do not pass judgment on anyone.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he started marking down the times used for everyone that has spoken tonight.

Mrs. Pickett agrees that our meetings are long. There are ways to speed up the meetings.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. APPROVAL OF FY2024-25 HEAD START GRANTS

This item was previously addressed.

b. DISCUSSION & ACTION REGARDING UPDATING AUTHORIZED SIGNERS FOR THE GIFTED & TALENTED INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education updates our authorized signers for the Gifted & Talend Investment Account.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober added it is important to update this information. This was discussed during the Finance Committee meeting.

Mrs. Pickett added that TAG has been discussed during our Curriculum meetings and there is a policy that is also attached to it. All three of our subcommittees are being used with TAG. This is an opportunity for us to look at the current policy. We have discussed re-imagining our TAG program.

Mrs. LeBlanc added this was discussed at our Finance meeting tonight along with the history. Superintendent Moccio was present at this meeting and was going to add this to his to do list.

Mr. Jonaitis added the money is secured so we can only use the interest in this account. Mrs. LeBlanc stated there is a legal resolution for this and we are only using the interest from this account. The initial amount was \$5 million and after all the legal fees we were awarded \$2.5 million. The account is now at \$3.5 million. If we enhanced the TAG program, we would like to use more of the interest.

Dr. Calnen stated the last time we spoke with Wolff Financial was around a year and a half ago and they recommended a more conservative approach. He feels we should have another discussion with Wolff Financial about making a change.

Mr. Jonaitis added we will need to keep a minimum in the account so the program can continue. Dr. Calnen added they will never recommend that we touch the principle balance.

Mrs. Pickett added we have discussed how TAG could be or re-imagined. Currently only 1 staff member is part of TAG.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

c. POLICY REVISIONS – FIRST READINGS

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Proposed Policy Revisions as a First Reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober stated he is opposed to the re-write of policy #0521 Nondiscrimination and possible upcoming Title IV changes. He approves of the two policy recommended changes.

Mrs. Pickett agrees with Mr. Kober about streamlining our policies. We are legally bound to the changes in Policy #0521 and there might be additional changes coming on the horizon for this policy.

Dr. Gerry added he is assuming the policy re-write for 0521 is something we cannot change. Mr. Longey stated that is correct.

A vote by **roll-call 7-2-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis and Mr. Kober in dissent.

d. SUFFIELD REGIONAL AGRISCIENCE CENTER CONSULTING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Suffield Regional Agriscience Center Consulting Committee Appointments as presented

Discussion:

Mr. Kober asked if Mr. Guzie applied for this voluntary position. Mr. Moccio stated that Mr. Guzie is an active alumni member. He spoke with Dr. LaFlamme about his appointment. He is incredibly active member.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Acree reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on November 21st.

Finance Committee: Mr. Kober reported the Finance Committee met tonight. He provided a detailed overview of the meeting including the FY2025 and FY2026 budgets and timelines. We will approve financial reports later on the agenda. Our next Finance and Budget Committee meeting will be held on December 10th prior to our Board meeting.

Policy Committee: Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee will meet on November 19th.

Leadership – Chairwoman Riley reported Board Leadership will meet the week prior to any upcoming Board meetings. We will discuss the current budget and next fiscal budget, temporary teaching assistants and larger class sizes, and Alliance funding. Our next meeting will be on November 20th.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on November 14^h.

Chairwoman Riley added we were given an update on the roofs. We will reapply for the Parkman Roof and Alcorn Roof.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we have not received an agenda for this meeting yet.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder does not have an update for the JFK Building Committee.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on December 13th.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Enfield Mental Health Committee met on October 30th. We discussed trauma based PD for staff members, and the Circle of Security Program and expansion of this program. We would like to invite Amy Morales to attend an upcoming BOE meeting to explain this program. We also discussed continuing the work with pediatricians. We also discussed the 119K Commission. We will meet again in December.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mrs. LeBlanc reported the Enfield Cultural Arts Commission is meeting tonight.

School Reports/Updates:

Mr. Ryder provided an update about happenings at Eli Whitney (Diabetes awareness, American Heart Association, Wolf Pack Game, Wrapping Paper fund raiser event and collecting donations for our Whitney Wolf Walk). This information will be added to upcoming newsletters.

Mr. Kober provided an update about Henry Barnard. He also reminded parents about completing the ParentSquare app and upcoming early release days for parent/teacher conferences.

Dr. Calnen provided an update about KITE Kid Vote where 255 grade 2 & 3 students voted for their favorite ice cream – vanilla. They provided 130 play packs to parents. He is glad to report the Heritage Fair is going to be held in 2025. Hannah Song will lead this committee.

Mrs. Cushman provided an update about Parkman. They will be working with Cookies for Camouflage to collect items for our service men and women. Donations are being collect from November 4th – 25th.

Mrs. Acree provided an update about Crandall. They held a Veteran's Day Assembly where 59 Veteran's were recognized. They will hold a Family Engagement Day on November 27th. The next Barnard/Crandall PTO meeting will be held on November 19th.

Chairwoman Riley reported that Buzz Robotics is holding a fundraiser event for a raffle calendar, You can find this on their Facebook page. These kids are awesome and most of them were recognized at the National Honor Society ceremony.

Chairwoman Riley added that JFK report cards have gone out. If you cannot find them, please check in your spam folders. Maybe this is something we can link with ParentSquare.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2024, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mr. Jonaitis abstaining.

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Month of October FY2025

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

- The month of October 2025 total expenditures amount to \$7,704,426.62 broken down between payroll totaling \$4,383,446.42 and other accounts totaling \$3,320,980.20 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 October 2025 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$468,295.81, broken down between payroll totaling \$406,344.55 and other accounts totaling \$61,951.26 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: None

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 12 2024.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary