

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on March 11, 2025.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Deane Gousse, 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 Izzy Dinnald and Olivia Nuccio

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Circle of Security Presentation:**

The Board welcomed Town of Enfield employees Cindy Guerreri, Amy Morales, Erin Grimes, Lisa Carriere and Angelica Fajardo. They provided the Board with a presentation about Enfield Social Services programs and offerings that are available to Enfield community members. They also spoke about the Circle of Security (COS) parenting program that included family and staff testimonies.

Mrs. Acree thanked them for the excellent presentation. Both Dr. Calnen and Mrs. Acree saw this presentation in December and felt this program is something all parents and community members could utilize this useful tool in a safe and secure way. Thank you Social Service members and Family Resource Center members for this helpful information.

Mr. Ryder also thanked them for being here tonight. He asked about the classes they offer. He would also like a copy of this presentation. Mrs. Grimes stated we offer 4 COS classes a year. The next class will start on March 31st.

Mrs. LeBlanc also thanked them for this presentation and for the support they provide to our parents and families. Social media is hard on kids and parents. We are lucky to have such caring staff in Enfield. What are the ages you can use COS with? Mrs. Grimes said it can be used with all ages. The circle will just look different as your children grow. This can also be applied to all relationships.

Mrs. Pickett also thanked them for their presentation and for providing us with information about your programs and service offerings. She added that she is also a COS trainer. Family and adult wellness is another area to think about. She is happy we have many different partnerships with the Town. It truly does takes a village, and we support a lot of families in

Enfield. She would like to know more about diversion programs. Have you thought about COS training for our staff members? She appreciates this partnership.

Dr. Calnen also thanked them for this program. All our families can benefit from COS. Being a parent is not easy, and conflict will exist. COS will help parents to provide resilience. Serious trauma is common in childhood. Resilience is grown out of a safe nurturing environment. Our social services and family resource staff are a great team that are very compassionate. He urged them to share their contact information.

Mr. Kober also thanked them for this useful resource. He was just trained with this program. This is a great resource for our community to use. He would like to see this program continue to grow.

Mr. Gousse also thanked them for the presentation. His son attended the family resource center, and he enjoyed his time there. He thanked them for everything they do for our students and families.

Mr. Ryder thanked them for their flyers that can be found at pediatrician offices.

Chairwoman Riley thanked them for their informative presentation and program updates.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representative Update – as presented

b. EPS Update –

Mr. Moccio reported March is Board member appreciation month. We will recognize the Board at your next meeting.

Mr. Moccio reported Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on March 12, 13 and 19th. He thanked B&G for moving two Stowe PK classes to Enfield Street. Staff members are extremely happy with the move. The classes are up and running and the Enfield Street School family has welcomed them.

Mr. Mocci reported our Vision of a Graduate work continues. Michelle Middleton will provide the Board with an update at our May 27th meeting. Staff is providing input and improvements to the PED with evaluations. Our District Improvement Plan is also progressing. We have identified 3 large areas that will be broken down into specific goals. We will continue to collect data over the next 3-5 years. We will present this information to the Board over the summer.

Mr. Moccio added our legislators are very active. A lot of communication has been sent from the Superintendent's Office to Representatives Hall and Santanella and Senator Kissel about Enfield and specific bills.

8. AUDIENCES

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

John Santanella, Enfield Street – Representative Santanella explained to the Board and public about how he voted regarding Special Education Funding and the process. If more funding were available, he would have voted for that.

Morgan DiFronzo, Spruceland Road – Ms. DiFronzo was a former student representative. She is now attending college and stated the Enfield High School set her up for success at college. The Teen Leadership course taught her a lot and she would like to see that course and the Career Center to be added into the budget for next year. She also urged the Town Council for fund education fully. She would like all EHS students to benefit from courses like she did.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin thanked them for the Circle of Security presentation. Resilience is what our children have. Our children are survivors. Some students can handle situations better than others. She added that you are not a failure if your child needs help. Parenting is a humbling Job.

Janice Cerrato, Hudson Street – Mrs. Cerrato is a teacher at JFK. Our teachers go above and beyond for their students and is inspired by her students daily. She thanked our teachers that show up and make a difference in our students lives. Her design and modeling students are currently designing devices for Cerebral Palsy patients. We are preparing our students for life. She is proud to stand by her fellow teachers. She thanked Board members for everything you do for us. Happy Board of Education month.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Pickett thanked audience members for their comments. She also thanked Superintendent Moccio for his weekly updates and communication. She thanked Social Services for the Circle of Security presentation and update on programs available to our students and community members. Student behavior is complex and finding the correct supports ultimately helps our students.

Mrs. Pickett is hopeful with the work the Pre-Referendum Committee is doing. We started touring schools. Maintenance is needed in all our buildings. State funding only works if our students are in the buildings. She also thanked B&G for moving the preschool classrooms to Enfield Street School. Enfield Street students are happy to read to the preschool students as part of Read Across America program.

Mrs. Pickett added there is a Public Safety Committee meeting that will be held on March 12th. She would like to receive an update on the Route 5 signs.

Mr. Kober congratulated Ethan Buonanducci for making history in Enfield as our Wrestling New England Champion. He wished him continued success in the Nationals. He also congratulated Linda McMann as the Secretary for Education. The Board and the Superintendent are continuing to monitor any executive orders and any updates during this legislative season.

Mr. Kober was a guest reader at Henry Barnard. He also wished fellow Board members a happy Board appreciation month.

Mr. Ryder thanked our audience speakers tonight. He urged parents to get involved, talk to your kids and attend events at your child's schools. He also urged parents to attend parent/teacher conferences.

Mr. Ryder stated the Parent Leadership Academy will hold their annual tag sale on May 17th. All donations will go to the Enfield Food shelf. He thanked Leslie Lawlor and past graduates. He recently spoke to PLA class members for class #18. He was a member of class #7. He also thanked his fellow Board members and Town Council members for the jobs we do as volunteers.

Mrs. LeBlanc also congratulated Ethan Buonanducci for his athletic accomplishments. She also congratulated Wrestling Coach Jason Flynn for everything he has done for our student athletes. She congratulated Buzz Robotics for their recent win. Thank you Ms. Marr for the Buzz updates. She congratulate Chef O and his students for winning the cooking competition they were recently in. She congratulated the EHS girls basketball team for making it to the second round in the State games.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Moccio for moving our preschool students to Enfield Street. The

parents and staff are happy with the move. She thanked each of our audience member speakers. This is also International Woman's month. Our teachers are amazing.

Mrs. LeBlanc added when she attended the PLA meeting last week, we discussed concerns around mental health. She asked about our partnership with CHC. Chairwoman Riley added they wanted to know if they are employees of Enfield Public Schools. Mr. Moccio stated we have an MOU with them, and we provide them with space and students. They provide services the students need. They are not employed by us.

Mrs. LeBlanc added PLA parents would like to know what kind of services or resources are available once the student leaves Enfield Public Schools for continuum of care. We can now direct them to Social Services for additional resources. We recommended that PLA invite both Mrs. Acree and Dr. Calnen to a future meeting as well as Mrs. Pickett. We had really great conversations with them.

Mr. Gousse also congratulated our students for their accomplishments. He agrees with Mr. Ryder about being there for your kids by attending sporting events, and music events. You just need to be there supporting them.

Mr. Gousse stated he is associated with the Shriners Hospital. What Mrs. Cerrato's students are doing is amazing. They are artists and are helping to improve lives. Thank you for what you are doing.

Mrs. Acree also thanked our audience members for their comments. She is looking forward to the music festival being held on Saturday, March 15th. She truly enjoys listening to our students musical talents.

Dr. Calnen stated parents should talk to their child's pediatrician about any mental health concerns and the continuum on health care when they graduate. The counselors at CHR change frequently which can cause for inconsistency. He agrees that mental health care is a concern.

Chairwoman Riley thanked our audience speakers for their comments. She would love to come and see the project Mrs. Cerrato's students are working on. She thanked Councilor Santanella for his comments.

Chairwoman Riley congratulated Ethan Buonanducci for his athletic accomplishments, Buzz Robotics for their recent win and Chef O and his students for winning the cooking competition.

Chairwoman Riley would like to have our three State representatives attend an upcoming Board meeting to provide us with any updates or new developments.

Chairwoman Riley congratulated our First Readers that were recognized last week. She spoke about the program and how it started. We have certified 6,000 students and one 71 year old first readers over the past 14 years. The students will receive a book, pencil, shirt and certificate with a medal. She has been a volunteer with First Readers for 11 years. This program is self-funded, and we are always looking for volunteers.

Chairwoman Riley is also looking forward to the music concert being held on Saturday. We were invited to speak at the State Capital about our Alliance Funding and Excess Costs. She will do whatever she can in order for Enfield to receive more funding. Thursday we will talk with our state representatives.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Policy Revisions – Second Reading

Policy #5131.61 – Chemical Health for Student Athletes

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5131.61 Chemical Health for Student Athletes for a second reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett asked for an item to be removed from the policy heading – Exploitation: Sexual Harassment.

Mr. Moccio explained that the committee looked at several policies and this wording should be removed.

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

Policy #5141.23 – Sunscreen Application in School

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5141.23 Sunscreen Application in School for a second reading as presented.

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

Policy #5200 – Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5200 Use of Private Technology Devices by Students for a second reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober stated this is a new policy that covers cell phone usage and will be placed in student handbooks.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Kober for the clarification about cell phone usage. It is important to note in student handbooks is the code of conduct along with search and seizure.

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

Policy #4118.5 – Employee Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Electronic Communications

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #4118.5 Employee Use of the District’s Computer Systems and Electronic Communications for a second reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Ryder stated the title of this policy has changed. The previous version of this policy will be considered obsolete and will be rescinded.

Mrs. Cushman added the Board will vote to rescind the previous version of this policy later on the agenda.

Mr. Kober stated this is another Shipman & Goodwin Policy that will replace a current policy. There is also an administrative regulation that coincides with this policy.

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

Policy #5118.3 – Education Stability Procedures

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5118.3 Education Stability Procedures for a second reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett stated this version is clearer.

Mr. Ryder mentioned that the previous version of this policy will also be considered obsolete and will be rescinded.

Mr. Moccio added as we move forward with Shipman & Goodwin policies we will replace several of our current policies.

Mrs. Cushman added this is a direct replacement policy.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Rescinding Obsolete Policies

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education rescinds obsolete policies #3171.1 non-Lapsing Education Fund (Non-Regional School Districts); #4118.5 Computer Network and/or Internet Use; and #5118.3 Homeless Students as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober added we are rescinding previous versions of these now obsolete policies.

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

Move an Item up on the Agenda:

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman that the Enfield Board of Education moves Item #11b. Action if any, regarding Enfield Teacher's Association MOU after Item #17.

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

b. Action if any, regarding Enfield Teacher's Association MOU

This item will be addressed after Item #17.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Curriculum Committee will meet next on March 13th.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported the Finance Committee met on March 3rd. He provided a brief overview from that meeting. We will approve financial reports later tonight. We also reviewed the Superintendent's memo freezing the budget. Our next meeting will be held on March 7th.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee will meet on February 18th.

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Leadership Committee will meet on March 5th. We will meet on April 2nd. She provide a brief overview from that meeting.

Mr. Kober asked if a date had been set for the Superintendent's evaluation. Chairwoman Riley stated this will be discussed during an Executive Session at our March 25th meeting.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Henry Barnard - Mr. Kober gave a shout out to Henry Barnard staff and families. Report cards went out last week. They will hold an upcoming science night, math and literacy nights. Please refer to the Big Cat newsletter for additional school events.

Parkman/Enfield Street - Mrs. Pickett also urged parents to register for ParentSquare. Both Enfield Street and Parkman will hold literacy and math nights. She also thanked the PTO's for everything they do for the students. She also congratulated Chef O and his culinary students for their accomplishments. She wishes them good luck in the upcoming national competition.

Head Start/Kite - Dr. Calnen reported that the Heritage Fair will be held on March 29th at JFK. We have 40 cultures being represented. Attendance is free and you will need to pay for food items. Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten will be held on April 3rd from 6-7 pm at JFK.

Mr. Ryder added the Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten event is open to the public.

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder urged parents to check for any upcoming events on ParentSquare.

Prudence Crandall - Mrs. Acree reported that Prudence Crandall staff thanks all the students that participated in Read-Across-America week. Parent teacher conferences will be held this week. They will also hold a read-a-thon on March 13th. The PTO will sell prize calendars. Additional information can be found in the weekly newsletter.

Hazardville Memorial – Chairwoman Riley reported Memorial will hold a read-to-me day on March 19th. If any Board member has any free time and would like to participate, please contact Dr. Fitzsimons.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on March 13th.

Chairwoman Riley clarified that we could proceed with the Parkman Roof project. We will not be reimbursed for items with the referendum that may penetrate the roof.

Mr. Kober asked if the 2 Stowe preschool classrooms that we moved to Enfield Street will affect any long term plans. Will they remain there, or will they be moved back? Chairwoman Riley stated we discussed this during Board Leadership and are looking at our options. Mr. Moccio added included in our budget was an additional pre-k teacher at Stowe due to increased needs. Space at Stowe is limited. We will discuss this further. The classrooms at Enfield Street will remain there for the remainder of this year.

Mrs. Pickett added we know we are busting at the seams at Stowe. The impact with services and transportation are a concern with placing these classrooms at Enfield Street. Are the staff at ESS providing services to the pre-k students? Mr. Moccio stated any services that are needed for the pre-k students at Enfield Street are being provided by ESS staff. There is minimal transition of staff between the two buildings.

Mrs. Pickett stated when you look at our shared town space at Stowe, are there any alternative spaces for these town programs. We love our Family Resource Center and ECDC program partnerships. She is a huge advocate for our most vulnerable students and STOWE is a shining star for Enfield. Having a one stop location for our pre-school students is critical. She is hopeful conversations are continuing so we can keep all our preschool programs at Stowe.

Chairwoman Riley stated this all goes along with our pre-referendum plans that will be submitted to the State for reimbursement. We will need to look at what programs are being shared in each building because that will affect reimbursement rates.

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Joint Insurance Committee met with Cigna and Lockton on March 4th. We discussed options, trends, and reducing claim costs.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on March 14th.

Chairwoman Riley reported that we have asked multiple times about signs posted on Enfield Street (Route 5). We will keep asking about this. Mrs. Pickett thanked her. She added that for her job she visited several schools across the State, and they had huge school zone signs that were painted on roads that appeared to be State roads. There are solutions out there.

Mr. Ryder stated we have never had representation on the Public Safety Committee. There are some items on their agenda that relate to our schools. Is our superintendent invited to these meetings when they are addressing school related items?

Chairwoman Riley will ask this question at the next Joint Security meeting. Mr. Moccio stated he has not been invited to attend these meetings, but we can ask about this at the next Joint Security meeting. He would be willing to attend these meetings

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Enfield Mental Health Committee will meet on March 12th.

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. LeBlanc reported we are developing the RFQ for the Architects and Engineering Firms and will tour Stowe, Enfield Street and Eagle Academy. Our next meeting will be held on March 26th. We are looking at everything. Mr. Daigle was able to convince Mr. Ryder to run the PAC. Mr. Ryder did this for the JFK project.

Mr. Moccio added that for tomorrow night's tour our schools will be holding conferences so not all rooms will be accessible.

Chairwoman Riley added the Town Council has appropriated additional funds for the architect bids. Mrs. LeBlanc added that the state is upping the ante for reimbursement for pre-K. Eventually universal pre-k will be mandated.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2024, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Month of February FY2025

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

- The month of February 2025 total expenditures amount to \$6,145,921.32 broken down between payroll totaling \$4,359,467.94 and other accounts totaling \$1,786,453.38 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 Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of February 2025 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$654,809.79, broken down between payroll totaling \$457,306.30 and other accounts totaling \$197,503.49 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

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining – Enfield Teacher's Association MOU.

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

Both Mr. Moccio and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 9:27 PM. No Board Action occurred while in Executive Session.

Return to Open Session:

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:47 PM.

Item #11b. Action if any, regarding Enfield Teacher's Association MOU

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Enfield Teacher's Association MOU and authorizes the Board Chair to endorse the contract on behalf of the Board.

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

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 11, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:49 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary