

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 25, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on March 25, 2025.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Riley.
2. **NATIONAL ANTHEM:** EHS Honor Choir Students (Samantha Bezdelovs, Kayla Bouchard, Emily Grenier, Kaitlyn Kamay, Alabama Mattoon, Sadie Minalga, Paislee Montalvo, Natalie Sampson, Ethan Sirard, Jenna Slater & Abby Terhune)
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tina LeBlanc
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Dean 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. **EPS Music Program:**

The Board welcomed our District Arts Director Mark Dube and JFK Music Teacher Justin Rodzen. Mr. Dube provided the Board with a presentation about our K-12 music programs. He reviewed music program updates for the 2025-26 school year. He also highlighted accomplishments made during 2024-25 by our Enfield student musicians including EHS students that attended the 2025 Rose Parade, EHS CMEA Eastern Region Participants, JFK CMEA Middle School Festival Participants, EHS CMEA Auditions and All-State Selection Participants, EHS CAS Art Winners, CAS Elementary School Art Winners, EHS Tri-M Music Honor Society, EHS Extra-Curricular Musical Groups and JFK/EHS Drama Clubs. He spoke about summer program offerings for students in grades 5-9.

Mr. Dube stated March is Music in our schools month. He thanked the Board for their commitment to our students, our teachers and everyone that helps to bring music into our students lives.

Board members thanked Mr. Dube for the presentation. They loved your sports coach enthusiasm and passion that you bring to music is infectious. They would like to see continued community partnerships. Our music program is top notch. They congratulated our musical students for the March 15th Music Festival concert which was outstanding. The Honor Choir that sang tonight was truly amazing. They thanked our talented music teachers for all they do. Board members asked about music programs for our PK students. Mr. Dube stated we are currently staffed to cover what we are covering. He appreciates your comments and concerns.

Chairwoman Riley added everyone on the Board has congratulated you for our students success. Our music program is top notch. She thanked Mr. Dube and our teachers for their hard work and dedication to our students. Music touches everyone and gives you a chance to express yourself. Enfield does it correctly. The music festival was superb. The Honors Choir that performed tonight was amazing. Thank you for energizing our music in Enfield.

Mr. Dube thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here tonight.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representative Update** – as presented
- b. Thank You** – as presented
- c. Jr. National Honor Society Induction Ceremony** – as presented
- d. Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten** – as presented
- e. EPS Update** –

Mr. Moccio reported today we participated in a technology tour where we could see how our technology is being used. He thanked Dr. Wiley, John Dague, and Jen Penquite from our EdTech team for the tour. We visited 4 schools and looked at least 20 different locations to see how our technology is being used. The technology we have at the high school and middle school is amazing.

Mr. Moccio reviewed the updated 2025-26 school hours times with the Board. We compared this years hours to next years hours and have made consistent instruction times for our early release days for all schools. All students will receive a 400 minute day for instruction. We have discussed these changes with Smyth Bus.

Motion Move an Item up on the Agenda:

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education move Item #11a Approval of Education Specifications for the Edgar H. Parkman Roof Replacement Project up on the agenda before Item #8.

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mr. Kober abstaining.

Item #11a – Approval of Education Specifications for the Edgar H. Parkman Roof Replacement Project

Mr. Dague provided the Board with an overview of the Edgar H. Parkman Roof Replacement project education specifications. He also reviewed the Capital Improvement Plan for our elementary schools. The last time this was shared was part of the school modernization plan in 2023. Presenting the CIP is part of the process for the roof replacement project application.

Mrs. Pickett stated since we have not finalized locations for the Pre-Referendum Committee, Parkman is not one of the potential sites from our previous school modernization plan. Can this impact the Pre-Referendum work? She also thanked Mr. Dague for his hard work. Mr. Dague added it could potentially impact it. The timeline will be long for the projects and our schools will need work in the meantime. There are options that will be included in the projects. If Parkman is chosen as a site, and it does not meet the requirements to renovate, it might impact the project. Without having a full plan, it is difficult to say what might happen.

Mr. Kober stated since the Education Specification is for 20 years and if we develop different schools with the Pre-Referendum plans and are unable to make the required 20 years, what would be the repercussions? Mr. Dague stated there are opportunities that some of these sites can still be used in some function as a school like for preschool programs. The town would be on the hook for any unamortized amounts. There is a need now to start replacing roofs. We

have had leaks at some of our schools and have needed to move classrooms. It is a lengthy timeline process.

Mr. Kober added this is part of long-term projects and as long as our buildings are being used as a school we would be okay. Mr. Dague added there have been some changes with the law for the building to remain as a town or school function.

Chairwoman Riley added next you will submit this to the State in April.

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Education Specifications for the Edgar H. Parkman Roof Replacement Project as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-1** passed with Mrs. Pickett abstaining.

8. AUDIENCES

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

Kelsey McGuire Bruce, Neelans Road – Mrs. Bruce stated she is a teacher in Enfield and spoke about how all our teachers go above and beyond for their students. We are making a difference in a child's day, every day. Our teachers are committed and show up for their kids in many ways. We provide them with snacks and make our kids feel valued. Our teachers are amazing. She also thanked our Board members for everything you do.

Wendy Osada, Windmill Road – Mrs. Osada spoke about Enfield Together Greater Fund Grant that benefits our children. We need more volunteers on this committee so we can apply for grants that we are currently missing out on.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin spoke about our budget request that was submitted to the Town Council. Our students need extra help and are missing out with the current large class sizes. We need more para's. Our budget is important. The Town Council will pass the budget. We need to e-mail our Town Council members, so they support the needs of our students.

Tricia Wright, Oakwood Street – Mrs. Wright is a parent who students have graduated from both Enrico Fermi and Enfield High School. She recently spoke at a Town Council meeting and urged them to watch Mr. White's Program of Studies presentation. She is encouraged by the Board's willingness to work together. She is embarrassed with the conditions of our school buildings. We need to work together for our kids and teachers. She thanked Board members for their hard work and to keep fighting for what is needed.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Pickett stated she is here for our community, staff and students. She thanked everyone for the gifts of appreciation. She agrees that the Board is working unitedly.

Mrs. Pickett stated that Enfield Public Schools receives approximately \$4 million dollars from the Federal Government. These cuts are hurting our students. She fears that without a National Department of Education there will no longer be any consistency. The Town budget and our kids education should not be used as pawns. She urged everyone to think about our kids and their educational needs. Safety in our schools is also important, and she would like to see our SRO's roles and responsibilities defined. We recently had incidents at JFK and EHS.

Mrs. Pickett attended the Parkman math night that was done with our ERfC partnership. She would like to see more consistency at all our schools.

Mrs. Pickett likes the updated school hours with additional instruction time being added across the district.

Mr. Gousse stated he also participated in today's technology tour and his eyes have been opened with how our students are using technology. He thanked everyone involved with this tour. Our kids are learning a lot. It was quite impressive to see them in action.

Mr. Kober hoped everyone had a happy St. Patrick's Day. Our music programs are very important part of our curriculum. He also participated in the technology tour, and it was great seeing our students interacting with technology.

Mr. Kober thanked our students and staff for the artwork and gifts.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated Student Representative Izzy Dinnald for receiving her NCCC Kindness Award. She also thanked our students and staff for the gifts. Seeing the students in the video showing their appreciation to the Board brought tears to her eyes. She has truly enjoyed her time serving the students, staff and community as a Board member.

Mrs. LeBlanc agrees that our teachers go the extra mile, and you are making a difference in our students lives. She thanked our audience members for their comments. She agrees that Mr. Dube is outstanding as our Arts Director.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that they were invited by Representative Santanella to go to the State Capital to meet with the Speaker of the House regarding alliance funding. There was a follow-up meeting with Town/Board leadership, and Representative Hall/Santanella. She appreciated the dialogue around the Alliance Designation with Senator Kissel. She appreciates Representative Santanella for taking the time trying to find out information about our alliance funding and how we can receive this funding. This topic will affect our budget, and she also has concerns with the budget and upcoming discussions. She urged parents, staff and community members to remain informed with any upcoming budget deliberations. We all would like to add items back and restore items that have been cut from our curriculum.

Mrs. LeBlanc urged everyone to self-reflect, stay positive, maintain a positive mindset and be kind to yourself.

Mr. Ryder stated he was able to read at Hazardville Memorial. He enjoyed his one-on-one time with a student. Memorial is special to him. This is where his children first attended school. The NCC Kindness Awards were presented to JFK and EHS students on March 13th and March 19th. Parent/teacher conferences were recently held. He wished more parents would attend. He thanked our teachers and staff for everything they do.

Mrs. Cushman thanked our students and staff for the thoughtful gifts and video they prepared for the Board. She appreciated reading to the students and visiting our schools. She thanked our teachers for everything they are doing for our students.

Mrs. Acree also congratulated Student Representative Izzy Dinnald. She thanked our staff and students for the cards, video and beautiful artwork. She thanked our constituents for their appreciation of the Board. It is an honor to be part of the Board of Education. She thanked our staff for everything they are doing for our students.

Dr. Calnen also thanked everyone for the gifts. We appreciate your expressions of gratitude for our work. It is very much appreciated. He spoke about the 119K Commission and increasing our ECS cost sharing. By the State not supporting this, the cost is shifted to local communities. Our staff are struggling when it comes to supporting our student's needs. We need the State to increase our ECS amount.

Chairwoman Riley agrees with Dr. Calnen that our ECS funding formula needs to be recalculated and equitable.

Chairwoman Riley thanked our students and staff for the amazing gifts and video. It is an honor to serve the students and parents of Enfield. She thanked the Parkman and Barnard staff for the beautiful art projects being displayed tonight. She agrees that our teachers go the extra mile. She thanked her children's teachers that are truly amazing. She also thanked our special education teachers for helping her child to gain confidence. Thank you.

Chairwoman Riley is concerned with the comments about the budget from Mrs. LeBlanc. She has not heard anything else since our follow up meeting. Any additional information would be helpful so we can be prepared.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. APPROVAL OF EDUCATION SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE EDGAR H. PARKMAN ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

This item was moved up on the agenda.

b. POLICY REVISIONS – FIRST READING

Policy #5118.1 Homeless Children and Youth

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5118.1 Homeless Children and Youth for a first reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett would like to know where the administrative regulations for this policy are and asked about where the policy lists the provision of the law shall prevail and what does that mean? Mr. Longey stated the policy can be found in student handbooks.

Mr. Kober added that statement pertains to anything that might conflict with State and Federal law. The policy is not as detailed as the regulation. Mrs. Pickett has reservations with this policy. State and Federal law will differ from time to time.

Mr. Kober added we are shifting our policies from CAGE to Shipman and our administrative regulations are not posted on our website.

Mr. Kober is also not sure if homeless children should be referred to as unhoused children. Mrs. Pickett added what is considered as homeless is defined by State Statute.

Mrs. Cushman stated we discussed this at the policy meeting and the policy is written so when there are changes, the changes would be reflected in the regulation.

A vote by **roll-call 8-1-0** passed with Mrs. Pickett in dissent.

Policy #5131.6 Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5131.6 Drug and Alcohol Use by Students for a first reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett stated this policy lists a lot of procedures. Mr. Kober stated Shipman's definitions are spelt out with broader descriptions.

Mrs. Pickett would prefer our policies spell it out clearly.

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

c. Approval of Head Start Self-Assessment Plan

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Head Start Self-Assessment Plan as presented.

Discussion:

Dr. Calnen explained that the Federal government requires Head Start to develop a 5-year self-assessment plan. Every spring Head Start will conduct an assessment review. In June they will submit a PIP (program improvement plan) plan.

Mrs. Pickett supports this plan, and our Head Start model. Everything they do is transparent and is very successful.

Mr. Kober added this is a plan for the development of the plan that the Board needs to approve.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Curriculum Committee met on March 13th. Mr. Flynn reviewed our new K-5 literacy program. Our next meeting will be held on April 24th.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported the Finance Committee will meet on April 7th. He also provided an update on items included in the Superintendent's weekly update regarding the budget and Federal funding.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee will meet on April 22nd.

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Leadership Committee will meet on April 2nd.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will hold a fundraiser event at Barnes & Nobel on April 2nd. They will also hold a spring Bingo Night on April 24th. Memorial grade 2 students are invited to attend this event. He also urged parents to check for any upcoming events on ParentSquare.

Henry Barnard - Mr. Kober gave a shout out to Henry Barnard staff and families. He thanked them for the artwork and gifts. They held an assembly last week where Irish Step Dancers performed. They will hold a K-1 Science Night at EHS on March 26th. They will also hold the Barnard field day on May 29th. Please refer to the Big Cat newsletter for additional school events.

Parkman/Enfield Street - Mrs. Pickett stated Parkman and ERfC held a math night. There will be a parent vaping presentation that will be held in conjunction with the Enfield Together

Coalition. She urged parents to sign up for ParentSquare. A lot of good information is being sent out about scholarships and school related information.

Prudence Crandall - Mrs. Acree reported that Prudence Crandall staff thanked everyone that participated in Read-Across-America week. Grade 5 students will attend an assembly about the Dangers of Vaping on March 27th. They will hold a night virtual session for parents on April 8th. Crandall is selling their raffle calendar for the 30 days of April raffles. More information about this has been posted on ParentSquare.

John F. Kennedy – Mr. Gousse congratulated Mr. Misseri for being selected as the 2025 Unified Coach of the Year. They will be doing some outside work at JFK during the month of April. This is music in our schools month. Students can sign up to participate in many upcoming events. He also thanked everyone for the wonderful gifts of appreciation.

Head Start/Kite - Dr. Calnen reported that the Heritage Fair will be held on March 29th at JFK. Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten will be held on April 3rd from 6-7 pm at JFK.

Joint Facility – Chairwoman Riley reported the Joint Facilities Committee met on March 13th and our next meeting will be held on April 10th. The Enfield Police Department roof has had a materials failure which caused leaks. The Library roof is done, and the gutters will be installed next. We just approved the Educational Specifications for the Edgar H. Parkman roof. The town is proceeding with the Alcorn roof project and next they will go out to bid.

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Joint Insurance Committee met with Cigna and Lockton on March 4th. She is not sure when the next meeting will be held.

Joint Security Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on April 11th. There have been questions for us to discuss at the next public safety committee meeting. They have placed crossing guards at JFK/Dollar General site.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Enfield Mental Health Committee met on March 12th. Dr. Calnen provided an overview of Child First. Child First will present this information at an upcoming Mental Health Committee meeting. We have not set a date for our April meeting yet.

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. LeBlanc reported we will meet tomorrow night at Crandall. We just toured Stowe, Enfield Street and Eagle Academy. She thanked Mrs. Andrews for her vision for Eagle Academy. We did receive an update from Mr. Wilcox from Mr. Daigle. She has forwarded that e-mail to both Chairwoman Riley and Mr. Moccio. He sent us the RFQ from the JFK committee project. There is some confusion with this, and it is holding up the RFQ process.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2025, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Superintendent's Evaluation.

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

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:12 PM.

Return to Open Session:

No Board action occurred while the Board was in Executive Session. The Board returned to Open Session at 9:38 PM.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Kober to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 25, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:39 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary