

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on April 8, 2025.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tina LeBlanc

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. **Next Generation Accountability Presentation:**

The Board welcomed our Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Michelle Middleton. She provided the Board with a presentation regarding trend scores for Accountability Index Indicators compared to State scores and reviewed our data compared to the State data. She added that many indicator scores have increased consistently over the past 3 years. We have added supports and interventions since our return from Covid which have helped our students. Some of our indicator scores were higher in 2023-24 than they were previously that showed growth after the pandemic. Unfortunately, many of these indicators may be impacted by our change in current structure during the 2024-25 school year.

Dr. Calnen asked about the Arts indicator. Ms. Middleton stated we offer a robust amount of offerings and opportunities for our students. Our teachers are very good at what they are teaching our students.

Chairwoman Riley asked about when the data for the 2024-25 school year is submitted? Will we have an early look at the data? Ms. Middleton stated TCS gathers the data over the summer. They will put the data together and will send us a sneak peak in the fall. If there are any discrepancies with the data, they will ask us to look at it. We usually will receive this information officially in November.

Mr. Moccio added we will receive notification that we can go to Edsight to view our data that has been embargoed, and we cannot share this information until it is officially posted. We would typically provide the Board with this kind of a presentation in November or December.

Ms. Middleton added that when we first receive this information it does not show us the State data. When they lift the embargo and release the data, this is when we can see our data compared to the State data.

Mrs. Acree asked about the dip in the 2022-23 school year for academic growth. Ms. Middleton stated the performance for the 2022-23 for student scores for assessments went up from 2021-22 and 2022-23. Student growth went down because the in 2021-22 growth was measured based off how they did in 2021. This was the year that not everyone did well. The growth achievement was higher than the target because they did not have as far to go. Their target was based off of the score. This trend affected many districts, and some districts never recovered. We dipped down and then went back up.

Mr. Moccio added they set a benchmark for everyone to reach coming out of Covid. Everyone exceeded it. Now you have a new benchmark for the following year and fewer could reach the growth target. There was an overinflated number that you were basing your data on.

Mr. Kober stated the indicators are based on what the State standard number is, and you want to meet or exceed that number. Are we setting our own benchmarks to see growth? Ms. Middleton stated she will meet with our directors, and we discuss where we are and where we would be going and closing the gap for our high needs students. We also discuss our tiered instruction for our students that are struggling. We also need to look at our special education students goals and objectives.

Mr. Kober stated our data includes all students and then they will pull out data for high needs students. Can you show us the numbers excluding the high needs student data. Ms. Middleton stated this is something she can do.

Mr. Gousse added the other offset is where students are overperforming compared to other student data. Ms. Middleton stated there is a lot of different ways to look at this data. She brought the data the way the State presents it and this is what is presented to the public.

Mrs. Pickett stated high needs students is a subset of student population and does not necessarily mean they will score lower because they are in this category. Ms. Middleton stated she can also break down these numbers by categories within the high needs categories.

Mrs. Pickett added it is important to remember this is a state assessment and we conduct our own assessments that are tied to our curriculum and instruction. She would like to see how our district assessments mirror or not mirror State assessments. We compare ourselves to State data. Assessing our own growth targets and what we are doing is more meaningful.

Mr. Kober asked about student assessment plans and improvement plans and is that compared to the accountability index. Ms. Middleton stated for the academic piece for performance and growth, it is based off of work we are currently doing.

Chairwoman Riley thanked Ms. Middleton for the presentation.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representative Update** – as presented
- b. April Vacation Week - NS** – as presented
- c. JFK Open House for Incoming Students** – as presented
- d. Arts Festival** – as presented
- e. Special BOE Meeting** – as presented
- f. EPS Update** –

Mr. Moccio stated the FY2025-26 Budget Public Hearing will be held on April 28th at 7 PM in Council Chambers.

Mr. Moccio addressed an uptick with student behaviors. Our staff have been doing a phenomenal job since we returned from Covid, and along with our budget and staff reductions.

Assemblies will be held for all JFK students regarding appropriate student expectations and behaviors.

Mr. Moccio received notification from the State Department of Education regarding certifying compliance for Title VI. The deadline has been extended until April 24th. He will attend a meeting on Friday with superintendents and the Commissioner of Education and he is sure this topic will be discussed.

Mr. Moccio discussed political activities. There will always be difference of opinions and this is occurring everywhere. Our EPS schools will not influence our students regarding political topics or personal views. We will ensure that all students feel welcomed, secure, safe and respected in our schools. He has recently visited each classroom in all our schools. Controversial issues will occur.

Mr. Moccio reviewed our policies, administrative regulations and received a legal opinion. Freedom of speech is protected. The matter that was brought to the Board and Town Council is not a pervasive issue in our district. Any materials that advocate any type of political activity should not be in our schools. Some political items can be used as part of instruction for subjects related to curricular courses and will be used sensitively.

Mr. Moccio added that our classrooms are warm and welcoming. The acts and symbols in our classrooms are letting our students know they are safe, they belong here, and we respect you. There is nothing politically motivated. Next he will finalize a memo that will be sent out to our administration. This is something that we have dealt with previously. Some Board members may recall this. He has spent a lot of time addressing this that has taken time away from the true work we need to be doing in our district by supporting our student's needs.

Mr. Moccio added he has spoken about several policies that should be followed along with our administrative regulation. Any future changes with our policies can be addressed by our Policy Committee.

8. AUDIENCES

Chairwoman Riley read a prepared statement for Audience member participation, and you will be allowed 4 minutes to address the Board. Freedom of speech is a difficult topic to grasp. This is about our students and providing them with information so they can develop their own opinions. Our opinions are left at the door.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin thanked them for the presentation. She agrees with what Ms. Middleton stated about results dipping due to streamlined services. Political activities can be addressed in several of our classes being taught at EHS. She is concerned with the extreme rhetoric in our government. We need to teach our students about empathy. Our students need to know that we see, value and support them. She also spoke about the secure school drills occurring in our schools. We need more adults in our buildings to support our students needs. She urged residents to attend the upcoming Town Council budget presentation or email them. They need to hear from us.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kober wished students and families a happy April break. He also wished everyone a happy Easter and April is National Financial Literacy month.

Mr. Kober stated Board members have received communications from parents and staff. We will read your e-mails, but you should reach out to building principals first and then the superintendent. If you are still having concerns, please reach out to us.

Mr. Kober added there has been some concern with student behaviors. The Board is aware,

and this is being addressed by the administration. He thanked Mr. Moccio for his weekly updates and his thorough explanation regarding political activities.

Mr. Ryder stated when our students come back from our April vacation break they will have 39 days of school left. There is a lot of events going on in our schools. There are many different events for parents to volunteer their time whether it is for an end-of-year celebration or field day event. Our kids grow up rather quickly and there is a lot to celebrate. Please reach out to your child's classroom teacher and check the monthly newsletters for upcoming events.

Mr. Ryder attended the welcome to Kindergarten event. It was a great opportunity to meet our incoming kindergarten families. Kite has posted the presentation from this event at their website EnfieldKite.org. EPS will hold Kindergarten Orientation on August 22nd. Please check with your child's school (Enfield Street, Hazardville Memorial or Henry Barnard). More information about Kindergarten Orientation will be coming or you can contact your child's school.

Mr. Ryder added the PLA Enfield Townwide Tag Sale will be held on May 17th rain or shine from 9 am. – 3 pm. and you can still register to participate. All proceeds will go to the Enfield Food Shelf.

Mrs. Pickett stated Eli Whitney will hold a principal's advisory meeting which is a great way to discuss improving our schools. Getting input from our families and students is important.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Moccio and his leadership team with your updates and addressing her concerns about safety and student behavior. With the public hearing coming up, we need to receive our total budget request. We need more staff to meet our students needs. Our schools make-up have changed over the past 4 years. She is concerned with the level of student support and increase with student behavior concerns.

Mrs. Pickett spoke about political activities and black lives matters flags. She is very frustrated. She trusts our staff and what they are doing for our students. Our work is to make sure our students feel welcomed, affirmed, safe, respected and have a sense of belonging.

Mrs. Pickett reminded families and community members that the FY2025-26 Budget Public Hearing will be held on April 28th. We need your support.

Chairwoman Riley stated she also attended the Welcome to Kindergarten night. This event was well attended. Yesterday, she was part of a phone call with Jaclyn Valley and the Manchester Head Start as part of our Head Start Federal Review. She highlighted all of the great things Ms. Valley brings to our Head Start program. There were a couple of different sections where additional staff members were brought into the discussion. Mr. Longey was also part of this discussion/review.

Chairwoman Riley thanked Mr. LeBlanc and Ms. K from Crandall for providing the students with an afterschool intramural sports program for the past 6 weeks.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. POLICY REVISIONS – SECOND 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 understands that our administrative regulations will be very in-depth. She still has concerns with State and Federal policy. She thanked the members of the Policy committee for their work on this policy.

A vote by **roll-call 7-1-0** passed with Mrs. Pickett in dissent.

Policy #5131.6 Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

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

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

11. NEW BUSINESS - None

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the next Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on April 24th.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported the Finance Committee met on April 7th. We will approve finance reports for the Month of March later on the agenda. He provided an update on items they discussed. He also provided an update regarding our Gifted and Talented funds. The next Finance Committee will meet on May 5th.

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

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Leadership Committee met on April 2nd. She provided an update on what was discussed. She provided an update regarding special education. Mr. Daigle provided us with an update about the pre-ref committee and RFP. We will set up some focus group meetings. Our next meeting will be held on May 7th.

Mr. Kober asked about an update regarding the Stowe classrooms. Mr. Moccio stated we are waiting for some of the flooring and ceiling tiles to be replaced. The goal is to move OT and PT from off of the stage area. We still need to meet and discuss integrated Pre-K. We have added an additional classroom into our FY25-26 budget request.

Chairwoman Riley added we will hold a joint meeting with the Superintendent, Town Manager, Mayor and myself on Thursday to start our space needs discussion with them.

Mrs. Pickett thanked them for their work about our space needs. It is important for our residents to understand we will receive reimbursement from the State for having educational programs in our buildings like Stowe. By displacing our students to other buildings, it is disrupting our preschool community. Education must remain a priority in our buildings.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will hold a Principal's Advisory meeting on April 10th. They will also hold a spring Bingo Night on April 24th. They will hold an SBA pep rally on April 21st. He also wished all of our assistant principal's a Happy Assistant Principal week.

Prudence Crandall – Mrs. Acree stated State testing is underway at Crandall. We will also hold our One Book One School, which will be announced at our Pride Assembly on April 25th. We wish everyone a wonderful safe vacation.

Henry Barnard - Mr. Kober gave a shout out to Henry Barnard staff and families. He urged families to look at the Big Cat newsletter on ParentSquare to see any upcoming school events.

Barnard's field day will be held on May 29th, Family Night will be held on June 4th, and spring pictures will be taken on April 24th.

Head Start/Kite - Dr. Calnen reported that Kite thanked everyone that participated with our Heritage Fair. This event was well attended. Enfield Gets Ready for Kindergarten night was also well attended. Kite will distribute packets to the schools and for any interested parents with incoming Kindergarten students. Enfield Unplugged will be held on May 5-9th. Additional information about this event will be forthcoming. He congratulated Brianna Beckstrand who will be leaving Kite. Chris Gomeau will resume her duties until someone has been hired to replace Brianna as Kite's Executive Director. Brianna will be missed.

Hazardville Memorial – Chairwoman Riley reported that Memorial will hold their Spare Change for Superheroes. Students can wear their superhero gear on Thursday.

John F. Kennedy – Mr. Gousse reported there are privacy concerns to take into consideration when the schools hold secure drills. He urged everyone not to feed into the rumor mill comments that are being made. There are other things occurring and we need to protect the privacy of our students. Lock down drills can be held for many different reasons.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee meeting scheduled for April 10th has been cancelled.

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported she is not sure when the next Joint Insurance Committee meeting will be held.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on April 11th.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported they attended the Parent Leadership Academy meeting last Thursday. We provided them with a presentation about our committee and the work we have done. We also addressed their questions. We are still in the process of arranging for Child First will present information at an upcoming Mental Health Committee meeting.

Pre-Referendum Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported Mr. Daigle attended the Board Leadership meeting and provided us with an update.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2025, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Month of March FY2025

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

- The month of March 2025 total expenditures amount to \$8,269,266.34 broken down between payroll totaling \$4,553,130.39 and other accounts totaling \$3,716,135.95 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 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

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

- The month of March 2025 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$489,038.79, broken down between payroll totaling \$406,271.69 and other accounts totaling \$82,767.10 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 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Line Item Transfers: None

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

Mr. Ryder reported - Bus Driver Appreciation Day will be held on April 22, 2024 and the Enfield Food Shelf, Enfield Loaves & Fishes, and Allied Services will hold their Lunch Link for families on April 14th from 11-Noon at 786 Enfield Street.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder to adjourn the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 8-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary