

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 29, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on April 29, 2025.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairwoman Riley.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Charlotte Riley
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Charlotte Riley
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Gousse

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. **LEAP Presentation:**

The Board welcomed our Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Michelle Middleton. Mr. Dague provided the Board with a presentation about our LEAP (Learner Engagement & Attendance Program). He reviewed information about home visits, year 1 program success, data they obtained regarding student absences and chronic absences, year 1 challenges, program changes they will make for 2025-26 school year and takeaways.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Dague for the presentation. She also thanked those involved with this program. Feedback is important and it helped you to make changes within the program. She would like to know if our new regulations are helpful and clear for parents and staff. She would like to learn more about secondary engagement and common root causes for student absences. There is need to start in the younger grades about the importance of attending school regularly. She likes that we are using our staff for home visits. She is excited to hear more about eduCLIMBER and the data you are collecting.

Mr. Dague agrees using staff from the students schools works well with our families. Home visits are happening at all levels. The students that are struggling at the high school are more willing to receive help because of the importance of regular attendance and loss of credits. We are collecting data with eduCLIMBER. Once we reach a threshold, an intervention will be assigned, and the data will be collected. Within the LEAP program there is a Qualtrics log that will be completed after the home visit, follow-up visit and phone calls. We will only count this if they make contact with a family.

Mrs. Pickett asked if you are seeing a difference with student attendance with the students you have made contact with. She would like to know if interventions are making a difference. Is there continuing training for our interventionists? Mr. Dague stated they attend 2 training sessions first, they also attended one in January with the entire group where we shared

strategies. We will also hold another one at the end of the year to review proposed program changes for the next year.

Dr. Calnen thanked them for this positive program approach. You mentioned that 104 of the 750 that were contacted responded to home visits. Mr. Dague stated some of those contacts were scheduling and follow-up phone calls. One person could be contacted 4 or 5 times.

Dr. Calnen added you have a good track record for getting your foot in the door. Can we increase these numbers? The State of Connecticut has a disadvantage because of the number of ALICE families. These families are struggling and might not want to welcome anyone into their homes.

Mr. Kober also thanked Mr. Dague for the presentation. We have reached out to how many families about student absenteeism. Mr. Dague stated we have reached out to approximately 300 families over the course of the year and around 20% will respond to home visits. It will be easier to figure out the numbers once the school year is done.

Mr. Kober asked about the other category. Mr. Dague stated we hope this category will be zero next year. Other towns are also using the other category.

Mr. Kober also asked about home visits at the elementary level. Mr. Dague stated when class credit is in jeopardy, the home visits are more prevalent. We will offer this at all levels. Our communication strategies for the younger grades will change for next year.

Mrs. Acree asked about the other category. Mr. Dague stated the family does not need to complete the log. No notes are taken during the home visit. There are just having a conversation with the family. Staff will complete their log entries later and might chose the other category. They are just getting to know the family at the first meeting. We have contacted them at the State about the LEAP program and they are planning another advanced level of programming training.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated there are a number of days the students have off in November. She wonders if this has something to do with students not wanting to come to school, taking long weekends or families going away for the holidays. Losing credits is a great way to motivate students.

Chairwoman Riley asked about the eduCLIMBER program cost. Mr. Dague stated this is an add-on with PowerSchool to Performance Matters. This replaces Performance Plus. We will drop some programs and replace them with this for less money that has been earmarked in the budget.

Chairwoman Riley thanked Mr. Dague and Ms. Middleton for the presentation.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representative Update** – as presented
- b. Pre-Ref Staff Input Sessions** – as presented
- c. Early Release Day – Staff PL** – as presented
- d. Special BOE Meeting** – as presented
- e. EPS Update** –

Mr. Moccio stated he received an e-mail from the State DAS regarding the Enfield High School renovation project audit to close out the project. A check in the amount of \$4.3 million will be coming to the Town of Enfield.

The Town Council held a public hearing last night about the FY2025-26 Budget. His presentation has been placed on our website. He thanked everyone that attended and for the positive comments.

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 thanked Mr. Dague for the presentation and added 2 tardies equals 1 absence and they add up rather quickly. Imposing an immediate consequence would be better. She urged community members to contact the Town Council and support the education budget fully. She also asked the Town Council to fill the vacant custodial positions to address building concerns.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kober welcomed students and staff back from our April vacation break. April 22nd was bus driver appreciation day. Next week is teacher appreciation week and also Enfield Uplugged week. He thanked our teachers and bus drivers for everything they do. ParentSquare has additional information about these events.

Mr. Kober thanked everyone involved in the budget process. The Town Council will adopt a budget by the time we meet next. There is only one version of the schools adopted budget, and this can be found on-line.

Mr. Kober is glad the Board will be reviewing the superintendent's evaluation. He appreciates Mr. Moccio's clear and concise weekly updates. He hopes the Board continues with our transparency initiatives.

Mrs. Acree attended the EHS Arts Festival and saw amazing art made by our Enfield students and heard the beautiful music that was played by our very talented musicians. Kudos to all of our amazing teachers for their guidance and leadership that brings out the very best from our students. She also thanked the Enfield Woman's Club for this partnership.

Mrs. Pickett spoke about our students that will transition from one school to another for next year. Our new attendance policy is something they will need to be aware of.

Mrs. Pickett added that she spoke about the budget as a parent at the Town Council budget hearing. She thanked the parents that also spoke in favor of our budget needs.

Mrs. Pickett asked about the recent safety and security assessment that was done at Eli Whitney. This is a great opportunity to look at our safety needs.

Mr. Ryder stated next week is teacher appreciation week. He hopes that everyone had a great April break. We have 32 days of school left to this year. We have had a lot of great things that have occurred in our schools like the Lamp Lighters play, the EPS Arts show, Junior Planning Night and Best Buddies and Enfield Food Shelf Walk. Our teachers get involved with these events because they love our students. They are here for our kids whether it is in a classroom or at any afterschool events or activities. There are a lot of great events that will be coming up. Please look at ParentSquare or EnfieldPTO.com.

Mr. Ryder congratulated Leslie Lawlor for her recent appointment. She will replace the Superintendents Executive Assistant (Kathy Zalucki) who will retire at the end of this school year. Congratulations to you both.

Mr. Ryder asked via the Chair to the Superintendent if we could receive an update on the percentage of ParentSquare users.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she watched the Town Council budget meeting. She also thanked the residents that spoke in favor of the education budget. She also spoke about the importance of our Head Start program and losing this program would be detrimental. The drastic cuts that were made last year have impacted our students negatively. Any additional cuts will increase student class sizes even more. She thanked Mr. Moccio and Chairwoman Riley for the presentation they provided the Town Council and community last night. We need to receive our budget request.

Mrs. Leblanc also thanked our student representatives for their passion. You are just asking about basic needs. She loves having you both here.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked via the Chair to the Superintendent about EHS Baseball and Softball games needing to be rescheduled because of transportation concerns. This puts stress on our families and athletes. She understands spring sports can be challenging because of the weather. We had transportation issues with Fall sports. We need to do better.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked via the Chair to the Superintendent about Stowe classrooms. Mr. Moccio stated we have the need for one anticipated Integrated classroom at Stowe. We are currently discussing locations.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that she does not understand why the Town cannot give us needed classroom space at Stowe. She stated that we are currently looking at modernization for our PK-5 students, we will only be reimbursed by the State for educational space. Any other space use at Stowe will not be reimbursable. Having all of our academic programs in one location is being fiscally responsible and what is best for our youngest learners.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated our students are extremely talented. She thanked the Enfield Woman's club for their participation with this year's Arts Festival.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated April is also Autism Awareness Month. She also thanked all our teachers for going the extra mile for our students. She read a statement about our dedicated teachers and thanked them for everything they do for our students and families.

Dr. Calnen also thanked everyone for their participation with this year's Woman's Club Arts Festival. They have been participating for almost 60 years. This is a tremendous tradition and each year the festival gets better and better.

Dr. Calnen spoke about overcrowding in the 1950's. There were too many baby boomers. Our parents could handle just about anything that was thrown at them. We are now faced with similar challenges but because of budget constraints. We know what needs to be done. He urged our Town Council members to pass the budget we presented.

Student Representative Olivia Nuccio spoke about the bus shortages with Smyth bus. She is a student athlete and plays in 3 different sports. Game changes are challenging. She can say that our upper classman are stepping up and helping lower classman with need rides.

Chairwoman Riley thanked our teachers and nurses for everything you do for our students. She also thanked Student Representative Izzy Dinnald for addressing concerns with the bathrooms at Enfield High School.

Chairwoman Riley agrees the Enfield Arts Festival was awesome. She congratulated all our talented musicians who played, our talented students who sang, our outstanding artists and superb culinary arts students for the food they made during the Arts Festival.

Chairwoman Riley stated at our last joint Leadership meeting, we discussed space concerns at Stowe. They will look at who is using what space at Stowe. Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Chairwoman Riley for addressing this with Town and Board Leadership.

Chairwoman Riley was also invited to speak at the Teacher Rally but chose not to speak. The audit that the Town Council requested for the Board is underway. She completed a survey yesterday about this. Mr. Moccio will reach out to Lorena Cisneros. We have 2 audits being done. Mrs. Cisneros also needed to complete a survey.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the EHS Building project audit. The State is doing there due diligence to try and reach us in order for the Superintendent to sign off on this so we can receive funding. She appreciates Mr. Moccio sharing this information with the Board.

Chairwoman Riley thanked Mrs. LeBlanc for her follow-up question with Mr. Daigle regarding all of our building projects. We will need to go through several additional audits including roof projects.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that Mr. Daigle believes the final signoff on the JFK renovation project will be complete in around 3 months. He can attend a future Board Leadership meeting to provide us with an update.

Mr. Moccio has added these projects into his calendar for audit reviews for our building projects. He will continue to check into this. He is also very thankful for the person at the State for his persistence and was extremely helpful.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. POLICY REVISIONS – FIRST READING

Policy #5113 Attendance, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5113 Attendance, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism for a first reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober stated this policy will affect every student. The administration regulation language should be included in the policy.

Mrs. Pickett stated this policy is very important. She is seeing a trend with our policies and now lengthy administration regulations and asked if we can make changes with the regulations.

Mr. Moccio stated we are not required to vote on the regulations. You will see both the policy and regulation. Any updates to the regulations will be brought to the attention of the Board.

Mrs. Pickett added she has concerns with both the policy and regulations. Attendance is important and this policy can create harm. What are we doing to support our students? Getting written documentation from a doctor can be challenging. Tardies are not defined in the regulation. There are areas that need to be clarified. Repealing policies also concerns her.

Chairwoman Riley stated we could have Mr. Dague review this in detail for the Board and could attend a meeting about this. Verified and non-verified absences will be done. We can also use

the school nurse for this if families cannot get to a doctor. Family vacations were also discussed. Our Civility policy is being repealed because this language can be found in other policies.

Mrs. Pickett stated our policies and regulations are now being drafted in a certain way. Our job is to approve the policy. Our civility policy protects our most vulnerable students, Title VI and Title IX. We need to make sure these students are protected in those other policies that mention civility.

Chairwoman Riley asked if providing a list of policies that refer to civility language would be helpful. Mrs. Pickett stated that would be helpful.

Mr. Ryder added we are just voting on the policy tonight. When will we see the final version of the regulations. The regulations will be age and school based.

Mr. Moccio stated tonight is the first reading for this policy. What Mrs. Pickett is asking would be an entire policy meeting to address attendance. There is a lot that will go with attendance including professional development, communication to parents and staff about what is excused or not excused. Procedures will need to be put into place. There is software and ParentSquare that can be utilized. This is one of the items that will be discussed during my evaluation about streamlining information. It is about confirmation about who is calling in an absence for a student. Is it the parent, guardian or someone else? Notes have been falsified for years for a variety of reasons in every district. ParentSquare allows for the parent to login and receive a code for verification purposes. There are a number of ways we can do this. We need to clarify all the little steps in the regulation and teaching staff and parents about the new procedures. We may just hold a special Policy meeting where we can discuss this further.

Mr. Kober would like to see our administrative regulations posted on the website, so they are publicly available and not just found in student handbooks. Most of our policies have come from either CAFE or Shipman. We now have duplicate policies. The Policy Committee reviews each of these policies. Having a deadline for the regulation is something to think about.

Mr. Moccio added we are shifting to Shipman's policy service and have just started this process. He has always had both policies and regulations posted online for staff and parents. Posting the regulations on the website is to come.

Mrs. Pickett added policies will change along with the legislation. The regulations and procedures are defined by our administration. She understands that both CAFE and Shipman write policies but also some policies are mandated as written.

Dr. Calnen stated he has some technical concerns with this policy. When a student is truant, the superintendent or designee shall provide notice to the student's parent or guardian the following information concerning a 211 info line or other pediatric mental and behavioral screening services and tools as described in Connecticut General Statutes.

Mr. Ryder added we do not have the new regulations yet. The regulations will be written for each grade level.

A vote by **roll-call 6-2-0** passed with Mr. Kober and Mrs. Pickett in dissent.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the next Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on May 22nd. We discussed a Vision of a Graduate at our April 24th meeting. The Board will receive a presentation about this at our May 27th meeting.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported the Finance Committee met on April 7th. He provided the Board with an update about revenue we will receive in July from Medicaid reimbursement. The next Finance Committee will be held on May 5th.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee will meet on May 15th.

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Leadership Committee will meet on May 7th.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

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. Spring pictures were taken, they will hold a Science Spirit Day, and a Family Music Night will be held on May 14th. Field Day will be held on May 29th, and they are looking for volunteers.

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder reported Eli Whitney will hold their Field Day on May 29th, Grade 5 students will visit JFK, and students will also go to JFK to see the Lion King play. We also held our Arbor Day Tree planting event at Eli Whitney. All of these events have been shared on ParentSquare and can be found on enfieldPTO.com.

Prudence Crandall – Mrs. Acree reported the next Barnard/Crandall PTO meeting will be held on May 13th. Progress reports will be going home with student on April 29th. Crandall students will also go to JFK to see the Lion King play. Fourth graders will start taking SBAC tests and yearbooks are on sale. Grade 5 students will receive their yearbooks free thanks to Lia Auto Group.

Chairwoman Riley attended the Crandall assembly last week and one of the State Fire prevention poster contest winners is from Crandall. Her artwork will now going to be published in a calendar with other winners from across the State.

Kite – Dr. Calnen reported Enfield Public Schools, Enfield Public Libraries, and Enfield Family Resource Center are hosting Enfield Unplugged on May 5-9. Families are encouraged to reduce their screen times. A calendar with events will be coming out shortly.

Chairwoman Riley asked if we need to adjust meeting start times to accommodate the upcoming concert series. Mrs. Zalucki explained that we have adjusted our 2025 regular meeting schedule for June, July and August and meetings will start earlier to avoid any conflicts with the concerts being held outside in the Shell.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on May 8th..

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 May 9th.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Enfield Mental Health will meet on May 7th and we will receive a presentation from Child First.

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. LeBlanc reported that Mr. Daigle and she are both concerned with the lack of urgency from the Town finance office. We lost 2 months with the RFP process. We are a bit frustrated because we have not been able to meet for 2 months which has set us back.

Chairwoman Riley added we received an email today that the pressure is on regarding lower reimbursement rates for building projects from the State. Mrs. LeBlanc added our timeline is very tight. Mr. Daigle is very knowledgeable and is willing to work with us as an unpaid volunteer. He has been involved in every building project for Enfield Public Schools. She is hopeful with the RFP we can start to meet again. We know the Town council is very busy now with budget meetings.

Chairwoman Riley believes after May 19th we can meet again. Mr. Moccio agreed that the Pre-Ref Committee can start to meet again after May 19th.

Mr. Ryder stated we need feedback from staff, and we started these discussions. We are making some headway even though the Pre Ref Committee is not meeting.

Mr. Kober asked about public input like staff input session will occur. Mrs. LeBlanc stated we will hold community conversations for the public about the plans, costs and will also talk with PTO's and at the Senior Center about supporting the referendum.

Mr. Kober asked if you will leave a place for public comments. Mrs. LeBlanc stated that was discussed in the very beginning. Chairwoman Riley agreed this was expressed. Mrs. LeBlanc stated we need to get the information and the facts out to the community.

Mrs. Pickett addressed facilities and capital cost concerns.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2025, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-1** passed with Mrs. LeBlanc abstaining.

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously. Both Mr. Moccio and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 9:23 PM. No Board Action occurred while in Executive Session.

Return to Open Session:

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:49 PM.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree to adjourn the Regular Meeting of April 29, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 8-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary