

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 13, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on May 13, 2025.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairwoman Riley.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Scott Ryder
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Scott Ryder
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. **EHS CULINARY PROGRAM:**

The Board welcomed EHS Culinary Arts Teacher Josh Ogradowski, affectionately known as “Chef O” to tonight’s meeting. He introduced Culinary Arts students Ethan Sirard, Colton & Riley. The students spoke about the program, community partnerships and how they attended Nationals in Baltimore. Mr. Sirard spoke about the meal he prepared and becoming a State Champion. The students also thanked Chef O for his leadership. They prepared wontons for the Board to try.

Board members congratulated them on their success and for the community partnerships they have made, post graduate plans, and life skills they have developed.

Chairwoman Riley thanked them for attending tonight’s meeting and for the mango citrus wontons. We are extremely proud of you and your accomplishments.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- a. **Student Representative Update** – as presented
- b. **JFK Gr. 8 Awards Ceremony** – as presented
- c. **PLA Graduation** – as presented
- d. **Early Release Day – Staff PL** – as presented
- e. **Memorial Day** – as presented
- f. **EPS Update** –

Mr. Moccio stated we have completed 4 Pre-Referendum Staff Input sessions. He thanked staff members that have participated. We are hearing similar requests at each session. He has started to compile the information that will be included in his Friday update. Our June 3rd session will be held at JFK where we will share all information received.

Mr. Moccio congratulated our EPS students who participated in the 5K Girls on the Run competition that was held on Saturday at the Cigna campus in Bloomfield. He could not believe the number of people at this event. The students bedazzled me with gemstones. He did not participate in this event but was challenged to participate in next year's event.

Mr. Moccio has set up secondary school input focus groups at EHS and JFK. This is so we can receive input from our students to be included in our school improvement plans.

Mr. Moccio reviewed what he presented at the Town Council special budget meeting that was previously held. The Town Council approved 4.02% for the Board of Education budget allocation for the FY2025-26 school year. He also corrected some of the misinformation from this meeting regarding our budget request and ECS funding.

Mr. Moccio stated the Board has made our first repayment for the MOU. He was informed that the mayor plans to use a portion of this money to help non-profit organizations in our Town and the remaining funds will be given back to us. He added that any money returned to us would be reappropriated and he along with his cabinet will look to save as many staff as possible that were included in our original budget request.

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 moving forward. Student voices need to be heard. The administration needs to build trust and talk to our students and really hear what they are saying. Please be open to student input and address school climate and culture so progress can be made.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Pickett thanked our student representatives for your comments and voices. She thanked Mr. Moccio for his comments regarding the budget. She thanked the Town Council members who supported our budget. The budget we presented supported our students needs and protects our most vulnerable students.

Mrs. Pickett spoke about safety concerns and plans. She also spoke about our SELC students that have been moved to Enfield Street due to classrooms that were affected by leaking roofs. All our SELC students should be under one roof. We are now forced to move our integrated PK students to Enfield Street. This school was not designed to meet the needs of our pre-school students and feels our school needs are being pushed to the back burner.

Mrs. Pickett stated our students and staff are amazing. She interacts with them daily and this is truly the best part of her day. That is why she fights so hard for them and will continue to do so.

Mr. Kober stated the end of the school year is in sight. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. He urged everyone to check your mental health and look for ways to reduce stress, reclaim joy and practice residency. He recently saw a sign in one of our schools that said, "be a friend, not a bully."

Mr. Kober stated the Town Council approved our appropriation for the FY25-26 school year. The Board will approve this allocation at our next Board meeting.

Mr. Ryder congratulated our grade 8 students that will receive awards tomorrow. He thanked Brianna Beckstrand for everything she has done for Kite, EPS and the Town of Enfield and

wished her good luck.

Mr. Ryder reminded everyone that on Saturday, we will hold the PLA Townwide Tag Sale. We have 125 addresses on our map for tag sales. You can go to enfieldpto.com website to view the map or you can pick up a paper copy at the town library or Standup Nutrition. Donations from this event will go to the Enfield Food Shelf.

Mrs. LeBlanc expressed her condolences to the Martinez-Daigle families. He was an up and coming Enfield businessman who life ended to soon. She appreciates how our Enfield community has embraced this family.

Mrs. LeBlanc spoke about maintenance concerns at both EHS and JFK. The Town Council is planning on reducing additional custodial positions when more staff are needed. Mr. Moccio stated he will address these issues at our joint TC/BOE Leadership meeting on Friday.

Mrs. LeBlanc also recognized that May is Mental Health Awareness month and reminded everyone to check in with your friends and family members. She thanked Mrs. Griffin for her comments.

Mrs. LeBlanc spoke about the budget approved by the Town Council. She also addressed concerns with the SELC classrooms being moved. Our buildings need to be properly maintained. We need to look at the bigger picture. Our education budget has been historically underfunded. We have extremely dedicated and great teachers in Enfield. She thanked Mr. Moccio for presenting our budget and our needs to the Town Council with cause and effect wonderfully. There was nothing else you could have done in order to get our budget passed.

Mr. Gousse thanked his fellow Board members for their support while he has been dealing with some personal matters.

Chairwoman Riley also spoke about our budget request and the allocation we received from the Town Council. There could be some additional funding coming our way. She thanked the Town Council members and those who advocated for our budget. The budget deliberations were a bit contentious at times. She thanked Mr. Moccio and Mrs. Cisneros for your presentation and for providing a lot of detail. A lot of comments were made. We are working on transportation needs. Mr. Moccio showed the Town Council our per pupil costs. Comparing us to South Windsor is not a good comparison with Enfield. They should have chosen a town within our DRG with similar student needs like Manchester or East Hartford. We ensure that all our students needs are being met. Any services a Choice student may need, the sending district will reimburse us 100%. She also reviewed high needs and special needs. We are not perfect, but we are doing the best we can and are doing amazing things for our students. It truly takes a village. She urged everyone to get to know your neighbor. This is a new campaign slogan for ETC and the Town Social Services departments. We need to get back to our community that we once had prior to Covid. We will keep building brick by brick.

Chairwoman Riley added Buzz Robotics will hold an open house event on Thursday at the Annex. She also congratulated Mr. Moccio for being nominated to serve on the CAPSS Executive Board. She also congratulated the EHS and JFK students that competed in the National History day and our EHS Boys LaCross Team for their outstanding sportsmanship they displayed at an away game. Kudos to you all!

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. POLICY REVISIONS – SECOND READING

Policy #5113 Attendance, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism

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

Discussion:

Mr. Kober would like to see us finalize the administrative regulations before the second reading of any future policy revisions.

Mrs. Pickett agrees with Mr. Kober about the regulations. It is hard for her to vote on a policy without the details that are now being included in the regulations.

A vote by **roll-call 6-3-0** passed with Mr. Kober, Mrs. LeBlanc and Mrs. Pickett in dissent.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. REPEAL BOE Policies

Policy #5113.2 Truancy

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree that the Enfield Board of Education repeals Policy #5113. 2 Truancy.

A vote by **roll-call 7-0-2** passed with Mrs. LeBlanc and Mrs. Pickett abstaining.

Policy #5145.54 Civility

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree that the Enfield Board of Education tables Policy #5145.54 Civility until the Board reviews Policy #5131 Student Conduct and Discipline.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously to table this item.

b. APPROVE SAFE GRAD DONATIONS FOR THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves donating \$1,000 to the Enfield High school Safe Grad Committee on behalf of the Graduating Class of 2025.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober recognizes the hard work that goes into planning for Safe Grad activities, but he has reservations when not all students will participate at this event.

Mrs. LeBlanc added the Safe Grad Committee provides lawn signs for all students that are graduating, and all students are invited to participate at the after graduation event that is solely financed by donations.

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

c. APPROVE LESTER J. BODLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2025 Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarships for Student A and Student B as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett asked if the Town participates with this scholarship. Mr. Ryder stated this is a school related scholarship that was set up with specific requirements per Mr. Bodley's bequest.

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

Chairwoman Riley added we refer to the students as A & B because the EHS awards ceremony has not occurred yet and we want the students to be surprised.

d. DISCUSSION & ACTION REGARDING THE APPLE TECHNOLOGY REPLACEMENT PLAN

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Gousse that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Execution and Delivery of a Master Lease Purchase Agreement, specifically Schedule No. 3 to the Master Lease Purchase Agreement for 1-1 Devices as part of our Apple Technology Replacement Plan as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Moccio provided the Board with an update regarding our technology replacement plan and reviewed the 3 documents included in the Board's packet.

Mrs. Pickett stated this schedule is for devices for students in grades 6-12. She asked about the plans for students in PK-5. Mr. Moccio added there is a plan over time for the PK-5 students to replace those devices in the off years.

Mrs. Pickett added we were able to purchase these devices by using our Covid funds. She appreciates both Mr. Moccio and Dr. Wiley's long term planning for our technological devices.

Mr. Kober has reservation with sustaining our technology at the PK-5 level and concerns with increased student screen times.

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

MOVE AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA:

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education moves item #11e – Discussion & Action, if any Regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation to after Item #17.

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

e. DISCUSSION & ACTION, IF ANY REGARDING THE SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

This Item will be addressed after Item #17.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the next Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on May 22nd.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported the Finance Committee met on May 5th. He provided the Board with an update about FY2025 budget status, Quarterly Nutrition Reports, Meal Prices, changes to our Healthy Food Certification and Non-Lapsing fund. The next Finance Committee will be held on June 2nd.

Mr. Moccio added our first MOU payment was not reflected in they FY2025 budget status mentioned by Mr. Kober.

Chairwoman Riley reminded Board members to read the recommendation from our Food Services Director regarding the Healthy Food Certification change prior to our next Board meeting. This will be included in Mr. Moccio's weekly update and if you have any questions, please send them to him.

Mr. Moccio added that Ms. Edwards will attend the next Board meeting to address any Board member questions regarding our Healthy Food Certification.

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

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Leadership Committee met on May 7th. We discussed BOE meeting agendas, budget process moving forward and where we are at and the letter that was sent out to our school community. Our next Board Leadership meeting will be held on June 4th.

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. Family Music Night will be held on May 14th, Barnard Grade 2 students will visit Prudence Crandall and Field Day will be held on May 29th. They are also looking for volunteers for Field Day.

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder reported Eli Whitney grade 5 students will visit JFK tomorrow. All grade 5 students can attend the Town Dance being held in Alcorn gym on Friday. They will hold their Scholastic Book Fair next week and family Picnic on Thursday. Whitney will hold their Field Day on May 28th. They will also hold their awards ceremony for grade 5 students at their year-end assembly on June 9th. All of these events have been shared on ParentSquare and can be found on enfieldPTO.com.

Parkman/Enfield Street – Mrs. Pickett stated Parkman will hold a Literacy event on May 15th. Parkman's Field day will be held on June 4th. Enfield Street will hold their grade 2 promotion on June 4th. Enfield Street end-of-year picnic will be held on June 3rd, and their field day will be held on June 6th.

PLA – Mrs. Pickett added that our PLA class will hold a community wellness and resource fair on the Town Green on May 18th.

Prudence Crandall – Mrs. Acree reported the Crandall students are finishing their SBAC testing. They will hold their field day on May 30th and permission slips are required. She also congratulated the 38 students that participated in the Girls on the Run 5K event. She thanked the coaches for an outstanding season and for Mr. Moccio and the Crandall SSO for being there to support the students. Grade 5 moving up yard signs can be ordered via the PTO

Head Start/Kite – Dr. Calnen reported Head Start completed their annual Health Assessments. He reviewed the topics that were discussed. Recommendations are currently being reviewed for our program improvement plans. We had 25 people participated. Kite will hold a Juneteenth festival will be held on the Town Green on June 21st.

John F. Kennedy – Mr. Gousse reported JFK will hold a book fair. Grade 6 students will go to Sonny's place, grade 7 will go to Lake Compounce and grade 8 will go to High Meadow. They are selling grade 8 lawn signs. Grade 6 school visits are occurring. They will hold a spring concert, band concert, chorus concert and orchestra concert. All events are also posted on ParentSquare.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on May 22nd.

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Joint Insurance Committee will meet on May 27th.

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

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Enfield Mental Health met on May 7th and we received a presentation from Child First. We will meet next in September and will present a final report to the Board

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. LeBlanc does not have any update. Mr. Moccio provide us with an update on the staff session. The RFP is due on May 19th.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Special Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2025; Regular Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2025 and the Special Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2025, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-2** passed with Mr. Ryder and Mr. Gousse abstaining.

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Month of April FY2025

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

- The month of April 2025 total expenditures amount to \$6,341,944 broken down between payroll totaling \$4,345,691.02 and other accounts totaling \$1,996,252.98 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 8-0-1** passed with Mrs. LeBlanc abstaining.

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

- The month of April 2025 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$454,390.34, broken down between payroll totaling \$382,739.58 and other accounts totaling \$71,650.76 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 8-0-1** passed with Mrs. LeBlanc abstaining.

Line Item Transfers: None

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously. Both Mr. Moccio and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 8:41 PM. No Board Action occurred while in Executive Session.

Return to Open Session:

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:55 PM.

Item #11e.

DISCUSSION & ACTION, IF ANY REGARDING THE SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education approves the superintendent's evaluation and goals for the 2025-26 school year, salary adjustment and contract extension to June 30, 2028 and authorize the Board Chair to endorse the evaluation on behalf of the Board.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Moccio for your strengths in Excel, budgeting, and strategic planning for our district. She is thankful you are here and hopes you will stay for a while.

Mr. Kober thanked the Board for their work done during our executive session for the superintendent's evaluation. He also thanked Mr. Moccio for his efforts in our district and his extended tenure with us and his contract extension. He looks forward to seeing what the future holds for us.

Chairwoman Riley added that over the past 8 months, Mr. Moccio has accomplished many things for our district. He has shown his willingness to learn especially the intricacies between the Town and Board regarding facilities and maintenance and to ask questions regarding school and town processes and procedures around how and why Enfield operates. He has a fresh set of eyes and new perspective for Enfield. The goals outlined in his review outline his performance and what the Board has requested and expected from him. He has exceeded our expectations with the budget. He is well organized, detail organized and a staunch advocate and leader for Enfield Public Schools. .

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

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary