

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 27, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on May 27, 2025.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Chairwoman Riley.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Jean Acree
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jean Acree
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

MOVE AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA:

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman that the Enfield Board of Education move item #11a – Approve 2025-26 Healthy Food Certification to Item #6c.

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

6. BOARD GUEST(S)

a. EHS STUDENT ATHLETE:

The Board welcomed Athletic Director Cory O’Connell, EHS Wrestling Coach Jason Flynn and EHS senior Ethan Buonducci. Both Mr. O’Connell and Mr. Flynn recognized Mr. Buonducci’s wrestling accomplishments. Mr. O’Connell displayed a new banner that will be displayed at EHS acknowledging Ethan’s exceptional wrestling history.

Board members congratulated Mr. Buonducci for his athletic accomplishments. Mr. Buonducci shared some of his past athletic experiences and introduced his family to the Board. He added that he will continue his wrestling career at Bridgewater State.

Chairwoman Riley thanked them for attending tonight’s meeting. We are extremely proud of you and your outstanding athletic and academic accomplishments. She urged Mr. Buonducci to shoot for the stars.

b. VISION OF A GRADUATE PRESENTATION:

Board members also welcomed Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Michelle Middleton, John F. Kennedy Principal Sarah Brown and Humanities Director Joel Senez. They provided the Board with an overview of our Enfield Public Schools Vision of a

Regular BOE Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2025

Page 1

Graduate. They reviewed the progress that has been made to date, the meaning of CLIMB (C- Collaboration & Communication; L - Lifelong Learning & Literacy; I – Innovation and problem solving; M – Mindset for Success and B – Building character & Community) and their descriptions; and next steps for the district. This program is also embedded into our NEASC Accreditation, and we will receive feedback from them.

Board members thanked them for this presentation. They discussed how this will be used to align our curriculum, student development and student behavior. Assessments are needed. They liked involving the community with our vision. This also ties into with our portrait of a learner. They asked about student academic growth and how this ties into MTSS work.

Chairwoman Riley added this vision will shape our curriculum and culture. Ms. Middleton added this will be part of our student's total school experience and will continue throughout their education. It is for the whole person.

Chairwoman Riley thanked them for this presentation, and she is excited for this work to continue.

c. Approve 2025-26 Healthy Food Certification:

The Board welcomed our Nutrition Services director Diane Edwards.

Board members asked several questions related to fund raising options and why she recommended we vote in favor of the healthy food certification this year compared to past years when we voted not to certify.

Ms. Edwards stated we did not need the funding in the past and that is the driving force for the certification change. Also, the guidelines within the wellness policy are very strict when it comes to selling food items. Food items that are sold as part of fund raisers should not be given to the students during the school day unless they are items that are on the approved list. She is currently in the process of a Tri-Annual assessment along with reviewing our current wellness policy.

Mr. Moccio added our wellness policy, and the tri-annual assessment will assess certification requirements that the Board will approve. Ms. Edwards can work with our groups on how fundraisers can be compliant with our Wellness Policy.

Ms. Edwards stated any food or beverage that is sold while our schools are in session, any funds or proceeds will need to go directly to the Nutrition Services Department.

Chairwoman Riley asked for the Board to receive a copy of the approved food item list.

Mr. Moccio added that the increase in lunch prices will help her to meet her net neutral threshold.

Mr. Kober stated the Policy Committee should review the wellness policy. Mr. Ryder added state regulations is why the Board has not voted in favor of this previously.

Ms. Edwards stated the State does not want competitive sales and this is also in our Wellness Policy.

Chairwoman Riley added the State will look at any type of food that is being sold during the student's school day. She would like to table this item until the next Board meeting. This will give the Board time to look at the approved list of food items for fund raiser events. Please forward any questions to Mr. Moccio in preparation for our next meeting and this will give Ms. Edwards the necessary time to gather this information.

Chairwoman Riley moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Enfield Board of Education tables Item #11a Approve 2025-26 Healthy Food Certification.

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

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representative Up

b. date – as presented

c. EHS World Languages Awards Ceremony – as presented

d. EHS Awards & Scholarship Night – as presented

e. Adult Education Graduation – as presented

f. Summer BOE Meetings – as presented

g. EPS Update –

Mr. Moccio provided the Board with a Robert's Rules cheat sheet. He has attended student meetings at both EHS and JFK. Based on these discussions, he will schedule more.

8. AUDIENCES

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

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin thanked our administrators for the Vision of a Graduate plan. This work needs to include school staff and students. Having Mr. White as part of this is important. We need healthy schools and healthy kids. She likes that Mr. Moccio is having listening session for our students.

Lucien Lefevre, Veteran's Council – Mr. Lefevre thanked Enfield Public Schools for participating in this year's Memorial Day Parade. Our Enfield students performed beautifully. He would like to have them attend the Veteran's Day Parade in November. We need to showcase how amazing our Enfield students are. More community participation is needed. Thank you.

Judy Kilty, Woodgate Circle – Ms. Kilty spoke about our Head Start program and what happens if summer food is not available for our students. She asked about a plan B. She agrees about our students and increasing community participation at the Veteran's and Memorial Day parades.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Kober shared a quote and stated we just celebrated Memorial Day and urged everyone to remember the reason for this day. We have a lot of things to celebrate. Graduations will be here soon. He congratulated Buzz Robotics for their recent State Championship competition win and our EHS student for his athletic accomplishments.

Mrs. Pickett was able to participate in the Memorial Day Parade with her daughter along with other athletic teams. She thanked the Veteran's Council for all the work you do for our community and Veterans.

Mrs. Pickett thanked our audience members for their comments. She looks forward to hearing about the student listening sessions from Mr. Moccio. She also has some concerns about Head Start and she is not sure about a plan B and losing Head Start funding would be a dramatic loss.

Mrs. Pickett thanked our student representatives who participated in a mental health awareness campaign for helping us spread this important message. You have both been

tremendous student reps. She wished Lizzy good luck and looks forward to having Olivia back next year.

Mrs. Pickett shared her concerns with facilities and impacts of custodial cuts. She congratulated our Parent Leadership group. They held a graduation ceremony, Tag Sale and wellness event.

Mr. Ryder attended the grade 8 student awards ceremony. He congratulated the students moving on to grade 9. It was a great honor presenting a couple of the awards. He also congratulated our PLA recent graduates. He thanked Leslie and Karen for their hard work. The tag sale and vendor fair were both a great success. He wished his father a happy birthday.

Mr. Ryder will start his field day tour as a DJ at Eli Whitney, Henry Barnard, Prudence Crandall, Enfield Street and Parkman. He looks forward to also attending the First Readers graduation. He will also present the North Central Chamber of Commerce Acts of Kindness awards at JFK and EHS. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the Somer's Public Schools Acts of Kindness Awards tonight.

Dr. Calnen spoke about health and education being connected. Our health services should be monitored by a health professional. He would like to see us continue to make connections with our healthcare professionals as we have done in the past.

Mrs. LeBlanc also congratulated our student representatives. Your participation has been outstanding. She also congratulated our Buzz Robotics students for their recent State Competition win. She congratulated Scott Ryder for being named our Democrat of the Year.

Mrs. LeBlanc requested via the chair to the Superintendent information about resignation trends at EHS for the past 3 years. Last year, we had 27 resignations. We are losing quality staff to other districts. She would like to know what we are doing to keep our staff are we sending out anything from Central Office?

Mr. Moccio stated he has communicated directly with staff on occasions. He has set up direct meetings with some of the staff mentioned in his Friday update to receive further details about their resignations.

Mrs. LeBlanc would like our staff to want to meet with us. We just received a presentation on our Vision of a Graduate. This will only be successful if our staff feel valued and are part of the process. The morale in our district is very low. We need listening sessions with our staff as well.

Mrs. Acree also thanked our student representatives for their participation on the Board this year. Your presence was greatly appreciated. She congratulated Izzy on her upcoming graduation and wished her good luck at Temple University in the Fall.

Mrs. Acree congratulated the students and staff for their recent music performances. Our students are very talented. They play their instruments beautifully. Their harmonic voices are outstanding. She also thanked each of our music teachers for their guidance and leadership.

Mr. Gousse stated he marched in the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day parades with the cub scouts and Enfield High School Marching Band for many years. He currently will drive little cars (Shriners) in parades. All the students that participated knew exactly why they were doing this. Thank you to everyone that has served our country and has given their lives for our freedom.

Mr. Gousse congratulated Izzy on her upcoming graduation and looks forward to seeing Olivia back next year as our student representative.

Mr. Gousse also shared a quote and urged everyone to do better next year.

Chairwoman Riley also thanked our student representatives. You have both exceeded her expectations this year with your valuable contributions to the Board. Thank you both. She will see Izzy on graduation night and looks forward to Olivia coming back next year.

Chairwoman Riley stated the Town has appointed Erik Wicander as the new Deputy Director of Operations. He is currently working on facility assessments and custodial operations plan.

Chairwoman Riley attended Buzz Robotics open house at the Annex. They gave us tour of the space they are using. They have a great facility and are sharing this space with other teams. They are looking for students to participate in this club and need programmers.

Chairwoman Riley stated First Readers will hold a ceremony on June 2nd and will hold 2 split ceremonies due to the amount of first readers being recognized during this session. Congratulations to all our new First Readers.

Chairwoman Riley attended the Hazardville Memorial Pre-Ref committee staff session. Mr. Dague is compiling the information received at these sessions. She cannot wait to receive the final report.

Chairwoman Riley stated that Mr. Moccio has been visiting our schools. He also has met with our staff, students and ETA. He is working on our district improvement plan. He is doing a lot. What else would you like to see? She is not sure why staff are leaving but he is doing a lot already.

Mrs. LeBlanc would like to see direct communication from the superintendent to our staff. It is more than just budget issues. We need to have listening sessions with our teachers. We are seeing a lot of staff leaving our district. There are issues that need to be addressed. Our staff morale needs to be positive in order for everything else to work.

Chairwoman Riley will have Mr. Moccio setup a plan for next year for open listening sessions with staff.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. REPEAL BOE Policies – *Tabled on 05-13-25*

Policy #5145.54 Civility

This item will be addressed at the June 10th BOE meeting.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. APPROVE 2025-26 HEALTHY FOOD CERTIFICATION – *Tabled on 05-27-25*

This item was previously addressed.

b. POLICY REVISIONS – FIRST READING

Policy #5131.911 Connecticut School Climate Policy

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5131.911 Connecticut School Climate Policy for a first reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober reviewed the proposed changes. We have received a legal opinion, and he is not in favor of this policy.

Mrs. Pickett asked how much a legal opinion cost? Mr. Moccio stated that depending on who from Shipman & Goodwin will provide the information, it can cost anywhere from \$300-450 per hour.

Mrs. Pickett stated she is concerned that our policies now need to follow State laws and legislation. This is foundational work that our schools are already doing. This is costly to obtain legal opinions. She will abstain from voting on this policy. She supports the work we are currently doing around school climate.

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

Policy #5135 Restorative Practices

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approve Policy #5135 Restorative Practices for a first reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober reviewed the policy recommendations.

Mrs. Pickett expressed her concerns with school resources officers. We might want to review our current MOU.

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

Policy #5131 Student Discipline

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5131 Student Discipline as a first reading as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober reviewed the policy that incorporates State law. He would like the regulations to be placed on our website. He also spoke about the term and definition for bullying. We will be using a tiered approach.

Mrs. Pickett expressed her concerns with behavior in our schools. We need to look into school resources officers interaction with student behavior and how this will affect student outcomes, supports and student learning. She is concerned with policy inconsistencies.

Mr. Gousse agrees about the lack of a definition regarding bullying. A clearer definition is needed.

Mrs. Pickett added that with this new policy there is no verifying acts of bullying. The definition is legislatively defined.

Dr. Calnen also has concerns about the wording for behavior and displaying inappropriate pictures. Mr. Moccio added this language comes directly from the State regarding reasons that may lead to student discipline.

Mr. Kober added the administrative regulation is more detailed.

Chairwoman Riley is glad the items are outlined. She hopes along with our district improvement plan, we can continue to achieve consistency regarding how we address bullying issues.

A vote by **roll-call 7-2-0** with Mr. Gousse and Mr. Kober in dissent.

c. DISCUSSION & ACTION IF ANY REGARDING THE FY2025-26 BUDGET

Mr. Moccio presented three budget history documents to the Board. These documents will be placed on our website. He reviewed the information for a 4.02% budget increase that was presented to the Town Council. The Town Council has appropriated a 4.32% for the FY2025-26 School Budget.

Mr. Moccio added that a portion of this funding needs to be identified as Alliance Grant Funding - \$1,443,501.00 should this legislation pass. He reviewed the additional 28.9 FTE staff members and positions.

Chairwoman Riley added this also brings back a team structure at JFK by hiring a grade 6 science teacher.

Board members asked several budget related questions about new hire salaries, benefits, open choice grant, budget offsets, software costs, class sizes, eliminating the extra teacher assistants, lunchroom aides, receiving Alliance Grant funding, and requesting a formal document that we will receive our full ECS funding from the Town Council.

Chairwoman Riley asked Mr. Moccio to send a request to Mr. Bromson that the Board will receive the \$1,443,501 funding.

Mr. Moccio does not recall the exact motion that was made at the Town Council meeting and will verify this information.

Mr. Gousse moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman that the Enfield Board of Education accepts FY2025-26 budget allocation appropriated by the Town Council as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Kober expressed his concern about the budget process. There are still a lot of unknowns with our budget, and we need to plan accordingly including Alliance funding.

A vote by **roll-call 7-2-0** passed with Mr. Kober and Mrs. Pickett in dissent.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the next Curriculum Committee met on May 22nd. We reviewed the JFK Reading Classes and ESOL Secondary Resources and Instruction items. Our next meeting will be held on June 19th.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported the next Finance Committee will be held on June 2nd. He stated the projected surplus funding as mentioned in the Superintendent update is approximately \$1.64 million. We will pre-purchasing expenditures in the upcoming weeks to ensure our non-lapsing funds do not exceed the 2% carryover.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee will cancel their June 17th meeting. Our next meeting will be held on September 16th.

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Leadership Committee meet next on June 4th.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder reported Eli Whitney will hold their field day tomorrow. He thanked all the parent volunteers. Memorial students will visit Whitney. Grade 5 students will visit Sturbridge Village. We will also have our year-end awards ceremony and celebration. All of these events have been shared on ParentSquare and can be found on enfieldPTO.com.

Henry Barnard - Mr. Kober gave a shout out to Henry Barnard staff and families. Attendance check-ins on ParentSquare have started. Barnard will hold their field day on Thursday. The Grade 2 students will visit Crandall.

Head Start/Kite – Dr. Calnen reported Head Start will conduct their last meeting on June 4th and will complete their annual Health Assessments. Head Start started their semiannual health review. They will hold their next meeting in the fall.

Prudence Crandall – Mrs. Acree reported the Crandall field day may be postponed due to the weather. Parents will be informed via ParentSquare. They had another author visit. The grade 5 moving up ceremony will be held on June 11th. Grade 2 Barnard students will visit Crandall tomorrow.

John F. Kennedy – Chairwoman Riley reported JFK will sell tickets for the grade 8 formal on ParentsSquare. Yard signs for students moving up will be here soon.

Joint Facility – Chairwoman Riley reported they have a new director. The Alcorn roof project has gone out to bid. The Parkman roof project was accepted at 70.71% reimbursement. DPW is invited to attend the next pre-referendum meeting to discuss mechanicals and flooring. They are currently dealing with the latest Tic Tok Challenge.

Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on June 12th.

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Joint Insurance Committee met today. We reviewed renewal projections, fees, rebates, options for medical and prescriptions. We will meet next on September 23rd.

Mr. Moccio added that Lockton will work with us regarding our teacher negotiations.

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 will meet next in September and will present a final report to the Board.

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. LeBlanc reported the committee will meet next on June 11th. We will look at the RFP booklets and scoring sheets will be reviewed.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree that the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 27, 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 - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 27, 2025.
Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary