BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2025

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on August 26, 2025.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairwoman Riley.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE: Janet Cushman

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Janet Cushman

4. FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT: Chairwoman Riley

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

6. BOARD GUEST(S)

a. 2025-26 TEACHER OF THE YEAR:

The Board welcomed JFK Middle School Principal, Sarah Brown to introduce the 2025-26 Teacher of the Year, Amy Santanella.

Board members thanked Mrs. Santanella for championing inclusion and embracing the changes of the new school year. Those who attended convocation enjoyed watching the response of other staff members while watching her video.

b. 2025-26 UNIFIED COACH OF THE YEAR:

The Board welcomed JFK Middle School Principal, Sarah Brown back to introduce the 2025-26 Unified Coach of the Year, Michael Misseri.

Board members thanked Mr. Misseri for going the extra mile and being willing to talk to the students at their level. They also clarified that this recognition is not just for Enfield, but for the State of Connecticut.

c. 2025-26 SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR:

The Board welcomed Hazardville Memorial School Principal, Kristen Fitzsimons to introduce the 2025-26 Support Staff Member of the Year, Jerry Dowd.

Board members thanked Mr. Dowd for his presence in our buildings and keeping our kids safe. He is demonstrating the power of relationships and is showing that we can provide a supportive and caring climate for our students in this security model, while changing the way they view law enforcement.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. **Student Transportation Update** – as presented
b. **Welcome Back Students –** as presented
c. **EPS Update – ED166 Behavioral Data Report**

Mr. Moccio provided the Board with the ED166 Disciplinary Report showing a yearly comparison of data reported to the State Department of Education from 2020 to 2025.

8. AUDIENCES

Chairwoman Riley read a prepared statement for Audience member participation. Audiences are allowed 4 minutes to address the Board.

Chris Moore, Oakmont Street – Mr. Moore is the Cub Master for Pack 819 and requested endorsement from the Board to resume recruitment efforts during Open Houses this fall.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin encouraged everyone to read about the candidates for the upcoming election to understand what qualifications and knowledge they are bringing to the table. She also recommended listening to the students because they are the experts on what they experience in our schools and tracking the disciplinary actions from student/staff interactions.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dr. Calnen agreed that recruiting for Cub Scouts at an early age is important and referenced a NY Times article about the male crisis.

Mr. Kober acknowledged the EHS student, Jayden Levesque, who passed away unexpectedly in July and expressed the Board's thoughts and prayers to all affected. Mr. Kober also observed the Smyth Bus event on emergency preparedness at Enfield Fire Department Station 2. He reminded the public to prioritize safety on our roads, be mindful of school zones, watch for children, and adhere to the specific drop-off and pick-up procedures on and around school grounds. Regarding the changes to the bus routes this year, Mr. Kober understands the frustration this is yielding and will continue to monitor feedback and review policies as needed. Mr. Kober ended by expressing his frustrations in the way the new Administrators were hired over the summer.

Mrs. LeBlanc clarified that the open positions were filled to restructure that particular building to match the administrative model in our other buildings. She thanked Mr. Moccio for presenting the rationale behind adding positions based on the needs of the school district. Mrs. LeBlanc also confirmed that the Cub Scouts are looking for flyers to go home with students, as well as a recruiting table set up during Open Houses. Mr. Moccio stated that BOE Policy #1315 covers the distribution of flyers, so the Board can approve that the Cub Scout flyers be provided to the schools. Mr. Moccio will reach out to the building principals regarding Open Houses.

Mrs. LeBlanc questioned the use of the Annex fields for fall sports. Mr. Moccio confirmed that the only unusable space is the Annex track. She thanked Mr. Moccio for the ED-166 report and being willing to look into restorative practices as requested. She ended by welcoming students, staff and families back to school.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Moore and Mrs. Griffin for providing their critical feedback. She also thanked all the summer programs for providing a safe and productive environment for our youth community. She appreciated the community partnership between Smyth Bus and the

Fire Departments and thanked them for the safety training. She ended by thanking the Central Office leadership, building Administrators and our staff (returning and new). Mrs. Pickett expressed that her top priorities this year are around student, staff and family supports, and the need for systems and structures both academically and behaviorally.

Mr. Gousse shared how Cub Scouts impacted his life for 12 years while his son was growing up. He also pointed out that Cub Scouts now include both boys and girls. He encouraged any other youth groups in town to ask to share their information with the Board and the schools. Mr. Gousse welcomed everyone back and expressed his amazement at how quickly the administrators reacted to the bus situation. He encourages families to follow the methods in place regarding disciplinary concerns before reaching out to the Board directly.

Mrs. Acree also welcomed everyone back to this school year. She is looking forward to hearing about the many accomplishments of the Enfield students that demonstrate their talents, abilities and intellect.

Mr. Ryder requested that we share through ParentSquare the new school hours and the calendar with families and make everyone aware that the early release days are now true half-days. He also mentioned that the lunch prices have increased (breakfast pricing has not been affected). Mr. Ryder requested a copy of the Portrait of a Learner presented at Convocation. He welcomed back our staff and students and is looking forward to the next school year.

Chairwoman Riley wished everyone an excellent year full of new adventures. She stressed the need for parents to also join Scouts as leaders. She shared that 80 new staff members were introduced at Convocation and was impressed with the list of achievements presented from last year. She reminded all families to be patient with the bus route situation, and during drop-off and pick-up while everyone is trying to relearn the new routes and routines. She explained the restructuring at Eagle Academy to address Mr. Kober's concerns.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported that the next Curriculum Committee meeting has been rescheduled to September 15th at 5:00 PM.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported that the Finance Committee met on August 11th. The original appropriation of the FY25 Budget was $77,429,555; year-to-date expenditures for the year totaled $5,811,288.60 out of the available $1,627,989.12. As for FY25 Grants, the district applied for $3,729,049 and was awarded $3,727,077. Available funds remaining are $696,771 because they belong to multi-year grants which have not yet met their expiration date. For FY26, we are projecting to apply for $3,377,186 and to date have been awarded $1,361,600. The next meeting will be held on September 8th at 5:00 PM.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Cushman reported that the next Policy Committee will be held on September 16th at 5:30 PM.

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported that the Leadership Committee met on August 20th, and the next meeting will be held on September 3rd.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Henry Barnard - Mr. Kober welcomed our incoming Kindergarteners, and all returning students to first and second grade. The newsletter was sent out on Friday, August 22nd. Open

House is Wednesday, September 17th at 6:00 PM and Picture Day is Thursday, September 18th. New school hours are 8:50 AM to 3:30 PM. Download ParentSquare for communication and updates.

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder requested that our new PTO Board Members for the school year reach out with contact information. New school hours for our Intermediate Schools are 8:35 AM to 3:15 PM and early release is 8:35 Am to 12:05 PM.

Joint Facility – Chairwoman Riley reported that the committee will meet on September 11th.

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairwoman Riley stated there is nothing to report.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on August 29th.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported that the next meeting date has not been set. The committee is working on a final report to present to the Board in late September or early October.

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. LeBlanc reported the committee met with the architects to look at five possible sites and two different building configurations. They are taking into account the new developments in town and how they will impact enrollment and space. Information will be available at Open Houses for residents to view. The committee will meet next on August 27th. Community conversations have been scheduled for October 22nd, December 17th and February 4th.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairwoman Riley suggested to approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2025, the Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2025, and the Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes from July 30, 2025, as a group.

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Gousse

Discussion:

Mrs. Cushman noted a change to the June 10th minutes on item 11D. The date should be July 8th instead of June as reported. Also, item 5 on the June 24th minutes does not record the resulting vote of the copier contract.

Mrs. Pickett moved to approve the minutes with the revisions, seconded by Mrs. Cushman. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Month of June 2025

Mr. Kober stated that the Accounts and Payroll for the month of June are still pending. They will be reviewed at the next Finance Meeting and presented for approval at the September 23rd Board of Education Meeting.

Month of July 2025

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

- The month of July 2025 total expenditures amount to $2,701,111.91 broken down between payroll totaling $686,152.59 and other accounts totaling $2,014,559.32 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**, with Mrs. LeBlanc abstaining.

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

- The month of July 2025 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to $79,692.30 broken down between payroll totaling $47,347.73 and other accounts totaling $32,344.57 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**, with Mrs. LeBlanc abstaining.

Line-Item Transfers FY25

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree, that the Enfield Board of Education approve the following line-item transfers:

- From the 100 line – Salaries, the amount of $1,348,292.97; from the 500 line – Other Purchased Services, the amount of $158,997.04; and from the 600 line – Supplies, the amount of $41,301.09, for a total of $1,548,591.10 to the 900 line – Other Use of Funds, the same amount of $1,548,591.10.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett asked for clarification regarding the carryover from FY25 to FY26.

Mr. Moccio explained that the line-item transfer approved at tonight's meeting represents the 2% allowable for transfer to the non-lapsing unexpended Board of Education bank account by the Business Manager. Monies in excess of that will be presented to the Town Council on September 15th, resulting in a zero balance for FY25.

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-2**, with Mrs. LeBlanc and Mrs. Pickett abstaining.

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Kober, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of August 26, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Lawlor, Recording Secretary