

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on September 9, 2025.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Riley.

2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Dean Gousse

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Dean Gousse

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **CINDY GUERRERI – ENFIELD TOGETHER COALITION (ETC):**

The Board welcomed the Director of Social Services for the town of Enfield and member of the Enfield Together Coalition, Cindy Guerreri to share about the work of the coalition, student survey results, the planned action steps, and their new community wide campaign for building connections to foster social connection, strengthen community bonds, and support residents' health and well-being. She introduced Kelly Fisher, an Enfield business owner, mother, grandmother, and Tri-Chair of ETC; Kate Bailey of Emerald Health Partners who is the strategic planning and implementation consultant; and Lucas Smith, the evaluator who handles the Youth Survey at JFK and EHS. Cindy also recognized Chairwoman Riley as a Tri-Chair of ETC.

Board members thanked the guests for presenting this data. Mrs. LeBlanc pointed out how bullying has changed over the years, and that there is now a 24/7 connection to bullying through social media, as well as loneliness being a huge issue for adolescents and adults through social media perceptions of people having better lives. She requested that the location of bullying also be pulled out of the data, such as in school, the classroom, on the bus, social media, etc. She also wonders if the budget cuts this year have had an impact on the numbers rising in 2025. She mentioned that September is Suicide Prevention Month and asked everyone to be kind.

Chairwoman Riley pointed out that the data from 2021 might not be a complete picture since school were hybrid at that time.

Mr. Ryder clarified that the middle school data is Grades 6-8 and the high school is Grades 9-12. He asked how the data on young adults is collected and Cindy confirmed that the data was collected from Asnuntuck, local businesses, as well as a QR code available on Election Day. She also stated that young adults were classified as 18-25-year-olds.

Mrs. Acree asked how the coalition goes about talking to students who are having a hard time seeking help. Cindy explained that their partnership with EPS includes bringing in trainers to help our staff implement the curriculum. Mr. Moccio reminded the group that David White has all of the information in the Counseling Office, and there are also quarterly meetings with Social Services.

Mrs. Pickett asked if the data is disaggregated in other ways, other than gender. She is hoping that there are opportunities for the district and town to strategically partner more in prevention and response. She is excited to be able to do more partnership work with ETC.

Mr. Gousse wondered whether the questions were asked as both “why do you” as well as “why don’t you” to be able to gather all of the data to build better programs. Lucas explained that they have about 12 minutes with each student, so there is only so much time to ask the questions. He also stated that they evolve the survey every two years to keep it current.

Mr. Kober asked about the structure of the survey. He wondered if there is an ability to look at cohort data, for example the responses of sixth graders and then again when they are eight graders to see if things are getting better or worse. He also asked about the timeframe of the survey and if it was administered in school. Lucas confirmed that it was done during school, and that it was open for four days. He has found that after the fifth day the value starts to have a lack of fidelity with the larger data sets.

Chairwoman Riley thanked them for their presentation. She hopes to build an even stronger partnership with EPS to lower bullying and suicide rates.

b. JFK PRINCIPAL SARAH BROWN:

Mr. Moccio explained that with the addition of new staff at JFK, they have been a number of programmatic changes. JFK Principal Sarah Brown asked to come and present an update to the Board related to the middle school program and procedures. She shared changes to curriculum, through specialized programming and multi-tiered systems of support. She explained the new school theme as Roadmap to Success. Faculty Meetings have been restructured and system improvements implemented. She was excited that sports, stipend positions for various clubs, and late buses are back at JFK this year. The staff is engaging in their first book club and reading 10-25: The Science of Motivating Young People by Dave Yeager.

Board members thanked Ms. Brown for her presentation and asked various questions based on the information she shared.

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

7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

a. Student Transportation Update – as presented

b. EPS Update –

Mr. Moccio congratulated Enfield High School, JFK Middle School, Prudence Crandall and Hazardville Memorial for being designated as Apple Distinguished Schools. A Press Release will be coming out from Apple later this month. New iPads have been distributed at EHS and JFK. We are now starting to work on distributing to the elementary schools. We have 3,200 new iPads in the district.

A ParentSquare alert was pushed out to families regarding the state assessment results. Next year, the State Department of Education will be all digital, so we are doing a test run now and

anticipate sending out the results through ParentSquare at the end of this week.

8. AUDIENCES

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

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin works with the Enfield Greater Together Community Fund, a facilitated division of the Hartford Fund for Public Giving. They review applications for grants and are looking for more people to join the selection committee. Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month and are mostly held virtually.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Pickett appreciates the continued communication about the adjustments to the bus routes. She reiterated that the BOE Transportation Policy #3541 is what is driving the decisions. This policy was passed in 2018, so she is hopeful that this policy will be reviewed and assessed, particularly walking distances. She also asked that through the Joint Security Subcommittee, we are looking at support from the Enfield Police Department in regard to arrival and dismissal times on Route 5. Mrs. Pickett asked for clarification about the staffing concerns for our foreign language courses. Mr. Moccio shared that a letter went home to families explaining that we are proceeding with an online platform. The contract has been signed, and as soon as the teacher is identified, there will be an online Open House for parents.

Mr. Kober provided some district metrics for the first day of school this year and why they are important. He is looking forward to the upcoming board presentations and was pleased to see that the Superintendent rolled out a monthly district-wide newsletter.

Mrs. LeBlanc confirmed that when the transportation policy was adopted in 2018, no revisions were made. She also agreed that it is time to revisit this policy. She asked for clarification as to how the designated walkers were riding the buses. Mr. Moccio explained that the ridership numbers were based on the students outside of the walk zone, so when buses were overcrowded, we discovered that many walkers were getting on due to a stop being near their home address. He also reiterated the need for better communication going forward to identify the true walkers. Mrs. LeBlanc is requesting more traffic enforcement by EPD at Enfield High and to any drivers passing the bus lights. She shared that applications are being accepted for the EHS pre-school program. For more information or to access the application, contact clawrence@enfieldschools.org. She also reminded everyone that September is Suicide Prevention Month.

Mr. Ryder discussed the increased need for communications in the district. He suggested each building Administrator create a one-page flyer with a list of QR codes, website links, contact information, etc. to send home to families, and has offered to help create a template.

Mr. Gousse asked for a social media campaign to show families how to use ParentSquare. He clarified his comments from the last board meeting and encouraged families to reach out if needed. He also reminded homeowners to clear their sidewalks this winter since we have more walkers this year.

Chairwoman Riley suggested a big sign at each pick up line with a QR Code to download ParentSquare. She requested that each school “pin” the contact information for their secretary/main office to help families find it easily if they need to reach out to their school. She also encouraged families to check out the Superintendent’s Newsletter for a short video showing how to use ParentSquare for the Attendance Notification feature. She reminded families that the dismissal times have changed this year, so the arrival times from school will

be a little bit later than previous years.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

11. NEW BUSINESS

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the next Curriculum Committee is on Monday, September 15th at 5:00 PM.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kober reported that the Finance & Budget Committee met September 8th. He will address approval of Accounts & Payroll for June and August during Item #15. The final FY25 Budget Summary is as follows: the appropriated budget for FY25 was \$77,429,555; final net expenditures at this point are now \$77,429,555. This is following the reconciliation of line-item transfers from the previous meeting, which includes the 2% transfer to our non-lapsing fund. There was a final additional surplus of \$41,041.47 that will be returned to the Town of Enfield pursuant to our MOU with the town.

For the first FY26 Budget Summary, we have an appropriation of \$79,098,023 with net year-to-date expenditures at \$7,263,980.26. Mr. Kober noted that not all funds needed for this year have been encumbered yet but should be occurring between now and the next subcommittee meeting which will be held on Monday, October 6th at 5:00 PM.

Policy Committee – Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee has been rescheduled due to a conflict and will now be held on Tuesday, September 30th. She assured everyone that the transportation policy will be at the top of the agenda for this meeting,

Leadership Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Leadership Committee met last Wednesday, September 3rd and the next meeting is Wednesday, October 8th.

13. LIAISON REPORTS

Henry Barnard - Mr. Kober

He enjoyed greeting students on the first day of school. Open House is Wednesday, September 17th at 6:00 PM, Picture Day is Thursday, September 18th, and the next PTO Meeting is Tuesday, September 16th at 6:00PM virtually.

Prudence Crandall – Mrs. Acree

Students started the year with smiles and excited to learn. Open House was a success with over 250 families in attendance. Next week they will be hosting author of The Whole Book Approach, Megan Dowd Lambert. The first PTO meeting is Tuesday, September 16th. They will also be participating in Pink Out Day for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Head Start/Kite – Dr. Calnen

KITE held its first monthly meeting of the school year on Wednesday, September 3rd. They discussed the role of KITE in the reorganization of state early childhood funding. Previously there were three separate revenue streams for early childhood programs and now been combined into one. KITE was the School Readiness Council for Enfield and will now serve as Enfield's local governance partner. KITE is currently serving as the state model for what a local governance partner should look like. This is a testimony to the great value of this organization in our community. Hannah Song has taken on the role of Director of KITE.

Mr. Kober added that the date for KITE's annual meeting is Wednesday, October 15th.

JFK Middle School – Mr. Gousse

Updates were covered by Ms. Brown during her presentation.

Eli Whitney – Mr. Ryder

Pink Out Day will be district-wide in October, and all are encouraged to participate.

Hazardville Memorial – Chairwoman Riley

Movie night on the lawn on Saturday, September 13th with popcorn and ice cream, sponsored by Soapy Noble. Open House is Wednesday, September 17th. Read the drop off and pick up procedures in the Husky Howl.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the next Joint Facilities Committee meeting is Thursday, September 11th, however there is also a ceremony in honor of 9/11 at the firehouse on Weymouth Road starting at 5:00PM. This meeting will possibly be cancelled.

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported that no meeting has been scheduled.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on Friday, September 12th.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported the Enfield Mental Health has a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 16th at 11:30AM.

Pre-Referendum Committee – Mrs. LeBlanc reported the next meeting is Wednesday, September 17th. The committee will be looking at different school configurations for the PK-5 models and actual sites for the buildings. Mrs. Pickett mentioned that the materials were planned to be displayed at Open Houses but are a little delayed. Mr. Moccio confirmed that he has approved the final drafts and they just need to get to the printers.

14. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Kober that the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

15. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Month of June 2025

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

- The month of June 2025 total expenditures amount to \$7,205,657.40 broken down between payroll totaling \$3,040,868.40 and other accounts totaling \$4,164,789.
- 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 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

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

- The month of June 2025 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$662,572.96 broken down between payroll totaling \$327,228.48 and other accounts totaling \$335,344.48.
- 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 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Month of August 2026

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

- The month of August 2026 total expenditures amount to \$4,562,868.35 broken down between payroll totaling \$2,891,194.91 and other accounts totaling \$1,671,673.44.
- 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 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

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

- The month of August 2026 the total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$237,966.72 broken down between payroll totaling \$217,914.79 and other accounts totaling \$20,051.93.
- 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 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

16. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

18. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 9, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by a **show-of-hands 9-0-0**. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:33 PM.

Scott Ryder
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Lawlor, Recording Secretary