

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 11, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on June 11, 2019.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** : The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Walter Kruzel.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE** : Chris Rutledge
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** : Chris Rutledge
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT** : Walter Kruzel announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL** :

**MEMBERS PRESENT :** Rich Regnier, Ashley Depeau, Chris Rutledge, Charlotte Riley, Tina LeBlanc, Sarah Hernandez, Tim Neville, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

**MEMBERS ABSENT :** None

**ALSO PRESENT :** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent and Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **JFK History Students**

Mr. Drezek welcomed our Joel Senez, our Social Studies Coordinator and students to tonight's meeting.

Mr. Senez thanked the Board for this opportunity to show them what our students have been doing. The students (Anna Bemiss, Samantha Plummer, Madelyn Bouchard and Sabrina Juhasz) researched the soldiers from Enfield that are honored on our civil War Soldiers Monument in Enfield.

The students presented the biographies to the students in the Enfield High Graphic Design class. They EHS students designed the signs for each of the soldiers that will display their biographies throughout Enfield. The students raised money for the signs. They will have signs made for the 39 soldiers at the end of the project. They thanked their teachers for all their help with this project. Ms. Juhasz read the biography she researched and created.

Mr. Senez added that the report on Major Theodore Rockwood was prepared by Sabrina Juhasz. This was hardcore work that was done by all our students researching the information. We are teaching our students literacy in Social Studies and History. He thanked the graphic arts design students for their part with this project. The sign on Major Rockwood was presented to Mayor Ludwick during the town Memorial Day Celebration. This sign was shown to each Board member.

b. **Red, White and Blue School**

Mr. Senez added that we have been recognized from the Connecticut Department of Education and the Secretary of the State as a "Red, White, and Blue" school again. The project the grade eight students and EHS graphic arts students worked on was called "Hero from Our Neighborhood". This project was honored with distinction. This is the third year in a row that we have been recognized. At the awards ceremony, he has been asked by other districts how we did this. All our hard work is paying off. The plaque we received from the State of Connecticut will be displayed proudly at John F. Kennedy front hallway.

Mr. Neville congratulated the staff and students for their hard work. We are very proud of what you are doing by digging into the history of those that came before us. Mr. Neville asked where will the biographies be placed?

Mr. Senez stated they will be given to the Town Beautification Committee and they will work with the Town Engineer and Buildings and Grounds for placement in Enfield in the fall. Mrs. Gaskell is also a member of the Town Beautification Committee.

Mr. Regnier congratulated them for this worthwhile project. He asked the students during your research, are any of them are related to you, or where you live? The students said no.

Mr. Regnier stated this is an exciting project and could be future field trips for students. Congratulations on a great project.

Mrs. Riley stated you wrote this biography? She is extremely proud of you and all the students for participating in this project. This is a very professional report. This is something you would see at a national monument. She thanked the parents for your support. This is awesome.

Mrs. LeBlanc also congratulated the students. You are only in grade eight and are producing phenomenal work like this! You will all do great things in high school. The Enfield Press comes out weekly and they have a section about your town 100 years ago. Learning about the Civil War is important. You all did an amazing job presenting this information. Have a great summer and hopefully we will see you all before the Board again. Thank you.

Mr. Senez stated next year they will be studying World War I.

Mrs. Depeau asked how the students got involved in this project. Mr. Senez stated this was a project their class participated in.

Mrs. Depeau stated you all did such a wonderful job. This is high quality work. People will be reading these for years to come and will speak their names. This is beautiful. This research will stick with you for years to come. This is a very meaningful project. She thanked the students for the outstanding work they did.

Mrs. Hernandez thanked the students for preserving this history for our Civil War heroes. You all did a wonderful job. The signs show the phenomenal research. She is proud of how you are using your education by researching and writing these biographies. This is amazing.

Chairman Kruzel thanked them all. He asked the students to come to the front of the dioses for a picture.

Mr. Longey took a picture of the students and will post this on twitter. Board members gave the students around of applause and thanked them for coming.

Mr. Drezek added that this is the third-year Enfield has been recognized as a Red, White and Blue school. He does not believe there is any other school system that has been recognized as much as Enfield has. This is a testament to the quality work from Mr. Senez and Mrs. Burr for leading our Social Studies program. Thank you for everything you have done. No pressure for doing this again.

### **c. EHS Student Recognition**

Mr. Drezek welcomed members from the Enfield Ramblers. They are here to recognize a well deserving Enfield High School student.

Mr. Craig Pelkey, Greg Boswell, Becky Boswell and Amanda Pelkey presented a scholarship to Francis Crowley from the Enfield Ramblers Association. They are extremely proud of the countless hours Fran has devoted to the Enfield Ramblers players and coaches. His dedication and positive attitude has not gone unnoticed. They presented him with a \$300 scholarship and a letter of recommendation.

Board members congratulated Francis Crowley and his family.

Mr. Longey took a picture of Francis Crowley, Ramblers Association Representatives and family members to share on our twitter page.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated her family was part of the Ramblers with you and your family. She would announce the games and Fran was there helping in any way he was needed. He is always there to help and is very respectful. He is a wonderful young man and we are very proud of you. We will see you on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT 'S REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives - as presented
- b. Thank You Mount Carmel Society - as presented
- c. Early Release Days & Las Day of School - as presented
- d. EHS Graduation Ceremony - as presented
- e. June Events - as presented

Mr. Drezek gave the Board an update on the Stowe/Head Start project. The Town will add 100 additional parking spaces at the Stowe Early Learning Center (SELC). We will absorb the transportation costs for transporting students from ECDC providing the Town allocates funds for the parking improvements. They have also allocated funds to add air-conditioning in the gym at the SELC. We will use temporary air-conditioning in the gym for the start of school until the permanent units have been installed. We have identified storage space inside at SELC and are confident we will have adequate storage space for the entire building. We have identified additional space for student bathrooms and are working on the plans with Building and Grounds.

Mr. Drezek reported that Mr. Dague has been working as our general contractor for this plan. We discuss the Head Start project daily. Any changes or modifications need to be approved by the building department. Before we get any final costs, the plans need to be finalized by the Town and Fire Marshall. As soon as we have them, we will share them with the Board. He does not see anything that should delay the projects. Mr. Dague will attend an upcoming meeting to give the Board an update. We will arrange for tours at Head Start and SELC. These events will be open to the public. He knows parents want to see where their children will be going. We will also arrange for open houses at both sites.

Mr. Drezek reported that currently only a portion of the Head Start students are receiving transportation to school. We are working with Smyth Bus to provide all our PK students at the SELC to receive transportation to/from school. We might need to modify the start times to accommodate this. He will keep the Board posted any additional developments.

Mr. Drezek reported that we currently have 8 confirmed students that will attend the Eagle Academy in the fall.

Mrs. Hernandez asked about the transportation for the PK students at SELC. Mr. Drezek stated we are working on a plan to provide transportation for this fall for all PK students going forward.

Mr. Regnier asked if the students attending the Eagle Academy are Enfield students. Mr. Drezek stated that is correct.

Mr. Regnier stated all preschool students would receive transportation. What about the ECDC preschool students? Mr. Drezek stated that is a separate program. Parents would need to drop their children off at ECDC.

## **8. AUDIENCES - None**

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Regnier wished the students a happy few final days of school. He encouraged students to avoid the summer slump. Be happy, safe and get your summer reading done. He thanked the teachers for another great year. He wished any administrators or staff that are leaving a happy retirement and thank you for

your service. Mr. Regnier also welcomed any new staff.

Mr. Regnier thanked Mr. Drezek for addressing the costs and plans at SELC. He also thanked you about the tours. All the head start current classrooms have bathrooms. This helps when it comes to toilet training. He appreciates you adding additional bathrooms at SELC. He would like to see a similar plan for smaller toilets and sinks at SELC. This will all work out. Having Head Start at the SELC will have multiple benefits.

Mrs. Depeau stated the last Enfield Street PTO meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. Enfield Street parents are welcome to attend.

Mrs. Depeau asked if the Head Start calendar needs to be approved like our EPS school calendar concerning any changes. Chairman Kruzal stated we approve the district calendar. The times are listed on the right side of the calendar.

Mr. Drezek stated Head Start sets their own calendar for their programs based on their guidelines. The Board does not need to approve their changes. They can adjust their calendar as needed.

Mrs. Depeau stated the Head Start end date can be different than the EPS date. Mr. Drezek stated that is possibility.

Mrs. Depeau thanked the parents and staff. She also thanked Mr. Drezek for the update on the SELC accommodating Head State.

Mrs. Depeau stated she is concerned by what the Town Manager said at the Town Council meeting referring all questions to the Board. Mr. Drezek's update has informed us that the details are not finalized yet. Communication on both the Town Council and Board of Education sides need to be clear and accurate before you refer all public questions to the Board.

Mr. Rutledge congratulated the graduates and students in the district. He wished everyone a safe and healthy summer.

Mr. Rutledge continues to see reports on Facebook about drivers passing school buses. There are cameras on some of the busses. Are you really in that much of a rush! You do not want to injure someone. When a bus is stopped, don't put our children in jeopardy.

Mrs. Depeau asked if Smyth Bus is placing cameras on any new future vehicles they purchase. Mr. Drezek stated we are working with Smyth bus. He will give the Board an update on this at the next meeting.

Mrs. Riley stated that Henry Barnard will hold their end of year picnic on June 13<sup>th</sup> outside from 6-7:30 PM. Please join us and have fun.

Mrs. Riley stated we held the First Readers Ceremony where we certified 231 readers. The Police Chief and Deputy Chief did a great job. She also thanked all the volunteers that helped us that night. It was a great night.

Mrs. Riley attended the Pre-K STEAM Academy Moving Up Ceremony at EHS. It was a wonderful evening, and everyone had a great time.

Mrs. Riley urged everyone to have a great summer. She reminded everyone driving cars to slow down and to be aware of children playing outside.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Rutledge and Mrs. Depeau for their comments about bus cameras.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated it has been a busy time at EHS. They held the prom, senior class picnic and class night for seniors. Finals started and graduation practice has started. She wished that both Matt and Jacqueline could have been here tonight. They have been great student representatives and will move on

to great things.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished everyone a safe summer.

Mrs. Hernandez stated she has a hard time communicating and expressing herself. She was elected to the Board of Education for her voice to be heard. She has many questions about Head Start that have not been addressed. She is the Head Start Liaison and Head Start is very important to her. She wanted to meet to discuss moving Head Start to express her concerns, but this did not happen. She is a member of this team and expects to be heard. Not all the Head Start parents are supporting this move. She has some serious concerns regarding Head Start policies and guidelines not be followed. She added that this move feels very rushed.

Mrs. Hernandez is a huge fan of the disability community. The Eagle Academy was presented to the Board. We have fought against seclusion of our Special Education population. She asked for a focus group to be part of this and create a positive disability culture. We hold focus groups when hiring principals but not for the SPED population. We need to ask them what they are looking for. She added after a while this wears you down. Our focus is on our students and we want what is best for them. We need to stop and remember this. Don't tell me this was a choice because it never was. We still do not know enough about this.

Mr. Neville was extremely pleased with the JFK History Project. This just one of the many things going on in our schools. This makes us all very proud. He is glad the Superintendent is bringing this to us. He is proud of the education we are providing our students

Mr. Neville is pleased to receive an update on the SELC. We want to receive correct information about this project and not misinformation.

Mr. Neville stated graduation is coming again. We are very proud of our graduates. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and want you to come back to Enfield.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will hold their end of year assembly on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM outside weather permitting. We will hold the Grade 5 moving up ceremony at 1:15 PM.

Mr. Ryder publicly thanked Buildings and Grounds, Mark Gahr, Bill Maynard, Mary Keller and

Don Nunes for the new playscape at Hazardville Memorial. This is something we have been working on for many years. He also thanked Mrs. Mazzolli, Mr. Graham, and Mrs. Hunter for their patience while we worked to get the playscape at Memorial. He will also be leaving the Memorial PTO after 6 years. He thanked all the students and teachers he has worked with over the past few years. He will be moving on to the JFK PTO next year. He appreciates the Memorial family for welcoming him. Enjoy the playscape.

Mr. Ryder wished everyone a happy summer and we will see you on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Depeau added the Mrs. Hernandez has her full support for her comments and her bravery. You are speaking your truth and it is important. The message of inclusion and support is important. We need to take what you said in consideration.

Mrs. Depeau asked if we can get an extra bike rack at Enfield Street. They have a good population of students that ride bikes to school. She would like someone to look into this with Mr. Lord.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated scouts have done bike racks as a project. They might be able to assist us.

Mr. Neville stated there might be some bike racks that are not being used at the schools that could be moved to ESS.

Chairman Kruzel stated it has been a trying year. We started off the school year with a tragedy. We have implemented new programs and have worked with our staff. We should have faith in our staff. He knows they have our students in their best interests in mind.

Chairman Kruzal congratulated the 2019 graduates. They will walk across the stage on Tuesday. They have worked hard over the past 12 years to get to this point.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**a. Discussion and Action if any, regarding Adopting the FY201 9-20 Budget**

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mrs. Depeau that the Enfield Board of Education adopts a Budget for FY2019-20 \$71,691,866 which represents a .056% or \$401,741 increase of the current fiscal year.

Mrs. Riley also noted the Town Council has appropriated a budget of \$71,290,125 and will put forth a resolution for July 1, 2019 to increase our budget by \$401,741 bringing our budget total to \$71,691,866 or a .056% increase.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Regnier stated other Boards and Commissions are not liable for the budget. We are liable and can be held liable for this amount. He hopes the Town Council follows through on this. We will be affected by the State not them.

Mr. Drezek stated that he has spoken to Town Manager and the Finance Director again today. The State budget has not been finalized. Through the MBR calculation and with the additional \$400K, they will adopt our budget as a flat number. Legally, the Town is required to give us these funds. The information Mrs. Riley read is the information we received from the Finance Department today and they will put forth a resolution regarding this. There is also some talk that the number may be higher than \$401K. The \$401K is guaranteed by the MBR calculations. This is the number the Board needs to adopt tonight.

Chairman Kruzal stated the process is backwards. We prepare our budget, the town prepares their budget and then the State does their budget.

Mr. Regnier stated when they come after me for the cash, they will not take that into consideration.

Chairman Kruzal stated the Town Budget has been approved.

Mr. Drezek stated the additional \$401K must be appropriated by the Board. This is required by the State of Connecticut. This is the MBR requirement. If the funding was not transferred to the Board by the Town, the Town would be in violation of the MBR. It is the Board's decision to adopt the budget.

Mr. Regnier stated the State will hold us accountable. If the Town does not make true on this, he asked if we have a fund balance to cover .056%.

Chairman Kruzal stated we do not have a fund balance.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated are you referring to the 1% carryover. Mr. Drezek stated the 1% carryover is already included in the figure.

Mrs. Depeau stated if we approve the budget without the \$401K are we allowed to receive this money subsequently?

Mr. Drezek stated we need to report to the State that we have received the funds from the Town. We need to set the budget so Pat West can put the money into each account for the next fiscal year. If the motion does not pass on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Board would need to make necessary fiscal adjustments to their budget to cut down expenses.

Mrs. Depeau stated we would automatically leave ourselves with a budget hole. We would need to find a way to close the gap.

Mr. Drezek stated it would be no different if there was an unexpected expense came up. The year of the Kiln we needed to come up with an additional \$300K. We would need to find the money somewhere else.

The budget process with the Town Council has been very transparent. He has no reason to suspect we will not receive this money.

Mr. Neville added this is no different than what we do when we need to tighten our belts during the second half of the year to make up any needed differences. They are obligated to give us this.

Mr. Drezek added the Board must have an adopted budget by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Riley stated the correct amount needed is **.56%** not .056%

Chairman Kruzal stated everything that comes from Hartford is backwards.

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

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Approve 2019-20 Family Resource Center Grant**

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2019-20 Family Resource Center Grant as presented.

#### **Discussion :**

Mrs. Depeau thanked Amy Morales for all her hard work.

Mr. Regnier added thanked her for your patience waiting.

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

### **b. Approve the 2019-20 Healthy Food Certification**

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge to approve the 2019-20 Healthy Food Certification as presented.

#### **Discussion :**

Chairman Kruzal stated this is something we do every year and chose not to certify.

Mr. Regnier asked about the food choices at the primary schools. They offer pretzels and mozzarella sticks as meal choices. He son is coming home very hungry.

Mrs. Depeau asked how often we review or evaluate the dietary food menus? What is considered healthy? Other district's menus vary greatly compared to ours.

Mrs. Riley stated at the Finance Committee meetings we discuss nutrition. The nutrition services department review yearly the Federal Guidelines for healthy and nutritious meals. They need to comply in order to receive funding.

Mrs. Depeau understands that but feels we can do better.

#### **Point of Information :**

Mr. Neville stated we have a motion on the floor. This discussion is fine, but it is not related to the motion.

Mrs. Depeau wanted to see how much we are vested when it comes to healthy food. She was looking for clarification.

Mr. Neville stated this is one of those things that if you vote for it, you are restricting your school from a lot of things we normally do. This includes selling food items at sporting games and sports drinks.

Mrs. Depeau understands what you are saying. She needs a confident understanding that even if we vote against this, we are doing our due diligence regarding serving our students a healthy balanced lunch.

Chairman Kruzel stated if we choose to certify, we will restrict ourselves from serving any food at concession stands and a lot of food in the cafeteria.

Mrs. LeBlanc added this is a Finance Committee discussion item.

Mrs. Depeau just wanted a discussion on this item. It has not been done during her two years on the Board.

Mr. Neville added this can be addressed as a separate line item at a future Finance Committee meeting.

A vote by **roll-call 0-8-1** passed to not certify with Mr. Hernandez abstaining.

**c. Discussion and Action if any, regarding the June 25, 2019 Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Chairman Kruzel stated we do not see the need to hold the June 25, 2019 meeting. If a need occurs, we can hold a special meeting.

Mrs. Depeau moved, seconded by Mr. Neville to cancel the June 25, 2019 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

A vote by **roll-call 7-1-1** passed with Chairman Kruzel in dissent and Mrs. Riley abstaining.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee cancelled the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and will meet next on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Riley reported the Finance, Budget Committee meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled for the Business Office to close out the year. We will meet next on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Policy Committee will meet on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 PM at Alcorn.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

f. JFK Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the JFK Building committee will meet on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. We will short list the CMR. We will hold interviews on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>.

g. Joint Security Committee

Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM.

h. Any Other Committees -

Mrs. LeBlanc reported the Joint Insurance Committee will meet on June 4<sup>th</sup> and we have a new consultant actuary liaison with Cigna. We discussed stop/loss insurance and building our relationship. Our next meeting will be held in October.

**13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Riley moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2019 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL** - None

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. We received our EHS Graduation Invitations;
- b. Mrs. LeBlanc gave the Board an update on the Spring 2019 Athletic Recognition prepared by Cory O'Connell our Director of Athletics. The spring athletes were unable to attend tonight's meeting because the coaches and athletes were attending the CCC Spring Awards Banquet.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley to adjourn the Regular Meeting of June 11, 2019.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary