

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 22, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on March 22, 2022.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** : The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Madam Chair LeBlanc.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE** : Jonathan LeBlanc
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** : Jonathan LeBlanc
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT** :
5. **ROLL CALL** :

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Jonathan LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire (remote) and Tina LeBlanc

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **EPS Kid Mayor**

Madam Chair LeBlanc welcomed Mini Mayor Chloe Clark to the meeting.

Kid Mayor Clark stated she is here to discuss Kindness Day for Enfield Public Schools which will be held on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. She would like this day where adults and students show kindness to each other. You can compliment each other or tell them they are doing a good job. This is an important day because we want people to know you can represent the good in the world. Thank you for this opportunity to talk tonight. She is looking forward to Kindness Day in Enfield.

Mr. Hamre asked Mayor Chloe to repeat the date one more time. Mayor Chloe stated Kindness Day is on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Hamre added what you are doing is awesome.

Mr. Ryder asked Mayor Chloe what else is happening on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Chloe stated it is also her birthday. Mr. Ryder wished her a happy early birthday. He is glad that both you and Mrs. Dennis were able to come to tonight's Board meeting.

Madam Chair also wished Chloe a happy birthday and for coming back to talk about Kindness Day.

b. **EHS Students**

Mr. Drezek stated there were a couple of adjustments made to our agenda. The EHS students were unable to attend but they will be putting something together for the Board that will be forthcoming. We were able to add our other special guest to the agenda Mayor Chloe.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT 'S REPORT**

a. **EPS Update** as presented

Mr. Drezek stated as it stands, our last day of school is Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Drezek gave an update about the progress that has been made at John F. Kennedy Middle school. He also mentioned this is Board member appreciation month but unfortunately, he left your gift at Central Office. You will receive this later. There is a theme to go along with our brand new JFK building that we will be opening up in September. As you are all aware with renovations, we need to be flexible when it comes to scheduling. They will be working on the last wing of the project starting on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. We will need to call for a half day without lunch for JFK students since they will be working on the Administration wing. It is our plan when students return on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> we will be ready to go as planned. He asked for continued patience from parents while staff are temporarily relocated while this space is being renovated. We will be notifying parents about this half day without lunch. We will keep you posted during the vacation week if any delays occur.

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Madam Chair stated we have a lot of people that would like to speak tonight. She read a prepared statement about expectations for audience participation. We will continue to utilize a 4-minute time limit for audience participation tonight.

Danielle Girard, Edgewood Drive - Mrs. Girard spoke about ERfC and the Circle of Security Program and how much it has helped her family. The skills they have taught us how to deal with our child's needs is amazing. Her child attends STOWE and she cannot say enough about how great the staff, administration, teachers and the program they offer. They have all given us such support. Dr. Calnen spoke about the Circle of Security Program and the possibility of a pilot program in our schools. This would be an amazing program to help and support parents. This program allows you to grow with your child. As said by Mrs. Pickett, this program helps not only the child but the entire family. It really does take a village. Thank you.

Kelly Katilus, Putnam Drive - Mrs. Katilus spoke about hatred and how it affects everyone. Hate is in this room. This is what our children are hearing. No child should hear this. We are here for our kids. We have forgotten this and need to argue less. If a mistake is made, we should build ourselves back up. We all need to come together. We need to support each other and teach kindness. Our kids will know that kindness wins every time. Show love and not hate. Words do not need to be ugly to hurt someone. She thanked our teachers and staff for what you are doing.

Matt Schmitt, Bigelow Commons - Mr. Schmitt stated it has been a month since the pizza assignment was discussed. He is looking forward to Mr. Unghire's presentation about the special committee tonight. No one wants someone looking over their shoulder. This committee will be positive and will have many benefits. This will also give the community what we are looking for. We are all looking for the best interest of our children. He hopes the Board can move forward with this committee and embrace it. Thank you.

Amanda Marquez, Hoover Lane - Mrs. Marquez stated she has been coming here for the past 7 months. She has 3 children. Covid has given her an inside look into education and what is being taught to our children. It has also given her insight to questionable assignments. Why hasn't this been addressed? This is unacceptable. Masking brought her here initially. She is questioning these assignments. She has removed her children from EPS. We have lost trust in the administration. What is the point of public comments if you are not going to take the initiative to address our questions? She looks forward to the committee Mr. Unghire is proposing. Leadership needs to show honesty and transparency that will foster positive relationships with parents. Addressing curriculum concerns should be a priority. We need the Board leadership to be part of the solution and not the problem.

Ryan Schuetz, Church Street - Mr. Schuetz stated he is here about the pizza assignment. You are supposed to have the best interest of the student in mind. Sorry it was a mistake is not an acceptable answer. He is also looking forward to Mr. Unghire's committee presentation. These assignments are questionable. We want a safe learning environment for our children. This committee will show us you are here for the kids. Masks don't work. We will not be silenced. Let's come together and put the best interest of the kids first. We need to do what is best for our children.

Sophia Arel, Weymouth School Road - Mrs. Arel stated she has been Facebook contacted by someone that also attended the last Board meeting. She was accused of hating gay people and shared documents

about her children and called her a drug addict. Don't attack me personally and behave this way. She has 3 children in the Enfield Public Schools. She is celebrating 10 proud years of being of being in recovery from drugs and alcohol. Just because we do not agree on something, we should not behave this way. Bullying is unacceptable for children and adults. She has been attending these meetings since August. Acknowledging bad behavior should apply to everyone. She emailed Madam Chair about what she received but has not received a response. She would rather lead by love than animosity and be given the same respect as we move forward

Tracey Jarvis, North Maple Street - Mrs. Jarvis has empathy for all of you. You have all received such negativity over the pizza assignment. She hopes you can show adversity. Your trust has been breached and the division has gone to far. Show that we can meet in the middle. Your leadership can restore this community. She wants healing, unity to our diverse community. She appreciates Madam chair speaking about building bridges. This is a great start and is needed. You are here because we believed in you and your leadership. She also looks forward to Enfield's Kindness Day. Thank you.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road - Mrs. Griffin stated she has a child where the pizza assignment was given, and it is being grossly misrepresented to push a political agenda. That is micromanaging of our staff, and it is an inappropriate agenda. Let the people we hired do the work they were hired to do. She is here to support the teachers and administration. She is here to challenge you to make our schools better. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of our students but cannot meet the needs of all students. We need to recognize the needs of our special needs students. We have many programs that highlight the quality education we are providing our students. She has seen what amazing work our staff does for students with disabilities. We have many creative and dedicated professionals that can drive our school to a level of greatness. Encourage collaboration within our schools and be creative to develop their talents. Policies are meant to be guideposts and not straightjackets. The district will work with you to meet your child needs to succeed. Let them do their job and do not micromanage them. Thank you.

Ryan Moore, Ryefield Drive - Mr. Moore stated parents have been coming for meaningful conversations with the Board. He never thought these conversations would be ignored. Many parents are homeschooling their children or have moved out of Enfield. EPS scores have fallen in math, science and English. We have closed several schools in Enfield. The curriculum is distracting to our children. He wished he could send his children to the schools he is paying into. Our schools are failing and are not serving their needs. These issues must be addressed. The pizza assignment is another symptom of the problems. He thanked Mr. Unghire for the new committee he is proposing and for the chair for being interested. You have policies in place to start this new beginning. He hopes you seize this opportunity that is badly needed. Thank you.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street - Mrs. Davis spoke about audience members videotaping people and placing it on a YouTube. You keep coming here and talking about the EPS education when it doesn't apply to you. You are still taking about the pizza assignment. If your children received this assignment, they were given instruction about what was done to prevent this from happening again. Why do we need to keep explaining our education system to you or what we are doing? Parents have thanked the teachers and the Enfield Public school System for everything they have been doing and how they removed the assignment. It is the same group of people that keep on throwing hate and spreading false facts. It was a mistake. Let us know if your child was personally affected by this and she will be right there fighting with you. It was an accident, and it was retracted immediately. You are tormenting our educators over this. We know our teachers and staff are doing the best they can. Our staff are licensed educators. If you want to be an educator, get the license and do the work and become a teacher. Our teachers are doing an amazing job. She thanked our superintendent and central office staff. She publicly coined Superintendent Drezek for the outstanding job you are doing. We have great leaders in Enfield. Our superintendent does not get bullied or pushed around. He has put everything on the line for our children and teachers. You need to have his back. We need him more than ever. He is here for our kids. This is public education, and we should be adding diversity to our curriculum. The pizza assignment that went out, you need to sign a consent form in order for your child to participate in the class. Thank you, Mr. Drezek and your staff, for what you are doing.

Marci Taliceo, Coolidge Drive - Mrs. Taliceo stated you have been taking this beating for a while now. You are all doing a great job. Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey you have both been very helpful. You are assessable and responsible and that is wonder leadership qualities. We have a bigger problem with

bullying. She has seen this happening and it is happening in our schools. We have a safe school climate committee, and she would like to know more about this committee and how they investigate bullying complaints. We have bigger issues we need to address than Mr. Unghire's parent advisory group. You are concerned with one assignment out of how many in our district. She has never heard of a child contemplating suicide over a pizza assignment, but they have over being bullied or cyberbullied. We need to prioritize where we are putting our attention. Thank you.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Unghire congratulated our Kid Mayor Chloe for bringing us Kindness Day. This is a great idea, thank you. He hopes everyone will participate on the March 31<sup>st</sup> Kindness Day.

Mr. Unghire attended the JFK Invention Convention. It was amazing. There were so many creative and inventive inventions. Mr. Dague and his team did a great job. He saw Mrs. Pickett and her daughter there. There were a majority of young ladies that participated at the convention with their inventions. He was encouraged to see this and encouraged them to keep it up. Everyone did a great job.

Mr. Unghire thanked everyone for speaking tonight.

Mr. Unghire presented his proposal for the Board formation of a special task force. He reviewed the reasons for the task force; the method for determining root cause; the 8D method for determining root cause and for the formation of a Parent/Community/EPS Advisory Council. He feels it is prudent for the Board to initiate the formation of a task force specific to Pizza Consent. Something is wrong and it needs to be fixed. We as a Board and community need to fully understand how this happens and we cannot afford another mistake at the expense of our EPS students.

Mr. Unghire added it was said tonight that we have a great opportunity to demonstrate leadership and responsibility to our community. We should form this committee and put safeguards in place by being proactive. We can start something positive in our community. He will not make a motion tonight. He will send this presentation to each Board member tonight.

Mrs. Acree congratulated our Kid Mayor Cloe Clark and for her idea of Kindness Day on March 31<sup>st</sup>. We can all use a little kindness. Thank you for this special day.

Mrs. Acree stated Prudence Crandall has the Enfield Food Shelf Boat and students can bring in non-perishable items. They have brought in so much food that two trucks have taken away the donated food items. The students are working towards a fun incentive for participating in this event. The students will celebrate March madness spirit week next week. Each day has a different theme for the students. They will also hold a PTO Book fair for the students at Prudence Crandall and Henry Barnard in the spring at a date to be determined.

Mrs. Acree stated that Prudence Crandall is extremely proud of our Kid Mayor Chloe. They are excited to participate in the Kindness Day initiative next week.

Mrs. Acree stated she is also looking forward to Mr. Unghire's task force presentation. She feels it is important to make sure that future lessons that are presented at our schools and any lessons of a delicate nature are not introduced to our students before they are developmentally and emotionally ready to handle them. She also hopes the task force can address some additional concerns that are in our school system like bullying. Thank you.

Mrs. Cushman stated the Board has a gift that each of our schools will receive - a book by Joanna Gaines "The World Needs Who You Were Meant to Be." This book has a really good message in it. We will try to find something suitable for the middle school and high school students.

Mrs. Cushman also supports the task force and looks forward to collaborating to address questions about the consent assignments. Parents are stakeholders in our education system. We need to provide accurate timely information about the curriculum especially when it relates to sensitive and controversial topics. This task force will lead us towards transparency and help build unity and trust in our community.

Mrs. Cushman added seeing the assignment and even if our child weren't in that class and seeing what is available is something that many have concerns and to make sure what could happen or could your child be exposed to. There is concern about the what if's.

Mrs. Cushman asked about the consent assignment, it was mentioned that it is part of the Healthy and Balanced Curriculum Frameworks. She read this online and read the CT General Statutes that is raising some questions about what is required. Health and Safety is identified as prescribed course of study. Does family life fall under this?

Mr. Drezek asked Mrs. Cushman to send him her question and he will look into it. He is not a lawyer and when you start quoting statutes.

Mrs. Cushman stated the statute talks about what school districts are prescribing to offer. They list health and safety as one of them. There is a lot of valuable information about family life that is not mandatory like sex education. She is questioning if the consent is a requirement, and can the district be more deliberate about what we are allowing to be included in family life program. She would like to send that to Madam Chair to share with Ms. Middleton.

Mr. LeBlanc congratulated all the boys that were notified last night who were selected to be part of the Enfield High School Baseball team. He wishes them good luck as they head down to New Jersey. He also wished all of the spring sports season teams members good luck.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about transportation for the JFK middle school athletic teams. Have we exhausted all options for transportation for them?

Mr. Drezek stated we are still looking into this. We are trying to secure transportation for the students at JFK. This continues to be a struggle while JFK sports have been moved to the Annex during the ongoing construction. Our athletic director is doing everything he can to secure transportation for our student athletes. He will follow up on this and will get back to the Board.

Mr. Hamre congratulated Mayor Chloe. You have given such us such a great example to follow at such a young age. You are leading by example for others to follow. Thank you.

Dr. Calnen also thanked Mayor Chloe. Your concept for Kindness Day is quite profound.

Dr. Calnen stated Enfield Kite and the School Readiness Council will be looking at applications from early childhood programs for quality improvement grants through the office of early childhood. The council has also chosen three parents that will participate in Kite meetings. A workshop for early childhood education with Peg Oliveira was held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. They held another workshop with Peg Oliveira on March 14<sup>th</sup> and one will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Calnen stated Kite and EPS are working on a transition to kindergarten packet that will be given out on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 AM and 5:00-7:00 PM at Alcorn. The Transition to Kindergarten program will be presented on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and can be viewed online until Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. On April 20<sup>th</sup> parents can participate in a Q&A night about the schools their children will attend.

Dr. Calnen stated Kite held another 2Gen meeting last week. There was an article in the Journal Inquirer about funding for childcare and early education funding. Several large companies are in favor of a bill that would provide \$700 million dollars to support early childcare and education such as the STOWE Early Learning Center. This makes good business sense. These businesses have joined forces with early childhood providers looking for financial assistance. This is a good time for Enfield government to step-up to the plate by participating in 2Gen meetings and activities.

Dr. Calnen stated the Stowe Early Learning Center is accepting applications for Head Start, Integrated Pre-K and PK Steam Academy by going to the Enfield Public Schools website and clicking on the Stowe Early Learning Center PreK Application at [www.enfieldschools.org](http://www.enfieldschools.org). If your child is in Head Start and will be aging out, no application is needed if they will be continuing at Stowe.

Dr. Calnen stated the Enfield Women's Club of Enfield will sponsor the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Arts Festival on April

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at Enfield High School Cafeteria. You can view student's artwork from grades PK-12. This is the first year PK students will be included in the festival. This is a great step forward.

Dr. Calnen reminded everyone that PK students are still required to wear masks until further notice.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Drezek for his superintendent's report. You are very humble and kind, but you need to really brag more. There are so many great things that are happening in our district. She wished she could see a power point presentation on this. This community is full of people that care. She has seen firsthand how we are doing many things correctly. Now we just need to heal and come together.

Mrs. Pickett stated it is Board appreciation month. She thanked Madam Chair for your leadership and commitment to the students and families and staff members. She also thanked her fellow Board members for your commitment to our town.

Mrs. Pickett stated there is a lot happening with summer programming. The Town will have their Tons of Fun camp, ERfC camp information is also available. Look for these flyers. She is hoping we can hear more about Enfield Public Schools summer programming plans at our next meeting. She is hoping to see a collaborative approach with these partners and to offer more flexible full time low costs or free options for families. She would like all of this information to be posted in one place for families to view.

Mrs. Pickett would also like to hear more about the strategic plan process moving forward. She would like to include students, families and staff input for funding and other state initiatives.

Mrs. Pickett thanked our mini mayor. She is looking forward to March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mrs. Pickett encourages everyone to complete the school facilities conservation plan and development survey. There is a blank section for you to add your own ideas or concerns. She is personally concerned with some of our school parking areas and the need for bus safety sidewalks and the drop off areas. We actually had a fire alarm at Enfield Street School where a police officer was helping with the traffic due to an emergency. She wished he was there every day because it is a nightmare trying to exit or enter at Enfield Street School.

Mrs. Pickett reached out to Town Manager Zoppo, and she is excited to hear more about joint discussions with the Town Council members about priorities.

Mrs. Pickett stated the Transition to Kindergarten applies to her this year. She has a child that will be attending Kindergarten in the fall. She is hoping there will be some kind of in person event for families. She has only been inside of her child's school 2 times since he started school and her husband has never been inside the school. She felt more connected during hybrid learning. She is hoping to see more in person events happening at the schools for families.

Mrs. Pickett stated she also attended the Invention Convention. She enjoyed this event and thanked the students, staff and families that attended. Her daughter really enjoyed the auditorium at JFK.

Mrs. Pickett reminded parents to read the newsletters that the principal's send out. You will find important updates and information in the newsletters. There is a new addition on the elementary newsletters about iReady and how to use your child's iPads at home.

Mrs. Pickett stated Enfield Street School PTO is planning a walk-a-thon. You can also help them raise funds with box tops. They will also hold a read-a-thon. They also held a paint night and her daughter's teacher will be at Hartford Public Library on March 30<sup>th</sup> for a blended event.

Mrs. Pickett stated it is the week of the young child during April 4-9<sup>th</sup>. The webinar with Peg Oliveira will have a QR Code you can scan to access the information if you are unable to attend.

Mrs. Pickett stated ERfC has openings for the vacation week and summer programs. You can go to [www.erfinc.org](http://www.erfinc.org) for additional information.

Mrs. Pickett addressed the task force presented by Mr. Unghire. She reached out to him about having a

parent advisory committee, but she did not hear anything. It is concerning that folks know more about this task force design than a Board member that reached out to you wanting to know more. To her this is more of a political move than trying to help out our schools. She has some questions. How we respond to mistakes or issues in the past, is this a typical response. We have many families, staff and residents that have come here with concerns, and we have not formed any task force to address their issues. She needs to better understand the purpose and what you are trying to find out. We know what happened and it is not a secret. We know the root cause of the assignment is a health sex education assignment that is linked to eight grade health standards and framework. They are the ones that Mrs. Cushman just mentioned about health education. We know that this is an opt-in class for families, and they have the option to not participate in. The superintendent has shared that it was a mistake. A staff mistake is a personnel issue which is not a function of the Board and is a conflict of our duties as Board members. She is not sure what we will be trying to find out with this task force.

Mrs. Pickett totally understands the need to understand the process for curriculum writing, approval, implementation of lessons and maybe this is something we can review in a committee or as a BOE presentation or in a more permanent advisory council. She does not believe we should be doing this just based on the pizza assignment.

Mrs. Pickett added that she will not be part of a political agenda that scrutinizes our teachers, assignments related to health and sex education, race, SEL or LGBTQ students and any other important initiatives. She supports a more permanent stakeholder advisory council with a defined purpose to connect learning to home and home to learning. This could be an opportunity to support transparency, awareness, decision making and educational equity work. EPS students, staff and families should be part of the process for setting goals for our district and action plans for priority items.

Mrs. Pickett stated it is very important how we support our staff and how we address parent concerns. She understands what it is like to sit at the table across from the Board. She was also met with the same silence. She wants people to understand that work is still going on every night. We are volunteers and do not get paid. We put a lot of time and effort into supporting our schools. We need to be supportive and find our strengths and help our schools, so we can make better gains.

Mr. Unghire stated he would like to make a comment. Madam Chair asked for Mr. Unghire to refrain from making a comment at this time. We need to think about what the next steps will be and have this conversation as a Board.

Mr. Ryder stated Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney will hold a spare change collection for the next two weeks. The money raised will benefit the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Connecticut Children's Superhero Day on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Students and staff will fill up classroom collection jars. Memorial's donations will be used to purchase superhero toys and items. Whitney's donations will be used to purchase superhero t-shirts and hats. Each school will celebrate on April 8<sup>th</sup> the funds they raised for Superhero Day by wearing their favorite superhero items.

Mr. Ryder stated Pi Day was a huge success. Students at Eli Whitney completed the 314 lessons. They actually completed over 1,000 lessons. All the staff received pie in the face. Pictures from this event can be found on [www.enfieldpto.com](http://www.enfieldpto.com).

Mr. Ryder stated Whitney will hold a spirit week the week before April Vacation week. We will hold an assembly on April 6 for grade 3 students. We will also collaborate with Enfield Loaves & Fishes in preparation for their grand opening at their new location on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be collecting personal care items.

Mr. Ryder stated April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day and we will be collecting recycled items. There will be a link on the website for this event.

Mr. Ryder stated PLA Tag Sale will be held in May. This will also be posted on the website.

Mr. Ryder stated Teacher Appreciation week is 5 weeks away. So if you would like to make a card or draw a picture or a project, you have 5 weeks to complete it. This is on May 2-6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ryder congratulated all the students that will have artwork being displayed at the Enfield Arts Festival on Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> from 7-9 PM and on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from noon to 3 PM.

Madam Chair congratulated Mayor Chloe. She will be at the middle school next year and she will find her niche there. She is very involved in the community, and she cannot wait to see what she does at JFK and EHS. There are so many clubs and activities for students to participate in. We can all learn from her.

Madam Chair received Mrs. Arel's e-mail and apologized for not responding. She was taken back by how your past was being used against you. She congratulated her on her 10 years of sobriety. At the end of the day, we are all parents and are trying to do what is best for our kids. You are a mother and a sister, and she appreciates you sharing this with us. People should be able to talk here freely without fearing what will be said about you. This has happened to other people in the past and should not happen. Thank you.

Madam Chair is looking forward to Kindness Day and doing something special on this day. She wished we had a Kindness Day every month.

Madam Chair stated with Mr. Unghire's presentation tonight, she needs to understand the process. The Board can form a subcommittee. She needs to understand what this will entail and if it is going to include staff, parents or if a resolution is needed. There are things we need to look at and discuss as far as the Board is concerned. There is a process we must follow.

Madam Chair stated this brings her to the other committee Youth Mental Health and Wellness. This committee has been in limbo with the Town. She does not want to wait anymore. We should form our own committee. Both Mrs. Acree and Dr. Calnen are our liaisons and they have asked about this committee repeatedly. We have received e-mails from staff about this committee and being on this committee. She believes this committee is being held up in bureaucracy with the Town. She does not want to wait to see what the town is going to do anymore. She would like to form our own committee and confer with our experts in our district that are working with our kids every day. This committee needs to be a Youth Mental Health Committee and the Town will allocate \$40K if it stays as a Youth Mental Health Committee. She would like to make sure if we form this committee, the funds will come to us. She would like to know what is happening with the \$40K that has been allocated to this committee. We need to move forward creating this committee.

Madam Chair added this is the perfect time to look into both of these committees. We will need to look into the logistics for forming committees. Both Mrs. Acree and Dr. Calnen would like to start this committee up as soon as possible.

Madam Chair stated our facilities seem to not be a priority. We started the Enfield High students Lacrosse and Track teams up and we are missing port-a-potties, or the bathrooms are locked. This needs to be a priority. We are hearing these concerns from the bus drivers and the parents about the back of Enfield Street School looks like and it is a safety concern. This is something we need to discuss on the Joint Facilities Committee and start making the schools a priority and not just the roofs. She would like this to be addressed due to safety concerns.

Madam Chair stated the Enfield Arts Festival theme is Upside Down. If you haven't had the opportunity to go, please do so. The student artwork is beautiful and amazing. You can see the progression of the student's work and look at their portfolios. They are breathtaking. We have so many talented students in Enfield. The arts are very important to us.

Madam Chair stated the Enfield Cultural Arts Committee needs us to appoint a Board member to this commission. We need to discuss this appointment also.

Mr. Drezek stated you can just appoint a Board member to be the liaison for this committee.

Mr. Hamre stated the ECAC is waiting for us to appoint someone.

Madam Chair thanked everyone for attending and for speaking tonight about your concerns and the Task Force. Thank you for your patience while we work out the process.



10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** : - None

11. **NEW BUSINESS** :

a. **Discussion and Action regarding the April 12, 2022 BOE Meeting**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the Enfield Board of Education cancel the April 12, 2022 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Ryder stated if the need arises, we can hold a special meeting if needed. Mr. Drezek stated we just need 24 hours to post the agenda.

Madam Chair stated there are some things we might want to discuss as a Board about committees.

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

b. **BOE Policy Adoption & Policy Revisions - First Reading**

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the first reading of BOE Policy Adoption and Policy Revisions as presented.

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Cushman asked about Policy #6172.6 Distance Education - Remote/Online Courses tuition.

Mr. Ryder stated the costs for this are in the school budget and we will continue to cover the associated costs with this policy for tuition for classes we do not offer. Do you know approximately how much we are looking at for tuition?

Mr. Drezek stated virtual learning varies based on participation. But it is around \$5-10K per year that we will budget for this.

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

12. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Curriculum - Mrs. Pickett reported the Curriculum Committee did not meet during March and our next meeting will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>. We will discuss TAG which is a nice starting point to some of the items addressed by Mrs. Griffin regarding student growth potential. We are looking to restructure TAG.

Finance - Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee will meet on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Policy - Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee met on March 15<sup>th</sup> and our next meeting will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Leadership - Madam Chair reported Leadership did not meet.

Joint Facility - Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facility Committee will meet on March 24<sup>th</sup> virtually. We received notice from the Town that they will be moving forward with the referendum that was passed in November. They are now soliciting bids for the roofs, and they will prioritize which ones will be done first. Fixing the roofs is a huge first step. There are other items we can address that were brought up tonight to the committee members attention on Thursday.

JFK Building - Mr. Ryder reported that JFK Building Committee members will meet on April 7<sup>th</sup>. They may hold a special meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>. They are about to work on the last wing at JFK. As mentioned by Mr. Drezek, there will be an early release day on April 8<sup>th</sup> for JFK students without lunch.

Joint Security - Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on June 1<sup>st</sup> .

Joint Insurance - Madam Chair reported she will reach out to Mr. Belinda about when the next Joint Insurance Committee will meet and will let Mrs. Acree know.

Youth Mental Health - Madam Chair reported we already discussed this committee.

**13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2022, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

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

**15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION**

Mr. LeBlanc stated the Town Clean Sweep program will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> . They are looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please show up on the Enfield Town Green at 10:30 AM.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the Boy Scouts will hold a pancake breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for K-2 students from 8-11 AM at St. Bernard's school gym.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education enter into Executive Session - Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Regarding Response to FOI Requests.

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

Both Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 8:55 PM.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

**Open Session :**

The Board returned to open session at 9:49 PM.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 22, 2022.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary