

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 23, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on March 23, 2021.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT : Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar, Janet Cushman, Tina LeBlanc, Joyce Hall, Stacy Thurston, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT : John Unghire

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

Chairman Kruzel stated that Mr. Unghire is away for business and is unable to attend the meeting tonight.

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)** - None
7. **SUPERINTENDENT 'S REPORT**
 - a. **Good Friday & April Vacation Week** - as presented

Chairman Kruzel reminded everyone that this Thursday, March 25th and April 1st will be remote days. Some of our teachers will receive their second doses of the vaccines on Wednesday, March 24th and on March 31st.

8. AUDIENCES:

Amanda Pickett - Guild Street - Ms. Pickett thanked the nurses, leadership and Board for getting the staff vaccinated. She thanked Mr. Drezek for his open lines of communication. You are a leader that cares. The Board has stated they are taking necessary steps toward equity. She is going to keep you true to your words and wants to see your plans. She would like to know how the funding that Enfield will receive will be used and would like the plan to be transparent. We need a comprehensive long term plan. We need to know what you will plan for needed supports for our students. She added, it takes a village, and no one can do this alone. We have an opportunity to think outside of the box for our students and families and to support student success.

Kelly Jackson - Mead Lane - Ms. Jackson stated she attends the Enfield High Equity meetings. She expressed concerns about equity for children of color and what is being done when they address their concerns about racism with teachers. The policies on the website have not been updated in quite some time. She addressed her concerns with the Board about some of the comments they have made. She asked when will our students of color finally matter.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street - Ms. Davis thanked the administration for getting our kids back in the classrooms. The teachers were glad to have their students back in the classrooms. She thanked Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey for their true leadership. She has been attending Board meetings for 8 years and does not have a child of color. She would like to know what the Board is doing. She has been a voice for all children in Enfield. Our country has built on diversity. Please do something. When someone talks to the Board about racism, you should do something. You need to live by your motto. This is long overdue.

She urged the Board to get their priorities in order and end this now. Everyone should be treated as an equal. Thank you.

Schanell Hope-Jones, Spring Street - Mrs. Hope-Jones would like the Board to read "Making of a Slave" by Willy Lynch. His methodology still rings true. This is where we need to make the necessary changes. We have miseducation in our society. She believes the Enfield Board of Education Mission Statement needs to be revisited and it should be similar to what CREC is using and doing. What her child has gone through does not reflect the mission statement of the Board.

9. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS:

Mr. LeBlanc wished the spring sports teams all the best in the upcoming season. He thanked Mrs. Jackson for mentioning our policies. The new 5000 series policies the Board just adopted have not been posted on our website yet. He addressed audience member comments and he is proud of the way we are handling things. There is always room for improvement. Our high school equity team meets monthly. They are involved in everything. We have included equity criteria into our curriculum. He is proud of what we are doing, and he stands by what we are doing. He hears your concerns.

Mrs. Cushman stated we as a Board are unified with what we want for our children. We want them to have a place to learn and grow in a place that is safe. We want them to thrive educationally and physically. She is looking forward to our equity work. This is something we are looking forward to doing as a team so we can make improvements. She thanked audience members for addressing the Board and for holding us accountable.

Mr. Salazar stated we cannot engage in dialogue with the audience. There are matters that we are legally bound not to discuss certain issues at these meetings. He invites you to contact him or meet with him as an individual. He welcomes the opportunity to meet with you as an individual. You are here to judge our actions and that is okay. We thank you for your participation and for bringing issues directly to us. Please note that he is listening to you.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she has heard what the teachers and bus drivers have said about having the students come back on social media. They were all very excited to have the students back. It seems like it was so long ago that we went out. It was so heartwarming reading their comments and how much they missed the students and how much the students missed each other.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she will be reading a bedtime story for Prudence Crandall at 7:00 PM tomorrow. EHS Safe Grad will hold a Virtual Purse Bingo on March 27th. They can send you a link for this event. They have 50 baskets for you to bid on. This bingo will be held virtually, and tickets are \$30 and \$10 for extra bingo books.

Mrs. LeBlanc is so excited that she will receive her vaccine tomorrow.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked the audience members for attending tonight and for speaking. She is continually learning and educating herself. This helps her to be a better Board member. She is looking forward to our CABE equity meeting. It is not easy to sit here. We are listening to what you are saying.

Mrs. Hall stated she does not have any committee reports to give but she does have some comments.

Mrs. Hall does not approve of holding high stakes tests for students from now until the end of the year. Due to everything our students have endured this year, she does not feel these tests should be done. She has been told the tests will not be counted as much as they have been in the past.

Mrs. Hall commented about March Madness and how the woman's NCAA basketball does not receive their equal share of money received. This concerns her.

Mrs. Hall expressed her concern about the number of parents that have addressed the Board about equity for all. She thanked the audience members for attending the Board meeting.

Mr. Ryder stated since our last meeting, he read to the Prudence Crandall families last week and he pre-recorded readings for Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney for literacy week.

Mr. Ryder is also looking forward to our meeting with CAFE for our equity training.

Mr. Ryder stated this year, we will hold virtually our Transition to Kindergarten on April 22nd. You can find information about this on the Enfield Public Schools, KITE and EnfieldPTO.com websites.

Mr. Ryder stated Hazardville Memorial will hold a Mad Science Assembly event in conjunction with Eli Whitney on March 29th. Memorial will hold a PTO meeting on April 7th and an assembly on April 8th. Progress reports will be distributed on April 30th and May 3rd.

Mr. Ryder asked about Miguel Cardona who is now the United States Education Commissioner about Public Act 1912 and how high schools can begin offering courses in Black and Latino History Studies in the fall or wait a year to implement it. He would like to know when we will start doing this. Will it be in the Fall or the following year. He would like to receive this information at the next Curriculum meeting.

Mrs. Hall stated this will be implemented in the following year.

Chairman Kruzel wished everyone a happy Good Friday. He also wished everyone a nice vacation week. He urged you to unplug and go outside. He welcomed all the students back on April 19th.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the reason we will do this the following school year when it is required instead of during the fall of 2021, is so we can see what pilots' the other districts will be offering and possibly try to upgrade ours more. It will give us a better feel.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS : None

11. NEW BUSINESS :

a. Approve Carl D. Perkins Supplemental Grant

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Carl D. Perkins Supplemental Grant as presented.

Discussion :

Mrs. Hall stated this is an application for a grant. She does not believe the documentation we received indicated this. She would love to see us apply for this application. This is an attempt to bring women into areas of Engineering, Manufacturing, Design/Preconstruction and Automotive. This will give them an opportunity to learn about the subjects they might not have had and encourage parents to support them in these areas for potential careers. Many parents do not want their children to go into manufacturing. They may be non-traditional careers, but woman should not be kept out of these potential job fields.

Mr. LeBlanc stated Mrs. Hall is correct. In order to apply for this grant, it needs to be read into the minutes. This is the reason it is on the agenda.

Mr. Longey added the minutes will be included with the packet when we apply for this grant.

Mr. LeBlanc stated some of the ways we will implement these strategies and materials is to engage and recruit students in underrepresented populations includes existing advisor stipends to continue the student and parent programming in future years. Having an afterschool program where parents and students can go to after school to collaboratively work on projects in these fields. We will also utilize grant funded tools and equipment in future years. Modify department supply requests to sustain the program in future years and expand opportunities to other special populations. This is a starting point. The minutes will be added to the application and we will apply for this grant. If we are awarded this grant, we can

continue to grow this program in future years.

Mr. Salazar stated this focuses on two underrepresented areas - females and English language learners. The programs were defined by the district and they are not mandated as part of the grant. The district took the initiative and he commended them for doing this.

A vote by **Roll-Call 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

b. Discussion & Action if any regarding the April 13, 2021 regular BOE meeting

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education cancel the April 13, 2021 regular BOE meeting.

Discussion :

Mr. LeBlanc expressed his concern with cancelling the April 13th BOE meeting. He feels a lot can happen between now and the next time the Board meets. Both JFK and EHS students will return on April 19th. We have a lot going on and our next meeting will be held on April 27th if we cancel the April 13th meeting

Chairman Kruzel stated we can always call for a special meeting at any time. We can also hold it in Council Chambers if the room is available.

A vote by **Roll-Call 6-2-0** passed with Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Salazar in dissent.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum - Mr. LeBlanc reported the Curriculum Committee met on March 18th and discussed the Perkins Grant. We also discussed PE Health classes and the number of days for each discipline. We will meet again on April 22nd.

Finance - Chairman Kruzel reported the Finance Committee will meet on April 19th.

Policy - Mr. Salazar reported the Policy Committee met on March 16th and approved the 6000 series. They have been sent to CABA as part of the red lining process. Our next meeting will be held on April 20th where we will finalize the 6000 series before we present it to the Board for a First reading.

Leadership - Chairman Kruzel stated we are waiting to start our equity training with CABA.

Joint Facility - Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facility Committee will meet on Thursday, March 25th. We will review the plans for the Memorial/Whitney roofs. The Memorial roof grant was approved, and we are waiting for the Whitney roof approval.

JFK Building - Chairman Kruzel reported we have not met since our last meeting.

Joint Security - Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Security Committee meeting has been postponed until June.

Joint Insurance - Chairman Kruzel reported he has nothing new to report regarding the Joint Insurance Committee.

Youth Mental Health - Mr. LeBlanc reported the next meeting will be held on May 24th.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2021 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Special Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2021 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL** - Nothing to Report

15. **CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION** - Nothing to Report

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Salazar to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2021.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary