

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 26, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on April 26, 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:** Tina LeBlanc
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tina LeBlanc
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Jonathan LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett (remote), Scott Ryder (arrived at 7:05 PM), John Unghire and Tina LeBlanc

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

Madam Chair stated that Mr. LeBlanc will arrive later. He is currently at a Baseball game coaching.

6. BOARD GUEST(S)

a. EHS Community Action Learning Students

Mr. Drezek welcomed Mr. Allegro. Mr. Allegro stated he teaches the Community Action class at Enfield High School. He introduced student Jack Winans who is the president of his community project.

Mr. Allegro explained the do's and don'ts for the community projects. He is there as a guide for the students. We design the class as a nonprofit organization. The class will conduct research on a topic that will make the most positive impact for the community. They looked at 5 different projects and chose the best ones. The students learn about finances, fund raising, how to create partnerships and do great things for our community.

Mr. Ryder arrived at 7:05 PM.

Mr. Winans stated our class project is the Kindness Carnival. He explained what the Kindness Carnival will be like. We chose this project to bring more kindness to our community and to appreciate each other. Since Covid, we are trying to make up for lost time. This event will be held at Enfield High School on June 3rd from 5-7:00 PM. The Friends of Rachel and Student Council from EHS will also be helping us. We are looking for the school PTO's and elementary schools for support. We are in the process of designing our website and a social media campaign to advertise this event and get the word out. We will also hold several fund raising events to help cover the costs associated with this event. We would like to recognize acts of kindness in our schools and community and reward students with a ticket for them to use on the games at the Kindness Carnival.

Mr. Winans added that if you have any questions, you can contact Mr. Allegro at aallegro@enfieldschools.org. We need all the help we can get. Thank you.

Mr. Allegro added we will be reaching out to the principals and teachers to get them involved in the Kindness Carnival. He asked if Mr. Ryder could help get the word out to the PTO's about this event. We stress to the students in order to put on a good community event, you need to bring the community together and form partnerships. The students will be contacting local businesses and restaurants to see if they would like to sponsor or assist. If you know of any organizations or businesses that might be interested in helping us, please contact him. We appreciate your support.

Mr. Ryder stated he will promote this event on the EnfieldPTO.com website, Facebook and Twitter and to each of the school PTO's.

Mrs. Acree stated it was nice to hear Jack's voice. He was part of the play "Once Upon a Mattress" and did not have a speaking role as the mute king. You have a very nice voice.

Madam Chair stated it is great to hear that the Kindness Carnival is back. She remembers when it was at Fermi. She loves to hear that Friends of Rachel and other clubs will be assisting. We definitely need more kindness in our world. She knows Mr. Ryder will help to promote this great event. She appreciates you coming here and telling us and the community about the Kindness Carnival because it is a community event. The next time she might see Mr. Winans is when you are walking down the hill at Enfield High for graduation. Thank you, Mr. Winans and Mr. Allegro.

Mrs. Pickett stated listening to you both brings kindness to her heart. One of the last in-person events she attended was the Kindness Carnival with her children. She is excited to hear this event will be happening again. She has marked June 3rd from 5-7:00 PM on her calendar. Partnership was mentioned and you are in the perfect spot tonight. Some of our town services and KITE are in Council Chambers tonight. They would be great partners for this event. Your acts of kindness made her think of her son's school and what they are doing. She loves hearing about the connections with the elementary schools for this event. Thank you for what you are doing and keep doing this great work.

b. Enfield Youth Council Students

Mr. Drezek welcomed Belle Cyr and the Enfield Youth Council Students. Ms. Belle stated she is the Enfield Youth & Family Services Prevention Coordinator, and she also works alongside of the Enfield Together Coalition. EHS students each introduced themselves to the Board. Attending was Jamie Pereira, Dylan Lawson, Jaci Estrada and Angelina Shi.

Mr. Lawson explained to the Board about the Enfield Youth Council and how they are promoting their message to the youth of Enfield. Ms. Shi explained the public service announcement (PSA) they made is part of a statewide youth media project. Their PSA was about Gambling Prevention.

Mr. Lawson added the PSA message is about gambling and gaming that is geared towards children. We partnered with Adam Rivers through Asnuntuck Community College radio station. We learned at the showcase that we won "Best Message to the Community." Ms. Shi stated we are recruiting new members for the Youth Council. If you are interested, please contact Belle Cyr if interested.

They played the PSA announcement for the Board and public.

Mr. Hamre asked if the voice on the PSA was Mr. Lawson's? Great job! The material in your PSA is very strong about the traps with issues with gambling. Your timing is great with the State online gambling that is happening now. Thank you for bringing this to us.

Mr. Ryder stated that was really neat to work with Adam Rivers. He helped us with the Connecticut Children's PJ Day. He appreciates him helping you. Your PSA sounds amazing. Great job!

Mr. Unghire congratulated the students for making this important PSA. He has known many people that have been victims from gambling and have lost everything. Great job!

Mrs. Pickett stated partnering with Asnuntuck is great. She loves the connection with our students and the radio station. She hopes that more students will join you. This is an awesome way to gain leadership skills, make new friends and help our community. Thank you.

Madam Chair thanked the students for their PSA announcement. This is a youth led group. She loves when students help other students with the assistance from our teachers and advisors. She is glad to hear you are also working with the Enfield Together Coalition. With all of the online gambling, it is very easy to fall into this. She appreciates you sharing your PSA with us. Thank you.

c. Amy Morales & LeAnn Beaulieu

Mr. Drezek welcomed Amy Morales and LeAnn Beaulieu to tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Morales thanked the Board for allowing them to talk about the School Readiness Grant they are applying for. She gave a brief overview of the grant requirements and high quality childcare programs. Enfield has received funding since 1998. She spoke about the collaboration partnership with Enfield Social Services and Enfield Public Schools.

Mrs. Beaulieu also thanked the Board for this opportunity. She addressed the grant process and the grant they are applying for is for 2 years. They work in collaboration with KITE and the schools. We are fortunate to have 3 collaborating programs at the Stowe Early Learning Center and we are very proud of the work we are doing. She urged Board members to visit Stowe to see all the hard work that is being done with the programs. Stowe is a valuable resource especially now when it comes to mental health of our youngest.

Mrs. Morales added we need to submit the application to the community for any interested daycare providers. We only received one application and it was from the Enfield Child Development Center (ECDC). The committee met last week and reviewed the application and are recommending it for funding.

Dr. Calnen congratulated them for all the hard work being done at Stowe and with Kite. The key to success is collaboration. The work being done at Stowe is seamless and this is not seen everywhere. Enfield has a very orderly productive early childhood program. He is glad the focus is on early childhood education. Early childhood health, wellness and more importantly mental health, is critically important to nurture our children at an early stage. This is what SELC is all about. We are proactively supporting our children.

Mrs. Pickett stated she has experienced this at Stowe what Mrs. Morales and Mrs. Beaulieu are talking about for the past 4 years. SELC is a premier program for the State. Our partnership at Stowe and high quality childcare facility we offer with your assistance is outstanding. She also needs to thank Ms. Valley for her leadership and dedication.

Mrs. Pickett asked about the expansion of slots beyond 28. Is this an option at Stowe and to receive more funding? Mrs. Morales stated we have 28 slots and 3 preschool rooms at Stowe and received funding for just these slots. Other programs have applied for additional funding. Unfortunately, we do not have any additional classroom space.

Mrs. Pickett thanked them all for everything they are doing.

Mr. Hamre stated only 1 group applied. Do you normally get more applicants? Mrs. Morales stated the requirements limit the number of applicants. Programs need to be accredited and are not eligible to apply. If another program applied, we would review their program and application.

Mrs. Beaulieu stated there was a year when we had more applicants. We would redact the program names on the applications so the committee would not know who was applying. The requirements apply to education also.

Mr. Hamre is glad to hear the bar is set high. Is there a need for other groups to step-up for more competition to receive funding?

Mrs. Beaulieu stated ECDC has done an exceptional job. She wished we could receive more funding and offer funding to more groups.

Mrs. Morales added ECDC has a sliding fee scale for families.

Mr. Unghire thanked them for the invitation to visit Stowe. He would like to visit and learn more about mental health issues being addressed at young ages. This is important. He will follow-up with you.

Madam Chair thanked our former Board members for helping to create this program at SELC. The staff is very dedicated. It helps our community as a whole. She will also plan to visit Stowe.

Mrs. Beaulieu added we hope to open up the play lab soon. Thank you.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Early Release Day - as presented

b. EPS Update

Mr. Drezek stated the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the Budget tomorrow in Council Chambers at 7:00 PM. When we approved our proposed budget there were some things, we were not aware of like retirements and insurance costs. We have been able to reduce our request by around \$500K for these reasons. Our budget has not been cut and all programming remains the same. He has been working closely with the Town Manager about the budget. We look at our budget in January which is backwards. We are starting to get a clearer picture of the budget.

Mr. Drezek explained to the Board and Public that we are not an alliance district. There is a possibility that we may receive this designation from the commissioners office. When we receive this notice, he will make it public. He explained the process for becoming an alliance district. Only 33 districts can be an alliance district. He was told 3 districts would be leaving and 3 new districts could be added. He explained the qualifications needed to become an alliance district. Test scores do not tell the entire story. Alliance districts are defined as 33 of the lowest performing districts in the state and being the 33 neediest. We cannot ignore facts.

Mr. Drezek stated our kids and Enfield families have needs. We have 48.6 % students that qualify for free and or reduced lunch in 2019-20. The past two years, all students are eligible for free and/or reduced lunch due to the pandemic. He showed a slide with percentages and our numbers have more than doubled.

Mr. Drezek stated we owe it to our kids to give them what they need. We have taken action to give our kids what they need and deserve. Every student situation is different. We speak 14

different languages in our community. This is a great thing but these kids they are starting school without knowing English. They are expected to speak English proficiently and test proficiently within one year coming here. This will impact test scores. Our diversity is our strength. Every student in our community brings something that makes this place what it is. Our kids come from different backgrounds and have different needs. We have a responsibility to provide them with what they need in order to succeed. Every home and family in Enfield are different. Each home structure is differently. This is what makes us diverse and special.

Mr. Drezek stated a few months ago he introduced a new position in Enfield – Director of Education and Diversity. He had plans to introduce Ms. Cox-Blackwell to the district by now. He reminded the Board that racial equity is a part of this position, but equity is a much broader definition. Race, gender equity, sexual orientation, cultural, language, disability and social economic status are all matters of equity. We need to prioritize what we need to give our kids. Alliance designation or not, structural changes to address equity to our kids is already underway. We owe it to each child to give them what they need.

Mr. Drezek stated we have had discussions about money and the State of Connecticut in this room. Do you think we would receive more money if we were not spending it correctly? You become an alliance district because you have needs. The state will compare ECS grant funding you have received in the past to calculate your alliance grant. We could receive \$1.5 million once we are designated as an alliance district. This funding will be given directly to the school and not the town. We are currently around a \$1 million short from where our spending needs are. Every year in his budget presentation, he includes the per pupil expenditures. This year he omitted it due to the grants we received. Every year we are applauded because our per pupil expenditure is lower than everyone else. Eventually this will catch up to us. As our needs grow, our needs for additional resources also grow. We are accountable for where all our funding goes and need to certify with the State of Connecticut. We are audited each year to track our expenditures. If there were any discrepancies, the State and our auditors would find them and report them. The Board also receives a report from the auditors with their findings. The BOE finance committee reviews all financial expenses each month.

Mr. Drezek added that it is possible we may become an alliance district. Our scores are not where they should be, but the root cause is the needs of our kids has changed and we need to change too. He will never allow this to turn into a negative talking point. We need to show our kids we are better than this.

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 3-minute time limit for audience participation tonight. She added that you will need to sign up to talk and she will not call up anyone from the audience to speak. Thank you.

Christine Asselin, Pearl Street – Ms. Asselin stated she has 3 kids in the Enfield Public Schools. One just graduated last year, and another child is having difficulties learning. She has always been involved with her children when they were in school. Test scores may be down. We need to take accountability and stop blaming the teachers. The sex education assignment started so many conversations. People with no children are inserting themselves into our conversations. Why are they taking such an interest in our children's learning? The emails that have been posted have added many concerns and opened up our eyes. Our students are now being exploited. See read an e-mail. Parents now need to decide to keep our kids in school or pull them. The Board is supposed to protect our kids. This is very concerning to her. She believes some of our Board members are a danger to our children.

Ray Peabody, Washington Road – Mr. Peabody stated Enfield Public Schools may become an alliance district. He gave statistics on graduation rates and SAT rates. We are exceeding the state average. We have ELS students that speak 14 different languages. When you do not

know the language, it is hard for these kids to learn. Our special education students are also expected to perform and test and grade level. He stated our free and reduced lunch students are at 48.6%. Do not evangelize our students. That is what church is for.

Rob Anderson, Bass Drive – Mr. Anderson spoke about the pizza and consent assignment. He would like to know what the other assignment was. He would also like to know who the special guest was that helped to teach this lesson. He is concerned that student data for this assignment was put into a database. What procedures have changed. He gave each Board member a document.

Colleen O'Callaghan, Midway Street – Mrs. O'Callaghan knows someone that received the pizza consent assignment. This assignment was very uncomfortable for the students. This assignment is shocking. Paring students to work on this assignment together is very disturbing. What other assignments have our children been exposed to?

Ryan Schuetz, Church Street – Mr. Schuetz stated the assignment that was given out was inappropriate. He reviewed some inappropriate assignments from other school districts. This is why we need extra eyes. He is not out to get our teachers. He is looking out for his child and the kids. Positive change is needed for our community. A committee is needed for the bullying, safety and mental health of our kids. He would like us to come up with new ideas that are positive for our kids and community. United we stand divided we fall. Let's accomplish something. He asked why we are setting the bar so high for foreign students.

Ryan Moore, Ryefield Drive – Mr. Moore feels he has a target on his back. He read an e-mail about our teachers and the CEA. Nonresidents have spoken at meetings before. Who is making our town divisive? He has never said a bad word about our teachers. Someone is telling our teachers this. This is a sham and a shame. There is no reason for this. There is still time to make a change and change the direction. Go Decklan! His son got his first hit of the baseball season.

Jonathan Grande, Spruceland Road – Mr. Grande stated residents obtained an FOI and chose one e-mail to read. They want to deflect from the pizza consent assignment. We need to get to the root cause of this mistake. Why and what are you afraid of by using a proven method? What will you learn from this? Do you want to keep this information sealed? Politics are involved whether we like it or not. The curriculum being taught is political. It was a mistake is not enough. We need to ask the hard questions about the assignment. Please investigate this and review the sex education curriculum.

Amanda Marquez, Hoover Lane – Mrs. Marquez spoke about the pizza consent assignment and asked if this really was a mistake. No action has been taken by leadership regarding this mistake. They are saying this curriculum is from the State. BOE and administration has been working against the parents. Everything that has happened is a result of your lack of leadership. What does the edited assignment look like? Being open and transparent would have stopped all the negative reactions. She has been asking questions for months. She has removed her children from the EPS. She is a taxpayer and has a vested interest in our town. Your lack of action allows this behavior to continue and will continue until you address this problem.

Sheila Munroe, Stacy Lane – Mrs. Munroe stated the pizza consent assignment mistake is a criminal offence against minors. This kind of conversation is no ones business. Do not be afraid to report this to the police about what occurred in your child's classroom. She has been asking questions about Covid and is still waiting for an answer.

Mrs. LeBlanc stopped Mrs. Munroe's time. She will not have people interrupting audience member comments. We have a full agenda to address. We are elected to conduct Board business. We allow for public comments so people can come and feel heard and report on topics. Please direct your comments to the Board and not to the audience members. Audience

members need to leave audience members alone. Please continue.

Mrs. Munroe stated a Board member has brought a proven study to the Board that could help to resolve this issue and it is being ignored. This person is being ridiculed for this suggestion. She does not understand why. They think it is because of religion. Maybe it is because he has a moral standard.

Matt Schmidt, Bigelow Commons – Mr. Schmidt stated the pizza assignment occurred in January. It is now April. There has been a lot of seriousness with this assignment. Underage children were asked their sexual preference. What is being done to prevent this from happening again? How will this process be changed? A Board member has presented a task force to look into this. He supports this idea. This idea has been attacked. He is interested in a solution. He would like to hear any other proposals. You can criticize but we need to make sure this won't happen again. We need to all work together to make this proposal work. Trust is needed. Thank you.

Joe Golas, Stardust Drive – Mr. Goals is here about science and math historical perspective. He grew up in Enfield. He worked in manufacturing and knew how to make things. He also taught students. We are not getting rid of fossil fuels. His students learned about communication. His generation used a slide rule and not fancy technology like what is being used now. We put a man on the moon with a slide rule. We taught with chalk and a chalk board. He created a test for his students to learn. He had a student from Egypt that did not understand or speak English but understood the periodic table in his Chemistry class that she aced. We don't define equity and diversity.

Kimberlee Anderson, Bass Drive – Ms. Anderson stated she was a democrat and is now a republican because of this pizza consent assignment with the hopes that some of them still had a moral compass and demand answers. The people in this room do not want us to question assignments. She spoke about comments made by a resident. The division that has been created is harmful to our community. This assignment should not have been given to 12 and 13 year old children. This is happening in a trusted space in a school. What is going on? The Board answers to us the taxpayers and the superintendent answers to you. Why aren't you using the chain of command.

Mr. LeBlanc arrived at 8:44 PM

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis stated that audience members have spoken about the emails from the FOI request and the pizza assignment. The emails were disturbing. She has a child in our school. She read an email. The facts are the facts. She asked for her time to be stopped because of audience members comments.

Madam Chair asked for the audience to stop the back and forth. This is audience members time to speak, and we will have our turn next.

Mrs. Davis continued reading the e-mail and stated these are false facts. This person stands by this email. The lord will not bring harm to our children, teachers and administrators. These facts are false. This was a mistake. If you had a child in this class, you were told about this. It was a mistake.

Gina Sullivan, Spier Avenue – Mrs. Sullivan read an email and some of the responses. She said the comments made about our superintendent are inappropriate.

Madam Chair stopped Mrs. Sullivan's time. She asked the audience to stop with the comments. She can end public comments now if needed. You expect our children to act a certain way wthey they are in school. We as the adults need to lead by example. Please allow audience members speak.

Mrs. Sullivan continued reading e-mails.

Kelly Jackson, Meade Lane – Mrs. Jackson stated there are things that are going on behind the scenes. She referred to the e-mails and read some of them. An audience member spoke about Enfield High School's equity and diversity that is in violation of the equal protection clause and federal and state anti-discrimination laws. She spoke about incident reports and laws previously mentioned about FAIR at a Board meeting. These people do not have children in our schools. We have many important issues that need to be addressed. Board members are supposed to protect all students, not just certain ones. All our children are worth protecting.

Lynn Kostic, Teach Street – Mrs. Kostic read an email. She has been listening to these meetings and you shouldn't be mixing church and state. Some of the people in your church are not residents of Enfield or have kids in our schools. They have no reason to come here and speak. She has had enough of this. She moved here from Hartford. She is embarrassed by what is going on in this town.

Emily Hulevitch, Cutter Lane – Mrs. Hulevitch congratulated Mr. Ryder for being named the CEA Salute Awards recipient. The Salutes Award recognizes individuals and organizations for their commitment to public education. He was the only one chosen out of the State of Connecticut. We want to thank him publicly and recognize his accomplishments. The hostility that has been displayed towards the teachers in our town needs to end. It has increased since the release of the emails from the FOI request. She is here to defend the teaching profession. We put our hearts and souls in our work. We have read emails from people that do not respect us. We are being referred to being as low as a used car salesman and have been called hurtful names. Now a rally will be held at one of our schools about firing individuals. One of the faculty members that was mentioned is deceased. We have been caught in the middle of this national movement. This is affecting our morale and it is disheartening. We have been targeted and it needs to stop.

Madam Chair reminded audience members about talking. She can see the audience from her seat and is not going to argue with anyone. We are here to conduct a Board meeting. You can have your 3 minutes as long as you are respectful.

Mr. Jonaitis, Farmstead Lane – Mr. Jonaitis discussed the pizza assignment and it being a mistake. He read the definition of a mistake. There has been lack of action by our leadership. They are the ones that have made the ultimate mistake. Our kids are in a classroom discussing sexual activities that was asked by a teacher.

Madam Chair stopped the meeting. She reminded audience members to refrain from making comments and ended public comments. We have adults that cannot sit in the audience and respect each other. Board members sit here and listen to audience members with respect. She has warned the audience 3 times.

Mr. Jonaitis asked audience members to please be quiet.

Madam Chair asked audience members to be mindful about a child that is in the audience. She will allow Mr. Jonaitis to continue providing the audience does not interrupt. If you do, I will end audience participation. We have a full agenda of items we need to address. One of the items is the Mr. Unghire's formation of a pizza consent assignment task force. This is something he asked to be placed on the agenda to discuss. The more time we talk now, the less time we have to conduct Board business. We were elected to conduct Board business. We are not here to just sit and listen to audience members. We have jobs. We have Policy and Finance items to discuss. We have items that need to be approved like our budget and calendar. We work on things that are listed in our town charter and are within the Board's bylaws. This divisive behavior is preventing us from doing this. If there is one more outburst, we as a Board will decide if we want to continue public comment. We have this right moving forward. This applies to everyone in the audience.

Mr. Jonaitis added there were children in the classroom when this was happening, and they were uncomfortable. He continued by stating you would also be uncomfortable with these questions also. If this were addressed from the beginning, this would not be such a problem now. This is happening because of the lack of leadership.

Madam Chair ended audience participation.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Acree attended the Enfield Public Schools Arts Festival. She congratulated all the students that participated. The student's artwork was impressive. We have some very talented students. She also congratulated the EHS Lamplighters for their production of Once Upon a Mattress. Their performance was outstanding, and their voices were beautiful. Kudos to all the staff who assisted the students with these events.

Mrs. Acree stated Prudence Crandall has a scholastic book fair happening tonight and again on Thursday, April 28th from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. The Henry Barnard and Prudence Crandall PTO sponsor this event. Tonight they held a bake sale. On Thursday, they will have an ice cream social for the students.

Mrs. Acree addressed an audience member by thanking her for her comment about moral standards. She believes it is not evangelizing our children, it is about having moral standards in this community and for our children. Thank you.

Dr. Calnen stated Kite, Family Resource Center, Enfield Public Library and the Enfield Public Schools celebrated the Week of the Young Child during April 4-9th. There were a variety of activities to do with your children. These activities have one thing in common, the joint involvement of children and parents. These events help to develop early childhood development. Kite recently released their spring and summer edition of its community resources for young families. Valuable information can be found in this publication. Kite has launched their annual self-assessment. The results will serve as the basis for activities in the year to come will be shared at their next meeting in May. Kite has recently applied for a grant extension, and they are participating in the Town of Enfield's Social Services Mental Health and Wellness Community Assessment.

Mrs. Cushman stated there have been a lot of questions about the motives and what we do. Really it is about protecting the innocence of our children. We have added to our Enfield Public Schools website a tech support page a link for internet safety where you can view a document with resources from the State about K-12 internet safety for parents to use to help their children to be safe on their school devices and at home. She thanked Mr. Bourassa for his assistance with this.

Mr. Hamre shared his condolences to the Bosco and Rutledge families. He recently loss his father-in-law Wayne Kinney who worked for Smyth Bus. Smyth Bus has been very helpful and supportive to my family. They loved him as much as we did.

Mr. Hamre thanked Mr. Winans and the EHS Lamplighters for the production they put on. They did an amazing job with 3 shows in 2 days. They also did the same during covid and practiced outside. This may be their last time performing for those students that will be graduating. It goes to their testament about their hard work and the love for the theatre. Congratulations to them and he looks forward to more theatrical shows. He added the JFK theater group will be putting on Moana Jr. on May 6-7th. They will also put on 3 shows in 2 days. Please come and support the students and staff.

Mr. Hamre thanked the audience members for speaking. He wished we had more civility and understands why we don't. The conversations are gut-wrenching and are emotionally charged.

Mr. LeBlanc stated we won our baseball game. The conversation has been the same. Stepping back and looking at this - one side is upset about the assignment, another side wants to protect the teachers and another side wants to get back to normalcy. They want us to get back to discussing school items. We need talk about courses and test scores, but we haven't heard anything about this. He listens to the audience members and what our town members want. When he first started on the Board, we talked about our students and what they were doing and the courses/programs. We have not been able to do this. We have a full agenda that we need to discuss. We need to get back to being Enfield public schools. There is a lot of good here. We have a lot we need to discuss tonight.

Mrs. Pickett appreciates hearing more about the Enfield Public schools like Mr. LeBlanc stated. You are all entitled to your beliefs. We are making decisions about public education. It is critical to separate personal and professional values as Board members. We need to be self-aware. We welcome all and support all students. She ran for the Board of Education as a democrat and mostly for her children. She wished our board were not party affiliated. Her children attend Enfield Public Schools. She is proud to hear our superintendent speak so passionately about our students and the work that is being done in our district. Enfield schools need improvements, and this is not a secret. Our staff and administrators care about our kids. Learning happens when kids feel loved. The attack on our district needs to stop and it is not helpful. There is so much more than the data and numbers. Her children are part of a district that loves and supports them and pushes them to their greatest potential. Learning happens when our children feel secure and affirmed. There are countless number of staff and our community that are working really hard to do this. We need to stop slandering our administration and impeding the meaningful work of our educational equity and our staff and all children. We need to address behavioral, mental health and academic needs of our students. We are here to create change. That is why she ran for the Board of Education.

Mrs. Pickett added becoming an alliance district has not been written in stone. This is not a shock. She came to the Board meetings with concerns about data as a parent in the audience like you are doing. She believes in our leadership to make systemic shifts to make the necessary changes that we are all looking for. She hopes this designation is not long term and an opportunity to build on to get our ship in the right direction.

Mrs. Pickett stated summer school programs for our kids are available. Enfield Public schools is offering summer school for students in grades K-8 and a credit recovery program for high school students. We also have an arts camp. She is not sure if students can participate in both programs. ERfC also has a summer escape program they are offering. The Town has their Tons of Fun Summer Camp. She encourages families to check out the websites for these programs. She would like to see all of these available summer programs available on the town website for parents along with other programs available for families.

Mrs. Pickett stated Enfield Street School is planning a Family Fun Run on May 6th from 4-7 PM. This information can be found on the PTO page and in the principal's newsletter.

Mrs. Pickett stated Parkman will hold a teacher appreciation staff lunch on May 3rd, May 4th they will hold nominations for PTO members and a Fun Slime Walk on May 7th. The money raised for the fun walk will go towards their end of year celebration. The student that raises the most money can slime a staff member.

Mrs. Pickett stated that ERfC is offering before school and afterschool activities for students along with their summer from programs for students.

Mrs. Pickett stated family engagement is something she takes very seriously. This is very important, and this has come up in many of our curriculum meetings about sharing information with parents. This is something that is not being ignored. She believes a more positive outcome is needed.

Mr. Unghire stated Hazardville Memorial held their first in-person PTO meeting in two years on April 19th. It was refreshing to see everyone in person. The spring picnic planned for tonight was cancelled due to the rain. This will be postponed until another date. They will hold field day on June 10th. They will have t-shirts for the students and all kinds of events for the students.

Mr. Unghire stated he attended the Joint Facilities meeting. Madam Chair told him he could discuss this on Committee Reports.

Mr. Unghire stated at the February 8th meeting there was standing room only and parents spoke about the pizza consent assignment. Mr. Drezek stated this was a mistake. He suggested we address this item and give suggestion to the administration to prevent this from happening again. He gave a presentation at the last Board meeting. He thanked Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Giner for their assistance. He has heard many different things about this, and people are asking questions. People do not like the word task force so we will call it a committee. He supports our staff and administration and is offering to assist them address this mistake. This committee or process is not meant to place blame or find fault but to make the education system better. We need to understand the process and visibility. This committee is not political but will be a bipartisan committee. It has the best interest of our kids at heart. We need to know how to prevent this mistake from happening again. Check lists are a good thing to have. This is something he uses when he is flying a plane. Ignoring a problem will not resolve it. Parents entrust us to give their children a quality education and take care of them. Some people are removing their children from Enfield Public Schools and that is sad. Many of us here tonight are feeling the effect of this mistake. We can prevent this from happening again. A mistake was made, and we must correct it. This is about our kids. Calling this a committee and protecting our administration is not a bad thing.

Mr. Unghire added this community elected us because they have faith in us. The formation of this committee will help us. This cooperative effort will serve to restore their faith in us and show the Enfield Community you care. He is asking for his fellow Board members to support this committee. This is being proposed as a good idea.

Mr. Ryder stated he has posted the summer school links on the enfieldpublicschools.org and enfieldpto.com websites as well as on each school page. He reminded parents about the deadline for summer school applications is Friday, April 29th. Summer school is being offered free for all Enfield Public School students. Summer school will be held in one location for the K-5 and another for 6-12 students.

Mr. Ryder stated we last met before April break. He hopes you all had a great break. Eli Whitney had a visit from the Humane society and the Enfield Police Department K9 Unit. Students are working on a recycling project for earth day. The money they raise will go towards school programs. They also had an author visit. They held a PJ day and the donations raised with go to the Enfield Loaves and Fishes. Enfield Loaves and Fishes will have their grand opening in their new location on May 1st. We raised \$160 and collected personal care items for them. Our grade 4 students had a field trip, and they went to see the Hartford Yard Goats. We collected spare change for Superheroes Day from Whitney and Memorial students and raised \$1,184. SBAC testing will be happening at Whitney. Please make sure students are well rested and all iPads are fully charged for testing. Progress reports will also be going out. Each grade 5 student will receive a sapling to plant for Arbor Day. The scholastic book fair will be happening next week. If you would like to help out at the book fair for the day, you can go to enfieldpto.com and sign up.

Mr. Ryder stated one of our school custodian has built 25 bird houses that will be auctioned off starting with Eli Whitney on May 4th which is our family day. All proceeds will go to a charity. He will email each of the school PTO's about.

Mr. Ryder stated the Prudence Crandall PTO reached out to him about the food boat. They broke the record for donations this year. They raised \$4,461 and 3,296 pounds of food or 5,273 meals for the Enfield Food Shelf which is amazing. The students will receive an incentive for participating. The last time they taped Mr. Sills to the wall. This year they will throw water balloons at Mr. Sills and Mrs. Dennis.

Mr. Ryder thanked Kite for speaking tonight. He is a graduate from the Parent Leadership Academy. Another thing Kite does is the Kite Leadership Tag Sale. They will hold this again on Saturday, May 14th. The cost to get registered is \$25 which goes to the Enfield Food Shelf.

Mr. Ryder stated the North Central Chamber of Commerce, Kite and the Enfield Public Schools will hold an employment resource fair on April 28th from 5-7 PM at Enfield High School. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in looking for a job. There will also be food trucks.

Mr. Ryder stated Board members are liaisons to our schools. He read the liaison names: Barnard – Jonathan LeBlanc; Crandall – Jean Acree; Enfield Street – Amanda Pickett; Memorial – John Unghire; Parkman – Janet Cushman; Whitney – Scott Ryder; JFK – Joshua Hamre and Enfield High – Tina LeBlanc. Also Suffield Vo-ag, ETLA and Eagle Academy are handled by Board Leadership. Dr. Callen and Mr. Leblanc are the SELC and Head Start. Kite is represented by Mr. LeBlanc and Dr. Calnen.

Mr. Ryder thanked the Board members for keeping our schools in mind. This is the platform he ran on as a Board member. He has been promoting our schools since his daughter started kindergarten and will next be at the high school.

Madam Chair stated we will need to put the new subcommittee appointees on the agenda. Dr. Calnen will be on the Mental Health and Wellness and Mrs. Acree will be the alternate. We will also need to appoint liaisons for the ECAC (Enfield Cultural Arts Committee). This will be placed on the next agenda so we can appoint everyone appropriately. Mrs. Acree is the liaison for Prudence Crandall and Mrs. Cushman is the liaison for Parkman. Mrs. Zalucki will update the lists and will send them out.

Madam Chair congratulated Mr. Ryder for receiving the CEA Salutes Award. A local teacher submitted the nomination. The CEA's Board of Directors reviewed it. He can bring guests to this ceremony, but he hasn't announced who he is bringing yet. If you have ever served with Mr. Ryder, you wonder when he sleeps. Congratulations!

Madam Chair attended the Arts show and it was great seeing so many Board members attending this event. The student artwork was amazing, and she wished she could have purchased some of it. We have very talented artists. Some of the elementary students painted items while being upside down or painted with the brushes upside down. JFK had an upside down house. Their imagination is amazing. She loved the pottery. This event makes her very proud. Music was also playing during this event.

Madam Chair stated EHS senior prom will be on Friday, May 20th. The awards and scholarship night will be held on Wednesday, May 25th. They will have their class picnic. Safe Grad released the packets. Safe Grad is very near and dear to her. A lot of work goes into planning a safe fun drug-alcohol free night for our graduates. They fund raise around \$30-40K for this event at no cost to our community. We have 380 students that will be graduating. This is very important to her that is why she gives these updates.

Madam Chair thanked Chef O for his successful Empty Bowls fundraiser event. They raised \$1,000 for the Enfield Food Shelf. This is an annual fund raiser event that is held. Students and staff create ceramic bowls, and they are sold. They also sell a cookbook. This is a collaborative effort from the Enfield High Culinary Arts Department and the Visual Arts Department. All proceeds are donated our Enfield Food Shelf. Since they started doing this, they have raised almost \$10K. A special thank you goes out to Chef O and his students; Mrs.

Nassau and her students; and Mrs. Pasco and her students. Congratulations to all our amazing staff and students.

Madam Chair stated that any teacher, staff or Enfield Public Schools employee can speak at Board meetings. You must give your home address. We have a policy in place #9325.2 Order of Business and Meeting Conduct. She read the policy item pertaining to audience participation. You cannot use the address of 155 Raffia Road. You say you are not attacking our teachers, but this is cynical. Please use your home address. Our teachers have a right to speak even if they do not live in Enfield. They are employees of the Enfield Board of Education.

Madam Chair stated she is the longest standing Board member she has seen a lot politically. It has been very divisive serving. We have some former Board members in the audience that she served with. They also cared about our kids. The time she served with them is different than now. Now it is very divisive. She has addressed members on the Board and her job as the Chair is to bring the Board together. We may not agree on all items, but she will not hinder their ideas. She has spoken to Mr. Unghire about a committee, and she has spoken to Mrs. Cushman about iPads. The divisiveness is coming from the audience. Board members know they can bring up items at any time and we can add items to our agendas to discuss. There is a process. The public is making assumptions about the Board. Some residents have contacted her, and they have been respectful and have offered suggestions. When you speak as an audience member, you should not use other peoples words against them. She appreciates that from Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Schuetz and Mr. Anderson. People will speak about both sides of an issue. It is our job to work together, and it is your job to let us do this. The nine of us represent every member from Enfield. We may not agree but then would the world be better if we all agreed? We owe it our students to work together. We understand your concerns. You say the Board is divisive. She does not feel that we are divisive. We are a new Board, and we are trying to just be the Board of Education. It is very disheartening that we cannot conduct Board business. Are hands were tied with the masks. We got through this. People can wear masks if they want to. From the start of this Board's term, there were direct actions that were working against us.

Madam Chair stated when you put something out in the media, there will be unintended consequences. To turn the narrative around and say because we did not do something as a school district, and this is why we are getting these threats is wrong. Actions have unintended consequences and unfortunately, they are happening to our school district and at JFK. This brings down the morale of our staff. Our teacher's morale is already down from working through Covid. Please stop. We are receiving messages from people beyond Enfield. Pointing blame will not resolve anything. We need accountability. It is not okay to threaten. What has happened to Board members and employees is disgusting. Now our parents are scared to send their children to school. This is not what we want for Enfield or how we want to be remembered. She has listened to all of you with your concerns and she hears you. You need to leave your disrespect out of this room. We are not going to allow this behavior anymore. It is not fair to any of us. Public comments are a privilege. We will not remove it because we do not want the residents to feel silenced. We are asking the residents of Enfield to let us do our jobs and have a more productive conversation. She appreciates solutions from you. We are a new Board, and we are all trying. Every Board member brings something positive to this Board and she has had personal conversations with each member. We are doing this because we love it, and we were elected to be here to represent the Enfield community. The divisiveness is coming from you. You need to figure this out. Attacking your Board is no way to work cohesively. She does not care what your party affiliation is. She wished there were no party affiliations. She is hopeful that we can approach our next meeting with civility, more solutions and more cohesiveness. She does not like the political tone.

Madam Chair stated we lost 3 community members. Let's work together and stop blaming each other and move forward. Life is not guaranteed and none of us want to leave this life angry over a volunteer position or feeling stressed. Let's work together and figure this out and

stop placing the blame. Let's fix this and move forward. Not every answer is the right answer, but all suggestions are considered.

Extend the Meeting past 10:30 PM

Madam Chair asked for a motion to extend the regular meeting past 10:30 PM.

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education extends the meeting past 10:30 PM.

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

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. BOE Policy Adoption & Policy Revisions – Second Reading

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed new policy and policy revisions as presented for a second reading.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approval of School Readiness Grant

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education approves the School Readiness Grant Application as presented.

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

b. Approval of FY2022 Head Start Grant

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2022 Head Start Grant as presented.

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

c. BOE Policy Adoptions & Policy Revisions – First Reading

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed Policy Revisions and proposed new Policy Adoptions as presented for a first reading.

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

d. Discussion and Action if any Regarding the Formation of the Pizza Consent Assignment Task Force

Mr. Unghire would like to make a motion to form this committee to look at the root cause for the pizza consent assignment and make recommendations to the administration for corrective actions or make recommendations to the administration that would help prevent “mistakes” from recurring.

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree that the Enfield Board of Education forms a committee to look into the root cause for the pizza consent assignment and make recommendations to the administration for corrective actions and or make recommendations to the administration that would help prevent “mistakes” from recurring.

Discussion:

Mr. Unghire stated he made his comments under Board member comments.

Mr. Ryder stated that a committee that increases the opportunity for parental engagement and feedback is positive. Mrs. Pickett will speak about this. A “task force” is not needed. He thanked Mr. Unghire for changing the name. It is on the agenda as a task force because that is the way it was presented to the Board. During Mr. Unghire’s presentation, it was said this would be a one-time task force to find an escape on this one issue. If this issue is not sorted out, it would open and close with this one item. He feels this is partisan. It was presented to the Board on screen, but it was never sent to us electronically. So we were unable to review it.

Mr. Ryder added Mr. Unghire was offered feedback by Mrs. Pickett but it was not included or considered. You also did not respond to her e-mail. This is Mr. Unghire’s plan, and it has not been shared with the entire Board. The public has been supporting this plan. He is glad this is now a committee and not a task force. An audience member spoke of this plan, and that it is a proven method that a big tech company uses. He does not see the need for a specific pizza consent committee. He would like Mrs. Pickett to share her idea for improving parental engagement that is not so focused on one escape.

Mrs. Pickett stated this pizza assignment has not been ignored and has been addressed by the superintendent. She has also spoken about this topic. Students in grade 8 have an opt out for health education. They will receive a permission slip. With everything that is going on with the FOI’s, this is not what is best for our kids. She would like the superintendent and chair to explore forming a permanent stake holder advisory committee. She spoke about this at our last meeting. She can give a presentation about this group with the purpose and membership. The purpose would be to connect learning to home and home to school. This would provide a partnership, feedback, transparency awareness and decision making. This will be a stakeholder group of parents, students, staff, families and community liaisons to help set goals for the district and action planning as well as providing feedback and proposed policy. Assist the curriculum committee with tasks like TAG or giving feedback on course progression. Sharing assessments with families, curriculum learning tasks and other ways. This committee would be formed to assist the district with positive change moving forward. It would not be a root cause analysis of an assignment. This is what she is proposing.

Mrs. Pickett added she is fully supportive of family engagement and family partnerships in a constructive helpful way. She is proposing a more permanent stakeholder advisory committee.

Mr. Hamre stated he was here for Mr. Unghire’s virtual presentation. He thought we were supposed to receive this presentation to review. He does not believe he ever received this presentation. He is going on what he recalls seeing. The text of the presentation was extremely small. Not being able to recall the specifics of the presentation and the information provided in the FOI discussion, he feels this is not necessary. We are in a situation that has been allowed to progress. From an administrative perspective, it has been addressed through the proper channels. The thought that the Board would want to promote the investigation of something that was administratively handled, is to acknowledge that we do not trust the process. When there is a disciplinary action with a staff member, we are that process. We are the people that determine what happens with the process of the disciplinary action for staff members. This process will only come before the Board when it is necessary and in this case, it was not necessary because it was resolved administratively. He learned about this issue from a Board member. It was disseminated somewhere else outside of our purview. A process and procedure are in place without the Board in a disciplinary role with the staff member. This is outside of our scope as Board members. No one agrees that this was acceptable. This is a Board that has been in place for 6 months. This assignment and curriculum were developed by another Board. Where was the oversight then? Where was the taskforce then along with discussion and rallying? Why wasn’t this discussed then. He appreciates everyone speaking tonight and listening.

Dr. Calnen stated if this were a pattern of behavior, he would be more upset. It was isolated event and has been addressed by the superintendent. He does not feel we need to continue with this discussion.

Mrs. Cushman stated the assignment overall is most alarming that it was posted and that these kinds of assignments are available to our students. If this is what is out there, how can we protect and prevent this from happening again. When we look at the big picture of what is happening in our country, is there a fundamental link between pornography against our youth and children being trafficked and exploited? Our students are being introduced to topics in the classroom that seem safe and yet online they are encountering discussions with strangers. Our students are vulnerable because of what they are being introduced to. There are 13 states with pending legislation to lower the consent age to 14. They are legalizing pedophilia. There is a lot of concern in the community and what else can the door be opened to.

Mrs. Cushman added that community members have expressed questions that are good questions. We may feel that we have addressed their questions, but they are still out there. There may be some confusion. She has questions as a Board member. She sees this committee as an opportunity to have questions answered so our community can be at peace.

Mr. Ryder stated Mr. Unghire's one-time pizza committee will not solve your concerns. We have Mrs. Pickett's permanent parental stakeholder advisory committee to consider. We do not have a presentation about this to share with anyone, but Mrs. Pickett is working on it. We have not received Mr. Unghire's presentation that was presented virtually. You said it was a one time task force to get to the root cause and to find the escape regarding the pizza consent assignment that was presented virtually.

Mr. Ryder added this one-time pizza committee will not solve any future problems. Mrs. Pickett's committee can address current and future concerns unlike your committee.

Mr. Unghire stated when he proposed this, he could see this evolving to address many issues that face our school system. What Mrs. Pickett is recommending will not address the mistake "pizza consent assignment."

Mrs. Pickett stated adjustments can be made. She would like for parents to better understand the curriculum writing process, about lessons and how can families access the lessons. These are all reasonable questions. How do we share curriculum, how do we let families know what learning is happening in the classrooms and have more open conversations? Having a committee to just look at a grade 8 consent assignment is inappropriate to her.

Mr. Unghire stated that is not how he presented it. This is being misrepresented. Mrs. Pickett disagrees with Mr. Unghire.

Mr. Unghire stated he has a slide on this. Mr. Ryder stated we did not receive the presentation.

Madam Chair added we will not argue about this. The way she understood Mr. Unghire's presentation is that we would create a task force to find the root cause of the pizza assignment. Mr. Unghire agreed with Madam Chair.

Madam Chair stated then we would move forward after the root cause of this was addressed. Mr. Unghire stated and other things would be addressed. This was not presented as a one time only item. It was to address the most important and most concerning item today and being sure that something like the release of this assignment would not happen again. We could put in corrective actions to be sure this doesn't happen again. There are ways to do this and that this could evolve into something bigger and better. That was the intent.

Mr. Unghire added in October there was another lesson that got people concerned, that was a social identity lesson that parents objected to. It brought many concerned parents here. The superintendent addressed it. The Board adopts policies that we are responsible for. He thought this was a one-time happening and the administration would make sure this wouldn't happen again. Then this mistake was made with the pizza consent assignment. Now there has been 2 questionable assignments. It is clear that he will not change your mind. If you do not think this is important to address the pizza consent assignment, please state that. Tell our community that you do not feel this is important to take a closer look at this. You will be accountable for the very people that put you in these responsible positions.

Madam Chair stated it is not that they do not like it. There is a better resource, and it comes down to better understanding the curriculum., That is what Mrs. Pickett is trying to accomplish. Why are things taught, where do they come from, and why are they mandated? She was here in October when the social civic mini lesson. This was not part of the health assignment. Was that identified as a mistake.

Mrs. Pickett stated she recalls discussing adjustments to the categories on the wheel that people were uncomfortable with. She does not recall it being called a mistake. Madam Chair agreed with Mrs. Pickett's recollection.

Mr. LeBlanc has found some common ground with all of this. He thanked Mr. Unghire for brainstorming this idea. It is generating conversation that is going to lead us to a place where we need to be. Before this gets his support, he needs to see a more concrete vision of what we are going to do. Mrs. Pickett may present a slide. She may present something that is not concrete either. We need to come together as a Board maybe in Leadership and iron out some of this. Combine the ideas and come up with a multi-prong approach where we could get answers. He is looking at the Board committees where certain issues could be addressed at these committees. He feels we will be adding a committee to Item #12 in the near future that is from the 9 of us that would have his support. People might have a concern with a policy or curriculum. We would ask questions from people at these committee meetings. We need to be careful and this needs to be more thought out or concrete. We need to understand as a Board what we can and can't do. There are state laws and some things we are mandated and must do. He does not want our teachers to feel they are under a microscope with any committee. They have the right to be questioned and the parents have the right to know what the education and lessons are being taught in the classroom. It is a very fine line. We need to understand what that is before any decisions are made or vote is taken in support for or against any committee regardless, who presents it.

Mr. LeBlanc would like from this Board and for the nine of us to come up with a more concrete foundation of what this committee is before we vote on it. Once this is created, it will have his support to add this to our list of committees on #12. He believes this will happen.

Madam Chair asked Mr. Unghire what will be the outcome of this committee? The committee gets approved, and we find out the curriculum was available from the state and the wrong material was grabbed, what is your solution?

Mr. Unghire stated that is the point of this. It is not his solution. It would be the committees solution. When you have a group of people from a variety of backgrounds together you view things differently and come up with creative ideas and solutions. This is why you employ them and provide them with tools. He put together a presentation at the last meeting that had a tool that was proven to be effective, and it is used in industries, and it is applicable in a variety of different settings as being proven methodology for learning and deducing the source of these type of things.

Madam Chair added what if it was human error - it was human error. We cannot as a Board get involved in personnel matters.

Mr. Unghire stated the committee can make recommendations like a check list. When you have lessons of this nature, rather than letting them go you use your checklist. This cannot be placed on the website unless I have an approval sheet from a parent. You make sure all the items on the checklist have been addressed. This is just one example. You will create a process that needs to be satisfied before these things can be released to our kids. It could be when you are dealing with sexually related things or other things. It would fall into a category.

Madam Chair added we are assuming there is no process. Mr. Unghire added there is a process, and a mistake was made. We can't afford to make mistakes. We need to look at what broke down in the process that allowed the mistake to be made.

Madam Chair feels like that is what Central Office and the administration is for - to identify this. Board members develop policies, and we have a curriculum committee where we approve courses, but we do not oversee curriculum as Board members.

Mr. Unghire added this is an opportunity to engage.

Mr. Ryder stated he was not copied on your email about the minutes. He read from the minutes where you said it was prudent that the Board to initiate the formation of a task force specific to pizza consent. This is what you said during your virtual presentation. We still have not received that presentation.

Mr. Ryder would recommend moving to close this discussion so we can specifically vote on the pizza consent task force. You are asking us to approve something that we have not all received.

Mr. Unghire stated he shared it with everyone. You all had the opportunity to see my presentation. He has not withheld the presentation from anyone.

Mr. Hamre added he sat here and looked at the presentation that used the smallest font. He had a hard time seeing the presentation and the screen was right in front of him.

Mr. Ryder added this should have been shared with the 9 of us. No proposal has been shared with us except for what you presented virtually.

Mr. Unghire agrees that he did not share his PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Ryder again referred to the minutes that we will approve.

Mr. Unghire asked if Mr. Ryder saw the presentation.

Madam Chair asked the audience to refrain from making comments again.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the conversation you and Madam Chair had would be a perfect discussion for that committee. This would have been a creative thought out discussion that could happen in the committee. We need to figure out what this committee is and fast forward, this would be the conversation for this committee.

Mr. Unghire stated he made a proposal for the formation of a pizza consent assignment task force. He would like to table this discussion and he withdraws his motion. He added that Mrs. Pickett does not have an agenda item.

Madam Chair stated we can table this item. Mrs. Pickett would need to go through the same process as Mr. Unghire if she wanted to create something and she can present it during her Board member comments or we can add it to an agenda.

Mr. Unghire stated that is fine, but she has said they will not address the pizza assignment, the release of the mistake and the release of the pizza assignment. This was made to the

community and him.

Madam Chair is going to wrap up this discussion. We should not accuse people of not caring. The community is divided on this. There is a community that supports this, a community that doesn't and a community in the middle.

Mrs. Pickett stated this is not your or my committee. We are here to see what the best interest of our students, families and staff of the Enfield Public Schools is. What she is proposing is not just about the pizza assignment. Families are concerned about many issues like the pizza assignment. Families have come to us with many concerns. She also sat in the audience with concerns before becoming a Board member. However we make this committee, even if it is talking about the pizza assignment, we need to decide on the specific issues that need to be discussed. We can talk about a stakeholder advisory committee that will address many of the concerns expressed by parents and families. She does not support making this committee to discuss a pizza assignment only.

Mr. Hamre asked about Mr. Ryder saying he wanted to make a motion. Does this still stand? Tabling the conversation? Does this require us voting?

Madam Chair stated we will need to vote to table this item.

Mr. Drezek does not recall if there was a motion made. Mr. Hamre added Mr. Ryder stated he would like to make a motion. Mr. Drezek stated a second would need to have been made and none was made.

Mr. Hamre thanked Mr. Drezek for the clarification.

Mr. LeBlanc stated if Mrs. Pickett has a presentation and places, it on the agenda, it would not have his support either. This will need to come from the 9 of us. He is eager to hear what will be presented next. The item on tonight's agenda does not have his support either.

Madam Chair stated we have representation on all our committees. In order for a committee to be successful, you also need to loop in your Policy and Curriculum Committees. This all goes back to state mandates and state curriculum and what we are mandated to teach in health. We all would like to see materials taught in a certain way. Our community is divided. There is a correct way to go about this where we can make everyone feel comfortable and come together as a community. We have our standing committees that we can pull from regarding policies and curriculum. We are not curriculum writers and we do not know the state mandates. We need to defer to our educational leaders to work on this. She is not opposed to any parent asking questions about curriculum. You have this right to ask about the curriculum.

Madam Chair moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire to table the Discussion and Action if any Regarding the Formation of the Pizza Consent Assignment Task Force

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

e. Discussion and Action if any Regarding COVID Premium Pay for EPS Staff

Madam Chair moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre regarding premium Covid pay for Enfield Public School Staff in the amount of \$1,000.

Discussion:

Mr. Ryder stated our teachers, EPS staff members did double duty during Covid going back 2 years. We may have closed our buildings, but we never stopped the learning and teaching. If this is something we can do, he stands behind this and our staff. We are still struggling to get through this with mental and emotional problems. Including some of the behavioral issues we

are seeing.

Mr. Ryder added Smyth Bus has something similar to this. Mr. Drezek stated we have an agreement in place with Smyth Bus for any of their employee and the specifics are with them. Any of their employees that meet the criteria will receive a \$1,000 at the conclusion of this school year.

Mr. Ryder wanted to make sure because they are part of our family. Mr. Drezek added this was done back in the fall.

Mr. LeBlanc stated private companies were also provided funds. They also provided employees stipends. He supports this and would like to see the criteria.

Mr. Hamre agrees with this, and our staff deserves to be recognized. He trusts the numbers. Give them what we can. How quickly will this happen?

Mr. Drezek stated this was discussed during our budget presentation with the town. The town did this via payroll as taxable income. It won't be done tomorrow for our employees. He will need to talk to our payroll person about this. We are discussing this now with our collective bargaining units. We have 12 month employees are paid in 26 pay periods. Every once in a while, the way the calendar falls we will have 27 pay periods. We have employees that live paycheck to paycheck. This could create hardships. If this passes, it would need to be done in this fiscal year to lessen the hardship of going with an extra pay period. This will be a lot of work for her.

Mrs. Pickett stated anything we can do to support all our amazing staff she fully supports. She also supports any additional ways we can support our staff

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett reported the Curriculum Committee met on April 21st. We discussed TAG with Dr. Berrios. We will get input from surrounding towns and JFK staff, students and families.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee we met on April 4th and will have items for Board approval. We reviewed the TAG investments and will meet with Wolf Financial representatives to discuss financial losses.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee met on April 19th. We will meet next on May 17th. We reviewed materials with recent legislation changes and will continue discussing them at our next meeting.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Leadership did not meet. She would like us to meet to discuss the process to create a committee going forward. This is a priority. We also need to discuss public comments. We cannot have public comments that will be disruptive to our Board business.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facility Committee meet and they will meet next on May 12th.

JFK Building – Mr. Ryder reported that JFK Building Committee members met on April 7th and will meet again next month.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on June 1st.

Joint Insurance – Madam Chair reported they will meet on May 12th. She can meet with Mrs. Acree before the meeting and give you an overview.

Youth Mental Health – Dr. Calnen reported the town of Enfield Social Services Department will now look at the mental health of all Enfield citizens. The Enfield Board of Education will join this initiative with the Department of Social Services. The new name of this committee will be Enfield Mental Health Wellness Workgroup. We will advocate for the children and adolescents of Enfield. Both Mrs. Acree and he will be the liaisons on this committee. We met on April 5th to review survey results. He reviewed some of the results with the Board. Our workgroup will meet again on May 3rd to discuss the ramifications of these findings and to map out a community wide plan. There was a gap with children under the age of 5. We will need to find a way to address this. Addressing mental health at an early age is extremely important.

Mr. LeBlanc asked if this committee will now meet regularly? Dr. Calnen stated we will discuss this at the May 3rd meeting about structuring this workgroup.

Madam Chair added we will change the name of this committee to the Enfield Mental Health Wellness Workgroup. This committee will continue to evolve into a community wide type initiative.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2022, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of March 2022 the total expenditures amount to \$6,550,466.63, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,583,306.24 and other accounts totaling \$1,967,160.09 and;
- All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly document.

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

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

- The month of March 2022 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$521,827.74 broken down between payroll totaling \$447,313.74 and other accounts totaling \$74,514; and
- All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly document.

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

Line Item Transfers, if any - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education enter into Executive Session – Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Board Member’s Conduct.

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

Both Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 11:15 PM.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

Open Session:

The Board returned to open session at 11:36 PM.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder to adjourn the Regular Meeting of April 26, 2022.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 11:37 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary