

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 14, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on June 14, 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:** Scott Ryder
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Scott Ryder
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 and Tina LeBlanc

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
  - a. **EPS Update**

Mr. Drezek echoed Mr. Ryder's comments. We are at the final countdown for the end of this school year. This has been the most challenging year of our profession. Hopefully, our students got back towards a little more normalcy. This is a testament to our hard-working men and woman staff members. This includes everyone in the Enfield Public schools as mentioned by Mr. Ryder. You all got us through the most challenging year. Thank you for hanging in there with us. This is not something you can train for.

Mr. Drezek stated at the end of the day when we are walking through Hazardville Memorial, we could see how happy the students were. We saw the grade 2 students hugging their teacher, our 2022-23 teacher of the year Amber Venoutsos. This is another reminder that we are doing the right thing.

**b. Graduation and last Week of School**

Mr. Drezek stated everyone except for Henry Barnard, your last day of school is on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Henry Barnard's last day is on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. We are all looking forward to Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> EHS graduation celebration outside at 7:00 PM. He has not looked at the weather forecast and won't until next week. Next week will be an early release for all EPS students with lunch with the exception for Friday. Barnard students will be released early without lunch on Friday. Staff members can leave early on the last two days of school with the students. Monday and Tuesday will be full days for staff members because they will use this time to pack up their classrooms and remove items out of the cafeterias.

8. **AUDIENCES**

Madam Chair read a prepared statement about expectations for audience participation. We will continue to utilize a 4-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.

Jessica Soule, Brook Road – Mrs. Soule spoke about gun control and making our classrooms safer. All teachers have a plan and are prepared to keep our students safe and calm when an emergency occurs. She spoke about the Sandy Hook Promise – Never Again – December 14, 2012. We have asked for several changes to be made. None of our 5 changes have been made. Not enough is being done. She wants her building to be better protected. Please listen to us. Thank you.

Luka Basile, Union Street Ext. – Mr. Basile is a freshman EHS. He would like to suggest no mid-terms or finals for students if you have an A- or higher. Somers and Suffield are doing this. Thank you.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis expressed her gratitude to everyone for what you have done for our students, staff and bus drivers this year. The superintendent's evaluation is tonight. He kept our schools going. He took the heat and put the kids ahead of politics. She thanked him. He is a true leader. She spoke about a documentary. It is a real eye opener. Having faith is great but cults are bad. We have people that are in these cults and are being controlled. When you look at the FOI's, you see the same messages. Watch your children around these people. We need to educate our children and ourselves more. Thank you.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Acree congratulated our Prudence Crandall musicians. She attended the Crandall May Spring Concert performance, and it was wonderful. We have a lot of talented vocal and instrumentalist students. She looks forward to seeing them again next year. Kudos to our students and our music specialists.

Mrs. Acree gave some Crandall highlights: The Grade 3 students participated in the History of Enfield tour last week. They visited the Wallop School House, and the Old Town Hall Museum. Last week, students participated in the 3 branches of government. It was awesome. Students elected a governor and lieutenant governor. They also participated in a mock trial. She thanked the Historical Society for putting this on and for the PTO for making this free for all grade 3 students.

Mrs. Acree stated Mr. Andrew Duperre will be the new Prudence Crandall Principal effective July 1, 2022. Crandall's assistant principal Amy Dennis will now be the grade 3-5 Special Education Coordinator also effective July 1, 2022.

Mrs. Acree stated Elizabeth Szewczak is Enfield's poet Laurette will visit all Crandall students this week.

Mrs. Acree stated the Grade 5 moving up ceremony will be held virtually on Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00-7:30 PM. She wished everyone a happy vacation including teachers, students, parents and staff member. Thank you.

Dr. Calnen stated Kite held their last collaborative meeting. All 28 ECDC slots are filled. They are looking at purchasing an app that will be purchased through a grant. The app is called sparkler and is for children ages 0-5.

Dr. Calnen stated the First Readers held another drive through ceremony last month at Asnuntuck Community College. More than 200 children were recognized for being able to read. This is such a positive program.

Dr. Calnen stated 2Gen held a meeting last month. We will meet again next fall. We discussed where 2Gen is heading. The Chamber of Commerce will join 2Gen which will help with the business sector.

Dr. Calnen stated the Head Start spring health advisory meeting was last Thursday. A number of nutrition and health topics were discussed. All Head Start students are up to date on their vaccinations. We are hoping to start up the mobile dental program in the fall. The students continue to receive healthy nutritious meals. We are hopeful the dietitian will start meeting with the students to discuss healthy eating. We monitor BMI for all children in head start. Students heading to kindergarten immunization records will all be reviewed. Religious exemptions will no longer be accepted.

Dr. Calnen added Head Start will hold a summer program that will start in July from 8:30 AM through 12:30 PM and meals will be provided.

Dr. Calnen stated so far 18 children have been referred for mental health concerns. The annual Head Start assessments were held on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Three areas were looked into, and the final report is pending.

Dr. Calnen stated the Eaglet Gazette is a wonderful publication. There are always many interesting items for parents. There is also information about the formula shortage and cautions for parents diluting formula.

Mrs. Cushman stated the Parkman Grade 3 students have been very busy. We will take a tour tomorrow about the Enfield Historic buildings. The students made 3D projects. Both she and Mrs. Acree are looking forward to seeing the students projects.

Mrs. Cushman would like an update about the stakeholders advisory committee.

Mr. Hamre stated this has been one heck of a first year term. He thanked his fellow Board members and everyone that is involved in education. This has been a year like no other for education to endure. He congratulated everyone for coming through this. You have done this in unprecedented times in ways of building the plane while flying it in order to make it all happen. Thank you for everything you did and congratulations to our students for achieving. He knows our students are doing their absolute best and should celebrate the grades they received.

Mr. Hamre stated he is the JFK liaison and working with the PTO, it has been a great year for them. He thanked Dr. Berrios, Beth, Janet, Leslie and Scott for everything they have accomplished this year and how you have made the students feel they are important.

Mr. Hamre agrees with Mrs. Cushman about the Parkman Historical building tour sounds incredible. He would love to see what the Grade 3 students have built- 3D walking tour.

Mr. Hamre congratulated our Adult Education graduates. He unfortunately arrived late but was able to talk to some of the graduates.

Mr. Hamre congratulated our teacher of the year Amber Venoutsos. This is such a great accomplishment. Having her second grade students surrounding her and congratulating her is something she will never forget and is quite a visual.

Mr. Hamre thanked our audience members for speaking tonight. Your messages have been heard.

Mr. Hamre looks forward to next year working with his fellow Board members. Congratulations to all our graduates.

Mr. LeBlanc stated today is the last day to sign up for the summer instrumental music program. It is a 4-week program that runs from 9 AM in July.

Mr. LeBlanc agrees with Mr. Basile proposal. His high school did this. This is a good way to get students involved academically. It also gives students an incentive to do well during the semesters.

Mr. LeBlanc congratulated the two Enfield little league teams that made it to the Championship for their age divisions. One of them was the champion. Congratulation to all those student athletes.

Mrs. Pickett stated Enfield Unplugged held a concert on the Town Green tonight. Kite and Enfield Public Schools sponsored this rescheduled event. This is her last year at Stowe as a parent. Stowe is a magical place where amazing things happen. She thanked Ms. Valley and her staff. She will continue to be connected with Stowe.

Mrs. Pickett also thanked all Central Office staff and all our amazing staff members and community partners for everything they have done for the students and families. It truly takes a village to make a successful school year.

Mrs. Pickett also attended the First Readers event with a first reader. It was super exciting seeing the students reactions.

Mrs. Pickett added Enfield Street also celebrated Lego Day, Purse Bingo, and Field Day. She thanked Mr. O'Brien who is retiring at the end of this school year. He helped to put on an amazing field day for the students. She was a volunteer and had so much fun. Some of the high school students volunteered. It was great seeing the mentorship between the students. It was very heartwarming. Enfield Street will hold their grade 2 promotion on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Pickett stated the Enfield High School Track Students held an event where students could participate on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Her children participated and they had a great time. She thanked the students and coaches for putting this event on.

Mrs. Pickett stated Stowe will have an end of the year event on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Pickett stated ERfC is offering all kinds of summer programs. You can go to their website at [www.ercinc.org](http://www.ercinc.org) for a complete listing of the programs they are offering students.

Mrs. Pickett added Juneteenth will be celebrated on the Town Green on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM – 6:00 PM. This is a great opportunity for you to engage in some cultural and historical events.

Mrs. Pickett addressed Mrs. Cushman's question about the subcommittee. Mr. Unghire and I have put together our ideas and have submitted them to Leadership. We are waiting for the next steps.

Mrs. Pickett stated iPads will be coming home with students this summer. What will be the expectations for the students with the iPads? The newsletters have some information about iReady. She would like some clarifications about the iPads.

Mr. Drezek stated Mr. Bourassa is in the process of an iPad refresh. iPad's will be going home with students. He is waiting for further clarification from Mr. Bourassa about this.

Mrs. Pickett appreciates this information since it pertains to summer learning. This will help her as a family to know what they can and can't do for summer learning. Some family guidance would be appreciated.

Mr. Drezek stated there is some information on the website. He will provide the Board with an update.

Mrs. Pickett asked when will summer school information be going out. Mr. Drezek stated this information will be coming out shortly.

Mrs. Pickett encourages families to complete the survey. It will help the schools with decision making for next year.

Mrs. Pickett congratulated all our graduating seniors. This is such an exciting time. Thank you to all our staff members. She looks forward to graduation.

Mr. Unghire stated Hazardville Memorial held their field day on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Everyone had a really great time. Some of the alumni art students helped to paint a mural with the students highlighting growth, diversity and inclusion. He thanked the EHS and Memorial students for doing this.

Mr. Unghire congratulated Memorial assistant principal Andrew Duperre for becoming the next Prudence Crandall principal. As the liaison at Memorial, he has grown to know Mr. Duperre quite well. He admires him and he will be a great principal. He also congratulated Principal Hunter for her support for Mr. Duperre.

Mr. Unghire thanked Mrs. Soule for speaking tonight. He did not know what you were talking about. It is important to protect as best as we can within our means. You mentioned 5 things you would like changed and they seemed reasonable. We do not control the facilities. This doesn't mean we don't have an interest. We need to look into this. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.

Mr. Unghire stated Enfield has a driving range training facility - Pleasant View Golf Range that our Enfield high school golf students use and surrounding communities' use. The lease is up, and a solar farm wants to use the land. This land provides recreational use to our community. The Town Council has drafted a letter about this having a recreational value to Enfield and is looking to the siting company to deny this change from happening. He would like the Board to write a similar letter. He will send his fellow Board members information about this.

Mr. Unghire congratulated the graduating Enfield High School seniors. There is a great adventure ahead for you. He urged them to be good to yourself and others. You will be rewarded and will be very successful in your life.

Mr. Ryder stated the summer theatre program will run from July 5 through July 28<sup>th</sup> Monday – Thursdays at Enfield High school in the Auditorium. This is a great program where the students work together collaboratively and will put on a production at the conclusion of the program on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity for students to get together. This is another thing that our students are great at – Theatre and the Arts.

Mr. Ryder stated the Governor's Summer Reading program will also be starting up again. Many principals have included this information in their newsletters. You can also find information about this at the [enfieldpto.com](http://enfieldpto.com) website. You can also find links to the family survey on the [enfieldpto.com](http://enfieldpto.com) website. Your feedback is important and encouraged.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will hold their unity day/field day on June 15<sup>th</sup>. They will hold their end of the year celebration on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM – 1:00 PM. He is thankful to the Whitney PTO for everything they have done for our students. He has been part of this organization for 6 years. He thanked Janet Plewa. He also thanked a good friend of his for the t-shirt he is wearing tonight.

Mr. Ryder stated the Grade 5 students will be the first group of students that will attend school

construction free at JFK. He thanked the members of the JFK building committee. We have a great middle school that is on par with our Enfield High School with many educational opportunities for our students. He cannot wait to see the JFK building. He urged the students to please treat this building with care and enjoy it.

Mr. Ryder congratulated the Grade 8 students for living through the construction at JFK. You were able to enjoy the renovated wings once they were done. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder thanked everyone for making this year possible and his fellow Board members. He wished everyone a safe summer. This Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> on the Town Green is the Juneteenth Celebration. We held the Pride event at the mall on June 1<sup>st</sup> and we raised the Pride Flag at the Enfield Town Hall for the month of June. This is a testament to our town and inclusive growth in Enfield. Thank you.

Madam Chair stated the Toast of the Town event was well attended. She hopes ERfC was able to raise a lot of money that will help our kids go to summer camps and receive backpacks. ERfC is a wonderful program, and we are honored to have them here in Enfield.

Madam Chair attended the Adult Education Graduation Ceremony with Mrs. Cushman and Dr. Calnen. It was a wonderful celebration. It is a testament to the students. They have worked very hard to get to where they want to go. There is not always one path. The path you are on is the path you were meant to be on. This was such a great accomplishment for these students.

Madam Chair stated the EHS class night was held last Friday at Twin Hills Country Club. The seniors were given their year books and they had a blast. The yearbooks were awesome this year. Congrats to Mr. Petrucci for overseeing this.

Madam Chair congratulated our Teacher of the Year Amber Venoutsos. She saw the pictures of her students surrounding her. They are great. This is quite an accomplishment.

Madam Chair stated she is happy to hear we are doing some peer mentoring and partnering with the upper classmen helping the younger students out. This benefits our kids greatly.

Madam Chair stated Enfield High School summer school registration opens on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. It will run for 4 weeks starting on July 5<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>. From 7:30 – 12:30 PM for students in grades 9-12. Summer school is free for all Enfield students. You can register in person on June 30<sup>th</sup> at Enfield High School from 12-6:00 PM in the main lobby. If you need additional information, you can call the high school.

Madam Chair addressed Luka Basile and stated she loves it when students come to us and bring us ideas. She believes this is something we should look into. She agrees this can give students an incentive to work harder. Some kids just do not test well. She will ask the Curriculum Committee to place this item on an upcoming agenda.

Madam Chair addressed Mrs. Soule comments, and this is something we can discuss. Whenever there is a tragic or horrific event, it changes us. She appreciates your ideas and your candidness. We will look into this, and she appreciates you speaking tonight. She is sure there are many teachers that feel the same way you do. Thank you.

Madam Chair stated this is her last time sitting here as an Enfield Public School parent and Board member. Her children went to Harriet Beecher Stowe, Hazardville Memorial, Eli Whitney, John F. Kennedy Middle School and Enfield High School. She thanked all the teachers her kids have had over the years. It truly does take a village. She has dealt with many issues over the past 18 years. She loved her children's teachers. Each of her children are different and their teachers brought out the best in them. She acknowledged every teacher that her children had. The LeBlanc family thanks you all for making Enfield Public Schools a

great place to be. You make such a difference in our families lives than you will ever know. It is a testament when you are out and about, and a teacher will ask you how your child is doing. Our teachers make lifelong commitments to teach our children. She is fortunate to live in this community. She will sign off as a parent on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. She thanked Enfield Public Schools for everything.

Madam Chair wished everyone a happy, safe and enjoyable summer.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Discussion and Action regarding the 2022-23 Healthy Food Certification**

Mr. Drezek stated pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board must certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the Enfield Public Schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from sources including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the Enfield Board of Education elects to not certify the 2022-23 Healthy Food Certification Statement as presented.

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

**b. Discussion and Action if any regarding the June 28, 2022 BOE Meeting**

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman that the Enfield Board of Education cancels the June 28, 2022 BOE meeting.

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

**c. Action if any, regarding Matter(s) Related to Personnel – Superintendent’s Evaluation**

Madam Chair stated this item will be addressed after Item 16.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett reported the Curriculum Committee will meet tomorrow at 5:00 PM. We will discuss TAG and she will bring up exam exemptions.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee we met on June 13<sup>th</sup> and will have items for Board approval. We reviewed TAG portfolio investments and we will stay the course with our investments. We will meet with our investors in September. We also reviewed nutrition financial reports.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee will meet on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Board Leadership has not met.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facility Committee will meet in July. We will meet monthly. He will confirm the date.

JFK Building – Mr. Ryder thanked the members of the JFK Building Committee. The end of the project is near. They will be full steam once school ends. He would like to invite them to an upcoming BOE meeting. He also looks forward to the Board being invited to tour the completed building.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee met on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will meet again in the start of the school year.

Mr. Hamre thanked the members of the Joint Security Committee for meeting after the tragedy in Texas. It brought a heightened sense of urgency for us to meet. He looks forward to the next meeting.

Mr. Ryder added they will meet again on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM.

Joint Insurance – Madam Chair reported that both she and Mrs. Acree attended the meeting. this committee was created to help with self-insurance. We have created some policies and it is running very smoothly. This will be more of an ad hoc committee moving forward. We will be notified if there is a need for a meeting

Enfield Mental Health Wellness Workgroup – Dr. Calnen reported the workgroup has not met since our last meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cindy Guerreri has notified him about a report from our consultants has been generated on mental health challenges. This report will establish a base line for a grant. She will also be working with the North Central Mental Health Department on another grant.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Madam Chair reported we are working with the Town Council to get this going.

### **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2022, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Special Meeting Minutes of May 31, 2022 (Administrative Opening), be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree that the Special Meeting Minutes of May 31, 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 Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of May 2022 the total expenditures amount to \$6,993,819.20, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,738,161.34 and other accounts totaling \$2,255,657.86 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 Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:



- The month of May 2022 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$1,854,944.97 broken down between payroll totaling \$488,570.45 and other accounts totaling \$1,366,374.52; 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**

Mr. LeBlanc stated each Board member received an invitation to attend the Enfield High School Class of 2022 graduation ceremony on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education enter into Executive Session for matter(s) related to Personnel – Superintendent’s Evaluation.

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

Both Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 8:17 PM.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

**Open Session:**

The Board returned to open session at 8:38 PM.

**11c. Action if any, regarding Matter(s) Related to Personnel – Superintendent’s Evaluation**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education extends the Superintendent’s contract by one year.

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

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Regular Meeting of June 14, 2022.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary