

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

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Joshua Hamre, Jonathan LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire and Tina LeBlanc

MEMBERS ABSENT: Janet Cushman

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent; and Student Representative Kayla Surprenant

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Enfield Kid Mayor**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Social Studies Coordinator Joel Senez and our kid mayor Tristen Courchesne.

Mr. Senez stated Tristen Courchesne is a grade 5 student from Prudence Crandall Elementary School. He is our Enfield Kid Mayor. Our students have been learning about government and democracy. He reviewed the process for the kid mayor program and congratulated him. Tristen researched racism and presented it to his class and then to all grade 5 students. He is excited to represent Enfield and will continue to try to end racism.

Mr. Senez added there is a fast turnaround for this program and Tristen was ready for the Kid Governor contest and for making his video. They played his video.

Mayor Cressotti thanked Tristen for his presentation on racism. He attended a pep rally at Prudence Crandall with your classmates. They think a lot of you. He is so proud of you. Your presentation was amazing. You are so sharp and styling! He gave him a pin and invited Tristen to attend an upcoming Town Council meeting. He also invited him to attend the tree lighting ceremony on December 4th. We will walk from Enfield Street School to the Town Green singing songs. We will count down to start the holiday in Enfield and you will flip the switch to light the tree on the Town Green. Congratulations!

Mayor Cressotti wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Madam Chair presented Tristen a gift on behalf of the Board and Town Council. When we have our students visit us at Board meetings, it gives us a chance to refocus and remember why we are doing this. She thinks she will be voting for you someday, you could be our real mayor someday. She would like you to come back when your song is complete, and she would love to purchase a T-Shirt. She loves your platform to end racism. Congratulations and she will see

you at the Torchlight parade.

Tristen received a standing ovation.

Mrs. Pickett hopes to see you again. Congratulation on your hard work. You are such a leader. You are doing a great job at Prudence Crandall and represents Enfield proudly. She is very interested in your platform and the work you are doing to end racism.

Mr. Hamre stated your presentation and public speaking was nicely done. He would also like to purchase a T-Shirt. Your message is great. Congratulation!

Mr. Ryder asked how was your video shared with the other schools and about the voting process? He does not understand why you didn't win at the State level. Mr. Senez stated Tristen's video was shared with the students at the other schools. The requirements at the state level are complicated. The committee narrows down the entries to 7 finalists. He also has the same question about why he didn't win. The winner was just announced today, and it is a student from Monroe.

Mrs. Acree congratulated Tristen. She loves your plan, and she loves the song. You are interested in writing anti-racism curriculum. Great job. We will see you in Congress one day.

Mr. Unghire also congratulated Tristen for a job well done. You worked hard and it shows.

Madam Chair stated as parents, we learn so much from our kids. Your presentation brought a tear to her eye. She loves hearing from our students. She congratulated him for his anti-racism platform. You also had solutions that went along with your plan. Congratulation and for representing Enfield so well.

Mr. Drezek stated at the pep rally, the State has a touring bus that goes district to district. It was at that point when we found out who the 7 finalists were. The representative from the Democracy Center were very nice and they said that Enfield has the best civics program in the State. This is a reflection on Mr. Senez. He thanked Mr. Senez for everything he is doing for our students. A lot of work goes into this program. When we walked into Tristen's classroom, he was decked out just like tonight. He knew he was a winner. This young man has some great confidence. Congratulations Tristen and thank you Mr. Senez.

b. EHS Tri-M Students

Mr. Drezek introduced our K-12 Music Coordinator Mark Reppucci, and he will introduce his students. One of our Board members spoke about the EHS Tri-M Students previously.

Mr. Reppucci stated he has brought the Tri-M Honors Advisors to tonight's meeting. We started this chapter up again 7 years ago when Enfield was reinstated. The Tri-M Advisors are Ashley Schell, Raymond Cole, and Amanda Urquhart Tilghman.

Mrs. Urquhart Tilghman introduced the student Tri-M Officers: Anna Bemiss, President; Katie Knapp, Vice President; Harley Griffin, Secretary; and Kayla Surprenant and Kyras Spruill, Co-Treasurers/Historians. Each of the students spoke about the Tri-M Honors Music program. There is also additional information about the Tri-M program included in the Board packet.

Mr. Reppucci added the students will also perform at the Arts Festival in the Spring and we invite you to attend all the upcoming concerts. Thank you for inviting us.

Mr. Ryder stated it is obvious that you are not shy, and you all exude excitement. It is great to see you here tonight. Thank you for making our community better through music.

Mrs. Pickett stated she is so impressed with our Enfield students. Thank you for coming tonight. She would like to know more about music education and advocacy. Arts education is

extremely important. How can we continue to support you? She hopes to hear more from you about the work you are doing. This is definitely an area we need to explore more deeply. Thank you and keep up your great leadership work.

Mrs. Acree congratulated Mr. Reppucci and the EHS Tri-M Honor Society Students, Music Specialists and staff. This is such a great program that helps to develop more talented skillful musicians. We need great music teachers in all of our schools. Your leadership and participation shines. Thank you.

Mr. Hamre also thanked them. He spoke about Tri-M at a previous meeting. Congratulations for your dedication. He appreciates all your efforts and will continue to promote your work at ECAC. He hopes you continue with music beyond high school. He also congratulated the people behind the scenes.

Mr. Unghire also congratulated them and thanked them for coming tonight. You have many gifts and are extremely talented. You are all extraordinary! Good music needs good listeners. Thank you.

Madam Chair thanked them for everything you are doing above and beyond your schoolwork and with your extracurricular activities. She purchased a T-Shirt at one of the Football games. She will attend your concert at EHS on December 14th. Thank you.

c. Randy Daigle

Mr. Drezek welcomed Randy Daigle. Mr. Daigle is going to give the Board an update on the JFK project. If you walk around any of our buildings and you look at the plaques, you will see one consistent name present and that is Randy Daigle. He thanked him on behalf of the district and personally for all the help you have given us to get our buildings renovated. We would not be anywhere without you – thank you.

Mr. Daigle thanked them for the invitation. He is fortunate to be the Chairman of the JFK building committee. Just like you do, I surround myself with great people that makes him look good. Everyone takes their roles seriously and with accountability. He has been fortunate that every project we have done has been done under budget and this project is one of them.”

Mr. Daigle stated when we started this project there were several items, we put off to the side due to costs. We designed this building 5 ½ years ago. Since then, programs and times have changed. We were fortunate that we were under budget enough to make changes and add programs back into the budget.

Mr. Daigle showed Board members and audience members slides of the renovated to new John F. Kennedy Middle School. He reviewed the items that were added back into the project; 10 new Lapel Mics; Advanced Sound Board; Stage Speakers, Stage Curtain; Bleachers in the Ball fields; Lights & Benches to the outside Basketball court; Digital Sign; Updated Internet; Upgraded Security Systems, Monitors & Cameras; Film on the Glass for Security; Storage in Classrooms; Bleachers in the Gym; Bike Racks; Custodian Equipment; Fencing around the Baseball Fields; Keyboards and Band Stations; P & Z and ADA Compliant Fields; Concession Stands with Boys & Girls Bathroom, Storage Containers for Snow Equipment and Lawn Equipment; Refenced the Entire Property; Media Center; Repointed the Entire School and Calked the entire Building; New Data and Power Poles in the Media Center. There are an additional 20 items we added.

Mr. Daigle added because we were able to control costs and had a contingency fund, we will be around \$2 million under budget at the completion of this project. We are trying to accommodate as much as we can with adding new programs. Enrollments are increasing, requirements are increasing. We are in a phase where everything is new. Gilbane and CSG are still working on issues that have been brought up. We are still dealing with some water leaks. We are working on some other minor issues as well. Dr. Berrios has been amazing to work

with, just like Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey. Anytime I asked them for something, they were able to accommodate us.

Mr. Daigle stated we were going to have a ribbon cutting ceremony in December but due to conflicts we have decided to move it to January after the holidays. We will have a public walkthrough. This way the taxpayers can see what their money has been used for.

Mr. Hamre thanked Mr. Daigle for the presentation. He has been to JFK several times and the level of attention and detail that has been done at JFK is outstanding. Our athletic fields and auditorium are now ADA compliant. Having this level of detail allows for inclusivity for all our students. You mentioned the irrigation on the fields. Is there a drainage system for the fields?

Mr. Daigle stated there is drainage. What occurred early in the season was the silk mesh that is placed in the drains while the grass is growing slowed the drainage process. We had a couple of raining days where it took several days to drain and dry out. We have removed the silk fencing. There is enough grass growth now and the State DEP gave us the okay to remove the silk mesh. We had a similar issue with the parking lot that has since been resolved by removing all the silk mesh around those drains.

Mr. Hamre appreciates everything that has been done. He asked about the tree lines. Mr. Daigle stated we removed a lot of brush and trees along the 10 foot buffer to prevent trees from growing and disrupting the new fencing that was installed.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Daigle for the presentation. Seeing how the building has progressed is great. It is great to drive by JFK at night and seeing the outside basketball courts being used with the lights. We could always envision this, but now we get to actually see it. If you go by JFK around 2:40 PM you can see how many students are riding their bikes to school. Teams will be able to use the fields this spring.

Mr. Daigle stated yes. The Town wanted to be able to use them for fall sports. Unfortunately, the seed did not take, and we did not release the fields back to the town for use. We will have one more smaller seeding done in the spring and then the fields will be turned over to the town for use. Once we build the concession stand, we will need to reseed that area.

Mr. LeBlanc loves seeing our fields being used for our teams. This helps our school community and for students to support the players. He looks forward to seeing the JFK athletic teams utilizing our fields again. He likes how you have re-evaluated our needs and made adjustments along the way with this project. This school will serve the needs of our students for generations to come. Thank you.

Dr. Calnen asked about the science rooms, and if they can double as classrooms? Mr. Daigle stated yes, there is a teaching area and a lab area.

Mr. Unghire thanked Mr. Daigle for the comprehensive presentation. You covered a lot of his questions during your presentation. He commends you for dealing with all of this while remaining under budget. That is quite impressive. Your plan was well thought-out and paid off. We now have 2 beautiful facilities that are state of the art, and we are very proud of. Your team did what they set out to do and walked the walk. Thank you and well done.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mr. Daigle for the presentation. His daughter lived through the construction and is now at EHS as a freshman. This project was done while keeping all our students safe. The students enjoyed seeing the project progress. There have been some growing pains that you have dealt with. All incoming grade 6 students will have a beautiful middle school to attend. Thank you.

Mr. Daigle added Mr. Ryder was part of this from the start. Thank you.

Mr. Hamre stated there are never enough headsets for the theater, the more the better.

Madam Chair asked how many students was JFK built for and reimbursable for? Mr. Daigle stated around 1,240. Madam Chair stated we are seeing more students staying instead of going to magnet schools. Mr. Daigle stated we saw this happen at EHS. By bringing our magnet students back we are saving money.

Madam Chair remembers taking a walk at JFK and standing in the cafeteria and you told them they were actually standing where the pool was. The pool did not fit into this model. The furniture you chose is more functional in the classrooms and cafeteria. Teachers can reconfigure the rooms as needed. During this year's election, residents were so excited to go into the school. People were saying this doesn't even look like JFK anymore. She is glad the referendum passed. The previous conditions of the classrooms were in rough shape and some of the rooms in the hub did not have windows. It is amazing with what we did from the start of this project 5 years ago. We have made adaptability changes along the way. The kinks will get worked out and this is something we understand.

Madam Chair thanked Mr. Daigle for your dedication to our building projects at both Enfield High and John F. Kennedy. This isn't easy. You have a fulltime job and are volunteering your time to oversee these projects. You have dealt with a lot of moving parts. Thank you for all your hard work. She is looking forward to the dedication. Residents are looking forward to walking through the building.

Madam Chair added that a group of men that graduated years ago from Enfield High arranged a tour with Principal Clark to tour the building. It will be interesting to see if any requests are received to tour JFK. Thank you and we appreciate all your hard work.

Mr. Daigle thanked the Board and thanked them for their support. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Kayla Surprenant reported Enfield High held a volleyball game yesterday and today to improve school climate where 16 teams competed. She thanked the Physical Education Department for running this event. It was a lot of fun. The Lamplighters held 3 great performances on Friday and Saturday. Tomorrow at EHS we will hold our Career Day. We have over 100 guest speakers attending. The EHS NHS will hold a can and bottle drive on November 26th from 10-2 PM. Model UN will compete on December 2nd & 3rd at the Hartford Conference. The EHS Football Team Senior Night is being held tomorrow night at the game against South Windsor, kickoff is at 6 PM. The Enfield High Community Action Club will run a hot chocolate stand during the game to help keep everyone warm during the game. The FOR Club will hold a pancake breakfast on December 18th from 8-10:30 AM at EHS. There is no charge to attend this event, and all are welcome. They will have raffles and gift baskets. All proceeds will go to Enfield Loaves and Fishes and Little Sisters of the Poor. Donations are greatly appreciated.

- b. Thanksgiving Break & Staff PL Day** - as presented
- c. Torchlight Parade & Carol Sing** - as presented
- d. EPS Update**

Mr. Drezek stated he had the privilege of talking to the Enfield High Football team tonight in preparation for their game tomorrow night. He told them we are not giving back the trophy to South Windsor High School. He wished all the players good luck tomorrow.

Mr. Drezek added we will continue to offer free lunches to students through the month of December. We are able to offer this to our students via a smart grant from the State of Connecticut that is based on participation. Our hopes are to continue this as long as we can.

Mr. Drezek thanked the residents and parents that submitted applications to be part of the Superintendent's Advisory Council. He received over 150 applications. He was not expecting to receive that many applications and as you know, if you have more than 20 people it can be hard to accomplish things and hear everyone's input. He does not want to cut any parents that want to be engaged in their child's life. Some adjustments have been made so we can include everyone. He will hold a series of meetings. He will close the date this week for applications. We will hold a series of conversations and build upon that with the topics you are interested in. You will receive an invitation from Mr. Drezek. He was pleased with the responses he received about why you are interested in this committee. The responses were all over the map and there were some consistencies. There are topics that parents are interested in and want to know more about and have discussions. He now needs to figure out how he will set up the groups for smaller discussions, so everyone is heard. He does not want to turn this into a middle school dance. These group meetings are to hear different perspectives from parents and to hear from me as well. We will be selective when we send out the invitations so there will be equal representations from all levels at these sessions. This will be coming out in the upcoming weeks. He is very pleased with the response he received for parent participation.

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.

Sandy Hayward, Charnley Road – Mrs. Hayward is here tonight about the last Board meeting and the list of books that were banned. She looked up these books on ratedbooks.com and these books are not acceptable for students. These books are not okay for any children, and we should not allow these books in our schools. The idea of removing a Board member for harming children is also wrong when all you are doing is trying to protect them from reading harmful materials. You are all volunteers and work hard. Have a nice Thanksgiving.

Carmella Stauffer, Birchwood Terrace – Mrs. Stauffer stated she has lived in Enfield all her life, as well as her children and grandchildren. They have all attended and graduated from Enfield Public Schools. She is also concerned about the content of books in our libraries. You are making it harder for parents. It is a parents right to talk to their children about things and the choices they make. These kinds of books do not belong in our schools. These books belong in the public library for adults to take out. Thank you and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Kelly Jackson, Meade Lane – Mrs. Jackson stated she is here tonight about the e-mails that were part of her FOI request. She asked if Board members are sharing these e-mails with residents. Happy Thanksgiving.

Walter Kruzel, Charnley Road – Mr. Kruzel wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. He is here tonight about the First Readers program. They have been meeting via zoom during the pandemic. We have set a date for Trivia Night that will be held on February 22nd at 7:00 PM at Mount Carmel. This is the only fundraising event they hold. Our next in person meeting will be held on December 13th at 5:00 PM at the Public Library. He would like to see a Board liaison attend. We will hold the next graduating group of First Readers on March 6th at JFK and the next group on June 5th at Enfield High. You can find out more about First Readers by going to firstreaders.org website or at our Facebook page. Volunteers are needed and meetings are open to the public. Please join us on December 13th at 5:00 PM. He is still waiting to be appointed to the Joint Facilities Committee. Thank you, Mr. Ryder, for seeing him on Election Day at the Annex. Thank you.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis stated she is a parent of a grade 12 student at EHS. She is thankful to the amazing teachers and administration. Her son graduated from Enfield High School. We just received an early acceptance letter for her daughter to a college of her

choice. She thanked the teachers for their guidance and for the amazing curriculum they teach. Her daughter has excelled and received academic honors. They are involved parents. Every year the staff seemed to be better than the year before. They are amazing teachers. Thank you, Board members, and Mr. Drezek for your leadership. You are true leaders. Her children have succeeded because of the Enfield Public School system. Thank you.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Acree addressed audience member Kelly Jackson and expressed her apologies for what your son experienced during the summer. It is very sad that we live in a world where people are not accepted with their different backgrounds, cultures and races. She hopes in the near future in our Enfield community, we can all come together and celebrate our similarities and differences. We are all part of the human race. We need to listen to each other and get along better and come up with better resolutions.

Mrs. Acree stated Prudence Crandall elected Tristen as the kid governor and they learned about government. The North Thompsonville Fire Department has been working with the students about fire prevention and safety. Parents will be invited to join students in their classrooms on November 23rd for a family engagement program.

Dr. Calnen stated Kite will hold a community conversation at Asnuntuck Community College next spring on equity and diversity. The Heritage Fair will be back again in February. The committee will meet on December 7th. The Family Resource Center held a coffee and conversation on November 4th with the parents of Stowe to brainstorm about addressing parent concerns and suggestions about early learning context. They will hold 3 meetings during the school year for parents. They also discussed the Sparkler program, and they reviewed training with this application. They also discussed sharing results with pediatricians. They are ready to launch year 3 of the family engagement initiative and surveys will be sent out shortly.

Dr. Calnen stated the Parent Leadership Academy is accepting applications. This program is free and additional information can be found on the enfieldschools.org website or call 860-253-6500. The deadline for applications being submitted is the first week in December.

Dr. Calnen stated First Readers will hold their next celebration of readers will be held on March 6th. This is such a great program. You can find out more about this program at firstreadersofenfield@gmail.com.

Dr. Calnen stated the Enfield Together Coalition will meet on December 6th at Asnuntuck Community College from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. The topic is about health, youth safety, data trends and learning about fentanyl. Free dinner and childcare will be provided. You can register for this event at gcyr@enfield.org or call 860-253-6382.

Dr. Calnen stated the Head Start Policy Committee met on November 4th. We discussed the Federal Grant the Board will discuss later and reviewed goals and objectives. Currently they have 101 students enrolled and attendance is at 85%.

Dr. Calnen added the Head Start Health Advisory Committee will meet on either December 14th or the 15th.

Mr. Hamre stated the JFK PTO theatre group will put on “Newsies” in the spring in the new auditorium. He looks forward to seeing this and hearing the new lapel microphones. Please look at the Principal’s newsletter. The next PTO meeting will be held on December 7th and the meeting will be virtual.

Mr. Hamre thanked Dave Orton for inviting him to be a judge at the Enfield Instrumental Parents Chili Cookoff. The turnout was great. He also announced the Enfield High football game against Woodstock Academy. He thanked both Mr. Bourassa and Mr. Ryder. Enfield High won and it was great to see the Woodstock players back in action.

Mr. Hamre asked Mr. Drezek when the cutoff date for submitting applications to the Superintendent's Advisory Committee is. Mr. Drezek stated November 23rd will be the cutoff date.

Mr. Hamre added cold weather affects many. The cold weather safe harbor warming center will open on December 1st and will be open for 3 months.

Mr. Hamre addressed the comments about books being banned, he stated the list of books was in an e-mail and these books are not in our school libraries. We have a process in place for reviewing books. At the policy committee meeting we discussed this. It is a parents responsibility to have these kinds of conversations with your children. He also discussed comments about board members harming students. This is about taking away constitutional protections. It is about removing protections that protect our students. He is not okay with removing these protections. These protections are needed. He welcomes any questions.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Walther Kruzel for talking about the First Readers. This is a great organization. They have made adjustments to keep the program up and running. He is glad to hear they will be back in person. This is something to look forward to attending.

Mr. LeBlanc congratulated Mrs. Davis on your daughters academic accomplishments. Your daughter is a prime example of what our students can achieve. Early acceptance is great. Congratulation to any other students that received early acceptance to the college of your choice.

Mr. LeBlanc encourages residents to go to the Town Manager's Facebook page. She is here tonight to listen to your concerns. Thank you, Ellen Zoppo, for being here tonight.

Mr. LeBlanc congratulated the Enfield Ramblers A Team for winning their championship against East Hartford. They played against some great teams getting here. This is a great win – congratulations!

Mr. Unghire stated at Hazardville Memorial last week they held a Veteran's Day ceremony. The event was well attended. They had over 20 veterans attend this ceremony. Our Mayor kicked off the event with a message.

Mr. Unghire stated as the Buzz Robotics liaison, he has been coordinating an event with John Dague for our Enfield Students to visit Boston Dynamics and Transcend Aircraft to see their high tech robots and tour both of these facilities. Mr. Dague is working with Carolyn Marr the Buzz Robotics Advisor.

Mr. Unghire congratulated Mrs. Davis on your daughters accomplishments.

Mrs. Pickett urged everyone to reflect during this holiday season. She is extremely grateful to the staff of Enfield Public Schools. What you do every day is very important. November is also Native American Heritage Month. You can find some links, videos and resources on our website about this.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Dr. Wiley and Mrs. Hulevitch for the Digital Presentations they provided. She thanked them both for this informative presentation. She attended the one held at Enfield Street and could see the connections with what her children are doing. It was great to be there in person to make connections with the staff. The turnout was smaller than expected but she would like for us to get this information out to parents in a broader way.

Mrs. Pickett attended the Veteran's Day celebration at Enfield Street. The students sang and read to the veteran's. Her dad was there. She thanked the music teacher at Enfield Street Mrs. Berube-Sengupta for being the master of ceremonies. Her dad left Enfield Street in tears. You all did an amazing job – thank you.

Mrs. Pickett stated the Enfield Street PTO has a lot of events coming up. They are all listed in the ESS Principal's newsletter and Facebook page. Family engagement is extremely important to her. She extends kudos to Prudence Crandall for their school event that is being held tomorrow.

Mrs. Pickett is excited to hear about the Superintendent's Advisory Committee. Our families want to be engaged. She added there is a process for books that are donated. The process starts with our Reading Coordinator.

Mrs. Pickett wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy your break.

Mr. Ryder thanked our kid mayor Tristen for being here. He would also like to have him come back. Mr. Kruzel spoke about First Readers, and he asked Madam Chair to appoint a liaison to this committee.

Madam Chair believes our liaison is Mrs. Cushman. She will follow up with First Readers on this. Mr. Ryder added Joyce Hall was our previous liaison for First Readers.

Mr. Ryder added the First Readers Trivia Night is on February 25th and will be live. He is looking forward to this event and he will provide all the AV. We are still doing things for First Readers behind the scenes and if you can confirm our liaison with them that would be great.

Mr. Ryder stated the North Central Chamber of Commerce awarded 2 students at JFK and 4 students at Enfield High the Acts of Kindness Awards. This was started by the Miller Family. It is great seeing our students receiving this award. He also thanked our teacher and staff for everything they are doing.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney held their literacy night and he dressed up as a scare crow. He also read the book "The Scarecrow" to the students. He thanked the staff for organizing this event. They will hold their scholastic book fair starting on December 5th. They will hold the family shopping night on December 9th from 6-7:30 PM. Whitney picture retakes will be held on December 18th.

Mr. Ryder added our PJ Day will be held on December 9th. We will also be holding a food drive at Eli Whitney. JFK just ended their food drive for the Enfield Food Shelf. Also upcoming is Wreaths Across America. He has posted information about PJ Day and Wreaths Across America on the Enfieldpto.com website.

Mr. Ryder stated the Invention Convention will start on November 29th at JFK from 6-7 PM for all students in grades 3-8. Participation forms are needed.

Mr. Ryder stated Enfield High Safe Grad Auction will be held on December 3rd. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Information about this event can also be found on the enfieldpto.com website.

Mr. Ryder added PJ day is on December 9th and all donations will go to CT Children's Hospital. Students and staff can wear PJ's for a \$1 donation. He is very proud of Enfield Public Schools and our participation with PJ day supporting students that are at fighting serious illnesses. We have placed in the top 5 for five consecutive years. He is extremely proud of us. Even during Covid we did well. Our Teacher of the Year added another layer to this event. Students and staff can submit a message of hope to the children via Flipgrid. He will be sending out e-mails about this event soon. He encouraged all EPS students and staff, Smyth Bus and local businesses to participate in this event.

Mr. Ryder stated Joyce Hall loved this event. We have since added more layers to this event on December 9th. Madam Chair stated she remembers Mrs. Hall wearing her plaid PJ's. This is when she learned about her love of plaid.

Madam Chair thanked Mr. Kruzel for his comments tonight about First Readers. She will confirm that Janet Cushman is our liaison for First Readers. She is not sure why your appointment was not made. We had an agreement.

Madam Chair thanked Mrs. Hayward and Mrs. Stauffer for your comments tonight regarding books and curriculum. She also congratulated Mrs. Davis daughter's academic accomplishments. Before you know it will be June and she will be graduating. It goes by really quickly.

Madam Chair stated Cookies for Camouflage is happening on November 27th at the American Legion from 11-3 PM. This is a wonderful event that is organized by Lori Gates. There will be drop boxes for your cookies to share with our service men and woman.

Madam Chair added that Pam Townsend and Lori Gates will attend our December meeting as Board guests, and they will talk about Wreaths Across America ceremony that will be held at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

Madam Chair stated that Ms. Grout an Enfield High teacher is collecting toiletries and different items to put together baskets for families in need. If you have any items you would like to donate, you can contact Ms. Grout or myself. This is a wonderful thing she is organizing.

Madam Chair is sad to report the EHS Girls Soccer Team lost. It was a great game and they played really hard. She is wishing good luck for the Enfield High Football team for the rivalry game against South Windsor on Wednesday. She will attend this game and is glad it is being played on Wednesday night. Last year it was held on a Saturday.

Madam Chair encouraged parents to look at the Enfield recreation website. They have a lot of events and activities for your children to participate during the month of December.

Madam Chair stated she received a question about the Superintendents Advisory Committee. Elected officials are not part of this committee. This is being done by Central Office and the Superintendent.

Madam Chair thanked Alex Giner from E-TV. He is behind the scenes and does a wonderful job for us and really works hard making sure everything is ready to go for our meetings. Thank you, Alex.

Madam Chair echoed Mr. Ryder about the Safe Grad Auction being held on December 3rd at Mount Carmel. They are still accepting donations. Both she and Mrs. Cushman are putting together a gift basket on behalf of the Board of Education.

Madam Chair added the date for submitting senior information for the yearbook pages have been extended until 11:00 AM tomorrow. Also the Pink Flamingoes are in hibernation for the winter. They will let us know when they are ready for lawn flocking's again.

Madam Chair thanked Mr. Unghire for reaching out to Mr. Dague and Mrs. Marr about our Buzz Robotics students going to industries you have contacts with. Please give us an update as this progresses. This is a great opportunity for our students.

Madam Chair was unable to attend the Digital Presentation as well as some of the other Board members. She would like this digital presentation at an upcoming Board meeting.

Mr. Drezek stated we were tentatively planning to have Dr. Wiley attend tonight's meeting, but she was bumped for by our kid mayor.

Madam Chair wished everyone a happy healthy Thanksgiving. Get some well deserved rest and spend some time with your families.

Mrs. Pickett stated the Adult Education Continuing Education program was sent in the mail today. There are some great programs listed in here including some great culinary programs. Please check them out.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Adopt New Policies & Policy Revisions – Second Reading

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

A vote by **roll call – 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approve Head Start Federal Grant for 2023-24

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Head Start Federal Grants for 2023-24.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett commends Ms. Valley and her leadership for everything they are doing at Stowe for the students and family members. We are serving the needs of our most vulnerable students. This is a gem of Enfield and is making an impact. We are a model for the State and are making a positive impact.

A vote by **roll call – 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett thanked Ms. Middleton and her staff for their presentations at the Curriculum meeting. They are always so prepared for our meetings. She is learning a lot at these meetings that are open to the public. We reviewed several courses and proposed new courses. She also commended Mr. Dague and Ms. Valley for the early childhood pathways connection that will benefit our students. We will review our data presentation at the December 6th Curriculum meeting as well as K-3 reading curriculum.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee met on November 7th. We reviewed financial nutrition reports and our TAG investments. Lunches will continue to be free for the month of December. We will meet with our investors from Wolf Investments.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee met on November 15th. We will not meet in December and will meet again on January 31st.

Madam Chair added the members of the Policy Committee come to these meetings so prepared and are doing a wonderful job.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Board Leadership met yesterday and we discussed dates for upcoming Leadership meetings.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facility Committee meets every other Thursday. He was unable to attend this meeting due to a conflict at the High school for parent/teacher conferences.

Mr. LeBlanc added we discussed roof construction and will continue this discussion at our next meeting. It was a quick meeting.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder reported we heard from Mr. Daigle tonight about the JFK Building project.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported he believes the Joint Security Committee will meet on December 15th, but he will need to confirm this date.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness Workgroup – Dr. Calnen has nothing new to report.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mr. Hamre thanked the members from the Lamplighters for their shows last weekend. They put on an amazing show with no hiccups. He also thanked Mr. and Mrs. Reese and all the parents for their continued support. Our students are developing a love for the theater.

Mr. Hamre congratulated Betsy Davis for her academic accomplishments and stated she is also a member of Tri-M. He added the next ECAC meeting will be held on December 6th and we will be discussing the Heritage Fair. He is glad to see we are bringing back this multicultural event.

Mr. Hamre added the Opera House Players are putting on “Rent.” This is an amazing show, and he encourages you to see it. Kudos to everyone involved in this production.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Unghire moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Special Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2022, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-1** passed with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2022, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-1** passed with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

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 October 2022 the total expenditures amount to \$8,317,873.09, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,713,622.61 and other accounts totaling \$3,604,250.48 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 7-0-0** passed unanimously (Mrs. Acree was not present during the vote).

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

- The month of October 2022 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$733,299.50 broken down between payroll totaling \$605,017.09 and other accounts totaling \$128,282.41; 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 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Line Item Transfers if any - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:49 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary