

ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Time-Place:

Council Chambers
820 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT

Date: 05-23-23

7:00 PM Regular Meeting

<https://youtube.com/live/jMsTMtpo7E4>

1. Call to Order – 7:00 PM
2. Moment of Silence – Joshua Hamre
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Joshua Hamre
4. Fire Evacuation Announcement
5. Roll Call
6. Board Guest(s)
 - a. Buzz Robotics
7. Superintendent’s Report
 - a. Student Representative Update
 - b. Memorial Day – NS
 - c. Incoming Grade 6 Parent Information Night
 - d. EHS Scholarships & Awards Ceremony
 - e. EPS Update
8. Audiences
9. Board Members’ Comments
10. Unfinished Business
11. New Business
 - a. Approve Lester J. Bodley Scholarship Recipients
 - b. Discussion and Action regarding the 2023-24 Healthy Food Certification
 - c. Revise the 2023-24 School Calendar
 - d. Proposed New Policy & Policy Revision – First Reading
 - e. Approve FY2023-24 Budget
12. Board Committee Reports

- Curriculum Committee	- JFK Building Committee
- Finance, Budget Committee	- Joint Security Committee
- Policy Committee	- Enfield Mental Health & Wellness Workgroup
- Leadership Committee	- Enfield Cultural Arts Commission
- Joint Facilities Committee	- PK-5 School Modernization Committee
13. Approval of Minutes:
 - Regular BOE Meeting Minutes: May 9, 2023
14. Approval of Accounts and Payroll:
15. Correspondence and Communications
16. Executive Session
17. Adjournment



Date: May 23, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Board Guest(s)

- a. **Buzz Robotics:** Tonight, we welcome Buzz Robotics Advisors Caroline Marr and Lauren Jefferson along with several Enfield High School Students. They are here to give the Board an update about this year's season. Ms. Marr and Ms. Jefferson will introduce any students that are present.



Date: May 23, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Superintendent's Report

- a. **Student Representative Update:** Each of our Enfield High School Student Representatives may have some information or comments to share with the Board regarding events/happenings at Enfield High.
- b. **Memorial Day:** All Enfield Public Schools will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observation of Memorial Day. All schools will reopen on Tuesday, May 30th.

Board members have been invited to attend the Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 28th. The parade will start at 1:00 PM from the Our Lady of Angels Campus and will end at the Enfield Town Hall. A quorum agenda can be found in your packet along with a flyer with additional information about the parade.

- c. **Incoming Grade 6 Parent Information Night:** John F. Kennedy Middle School will hold an informational night for current grade 5 parents and students on Tuesday, May 30th at 6:30 PM in the JFK Auditorium. A flyer is included in your packet about this event.
- d. **EHS Scholarships & Awards Ceremony:** Enfield High School will hold their 2023 Scholarships and Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 31st at 6:30 PM in the EHS Auditorium. A quorum agenda for this event can be found in your packet.
- e. **EPS Update:** I will update the Board regarding our schools at this time.



Date: May 23, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Approve Lester J. Bodley Scholarship Recipients

Since 2004, the Enfield Board of Education has announced the recipients of the Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarships at a Board meeting. These scholarships are awarded each year to a male and female graduating student from Enfield High School. Such donations are permissible under the Town Charter.

Enclosed in your packet is information provided by the Enfield High School Common Application Selection Committee. Due to student confidentiality we are recommending that both students be referred to as Student A and Student B instead of announcing their names publicly.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate to award the 2023 Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarships for Student A and Student B as presented.



Date: May 23, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Discussion and Action regarding the 2023-24 Healthy Food Certification

Our Nutrition Services Director Diane Edwards has provided the Board with the enclosed memo regarding the Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2023-24. The State of Connecticut requires all districts to complete the certification statement certifying that all food items sold to students will meet or will not meet the Connecticut Nutritional Standards.

The Enfield Public Schools lunch program meets all Federal and State nutrition guidelines. Ms. Edwards recommends that we do not certify the 2023-24 Connecticut Healthy Food Certification due to the additional restrictions that are required. The costs needed to comply with the certification will exceed the reimbursement incentive.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate to indicate that the Board elects to not certify the 2023-24 Healthy Food Certification Statement.



Date: May 23, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Revise the 2023-24 School Calendar

The Board approved the 2023-24 School Calendar previously on February 14th. As I mentioned at the last Board meeting, a revision is needed to align Enfield with schools within our Athletic Conference - CCC (Central Connecticut Conference). Schools in the CCC conference will use the new proposed vacation week of April 8-12th to play scheduled conference games. This is the only recommended change needed for the 2023-24 calendar. Enclosed in your packet is a copy of the calendar with the proposed revised vacation week.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate revising the 2023-24 School Calendar as presented.



Date: May 23, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Proposed New Policy & Policy Revisions – Second Reading

Policy Committee members met on May 16th. They are recommending first readings for two policies. Enclosed in your packets is a proposed new policy and current policy with revisions. These policies have been placed on the website for public input.

New Policy:

- 6144 Controversial Issues

Policy Revision:

- 9121 Chairperson

Policy Committee Chair Scott Ryder and/or Policy Committee Liaison Assistant Superintendent Longey can address any Board member questions regarding these policies.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding approving the proposed new policy and policy revision as presented for a First Reading.



Date: May 23, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Approve FY2023-24 Budget

I will address this with the Board at this time.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding the FY2023-24 Budget.

Item #76.

You are cordially invited to participate in

ENFIELD, CT'S ANNUAL

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Sunday, May 28, 2023

Step-off at 1:00pm

The Enfield Veteran's Council would like to formally invite you to join us as we commemorate Memorial Day on Sunday, May 28, 2023 with our annual Parade and Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Enfield Veteran's Memorial to honor those veterans who gave the last full measure in defense of the United States of America. Your business or organization plays an important role in our community and we would welcome your participation in our parade.

Participating groups will assemble at Our Lady of Angels Campus on Route 5 (1315 Enfield St, Enfield, CT 06082, on the corner of South Road and Enfield Street) at **12:30pm**. We will march north on route 5 for approximately 1.5 miles to end at Enfield Town Green for our Wreath-Laying Ceremony.

We hope you will join us on Sunday, May 28, 2023 to help us honor our fallen service men and women as a community.

**Please RSVP by Monday, May 15, 2023 to one of the following
Veteran's Council Members:**

Jim Maloney:

Call: 860-749-1555

Email: jemaloney415@gmail.com

Lucian Lefevre:

Call: 860-463-7168

Email: lefevrel@sbcglobal.net





We make a difference in Enfield - every child, every day.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1010 ENFIELD STREET • ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082
TEL: 860.253.6531 • FAX: 860.253.6515

May 19, 2023

Mrs. Sheila Bailey, Town Clerk
Enfield Town Hall
820 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT 06082

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Please be advised that a quorum of the Enfield Board of Education may be in attendance at the Memorial Day Parade being held on Sunday, May 28th. Please note this is not a Board meeting, no Board actions will occur, and no Board minutes will be taken.

cc: BOE

Item #7c.

Transitioning from Grade 5 to Grade 6

Please join us for a

GRADE 6 INFORMATIONAL NIGHT FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

JFK AUDITORIUM • MAY 30, 2023 • 6:30PM

Any questions please email Sarah Brown: smbrown@enfieldschools.org

Item # 7d.



We make a difference in Enfield - every child, every day.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1010 ENFIELD STREET • ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082
TEL: 860.253.6531 • FAX: 860.253.6515

May 19, 2023

Mrs. Sheila Bailey, Town Clerk
Enfield Town Hall
820 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT 06082

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Please be advised that a quorum of the Enfield Board of Education may be in attendance at the 2023 Enfield High School Scholarship and Awards Ceremony being held on Wednesday, May 31st. Please note this is not a Board meeting, no Board actions will occur, and no Board minutes will be taken.

cc: BOE

Item 11a.

Enfield High School

1264 Enfield Street • Enfield, CT 06082

Counseling Department

Tel: (860) 253-6595

Fax: (860) 253-5326

School Counselors

Mr. David White

K-12 School Counseling
Coordinator

Mrs. Aselton Mrs. Jefferson

Mr. Joeckel Mrs. Dunphy

Mr. Genovese Mrs. Helberg

May 9, 2023

Dear Mr. Drezek and Members of the Enfield Board of Education,

The Enfield High School Scholarship Committee has nominated Luke Arseneault and Naima Enriquez for the 2023 Lester J. Bodley Scholarships. Luke will be attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT and Naima will be attending Howard University in Washington, D.C. The eligibility requirements of the Bodley scholarship specify that the \$1,000.00 awards be given to a male student and a female student in the Enfield High School senior class who are well-rounded, college-bound, and have demonstrated leadership skills throughout their high school careers. Luke and Naima clearly meet the criteria. The Lester J. Bodley estate further stipulates that the scholarship recipients must be approved and publicly announced by the Enfield Board of Education. Therefore, the committee presents to you these two distinguished candidates.

Sincerely,

David White
EPS K-12 Counseling Coordinator

Item # 11b.

Healthy Food Certification in Schools for School Year 2023-24

Healthy Food Certification Statement and Recommendation
Submitted by Diane Edwards, Director of Nutrition Services
May 17, 2023

The State of Connecticut (CT) Department of Education requires all districts to complete the healthy food certification statement which requires action by the school board. The district has the option of certifying that all food items sold to students will or will not meet the CT Nutrition Standards. These food items include all food offered for sale to students at all times in all schools and from all sources, including, but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, fundraisers and any other sources of food sales to students on school premises. In the past, the state has offered a monetary incentive of up to \$.10 per reimbursable lunch served if we chose to certify that we are meeting the CT Nutrition Standards for Foods as required by the CT Healthy Certification regulations. The incentive for next year has not been confirmed by the state at this time.

It is my recommendation that we do not certify for the school year 2023-24. Certifying will require more restrictions to be in place for all fundraising involving food items, the sale of food and beverages at all functions held on school premises at any time and requiring the appointment of a District Contact Person to oversee the entire school system to assure compliance. I do not see a benefit for our school system or the students in our schools from certifying. I believe our wellness policy promotes and provides for an environment that is healthy and nutritious for our students. Our successful triannual State and Federal Review of our program reflects that we meet and exceed the Federal and State Nutrition guidelines of providing a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables every day at every school and serve all whole grains products in addition to meeting the lower sodium and fat recommended levels.

In addition, the costs to comply with the certification will exceed the reimbursement incentive. The funds that come from the certification cannot be allocated to any other department; they must go to the food service department. The additional \$.10 per meal is appropriated to the Nutrition Department yet all areas of the school system will have to make changes that will affect them monetarily, yet they cannot share in the reimbursement incentive.

In conclusion, in consideration of these reasons, I recommend that we do not certify for the school year 2023-24.

Item # 11c.



Enfield Public Schools 2023/2024 School Calendar

Website: www.enfieldschools.org

School Information Line - 860-253-5170

<23 & 24> Staff PL - NS 25 - NS 28 - NS *29* - First Day of School	AUGUST - 3 Days <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>s</th><th>m</th><th>t</th><th>w</th><th>th</th><th>f</th><th>s</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td><23></td><td><24></td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>*29*</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	s	m	t	w	th	f	s			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	<23>	<24>	25	26	27	28	*29*	30	31			SEPTEMBER - 20 Days <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>s</th><th>m</th><th>t</th><th>w</th><th>th</th><th>f</th><th>s</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>[4]</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27></td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	s	m	t	w	th	f	s						1	2	3	[4]	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27>	28	29	30	[4] Labor Day - NS 27> PK-12 Early Rel. & Staff PL							
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Lunch will be served on all Early Release Days
 Approved: 02-14-23
 Revised:

First Day of School: August 29, 2023
 181st Student Day: June 10, 2024
 Firm Graduation Date: June 14, 2024

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Instruction

6144

Controversial Issues

Introduction

Open, constructive dialogue about issues of public concern is a hallmark of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. This includes the discussion of controversial social, political, and economic topics and policies.

The Enfield Board of Education (Board) believes in the following principles, honoring teachers' academic freedom as well as students' individual identities:

- 1. The District shall create a safe, inclusive learning environment where students are able to participate freely in academic dialogue as speakers and listeners. The school environment shall be used to provide balanced information and ideas on issues of opinion so that students may formulate their own positions and opinions.*
- 2. Schools and classrooms are an environment where students must feel physically and emotionally safe. The District aspires to create a climate in which students consistently feel a sense of belonging and membership. Therefore, the schools must be a place free from a discourse that is intentionally harmful toward others or expresses hatred, bigotry, bias, or otherwise is reasonably intentionally hurtful to others.*

It is the duty of the educational community to model for our students the ideals of acceptance of diversity and respect for civil discourse. It is incumbent upon educators to establish an emotionally safe environment for students to explore new ideas. It is our role to teach varied ideologies and political perspectives; engage students in critical thinking; and facilitate students' discovery of their own ideals and thoughts, all while modeling respectful dialogue and authentic inquiry.

At times, due to the nature of public discourse, educators may be reluctant to engage in discussion of controversial topics in an effort to avoid the perception of bias or judgment. Teachers must be keenly aware of their position of influence and that the classroom is not a forum to promote a particular political vantage point. As partners in our students' education, we shall aspire to promote healthy, authentic dialogue in our classrooms and corridors.

Definition of a Controversial Issue

An idea, viewpoint or topic can be considered controversial if, "a number of people disagree about statements and assertions made in connection with the proposition. Issues that deeply divide a society, which generate conflicting explanations and solutions based on alternative value systems, are considered controversial." The scope of issues that might be considered controversial is quite broad. The content of these issues may vary from local problems to issues international in scale.

Instruction

Controversial Issues (continued)

Engagement of Students in Learning About and Discussing Controversial Issues

The inclusion of controversial topics in the curriculum helps to:

- ***Develop students' critical thinking skills;***
- ***Improve interpersonal skills, and***
- ***Prepare students for their roles as contributors to a pluralistic democracy.***

The productive treatment of controversial subjects demands a classroom climate conducive to the free expression of ideas. This should include the opportunity to hear a wide range of views, student freedom to express ideas, and teacher willingness to discuss ideas. Additional considerations include the following:

A. Selection of Issues

Topics of classroom discussion should, first and foremost, always be driven by the District curriculum. In selecting discussion issues, teachers should also consider their students' interest, experience, and expertise regarding the issue; the relevance of issues to their students' lives; their students' maturity level; and the significance of the issue to society.

B. Preparation of Students for Discussion

Teachers should invest time to train their students in discussion techniques. Teachers and students cooperatively determine guidelines for interaction, and both realize establishing a rhythm and flow of discussions will take practice and patience.

Ensuring that students are adequately prepared to handle an issue in a discussion format requires that teachers provide informational resources and that students have an opportunity to acquire background knowledge prior to the discussion. Background information may be provided through readings, lectures, films, guest speakers, or field trips.

C. Establishment of an Open Discussion Climate

The creation of an intellectually safe environment for student participation is one of the most important elements of successful discussions. Teachers should model appropriate discussion behaviors by carefully listening to and respecting students' contributions. Teachers should tolerate widely divergent views and encourage the expression of them in order to establish a non-threatening arena for the exposition of ideas. Students must understand that they should not interrupt each other's comments and that they may disagree without being disagreeable.

D. Maintenance of Focus and Direction

District teachers should work to provide the necessary structure for constructive

Instruction

Controversial Issues

D. Maintenance of Focus and Direction (continued)

discussions. An agenda for the discussion might include defining the problem, summarizing and analyzing evidence, suggesting possible solutions, hypothesizing consequences of solutions and relating the issue to the personal experience of the students.

E. Intellectual Balance, Encouraging Equal Participation

A primary role of the teacher in facilitating the learning of curriculum and moderating classroom discussions is to ensure that students are exposed to the full range of perspectives on any issue considered. Teachers should actively solicit a wide array of opinions about discussed issues and expose students to a fair hearing of competing points of view. If important viewpoints on a given issue are not expressed, they may be elicited through careful questioning; or they may be provided by asking students to role-play someone who would present that perspective. To achieve a level of balanced participation it is often necessary to actively draw reticent students into the discussion and to limit the contributions of more outspoken students. The establishment of a participation system is generally helpful in addressing this problem.

F. Guiding Principles

Above all, the District objective is to allow students to figure out their views about, and stance on issues themselves. The Board believes effectively and responsibly addressing controversial issues in the educational process provides a unique opportunity to partner with families. To that end, the Board pledges its commitment to these guiding principles:

- We aim to create a safe, inclusive learning environment where students are able to participate freely in academic dialogue as speakers and listeners.*
- Schools and classrooms are an environment where students feel physically and emotionally safe. We aspire to create a climate where students consistently feel a sense of belonging and membership.*
- We respect the inquisitiveness of learners as well as the family and community belief systems which they bring to school.*
- The US Constitution is the law of the land and a cornerstone of our curriculum. We aim to present relevant features of the US Constitution in timely and meaningful contexts. In the spirit of the Constitution, we underscore that all students, regardless of their opinion or conviction, warrant respect.*
- We are open and available to help students with any confusion they may experience in the process of political debate, whether that be with educators or*

Instruction

Controversial Issues

Guiding Principles (continued)

their peers. Students should feel free to seek out the support of a guidance counselor, teacher, or administrator if they feel the need to discuss any issue.

Requests from Groups or Individuals Outside the Schools

No permission will be granted to non-school groups or individuals to make presentations on controversial issues in the schools during school hours. Requests for after-school or evening use will be processed in accordance with the Board's policy on community use of school facilities.

No permission will be granted to outsiders for distribution of literature on controversial issues to students in general or to class groups.

A Principal may grant an outside group or individual permission to post one notice of a public meeting for discussion of issues if the language of that notice conforms to the standards that prevail in the community. The Principal will determine the appropriate bulletin board for such notices.

(cf. 0521.1 – Anti Racism)

(cf. 0521.2 – Commitment to Religious Neutrality)

(cf. 0523 – Equity and Diversity)

(cf. 1312 – Public Complaints)

(cf. 4118.21 – Academic Freedom)

(cf. 5131.911 – Bullying/Safe School Climate)

(cf. 5145.2 – Freedom of Speech/Expression)

(cf. 6141 – Curriculum Design/Development/Revision)

(cf. 6141.2 – Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)

(cf. 6142 – Basic Instructional Program)

(cf. 6142.1 – Family Life and Sex Education)

(cf. 6142.10 – Health Education)

(cf. 6144.1 – Exemption from Instruction)

(cf. 6144.3 – Controversial Speakers)

(cf. 6145.5 – Organizations/Associations-Equal Access)

(cf. 6160 – Educational Resources and Material)

(cf. 6161 – Equipment, Books and Materials)

(cf. 6161.1 – Evaluation/Selection of Instructional Materials)

(cf. 6162.51 – Student Privacy/Surveys of Materials/Inspection of Materials)

(cf. 6177 – Use of Commercially Produced Video Recordings)

Instruction

Controversial Issues

Legal Reference: ***Connecticut General Statutes***
31-51q Liability of employer for discipline or discharge of employee on
account of employee's exercise of certain constitutional rights.
Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of
Education, 9/9/81)
Keyishian v. Board of Regents 395 U.S. 589, 603 (1967)
Garcetti v. Ceballos, (2006) 547 U.S. 410
Johnson v. Poway Unified School District, (2011) 658 F.3d 954 (9th
Cir.)
Mayer v. Monroe County Community School Corporation, (2007) 474
F.3d 477 (7th Cir.)

Policy Adopted:

**ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Enfield, Connecticut**

Bylaws of the Board

9121

Chairperson

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Enfield Board of Education and shall perform other duties as directed by law, State Department of Education regulations, and by this Board. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Chairperson shall:

1. Sign the instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out state requirements and the will of the Board.
2. Consult with the Superintendent in the planning of the Board's agendas.
3. Confer with the Superintendent on crucial matters which may occur between Board meetings.
4. Appoint Board committees, subject to Board approval.
5. Call special meetings of the Board as necessary.
6. Be public spokesperson for the Board at all times except as this responsibility is specifically delegated to others.
7. Be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Board meetings.
8. Assume such other duties as may be authorized by the Board.
9. Appoint a Clerk of the Board.

As presiding officer at all meetings of the Board, the Chairperson shall:

1. Call the meeting to order at the appointed time.
2. Announce the business to come before the Board in its proper order.
3. Enforce the Board's policies relating to the order of business and the conduct of the meetings.
4. Recognize persons who desire to speak and protect the speaker who has the floor from disturbance or interference.
5. ***If necessary, the Chairperson may clear the room so that the Board can continue the meeting.***

Bylaws of the Board

Chairperson (continued)

- 6 5. Explain what the effect of a motion would be if it is not clear to every member.
7. 6. Restrict discussion to the question when a motion is before the Board.
8. 7. Answer all parliamentary inquiries, referring questions of legality to the Board attorney.
- 9.-8. Put motions to a vote, stating definitely and clearly the vote and result thereof.

The Chairperson shall have the right, as other Board members have, to offer resolutions, discuss questions, and to vote.

(cf. 9020 - Public Statements)

(cf. 9325 - Meeting Conduct)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers. Meetings.

Bylaw adopted by the Board: October 24, 2017

Bylaws of the Board

Chairperson (continued)

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(cf. 9020 - Public Statements)

(cf. 9325 - Meeting Conduct)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers. Meetings.

Bylaw adopted by the Board: October 24, 2017

Bylaw Revised:

Item #13
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 9, 2023

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on May 9, 2023.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan LeBlanc

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent; and Student Representatives Morgan DiFronzo

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Student Artists**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Chris Scioscio, our K-12 Visual Arts Coordinator. He thanked him for being the heart and soul behind our Art Department and the art show. He has placed student artworks that are displayed at each of our schools.

Mr. Scioscio thanked the Board for inviting them. He passionately thanked our art teachers and the partnership they have with the Enfield Woman's Club. This was our 57th annual festival. The Woman's club has raised over \$120K in scholarships for our students that are pursuing higher education in visual arts. We appreciate their support. He also thanked community members for attending and for supporting the arts. He thanked our current and past teachers for their dedication to our students.

Mr. Scioscio welcomed students Lilly Ortiz and Amelia Place. They are part of our honors portfolio prep class. He is extremely proud of both of the accomplishments they have made this year.

Mrs. Pickett asked if any of their artwork is displayed here tonight. They both said yes. She thanked them for being here tonight.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Scioscio for the partnership with the Enfield Woman's Club. She also thanked the Woman's club for their continued support with Enfield Public Schools. She also thanked Mr. Scioscio and teachers for their commitment to our students. Our art show is a great tradition. Her family attended this and felt connected to our students even though Enfield is not their hometown.

Mrs. Pickett would like to see you expand your partnership with our older students working with the younger students. Ms. Place stated students can participate through the career center. Ms. Ortiz added they can also participate during the summer art program. Mrs. Pickett thanked them and wished them good luck.

Mr. Hamre also commended them for the great art show. He only wished they had a larger venue to display more student work that includes both the culinary department and music department. By having all departments included, we have made the Art Show into a multimedia level event.

Mrs. Cushman agreed the Art Festival was amazing. She asked both Lilly and Amelia about their future plans and where does your inspiration come from for your artworks? Ms. Ortiz plans to attend Alfred University in New York and will study art sculpture and business. Her inspiration comes from all over. She looks at things differently and also loves to read and finds inspiration from that also. Ms. Place will attend Manchester Community College for her pre-requisite courses and will then transfer to Mass Art or Maine College of Art and Design. She gets her inspiration from many different things.

Mrs. Acree thanked Mr. Scioscio for all that you do for your students and community. She thanked both Lilly and Amelia and congratulated them on their beautiful artwork.

Dr. Calnen also thanked them both for their wonderful artwork. Your work is an inspiration. He was really inspired at the Art Show. It is always a wonderful experience attending the show. His wife is part of the Woman's Club, and they love being involved with the Art Show. He hopes this partnership continues for many more years. His mother-in-law went to the Felician Sisters daycare, and she loved to paint. It would be great if you had a partnership with the Enfield Senior Center.

Ms. Place would love to work with the elderly. Madam Chair added that is a wonderful suggestion.

Mr. Unghire also thanked them for their wonderful artwork. He asked about the piece on the guest desk. Ms. Ortiz stated it is a praying mantis that was from her sculpture class, and she also made the giant gourd. Mr. Unghire added there is a lot of detail involved with them. It must have taken a lot of time to sculpt them. Ms. Place stated she was in the same class, and it took her around 2 months to make a dragon fly.

Madam Chair added she also loves attending the Art show each year. She appreciates your shout out to the Enfield Woman's Club and recognizing their support. They are going the extra mile for our students with the scholarships they provide. Your talents are amazing, and you are incredible artists. Your artwork opens up our eyes. She appreciates your imagination and loves looking at your portfolio work. Thank you.

Mr. Scioscio thanked everyone for your support and for inviting us here.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo stated AP exams have started and will end on Thursday. Senior Prom Tickets are sold out. The Senior Night and Class Picnic tickets are on sale now. Senior dues are needed as well as your Safe Grad fees. The EHS Chorus and Orchestra will hold a concert on May 10th at 6:30 PM and the Band Concert will be held on May 18th at 6:30 PM. EHS will hold a blood drive on May 23rd. Student Council applications and videos are due now. May 24th incoming grade 9 students (current grade 8 JFK students) will tour EHS, and the Awards and Scholarships will be held on May 31st. Grades have closed. She also thanked all our teachers and nurses for everything they are doing. She gave an update on EHS sports for Baseball, Softball, Track & Field, Golf, Boys Tennis, Girls Tennis, Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse.

b. EPS Update

Mr. Drezek stated when we adopted our 2023-24 school calendar in February, we did not know that our April vacation did not align with districts within our athletic conference and area dance studios. We aligned our 2024 April vacation with districts close to us. We will place this item on the next agenda to revisit. We are looking at moving the April vacation week from April 15-19th 2024 to the week of April 8-12th 2024. This will align us with all districts within our athletic conference except for 2 districts. He will reach out to our bargaining units about this upcoming change, and he also wanted to inform families about this that may be planning vacations for April 2024.

Mr. Drezek thanked our teachers and nurses for everything they do for our students. They have been on our front lines. It was a year ago when he was begging for needed subs our buildings. Without our teachers and nurses, we would not have made it. Please take a moment to thank our teachers and nurses. He urged staff members to take a moment and thank yourselves for everything you do.

8. AUDIENCES

Madam Chair will allow each speaker 4 minutes to talk.

Zach Zannoni, Howard Street – Mr. Zannoni spoke about the recommended budget cuts made by the Republican Town Council members. They want to cut \$1.4 million from the school budget. This information was not made public. He reached out to them about this. He is distraught over this recommendation. You are talking about cutting staff members and programs that will affect our students. The proposed BOE education budget maintains current programs. Rolling back programs will not allow us to move forward as a district. He asked if Republican Board members agree with this recommendation. Our value should be about our schools. This is very concerning to educators and students. He has never spoken at a Board meeting before. You are playing politics.

Marcy Taliceo, Coolidge Drive – Mrs. Taliceo agreed with what Mr. Zannoni said. She was not aware of this. There is concern with flags being displayed in classrooms and on doors. She encourages Board members to look at your policies. You are here to make a difference, every day for every student. You should be representing all children equally and every child no matter of their preferences. If you don't want to do this, you shouldn't run for the Board of Education. Look at your Policy #0523 and #9012. It is a disgrace that you want to take away supports for our LGBTQ students and it is wrong. Every Child, Every Day or don't run for the Board of Education.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Acree thanked our Enfield teachers for their dedication and for preparing our children for successful and productive lives and to achieve their goals and have flourishing careers. Thank you, teachers. She provided an update about upcoming events at Prudence Crandall. She attended the Spring Showcase on April 26th at Enfield High School with United Sound. The students sounded wonderful. She also thanked all of our amazing music teachers.

Dr. Calnen thanked our amazing teachers for everything they do. He also thanked our nurses. They are leaders of our health programs in our schools and also need to be recognized. As a pediatrician, he is worried about our town. The school system plays a critical role in our children's lives and opens up many learning opportunities for them. Families move to our town because of the school system. Cutting the school budget by \$1.4 million will cost us too much. Don't let them do this. He provided a detailed update about KITE, School Readiness Council Grant, Community Learning Plan, and Head Start Annual Self-Assessment.

Mrs. Cushman thanked our teachers and nurses. She also thanked anyone that works with our students. She cannot wait to hear stories of how you were appreciated. We were showered with gifts and well wishes at a previous meeting that were greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Cushman stated the Enfield Together Coalition will hold two virtual presentations - "Prevention in the Digital Age" on May 11th at 4:00 PM and "Raising a Drug-Free Teen" on May 11th at 6:30 PM. She encourages parents to talk to your teens. JFK will also hold an informational night for all incoming grade 6 students (current grade 5 students) on May 30th at 6:30 PM. You can go the JFK PTO website to submit questions to be addressed.

Mr. Hamre encourages families to attend the JFK information night for incoming students on May 30th. The JFK PTO is meeting tonight. JFK will hold a staff vs. students basketball on May 19th from 6-8 PM. He also encouraged everyone to look at the May JFK newsletter for other important information.

Mr. Hamre appreciates the comments made by Mr. Zannoni about cutting the education budget. That is just terrible. He asked for the Republicans to respond to Mr. Zannoni's question. They appreciate our nurses and teachers, but they do not want to support our budget. The best way to recognize our teachers is to support the budget. He also thanked Mrs. Taliceo for her comments.

Mr. Hamre stated a Youth Vote event is being held about the 19th Amendment and will be held at EHS on May 10th at 7:00 PM. This event will be live and will be taped. He thanked everyone involved with the EHS lamplighters production and JFK production. We have some very talented students. He also discussed issues with the sound system at JFK. He would like us to look into this. He appreciates everyone involved with both of these productions.

Mr. Hamre also addressed his previous request from the April 25th meeting about removing a Board member from a subcommittee.

Mr. Unghire asked for a point of order. Madam Chair stated this is Mr. Hamre's time to talk and express his concerns. She has already spoken to Mrs. Cushman, Mr. Hamre and you about this. She will make a decision about this.

Madam Chair asked both Mr. Hamre and Mr. Unghire to stop the back and forth dialogue. Now there is a point of order.

Mr. Hamre respectfully requests that Mrs. Cushman be removed from the Policy Committee.

Mr. Unghire stated that Mr. Hamre criticized the Republican BOE Caucus for not addressing this. He addressed Mr. Zannoni by saying there is no back and forth. We have been instructed not to have a back and forth conversation with audience members. He is reminding Mr. Hamre of this process.

Mr. Unghire stated he was not aware of the internal negotiations. He was not aware of the dollar amount mentioned. The reason you found out about the amount was from a FOI request. He has faith in the negotiation process and the Town Council to come up with a reasonable budget. The majority of the Town Council members will pass the budget.

Mr. Unghire also thanked the members of the Woman's Club for the contributions they have made to the scholarships that benefit our students. He thanked our nurses for everything they do for our students. He also thanked his favorite teacher at JFK.

Mr. Unghire stated Buzz Robotics will hold an open house on Wednesday at the Annex from 6:30-8:30 PM. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Unghire added this is also national prevention week starting on May 7-13th. The virtual presentation on May 11th also addresses drug prevention, suicide prevention, mental health, smoking, drinking and vaping. He encourages parents to attend the virtual presentations on May 11th. If you have any questions, you can contact Tessa Ridel at 860-253-6382. He previously attended the community conversation held tonight on opioid substance use and misuse. Over 1,500 have died due to overdoses in Connecticut in 2022.

Mrs. Pickett thanked all our teachers and staff members that work with our students. This is your special week. She thanks them every day. She knows Enfield Street PTO has come up with some creative ways to celebrate them. Her daughter made this sign thanking her teacher and her son added all teachers. Thank you for what you do each day.

Mrs. Pickett received a school climate survey. Will that be going out district-wide and will this information be shared? Mr. Drezek stated it will go out to all parents. This survey is from CREC and is part of our equity district work with our Director of Educational Equity Altressa Cox-Blackwell.

Mrs. Pickett stated you had some meetings with your parent advisory group. How will this information be used with our equity efforts?

Mrs. Pickett stated it is teacher appreciation week. Enfield Street has many events planned and they can be found on the PTO Facebook page. She provided an update on upcoming events at Enfield Street.

Mrs. Pickett added we cannot engage in a back-and-forth conversation with audience members, but we can address comments they made during Board member comments.

Mrs. Pickett stated the proposed budget cuts is very worrisome and confusing based on the outcome from the April 5th special meeting where the entire Town Council supported our efforts. Now they are recommending more cuts. We do not have enough resources now. We rely on our partnership with our Town for many services. She urged voters and community members to address your concerns and get involved.

Mr. Ryder stated the budget the Board passed had a small increase for cost of living. There were no additional programs or staffing. Our budget was to maintain what we currently have. With the proposed \$1.4 million cut, we would need to cut around 30 staff members. We need more staff members, not less. He hopes our budget request is approved as requested.

Mr. Ryder thanked our school nurses and teachers, including any staff members that lends a hand with our children. We appreciate you all.

Mr. Ryder stated the Principal, Assistant Principal and Chief of Staff for the Day contest at Eli Whitney is done and the winners will take their places on May 11th. Congratulations to Maddie, Emma and Kiara. He also provided an update on Eli Whitney upcoming events.

Madam Chair addressed Mr. Hamre's request. The Republican Caucus wants Mrs. Cushman as the liaison on the Policy Committee. They support the policies Mrs. Cushman brings to the committee for consideration and they feel she is representing their caucus appropriately. No matter who you have on this committee, they will represent your caucus the same way. This is where she is leaving this. We as Democrats have members on the Policy committee that represent how we feel. Mrs. Acree is on the Curriculum Committee. She is a former teacher and loves curriculum. When we assigned Board members to our committees, we put who we felt would best represent each caucus. She understands Mr. Hamre's frustration. We need to work together and keep the workflow moving forward. She has listened to both sides. No changes will be made to any committee.

Madam Chair thanked our teachers and staff for everything you do for our kids. She also thanked our nurses for what they do including her favorite nurse Regina who works at Hartford Hospital. She provided an update on upcoming safe grad events. She also attended the Enfield High concert on April 26th. We have such talent in our school.

Madam Chair congratulated Dr. Calnen. KITE is recognizing him for his many roles in Enfield with a Buddy Bench that will be placed at the Pearl Street Library on Wednesday.

Madam Chair also thanked the Youth Vote group for hosting the 19th Amendment and its Legacy event on May 10th. We have many events happening on May 10th, Buzz, Youth Vote Event, KITE dedication, PTO President's Meeting and Budget deliberations.

Madam Chair addressed the budget. The recommended \$1.4 million budget cut requested by the Republican Caucus is to reduce the Board of Education budget. She thanked Deputy Mayor Cekala for sharing information with her. They are also proposing to cut the Town budget by \$500K. They are requesting to cut our budget by \$1 million more than the town budget. She did some research and asked Mr. Drezek to prepare something for tonight. Each Board member received a document with Town and BOE budget request amounts and amounts actually received from 2011-2022 that also include percentages. She reviewed these amounts. We are staying afloat due to concessions made by our bargaining units.

Mr. Drezek stated one of our bargaining units is in year two of concessions.

Madam Chair stated the Town has increased their budget by \$20 million and the Board by \$10 million in the past 10 years. Where did the \$20 million go? We both have contractual obligations. The town covers shortfalls by using CIP funds and these CIP projects have been put on the back burner. We have OSHA complaints about our buildings. Our health fund was depleted, our parking lots, buildings and playgrounds are a mess. We have been kicking the can down the road for years. The blame is now being placed on the current Democratic Caucus. We have been robbing Peter to pay Paul for years. The Democratic Caucus does not support the \$1.4 million cut to the school budget. We are all on budgets and inflation is out of control. She has been on the Board for 10 years. She asked Mr. Drezek what will \$1.4 million cut look like to our school district.

Mr. Drezek stated we will need to cut staff and/or programs around approximately 26 staff members. It could be more than that based on seniority.

Madam Chair added we are looking at cutting staffing and programs. Mr. Drezek added we could not just cut supplies. We have leases and licensing agreements we need to maintain. We need staff to run our programs. We changed the process with color coding on our budget presentation to show this. We would need to cut staff and some programs.

Madam Chair asked how contract freezing impacts retention and hiring teachers. Mr. Drezek stated it is terrible. Our turnover numbers are high. With step movement freezes it will not allow us to compete with other districts. We have done this over the past dozen years with freezes. A neighboring town can offer our experienced teachers at a higher step and pay increase. He thanked our teachers for their loyalty. We have lost a lot of talent because we cannot compete.

Madam Chair asked if the lack of Alliance District funding affects anything. Mr. Drezek stated it does and he explained this at our last meeting. The Alliance district network was created 12 years ago. Our kids require additional resources to meet their needs. We need to make concessions.

Madam Chair stated our Town budget is high. It is because of the lack of long term planning and investment. She does not want higher taxes in Enfield. She wants to know where her money is going. This document shows our investment and value we have put into Education. Your school system will bring new people to our town.

Madam Chair thanked Town Council members for not supporting this recommendation to cut our school budget. It is important to know what conversations are being discussed during budget deliberations. This is very upsetting, and people need to know this. We discussed this at leadership and our test scores have nothing to do with being an alliance district.

Mr. Drezek added the accountability index is when you have been designated as an Alliance District. Districts will receive additional funding via a grant to support your student's needs. We do not have the means or resources to support our needs to reach our kids financially. We need to meet the needs of our kids.

Madam Chair asked about open positions we are trying to fill. Mr. Drezek stated we have around 20-30 non-certified positions and 11 certified positions we have been unable to fill. Madam Chair stated those positions are needed. Mr. Drezek stated in the past when we have had budget challenges, we looked at attrition. This year there will be some consequences by not offering some programs in September. Where will we place these students? We do not have study halls. We might save money by not offering some programs. We also need to provide services to Special Education Students. We don't want to be penny wise and pound foolish. We are losing staff every day. These are challenges we are facing, and they are real.

Madam Chair stated this is hard for first year teachers that are in the process of preparing their resumes. Mr. Drezek added there is a process for non-tenure teachers where we need to notify them in writing about layoffs by March 1st. We as leadership did not do this. If we need to do this, the Board will need to provide them with an in-person hearing. We have not done this for the last 6 years. He can still see Mrs. Hall reading the teachers' names. He is very proud that we have not done this.

Madam Chair asked the Republican Board of Education Caucus how you feel about the recommended budget cuts made by the Republican Town Council Members. We are here fighting to keep what we requested.

Mrs. Acree stated that neither she nor Mrs. Cushman did not know about this. Madam Chair stated we discussed this at Leadership. If that information did not get to you, she apologized for that miscommunication.

Mr. Unghire stated we discussed the budget but not the specific number. Madam Chair asked if he is supporting the \$1.4 million budget cut to the Education budget? Mr. Unghire stated we have had many years with no increases and some years with increases. He has faith in the process. It is out of our hands now. None of us want to cut teachers and programs. This is all part of the negotiation process.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Proposed New Policy & Policy Revisions – Second Reading

Mrs. Acree moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5145.54 Civility as a Second Reading.

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

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #6174 Summer School Policy as a Second Reading.

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

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings as a Second Reading.

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

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #9325.2 Order of Business and Meeting Conduct as a Second Reading.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approve EHS Safe Grad Donations for the Graduating Class of 2023

Mr. Unghire moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder, that the Enfield Board of Education approves donating \$1,000 to the Enfield High Safe Grad for the Graduating Class of 2023.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett reported Curriculum Committee will meet on May 18th. We will review our new Health Curriculum and K-12 health scope.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee met on May 1st. We reviewed financial reports, nutrition reports, end of year budget projections and Tag investments. Our next meeting will be held on June 5th.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee will meet on May 16th.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Board Leadership met yesterday and she would like to meet again prior to our next Board meeting.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on May 25th.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the JFK Building Committee cancelled their May 4th meeting. They will meet next week.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee meeting date has not been set yet.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup – Dr. Calnen did not have anything new to report regarding the Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mr. Hamre reported the ECAC supports the Woman's Club Arts Festival and scholarship program. He provided the Board with a detailed report regarding the Gazebo, concert series, JFK and EHS productions, Valley Rep Theatre and the Opera House Players.

PK-5 School Modernization Committee – Mr. Drezek stated we are still waiting for the bids to go out from the town finance office. Once they go out, it would be prudent to recall the committee to meet and review the next steps.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, that the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2023, be approved. Mr. Ryder asked for a correction on page 10. Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre to approve the minutes as amended. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of April 2023 the total expenditures amount to \$7,098,088.08, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,669,185.99 and other accounts totaling \$2,428,902.09 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 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

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

- The month of April 2023 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$544,243.14 broken down between payroll totaling \$497,678.52 and other accounts totaling \$46,564.62; 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 April 25, 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary