

ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Time-Place:

Council Chambers  
820 Enfield Street  
Enfield, CT  
7:00 PM Regular Meeting

Date: 12-12-23

<https://youtube.com/live/ORWV-JVvjZc>

1. Call to Order – 7:00 PM
2. Moment of Silence – Dr. Gerald Calnen
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Dr. Gerald Calnen
4. Fire Evacuation Announcement
5. Roll Call
6. Board Guest(s)
  - a. First Lego League Students
  - b. Accountability Update
  - c. Indoor Air Quality & HVAC Evaluation Update
7. Superintendent's Report
  - a. Student Representative Update
  - b. Wreaths Across America
  - c. Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast
  - d. Special BOE Training Workshop
  - e. Early Release & Winter Vacation
  - f. Enfield Loaves & Fishes Winter Break Lunch Program
  - g. EPS Update
8. Audiences
9. Board Members' Comments
10. Unfinished Business
  - a. Discussion & Action if any regarding Enfield Mental Health & Wellness Committee – (Tabled 11-28-23)
11. New Business
12. Board Committee Reports

- Curriculum Committee	- Joint Facilities Committee
- Finance, Budget Committee	- JFK Building Committee
- Policy Committee	- Joint Security Committee
- Leadership Committee	- Enfield Mental Health & Wellness Workgroup
- PK-5 School Modernization Committee	- Enfield Cultural Arts
13. Approval of Minutes:
  - Special BOE Meeting Minutes: November 21, 2023
  - Regular BOE Meeting Minutes: November 28, 2023
14. Approval of Accounts and Payroll:
  - For the Month of October 2023
  - For the Month of November 2023
  - Line Item Transfers, if any
15. Correspondence and Communications
16. Executive Session
17. Adjournment



**Date:** December 12, 2023  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek  
**Re:** Board Guests

- a. **First Lego League Students:** Tonight we welcome our STEAM Coordinator Elana Beebe and several First Lego League students from our intermediate schools. Our EPS First Robotic Student Showcase was held on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at JFK. Thirty-five (35) fifth graders along with advisors from Prudence Crandall (James Barrett), Edgar H. Parkman (Kara Stanio) and Eli Whitney (Kim Muggleton & Elizabeth Ziba) participated in this year's theme of Masterpiece which focused on the Arts. Students programmed the robots to complete their missions. They will provide a demonstration with their robots for the Board tonight.
  
- b. **Accountability Update:** We also welcome our Chief Academic Officer Michelle Middleton, Enfield High School Principal Erin Clark and EPS Counseling Coordinator David White. They will share information on the Accountability Index Indicator #4 – Chronic Absenteeism as well as the Vision of a Graduate process.
  
- c. **Indoor Air Quality & HVAC Evaluation Update:** Also joining us tonight is our Director of Strategic Development & Partnerships John Dague and Town of Enfield Deputy Director for the Department of Public Works Fred Gerber. They will provide a presentation summarizing the evaluation of indoor air quality and the evaluation of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system within each school building as required by Board of Education Policy #7230.2 Indoor Air Quality. Also enclosed in your packets is information about the Indoor Air Quality Results for Enfield High School and John F. Kennedy Middle School.



**Date:** December 12, 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 EHS.
- b. **Wreaths Across America:** Enclosed in your packet is itinerary for this year's Wreaths Across America Convoy that will take place on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> in Enfield. I would like to publicly both thank Lori Gates and Pam Townsend for making this happen again.
- c. **Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast:** The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at Enfield High School in the Cafeteria. Enclosed in your packet is a flyer with additional information.
- d. **Special BOE Training Workshop:** The Board is planning to hold a special training workshop. I will update the Board at this time with details.
- e. **Early Release & Winter Vacation:** All EPS schools will dismiss early with lunch on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. All EPS schools will be closed the week of December 25<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup> for our Winter Vacation. All students and staff will return to school on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We wish everyone a happy holiday and a happy, healthy new year!
- f. **Enfield Loaves & Fishes Winter Break Lunch Program:** Both Maya Matthews, Enfield Loaves and Fishes Executive Director and Kathleen Souvigney, Enfield Food Shelf Executive Director attended a past Board meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed starting a winter break lunch program for our students. Enclosed in your packet is a flyer about the Lunch Link Winter Break 2023 for Enfield students.
- g. **EPS Update:** I will update the Board regarding our schools at this time.



**Date:** November 28, 2023  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek  
**Re:** Discussion & Action if any regarding Enfield Mental Health & Wellness Committee– *(Tabled 09-12-23)*

This item was tabled on September 12, 2023. Chairwoman Riley may have some comments to share with the Board.

Enclosed in your packet is the Mental Health Committee plan Dr. Calnen and Mrs. Acree are prepared to discuss with the Board.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding the Enfield Mental Health & Wellness Committee.



**ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Enfield, Connecticut****PRESENT POLICY****New Construction****7230.2****Indoor Air Quality**

The Board of Education recognizes that the maintenance of acceptable temperature, relative humidity and adequate fresh air ventilation in school buildings is a primary objective in the creation and maintenance of an optimal learning environment.

**Indoor Air Quality in Existing Facilities**

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall implement an indoor air quality program that provides for ongoing maintenance and facility reviews, in accordance with all applicable state statutes, necessary for the maintenance and improvement of the indoor air quality of all District facilities.

The District shall report biennially, in a manner as required, to the Commissioner of Education on the condition of its facilities, its long range facilities program, its air quality program, and green cleaning program.

Prior to January 1, 2008 and every three (3) years thereafter, for any District facility that has been constructed, extended, renovated or replaced on or after January 1, 2003, the Board of Education shall provide for a uniform inspection and evaluation program of indoor air quality within such buildings, such as the Environmental Protection Agency's Tools for Indoor Air Quality for Schools Program. The results of the evaluation shall be made available for public inspection at a regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting and also posted on the District's website.

The inspection and evaluation program shall include, but not be limited to, a review, inspection or evaluation of the following:

1. the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems;
2. radon levels in the air and water;
3. potential for exposure to microbiological airborne particles, including fungi, mold, and bacteria;
4. chemical compounds of concern to indoor air quality, including volatile organic compounds;
5. pest infestation, including insects and rodents;
6. pesticide usage;
7. the presence and plans for removal of certain hazardous substances identified under federal law;
8. ventilation systems;
9. plumbing, including water distribution systems, drainage systems, and fixtures;
10. moisture incursion (leaks);
11. the facilities' overall cleanliness;

**Indoor Air Quality****Indoor Air Quality in Existing Facilities (continued)**

12. building structural elements, including roofing, basements, and slabs;
13. the use of space, particularly in areas designed to be unoccupied; and
14. the provision of indoor air quality maintenance training for building staff.

Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems shall be maintained in accordance with the prevailing maintenance systems, such as Standard 62. The Board directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to ensure that such systems shall be operated continuously during the hours in which students or school personnel occupy school facilities except during periods of scheduled maintenance or emergency repairs or at other times when it can be demonstrated that the air supply system meets the Standards 62 requirements for air changes per hour.

Records shall be maintained on the maintenance of the District's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems for a period of not less than five years. Such records shall be available to the public upon request.

Prior to January 1, 2024, and every five years thereafter, the local or regional Board of Education shall provide for a uniform inspection and evaluation of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system within each school building under its jurisdiction. Such inspection and evaluation shall be performed by a certified testing, adjusting and balancing technician, an industrial hygienist certified by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene or the Board for Global EHS Credentialing, or a mechanical engineer. Such heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems inspection and evaluation shall include, but need not be limited to:

1. Testing for maximum filter efficiency
2. Physical measurements of outside air delivery rate
3. Verification of the appropriate condition and operation of ventilation components
4. Measurement of air distribution through all system inlets and outlets
5. Verification of unit operation and that required maintenance has been performed in accordance with the most recent indoor ventilation standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
6. Verification of control sequences
7. Verification of carbon dioxide sensors and acceptable carbon dioxide concentrations indoors, and
8. Collection of field data for the installation of mechanical ventilation if none exist.

The ventilation systems inspection and evaluation shall identify to what extent each school's current ventilation system components, including any existing central or non-central mechanical ventilation system, are operating in such a manner as to provide appropriate ventilation to the school building in accordance with most recent indoor ventilation standards promulgated by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. The inspection and evaluation shall result in a written report, and such report shall include any corrective actions necessary to be performed to the mechanical ventilation system or the heating, ventilation and air conditioning infrastructure, including installation of filters meeting the most optimal level of

**Indoor Air Quality****Indoor Air Quality in Existing Facilities (continued)**

filtration available for a given heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, installation of carbon dioxide sensors and additional maintenance, repairs, upgrades or replacement. Any such corrective actions shall be performed, where appropriate, by a contractor, who is licensed in accordance with chapter 393. The local or regional Board of Education conducting an inspection and evaluations pursuant to this subsection shall make available for public inspection the results of such inspection and evaluation at a regularly scheduled meeting of such Board and on the Internet website of such Board and on the Internet website, if any, of each individual school. The local or regional Board of Education shall not be required to provide for a uniform inspection and evaluation under this subdivision for any school building that will cease to be used as a school building within the three years from when such inspection and evaluation is to be performed.

**Indoor Air Quality in New or Renovated Facilities**

In order to secure appropriate indoor air quality in District schools, the Board of Education believes that when new facilities are constructed and when existing facilities are renovated, the following requirements shall be specified to the architect or design professional responsible for the construction project:

1. Adhere to the requirements defining minimum air circulation contained in the State Building Code which apply only when constructing new space.
2. The building/space meets or exceeds the ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning Engineers) 62-1999 standard, "Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality," which considers chemical, physical and biological contaminants that can effect air quality as referenced by the State Code adopted pursuant to C.G.S. 29-252.
3. Utilizing the ASHRAE 62-1999 standard, achieve a minimum ventilation rate per occupant of 15 cubic feet per minute (cfm) of outdoor air.
4. Design and placement of air handling equipment needs to be done in a manner where it is accessible to inspect and maintain the equipment; therefore, mechanical rooms are desirable versus exposed rooftop units or units hung above suspended ceilings.
5. With increased air flow requirements, attention must be given to the potential of air velocity noise within ductwork.
6. Fresh air intakes must be located, whenever possible, away from all types of vents and exhausts on roofs.
7. Air intakes and ventilation windows must be sufficiently distant from bus loops and loading docks.

**Indoor Air Quality**

**Indoor Air Quality in New or Renovated Facilities (continued)**

8. Radon mitigation systems to provide a vapor barrier and protection from under-slab humidity should be a part of new school construction.
9. Attention must be given to the selection of carpeting, carpet adhesives and synthetic materials which may emit odorous and irritating volatile organic vapors degrading indoor air quality.
10. Reduce the potential of moisture intrusion through appropriately designed pitched roofs wherever possible.
11. Consider the economic feasibility of achieving dehumidification through air conditioning.
12. Install temperature control systems, which monitor temperature and other factors helpful in monitoring and diagnosing heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.
13. When renovating an occupied building provide for the mechanical control of airborne pollutants associated with the construction process.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-220 Duties of boards of education  
10-231(f) Indoor air quality committees  
10-282(19) Definitions  
10-283 Applications for grants for school building projects  
10-286 (a)(9) Computation of school building project grants  
10-291 Approval of plans and site. Expense limit  
10-292 Review of final plans by Commissioner of Education. Exceptions;  
role of local officials  
10-231g Green Cleaning Program at schools: Definitions, Implementation,  
Notice  
PA 22-118 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending  
June 30, 2023

**Policy Adopted: November 22, 2022**



Item #7b.

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2023-CONVOY DETAILS

\*All times are estimates\*

- 10AM**      **Begin at Walmart, East Windsor**  
RIGHT onto Route 5N to exit 46/I-91N
- 10:06 CREC**  
LEFT off I-91N at x49 onto Route 5/Enfield Street  
LEFT onto Brainard Road
- 10:20 CRANDALL**  
RIGHT onto George Washington Road  
RIGHT onto 220W/Shaker Road
- 10:28 BARNARD**  
LEFT onto Elm/Moody Roads  
RIGHT onto Route 192S/North Maple Street
- 10:33 HAZARDVILLE MEMORIAL**  
RIGHT onto Route 190W/Hazard Avenue  
LEFT onto Middle Road
- 10:40 ELI WHITNEY**  
LEFT onto Olmstead Road  
RIGHT onto South Road  
LEFT onto Raffia Road
- 10:45 JFK MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
RIGHT onto Weymouth Road  
EFD2
- 10:48 PARKMAN ELEMENTARY**  
RIGHT onto Steele Road  
LEFT onto Post Office Road
- 10:52 STOWE EARLY LEARNING CENTER**  
RIGHT onto Route 5N/Enfield Street
- 10:55 MONTESSORI**
- 10:57 ENFIELD ST SCHOOL**
- 11:00 ENFIELD HIGH**
- 11:05 ALCORN SCHOOL**  
LEFT North Main Street  
RIGHT into Town Hall
- 11:10 END for Veterans welcome and wreath presentation at Town Hall**



Item #7c.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY  
FRIENDS OF RACHEL

"COMPASSION IS THE  
GREATEST FORM A LOVE  
HUMANS HAVE TO OFFER"  
-RACHEL SCOTT



# 10TH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

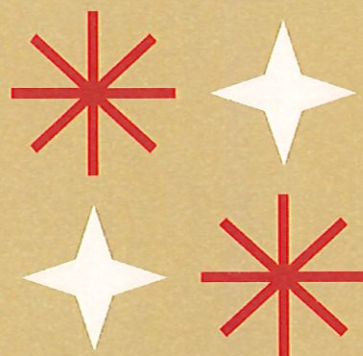


WANT TO DONATE  
TO THE EVENT?

JOIN US FOR PANCAKES,  
RAFFLE BASKETS, ARTS AND  
CRAFTS, LIVE MUSIC, AND A  
VISIT FROM SANTA!

BRING YOUR HOLIDAY GIFTS TO BE WRAPPED  
WHILE YOU'RE ENJOYING THE EVENT!

\*MONEY FROM RAFFLE BASKETS WILL BE DONATED TO ENFIELD LOAVES AND  
FISHES AND LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**  
**8 AM-10:30AM**

ENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
1264 ENFIELD STREET

THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR THE  
ENFIELD COMMUNITY!



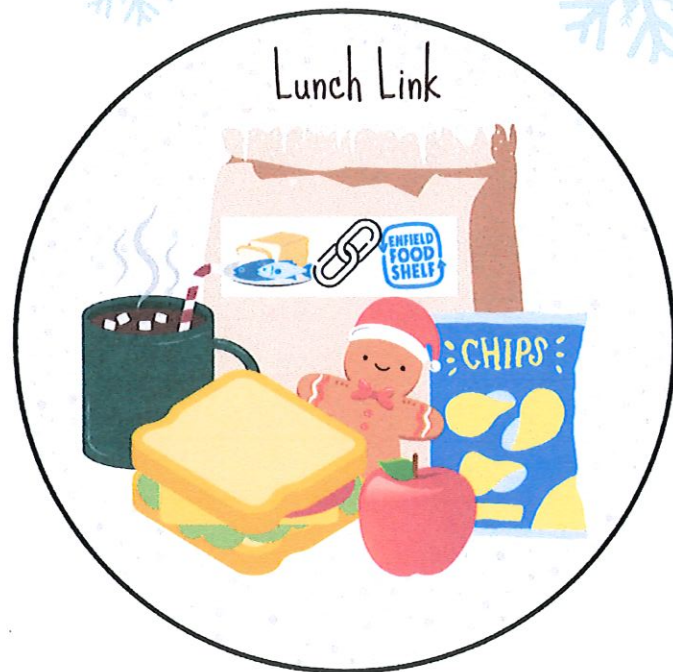
ENFIELD LOAVES AND FISHES AND ENFIELD FOOD SHELF

Item # 7F.

# LUNCH LINK

## Winter Break 2023

A FREE LUNCH PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS - NOW RETURNING FOR THE HOLIDAY VACATION!



Pickups on December 27th and December 29th

To sign up, scan the QR code below and fill out our survey:



Item #10a.

## MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

The charges of the mental health committee is to identify and address mental health challenges involving students and staff and to provide the necessary intervention to address these concerns, either in house or by means of an outside referral.

The mental health committee will:

- Consider the use of screening to identify children at risk of mental health problems.
- Identify opportunities for expansion of mental health services within the school system.
- Enhance mental health programs and initiatives already present in the school system.
- Explore opportunities for expansion of social services to address adverse social determinants of health, key contributors to mental health problems.
- Collaborate with community resources to address the mental health needs of our students.
- Investigate expansion of the school-based health center to increase access to care.
- Offer assistance and support to any member of the staff related to mental health concerns.
- Engage families and the community at large in ongoing conversations related to mental health care.



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 21, 2023**

An organizational meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at the Enfield Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on November 16, 2021.

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Tina LeBlanc.
- 2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tina LeBlanc
- 3. **NATIONAL ANTHEM:** Evan DiPietro, Sandhya Sowrirajan, Kyrah Spruill & Lucas Wachtel
- 4. **OATH OF OFFICE FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:**

Town Clerk, Mrs. Sheila Bailey administered the Oath of Office for the 2023-25 Board of Education Members – Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Peter Jonaitis, Philip Kober, Tina LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder and Charlotte Riley.

Mrs. Bailey congratulated Board members and wished them a successful term as Board of Education members.

5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Peter Jonaitis, Philip Kober, Tina LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder and Charlotte Riley.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent and Mr. Anthony B. Longey

6. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Mr. LeBlanc opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.

a. **Chairperson of the Board of Education**

Mr. Kober nominated Charlotte Riley as the Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Mrs. Acree. Mr. Kober read a prepared statement regarding his nomination for Charlotte Riley.

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett for Charlotte Riley to be the 2023-25 Chairperson.

Mrs. LeBlanc called for a roll call vote for the Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education.

A vote by **roll-call 9-0-0** passed unanimously in favor of Charlotte Riley as the 2023-25 Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education.

Chairwoman Riley thanked Mrs. LeBlanc for her kind words. She appreciates your commitment and time served on the Board of Education and to our school system. She looks forward to what we can accomplish together.



**b. Vice Chairperson of the Board of Education**

Chairwoman Riley opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Kober nominated Peter Jonaitis as the Vice Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Mrs. Acree. Mr. Kober read a prepared statement regarding his nomination for Peter Jonaitis.

Mrs. Cushman moved, seconded by Mr. Kober to close the nominations for Vice Chairperson. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

A vote by **roll-call 5-4-0** passed with Dr. Calnen, Mrs. LeBlanc, Mrs. Pickett, and Mr. Ryder in dissent for Peter Jonaitis as the 2023-25 Vice Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education.

**c. Secretary of the Board of Education**

Chairwoman Riley opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Mrs. LeBlanc nominated Scott Ryder as the Secretary for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Mrs. Pickett. Mrs. LeBlanc read a prepared statement regarding his nomination for Scott Ryder.

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc to close the nominations for Secretary. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-1** passed with Mr. Jonaitis abstaining for Scott Ryder as the 2023-24 Secretary for the Enfield Board of Education.

**7. SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS:**

Chairwoman Riley stated we will now present service recognition awards to the outgoing Board members.

Chairwoman Riley recognized John Unghire with gifts of appreciation from the Board. She thanked him for his commitment and service to Enfield Public Schools. We wish you well with your future endeavors.

Mr. Unghire congratulated the 2023-25 Board on being elected. He trusts that you will all work hard together for the good of Enfield, our students, staff, administration, parents and our residents. Thank you all.

Chairwoman Riley presented Mr. Hamre with gifts of appreciation from the Board. She thanked him for his commitment and service to Enfield Public Schools. We wish you well with your future endeavors.

Mr. Hamre thanked his fellow Board members who he had the pleasure of serving with over the past two years. It has been his honor and privilege working with you all. He also thanked those who supported him throughout this process. He truly appreciates you all. He encouraged residents that are concerned about the future of our district, to attend Board meetings and get involved. Thank you.

Chairwoman Riley stated Mr. LeBlanc is not present to receive his gifts of appreciation.

**8. COMMENTS, IF ANY, FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN:**

Chairwoman Riley stated it is appropriate this is Thanksgiving week, she has a lot to be thankful for. She is thankful to the voters of Enfield, her family, the RTC and for Kelly Hemmler's support. She thanked her colleagues on the Board for their vote of confidence in her. She is excited to begin the hard work.

Chairwoman Riley added the role of the Board is to ensure the education system has acceptable purpose, direction, plan and policy. Board members are to exhibit civility, integrity and willingness to apply themselves wholeheartedly to support and govern the school system. It is her hope that after tonight, we can put personal politics to the side and join our dedicated staff, parents and children of Enfield Public Schools to ensure that all, each and every child gets a fair shake at a quality education that meets their needs.

Chairwoman Riley stated her goals for this term are the same as Enfield Public Schools to prepare students to become productive, lifelong learners and instill in them a curiosity and love for learning. Let's find out what captivates our students in 2023 and makes them want to come to school and be active learners in every level.

Chairwoman Riley would like to empower our staff to reimagine and collectively leverage current talent to make serious strides in building today's effective learning environments and putting the most effective teaching strategies with the right tools in place. She believes we can move the scale together and show the State of Connecticut that Enfield Public Schools can be their next rising star. Thank you.

#### **9. COMMENTS, IF ANY, FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:**

Dr. Calnen congratulated Chairwoman Riley on her appointment. He thanked his wife for her support. He also thanked the voters of Enfield for giving him this honor to serve on the Board for a second term. He will do his best to not let you down. It has been an honor to serve along with his fellow board members during the last term. He will miss Mr. Hamre. Thank you.

Mr. Kober echoes comments made. He thanked the voters for putting their faith in him and his entire team to lead Enfield Public Schools for the next two years. He thanked the ERTC, and his family for their support. He also hopes to put politics aside and do what is best for our children. We need to work on common sense goals and hit the ground running. We need to look at our policies, curriculum and budget. He looks forward to fostering an environment conducive to learning and elevate our school district out of being classified as an Alliance District. We need to learn from past mistakes like pizzagate, and the lack of common sense used during Covid. We can and must do better moving forward. He looks forward to working together with his fellow Board members. Thank you.

Mrs. Pickett congratulated Chairwoman Riley. She would also like to move forward in a productive path for Enfield Public Schools. She is mad, sad and disappointed from this election cycle. There was a difference of 90 votes. Only 28% of registered voters came out to vote. She is urging that Enfield Public Schools family and staff pay attention and watch Board meetings because important decisions are being made. She urged residents to come to meetings and e-mail us about what you need.

Mrs. Pickett explained her reason why she voted no for the vice chairman. It was not political but was made for the care of our students and staff. She is hopeful for some bi-partisan productive work ahead. She believes our support for humanity should provide us with a shared value to start from. We are here to uphold the mission of the Board of Education. Her children will be impacted by the decisions we make. She wants what is best for her children and all of Enfield's students. She wants to work with the other side to support Enfield Public Schools and to increase our math and literacy scores, family engagement and creating support

and strategies for students and staff needs. She does not want to fight or battle. She would like us all to pledge to ground our decisions and do what is best for all our students. We need to take care of each other regardless of our differences. Her hope is the new majority will remember that together we can work to support our staff and students and take the time to truly understand the needs of our schools and address those needs without judgement. We need to stand for everyone. There is no magic wand to fix the mess we are in, but with commitment and remembering we are better together, and we can move forward.

Mrs. Pickett thanked the residents that are involved and show up in so many ways and for voting. She also thanked our staff, students, families and students that participated in Youth Vote. She thanked her fellow Board members, friends and family members. Someone told her the democrats lost because we were not listening. She takes offense to that comment. She takes pride in every relationship she has. She does her best to represent our families, residents and community members. She is honored to be part of her fellow democratic team. She thanked her family for everything they have done. She will continue to advocate for an inclusive and affirming Enfield where everyone gets what they need.

Mrs. Acree thanked her family for their continued support. She also thanked the ERTC and the residents that came out and voted for her. It is an honor and privilege to serve on Enfield Board of Education for another term. She looks forward to working with new and current Board members, Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey and the administration. She hopes together as a Board, we will make the best decisions for Enfield students and staff. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder stated he is a parent that has proudly served on the Board for 6 years and has worn many different hats as a Board member, Minority Leader, Vice Chairman, Subcommittee Chair and Secretary. He has served on several joint subcommittees with our Town Council members and was also a parent volunteer. He is invested in our town and school system. He hopes we can all survive and excel in this term together. With our superintendent, assistant superintendent, and our staff, he is hopeful that we can all get on the same page regarding a vision for the future of our schools and facilities. He will continue to volunteer here and in our schools. He will continue to promote our schools, events, concerts, fundraisers, plays, and arts as he has done for the past 10 years when his daughter started kindergarten here in Enfield. He will always be present and support Enfield Public Schools, our staff and administration in any way possible. He hopes this is in the center of each of our hearts and we are not putting blinders on.

Mr. Ryder thanked his family and friends for their support. At times it has been stressful, but a lot of light has come from the journey he has been on. He loves visiting our schools, volunteering, mentoring or DJing events and fundraisers. These events all bring him light. He loves seeing how proud his children and their friends are about our schools. This gives me perspective. He is proud of his children and their friends, and we have a lot of great kids out there. He enjoyed going to Parent Teacher Conferences last week and hearing how well his daughter is doing and hearing how amazing his son is doing and hearing about his creative writing project. This is why he is here for the good days and the light they bring him and for the challenges. Thank you for supporting him.

Mr. Ryder added the Enfield's PTO PJ day will be held on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Flyers will be coming home with students and posters will be displayed at all our schools. You can make online donations at [enfieldpto.com](http://enfieldpto.com) or at [Enfieldpublicschools.org](http://Enfieldpublicschools.org). He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. Thank you.

Mrs. Cushman stated that she appreciates the opportunity to serve another term and to serve our community, children in our schools, and the staff. It is really such an honor. She thanked so many people that have been alongside her for their support and encouragement. She thanked her campaign team, her family, and friends. She is thankful for this opportunity to sit

here with this board. Each member brings their strengths, skills and great backgrounds to this Board with a commitment to our schools, families, and students. She is honored to serve with them and looks forward to what we can do together. Thank you.

Mrs. LeBlanc explained her reason for not supporting Mr. Jonaitis as Vice Chairman was based on his actions over the past two years. She is not saying that she will refuse to work with Mr. Jonaitis and the majority party. She cannot support him in a leadership role. She respects the voting process and the people that voted for him. It was important for her to share her rationale for not endorsing the Vice Chairman of the Board of Education. We have a job to do, and she will move forward.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated going forward we have job to do. Chairwoman Riley will be a strong and fair chair for the Board. She is a mother, daughter and fierce community member. She thanked her family for their continued support. She thanked Ian Graves and the voters. She has been one of the top candidates for receiving votes. She hopes she has represented you well and will continue to represent the voters of Enfield for the next two years. Her sentiments match the other Board members about working together and the role of a Board member. She does not want this term to be contentious. She has no intention of bringing chaos or dissention among her fellow Board members. She will be the same Board member she has been for the last 12 years no matter what chair she is sitting at. She is here to support, advocate and help when needed.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated as mentioned by Chairwoman Riley and Mr. Ryder there is hope and light and she hopes we can all work together moving forward. Thank you.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked Mrs. Pickett and Mrs. LeBlanc for their kind words. He thanked Donna Dubanowski and Jason Jones for all their hard work being our campaign managers. He also thanked Sandra Hayward, Walter Kruzell, Rob Anderson, Kelly Hemmler and the ERTC members. He thanked the voters of Enfield for giving the Republican party both the Town Council and the Board of Education a chance to bring changes in how things have been done during the past 2 years. This election showed that this town is divided, and this was a very close election. We will see how things play out over the next two years when we receive our report card in 2 years.

Mr. Jonaitis added some people were not happy with how the election turned out and that he is back on the Board of Education, and some are happy he is back. He taught in Enfield Public Schools for 38 years and accomplished many great things with his students. He has served on the Board of Education previously for 3 terms. Being back is the last thing he wanted to do. There are so many things he will miss like traveling with his wife, spending time with his children and grandchildren. A lot of changes need to be made on the Board of Education and it is his hope to help facilitate some of these changes in a positive manner that will be in the best interest of our students and parents.

Mr. Jonaitis stated he would now like to address the teaching staff, ETA and members on the Executive Board. He loved teaching and it was a passion for him. There is no one way to reach all the students. His concern is coming from the interference with the Federal and State Government with education that do not know anything about education and have passed laws that handcuff good creative teaching. He believes the Department of Education along with the AFT and NEA are not serving the needs of public education. Mandates and curriculum interference have eroded local decisions that affect communities, students and districts. Education has become big business. Previously, he has negotiated 3 ETA contracts with some of the best golden health insurance plans that was envied by the State of Connecticut at one time. He was also a building representative at JFK. He would also mentor younger teachers. He will always have the backs of our teachers. There might be some disagreements at times,

but when it comes to students in our classrooms, he will always be there for the students and teachers.

Mr. Jonaitis added Enfield's demographics are changing. Enfield ranks 145 out of 169 in the State of Connecticut with the ability to pay for education. We are not a wealthy town. We can only spend what we can afford. The State of Connecticut has short changed Enfield out of money we were supposed to receive especially since we became an Alliance district which has added to our financial problems. He hopes one of the top priorities of the Town Council will be to get into our elementary schools and make the repairs that are desperately needed or take Prudence Crandall, Eli Whitney and Edgar H. Parkman and turn them into K-5 buildings and build like new like we did at Enfield High and John F. Kennedy. Thank you.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Kober to adjourn the Special Organizational Meeting of November 21, 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Scott Ryder  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary



**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 28, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on November 28, 2023.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Peter Jonaitis, Philip Kober, Tina LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, and Scott Ryder

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent; Student Representatives Kayla Surprenant and Isabella Dinnald

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **2023 Kid Mayor**

Mr. Drezek welcomed our 2023-24 Kid Mayor Gabriella Diaz from Eli Whitney school. He also welcomed Mr. Senez, our Social Studies Coordinator and her teacher Mrs. Zenzick.

Mrs. Zenzick stated it is an honor to introduce Gabby. She has been hard at work along with her classmates and fellow grade 5 students from all across Enfield and State that have taken part in the Kid Governor program. Ms. Diaz will tell you about her platform. She also thanked the Board, Academic Office, Mrs. Middleton, Dr. Burr and Mr. Senez for giving our students the opportunity to participate in such an exciting program that highlights civic engagement. She also thanked Principal Flanagan and Assistant Principal Mr. Flynn for their support. Gabby is a wonderful representative. She is kind and empathetic student that is adored by students and staff. She holds a job as a cafeteria helper, a member of the math Olympiad team, helps to tutor grade 3 students during our intervention block, is a member of the string orchestra who plays the cello, and also plays the piano, soccer, and dances. She truly embodies our Whitney Wolves values, and we couldn't be prouder of her. Also here tonight is her mother, stepdad, aunt, current principal, former teachers from Hazardville Memorial, current Eli Whitney teachers and many friends watching from home and here.

Ms. Diaz thanked Chairwoman Riley, Vice Chairman, Board members, Mayor Nelson, Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey and special guests for inviting her to tonight's Board meeting. She discussed the Kid Governor program for students in grade 5 in the State of Connecticut and what it entails. She and her classmates picked topics and came up with a plan. Next, we wrote a speech that demonstrated our leadership qualities and read them to our classmates. She was lucky to be voted as our Enfield Kid Mayor. She shared her campaign video and her plan on mental health supports. She is proud to represent Enfield as the next kid mayor. During her year of service she will try to raise money and awareness about mental health to our students in Enfield.

Dr. Calnen stated your report was wonderful and inspiring. He congratulated her on a job well done. We have our own Mental Health Committee on the Board of Education that we have been forming. You stated there is no shame in seeking help. This has been a problem for many years. There should not be any shame or stigma if you need help. People that are suffering from mental health should be encouraged to talk to somebody about their problems. He congratulated her on her platform. Our committee might seek your input.

Mrs. Pickett also thanked Ms. Diaz and is excited to hear about your platform. She would like to hear more about some of the other issues and topics. Mr. Senez stated the grade 5 students participate in a primary by classroom, then by school and then by the district. There were 11 students that participated in Gabby's classroom primary. She won Eli Whitney's primary and then the district primary. There are dozens of platforms that were presented.

Mrs. Pickett asked if there were any trends or topics that rose to the top or popular topics? This is a neat project, and she commends you on your hard work. Winning that many primary's is amazing. She also thanked the staff and parents involved. Your color coded flags is such a great idea and can help teachers when it comes to classroom support.

Mrs. LeBlanc also thanked Ms. Diaz for her presentation that was awesome. They also use baby goats and pigs as emotional support animals. Your color flags is a great idea because it can be hard to admit you have any issues. This is a great way to communicate. There could be other issues the students might be having and just need a safe space. She thanked her for her dedication to mental health concerns for our students and community. Since Covid mental health concerns have skyrocketed and we need to do our best to support our friends, students and community members. You did an excellent job, and we are very proud of you.

Mr. Jonaitis congratulated our kid mayor and future governor in 2050.

Mrs. Cushman thanked Ms. Diaz for sharing your ideas. Mental Health is something our Board has been discussing. Your idea is very creative and was beautifully done. She likes your flag idea. Do you see each student having a set of these cards on their desks?

Ms. Diaz stated each student would have a set of color coded flags. The teacher will collect them at the end of the year to use next year. With funding, more could be purchased.

Mrs. Cushman asked about how the support animals would be used. Ms. Diaz stated they would be used on certain days. Mrs. Cushman stated this would be everyone's favorite day and thanked her for this great idea and presentation.

Mrs. Acree congratulated our Kid Mayor. You are a great speaker and are very motivating. You are also very talented and community orientated. Both she and Dr. Calnen have been working on our Mental Health & Wellness Committee. Thank you for being so caring and empathetic. She wished her all the best during the 2023-24 school year.

Mr. Kober also congratulated her, and for being here tonight and sharing your platform with us. What do you think Enfield is doing right? Ms. Diaz stated when students are not having a good day, our behavioral teachers, school counselors and social workers are doing a very good job of talking with the students. Having these teachers helping the students allows them to come back into the classroom.

Mr. Kober thanked Ms. Diaz and it is nice to hear encouraging things that our staff are doing to help our students that are struggling. He likes hearing proactive things like this.

Mr. Ryder is glad to hear the Kid Mayor is coming from Eli Whitney. He likes your flag idea. This can also help with students that have 504 plans. What are the next steps. Mr. Senez

stated unfortunately, Ms. Diaz did not make it to the Kid Governor.

Mr. Ryder added being our Kid Mayor is better. Congratulations.

Chairwoman Riley congratulated Ms. Diaz on her great speech. You are going places! She wouldn't be surprised if you end up in this seat or the Governors' office. Once you have been elected, do you go to the other schools? Ms. Diaz stated we share our videos with each of the schools.

Chairwoman Riley agrees that your cards are a great idea to use in the classrooms. Even if we don't have the funds to purchase them, the students could make their own to use. You are a great saleswoman too.

Chairwoman Riley asked Ms. Diaz to join her and Mayor Nelson up in front of the dais. They presented her with a plaque from the Enfield Board of Education and Town Council thanking her for being our 2023-24 Kid Mayor.

Ms. Diaz received a standing ovation.

Mayor Nelson swore Ms. Diaz in as the Town of Enfield Kid Mayor and invited her to attend the Torchlight Parade and Carol Sing on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and lighting the Town Tree up and attend an upcoming Town council meeting.

Ms. Diaz thanked them for the plaque and presented them with pins. She also urged anyone that is struggling, there is time for you to get better and there is never any shame when seeking for help for mental health concerns.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **a. Student Representative Update**

Student Representative Kayla Surprenant reported the Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup>, we will provide hot chocolate at the Torchlight Parade and Carol Sing. Winter sports will start for Hockey, Wrestling, Indoor Track and Basketball for both girls and boys. Model UN will participate in a conference. The PE Department held a volleyball tournament, and it was a huge success.

Student Representative Isabella Dinnald reported about the chorus Festival, lamplighter production Axe of Murder, NHS Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Career Day, Poetry Night, Mid-Terms, Chorus, Band and Jazz Concerts. ERFC has job openings. Cap and Gowns for seniors is coming up. Sophomore students will decorate doors and PJ Day will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **b. Torchlight Parade & Carol Sing – as presented**

### **c. PJ Day 2023**

### **d. Staff PL – NS – as presented**

### **e. EPS Update – as presented**

Mr. Drezek stated Chairwoman Riley asked him to share some information about being an Alliance District and what it means. The State of Connecticut had designated us in 2 categories as being a high needs district with students receiving free/reduced lunch, special needs and students receiving ELL services. These 3 areas will give you a percentage indicating if your students are classified as high needs. This information is public information and can be found on Ed Sight. This information is from 2021 and is outdated. We have shared this information with previous Boards.

Mr. Drezek shared information listed about students in several of our schools. Each dot represents a school in Enfield. Each dot on the screen will tell you about the per pupil

expenditure, each school is different because some are designate at Title I, II and IV schools, it also shows the population at each school, percentage of students receiving ELL services, Free/Reduced Lunch, and Special Education Services. EHS students classified as having high needs during 2021 was 46.5%. We know this number will increase. We know what our special education needs are and how many students are receiving free/reduced lunch. We also track our students receiving ELL services. He reviewed JFK numbers. ELL numbers will continue to increase as you look at elementary schools. The overall high needs at JFK was over 50% in 2021. Eli Whitney was 55.7% high needs in 2021. Edgar H. Parkman was 53.7% in 2021. Prudence Crandal was just over 60% in 2021. Enfield Stret was around 51% in 2021. He will send Board members the link so you can look at this information.

Mr. Drezek stated he will not go through every indicator tonight. We will do this in a series of conversations with the Board. The Next Generation Accountability Index is essentially our score. The State of Connecticut will grade every school in the state. That score is made up of 12 different indicators and will ultimately give you your score. On the website you will see two lines, one is the State of Connecticut and the other is Enfield. Through Ed Sight you can compare any district. The Alliance Network was created in 2012. Data wasn't available until 2014. In 2014 the target was 85 or higher. Enfield qualified in 2014 and our accountability score was higher than the state of Connecticut score and Enfield's score was 76.2. What that means is anyone under 85 qualified as an Alliance District. The reason we were not named then as an Alliance District is because when the Alliance Network was created in 2012, only the top 30 districts were designated as Alliance Districts. We were not included in the original 30. We were about 35 and we still are.

Mr. Drezek added when you hear the term we just became an Alliance District this is not true. The State just expanded the Alliance Network from 30 to 35. It is a 5 year evaluation plan. In 2012 they named the original 30 based on the accountability index. In 2017 they re-evaluated, and they were to expand it from 30 to 33. We did not make that cut. In 2022 they re-evaluated, and the State decided to expand the Alliance Network from 33 to 36 and the 3 new districts would not get the same funding mechanism as the original 30 and 33. The funding mechanism was the towns ECS calculation. Your ECS Funding from 2012 and 2022 was your delta or your ECS funding. In our case it was \$1.4 million and that would be a carve out of a designated alliance grant for Enfield Public Schools. The Town of Enfield receives \$29 million from the State of Connecticut in ECS funding. That is the State's share for paying for public education. When you are an Alliance District, the State will carve out that grant which was \$1.4 million from the \$29 million and the Town would receive \$27.6 million. The Board of Education would receive the \$1.4 million directly. The town would not have access to this money. Once we receive the funding or the funding has been designated, we have a responsibility to create an accountability plan that gets submitted to the Commissioner of Education that will outline what we plan on using the Alliance grant for.

Mr. Drezek stated our look back in 2022 for the 3 new districts was made by legislation. The look back for the 3 new districts was a one year look back opposed to the 10 years everyone else received in the Alliance Network. Our one year lookback for 2021 to 2022 and during those 2 fiscal years, the ECS calculation was flat which means there is no delta and no grant and no Alliance grant for Enfield. Since we are not receiving a grant we do not need to submit a plan. The plan is really about what are you going to do with the funding. We have a plan and that is subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education. Once it is approved, we would present it to the Board of Education as our Alliance District plan. We never got that far. We did not have the funding to start addressing some of these indicators but have since started implementing things on our own.

Mr. Drezek added some of the previous Board members are familiar with our instructional coaches at the elementary level. This is something other Alliance Districts have done. We knew this would be beneficial to our kids and for our staff to move the needle on our performance standards. We did this internally without asking the taxpayers for more money

with the hope during the legislative process this will get rectified. These are the facts and what has got us here today.

Mr. Drezek stated it is not just test scores. Indicator 1 is for test scores. Mr. Drezek stated a lot of our teachers have moved mounds for this one indicator. This started in 2014. He started in 2017-18, and in 2018-19 is when we started making changes. There is a gap in 2019-22 due to Covid. We were not doing standardized testing and there are no metrics. We were not responsible for reporting data back to the State. We knew in 2021-22 when the numbers came in we would need to reset the bar. When we sent our kids home, we did not know what we would get back. Our kid mayor articulated this best.

Mr. Drezek stated when you look at this slide the categories are color coded, ELA, All Students, ELA Students, Students with High Needs. The State designates your performance by all students and students with high needs. As the number of students with high needs increases, that will alter your performance for all students. There are 3 categories, ELA, Math and Science. Each category is broken down by all students and students with high needs. He is extremely proud of our teachers. Every one of our disciplines for all of our kids and this includes kids with high needs where every metric went up last year. What we are doing is working. We would like it to work better but have started to move the needle. We need to continue with this momentum moving forward.

Mr. Drezek stated the next category is growth. There is another indicator for chronic absenteeism. College and Career Readiness is another indicator, being on track for high school graduation is another indicator. Post secondary entrance, physical fitness, art access are indicators, and all of these combined scores are what will give you your number. We knew this number would go down. As your test scores go up, some of your growth performance expectations will also increase, which means your numbers go down. We will explain this in more detail at another time. If the Board would like, we can start having these conversations indicator by indicator with the appropriate staff members present so they can explain why and how things are being done.

Mr. Drezek added he has just given you a brief update. If anyone says this just happened, that is not true. He heard what you said at the last meeting about being interested in how we address this moving forward to better serve the needs of our students and to move us forward.

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Chairwoman Riley reviewed the Bylaws for public comments and stated she will allow 4 minutes for audience member participation.

Kelsey McGuire Bruce, Neelans Road – Mrs. McGuire Bruce congratulated Chairwoman Riley. She is here tonight as a teacher. She also lives in Enfield, is a mother and loves our town. She urged the Board to move us forward and help to keep our teachers. The needs of our town and students have changed and supports are needed. She urged the Board to move forward with the K-5 modernization plan. Teachers, staff and students need to feel supported. We need a budget that meets our needs. Please support us all and help to build a better future for Enfield.

Ryan Scheutz, Church Street – Mr. Scheutz congratulated the newly elected Board of Education. He hopes to set our difference aside and to move forward and focus on our kids. He would also like to see what can be done to prevent us from being an Alliance District. Hearing that we fear for the next two years. What does this mean? He wants us to all unify. He also congratulated our Kid Mayor Gabby.

Ryan Moore, Ryefield Drive – Mr. Moore refused to give his address.



Chairwoman Riley asked Mr. Moore to abide by our policies and state his address.

Mrs. Pickett asked for a Point of Order.

Mr. Moore stated this is his right and he just hopes the Board treats everyone fairly and look at your policies.

William Delaney, JFK Teacher & ETA VP, Haystack Lane, South Windsor – Mr. Delaney stated he is a Social Studies teacher at JFK. He congratulated our Kid Mayor. He also congratulated the Board and would like to see them work together for our kids. There is a theme of moving forward shared tonight. The pizzagate scandal assignment was disgusting and we all agree on this. We need to move forward. Continuing to discuss this is a morale killer and will push people over the edge. We need to be careful and your language matters. Masks is another topic we need to move forward on. Most of our teachers live in other towns. How many town employees work in this town? Respect is needed.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin congratulated our Kid Mayor Gabby. She is wonderful. When she spoke about what is working, that is all SEL supports, and what our kid's needs. We need to move forward for the good of our students. She thanked Mrs. Acree for being such a good listener and she respects you. Board members can learn from your example. You respect everyone and you are working with Dr. Calnen on mental health. You bring experience to the Board as being a teacher for many years. We have seen the impact from Covid firsthand. She thanked Mr. Drezek for his explanation about ECS funding and the 1 year lookback. This is something our State Representatives should explain to use.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Dr. Calnen provided an update about the KITE meeting, ECDC staffing concerns, a presentation from Enfield Food Shelf was given at the Kite meeting, the Sparkler Program with pediatricians was discussed, PLA is looking for applicants, First Readers Ceremony was held yesterday at EHS, the first Fire Truck delivery of books will be happening, Rocking Chair Readers need volunteers, he also discussed the upcoming 2Gen Breakfast. Brianna Beckstrand from KITE attended a workshop in Colorado. Tonight the Board will discuss a Head Start Grant that was presented at the Policy Committee on November 1<sup>st</sup>. He also reviewed Head Start goals.

Mr. Kober stated last week Board members received some e-mails about a Board member not having any contact with children. We are a governing Board that goes over policies and planning. We do not sit in any classrooms as educators. He also mentioned that he reached out to Board Leadership about having a Policy meeting. As he mentioned at the last meeting, we want to hit the road running. He has looked at our Bylaws and a lot of our amendments or updates to policies require 2 readings before the Board can vote on the revisions. He looks forward to making recommendations.

Mr. Kober asked via the Chair to the Superintendent, as a parent there are a lot of staff professional learning events. The students have had a lot of half days. He would like to know how many hours the staff spends with professional learning events, what are the topics or themes, and he would like to see an agenda or itinerary, are they mandatory or optional, is this a local initiative, and are they mandated by the State or Federal Government. He would like to have some more insight into this.

Mr. Kober stated he also sent a couple of requests to the Superintendent's office and they are pending research and responses. They relate to student enrollment, school year gains, losses, retention, attrition, graduation rates, staff size, composition, longevity. This will tie into the Alliance District statistics and retaining quality staff. One of our speakers spoke about this and he would like to know if we are retaining staff or losing staff. He knows this is some leg

work for the Superintendent's office. If you are familiar with finance or the business world, we look at 5 year patterns. He would like to see 7 years of data. He wanted to loop the public in on some of his requests.

Mr. Kober requested through the Chair to the Superintendent do we allow support or comfort animals in our schools/classrooms. You see animals being brought to schools during traumatic events. Is this something we are doing in Enfield?

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Drezek for sharing information about Alliance Districts. This information has been shared several times and encourages Mr. Kober to visit the Ed Sight website. This information is for the public and the data there is reported by our district. You can look at all the data and compare data from one district to another.

Mrs. Pickett addressed Mr. Scheutz concerns about academic performance. She has also been concerned even before she became a Board member and would attend meetings as a concerned parent. The data shared tonight is not a new problem, it has been an issue for over 10 years. She does not want to blame or shame any of our high needs families or students. If you compare our high needs to our non needs, you will see that data is not that different. There are Tier I concerns and issues that need to be addressed. We have had discussions at our previous Curriculum meetings about reading, instructional coaches, how we support academics, pathways and the work at the high school to provide opportunities for our students.

Mrs. Pickett also addressed Mrs. McGuire Bruce and thanked her for her comments. She is also committed to our buildings and facilities. We will discuss some of buildings later on the agenda and she is also concerned about our school modernization efforts and long-term vision.

Mrs. Pickett also address bus and safety concerns at Parkman that are causing the buses to back up in the driveway onto the road. JFK also has some concerns with their safety pattern. This is something to consider when we continue future school modernization discussions.

Mrs. Pickett is interested in hearing about some of policy proposals mentioned by Mr. Kober. We all have a lot we would like to address during this term. She would like to know where these priorities or concerns are coming from? Have our educators feedback been solicited? She is looking for meaningful feedback from those that our policies and practices impact most.

Mrs. Pickett stated she got a hair cut from a recent Enfield High graduate. She bragged about our amazing staff and the opportunities she had at EHS. She also thanked our deans and amazing science teachers. We need to hear more of this kind of feedback. We also need to hear more feedback from Gabby.

Mrs. Pickett provided an update about Enfield Street School events and fundraisers and the Veteran's Day Assembly. She thanked the staff for everything they did for our Veteran's. She has also attended Parkman's ROAR assemblies and is impressed with what is happening at this school and their school events. She also thanked the PTO's for everything they are doing. Look at your principal school letters for events and happenings.

Mrs. Pickett addressed Mr. Kober's question about professional learning days. Conferences were held on the half days in November. So they were not all PL days.

Mrs. Pickett was able to participate at Career Day at EHS and thanked the staff. There will be an artisan market day at the old Nathan Hale building on Saturday and Sunday. Many local businesses will participate. They will be there throughout the holidays.

Mrs. Acree provided the Board with an update about happenings at Prudence Crandall. There 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Family Engagement day was a huge success. They will also hold a diversity and

culture winter celebrations event, a Literacy/Numeracy Night and Book Swap. They are looking for gently used books. They will also be celebrating the festival of Hanukkah. The Crandall/Barnard PTO meeting will be held virtually on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

Mrs. Acree thanked Mrs. Griffin for her words of encouragement and support.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated Cookies for Camouflage sent out 101 boxes or 854 pounds of cookies and cards to our service men and women. She thanked Mrs. Gates for spearheading this yearly community event.

Mrs. LeBlanc added EHS will hold their Safe Grad Jingle Jam Auction at Mount Carmel on December 12<sup>th</sup>. She attended their career day, and it was another great turnout. She also wished all the EHS winter sports teams good luck.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked via the Chair to the Superintendent about the ECS Cost Share Grant and that lunches were covered during Covid and if this will affect our numbers? Mr. Drezek stated that will affect the number.

Mrs. LeBlanc added this is something the Board should keep an eye on with our State Legislators regarding the ECS Cost Sharing Grant along with the Alliance Grant.

Mrs. LeBlanc addressed Mr. Kober about masks and in the spirit of moving forward, we received a legal opinion beyond the Executive Order about removing masks. We were told this could be a felony charge if we removed the masks. We also discussed the pizza assignment in leadership.

Mrs. LeBlanc hoped that everyone had a nice and safe Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Cushman stated at our last meeting the EHS Honors Chorus performed for us. She appreciated them being there. Their voices were beautiful, and it was a wonderful way to start our term and meeting.

Mrs. Cushman attended the Prudence Crandall Family Engagement, and it was well attended event. She thanked Mrs. Sargalski for showcasing these organizations to our community and for families to connect with.

Mrs. Cushman asked via the Chair to the Superintendent about an item mentioned by Mrs. Zenzick and the activities Ms. Diaz, our Kid Mayor is involved with - intervention block and she was a tutor. She would like to learn more about this.

Mr. Ryder stated Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> will be PJ Day for the children at CCMC. Links have been posted on enfieldpto.com and enfieldschools.org. He urged everyone in our district and community to participate.

Mr. Ryder added Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney on December 1<sup>st</sup> will hold a winter dance at EHS.

Mr. Ryder stated Wreaths Across America event is happening and each Board member has been invited to participate in this ceremony. The Friends of Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast will be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> starts from 8:30-10:30 AM at EHS in the Café. They will collect nonperishable food items, there will be raffles and all donations will be given to Enfield Loaves & Fishes. The Wreaths Across America dedication will start at noon at St. Patrick's Cemetery for the laying of the wreaths.

Mr. Jonaitis addressed community members about changes being made to the Board being made quickly. Change takes time. As mentioned by Mr. Kober, some of the items will need to

be addressed first at the Policy Committee meetings. This could take addressing these items at 2-3 meetings.

Mr. Jonaitis addressed the comments he made at our last meeting about the State of Connecticut not giving money to Enfield since we became an Alliance District and were told we would receive money, which has added to our financial problems.

Mr. Jonaitis asked via the Chair to the Superintendent if were we told we would be getting money from the State. Mr. Drezek stated yes we were told that by the State.

Mr. Jonaitis asked if our representatives dropped the ball on this? Mr. Drezek stated the entire budget process was passed by the entire legislature. He does not know how our representatives voted. This was communicated to him from the State Department of Education, not through the general assembly.

Chairwoman Riley also attended Family Engagement Day at Prudence Crandall as a parent. They did a great job. This event was well attended and a lot of fun. She would like to see this kind of family engagement across our district.

Chairwoman Riley stated we held our first First Readers Ceremony yesterday and 66 students have been certified as readers. This was also another great event. We will hold another ceremony in March and in June. This is our 12<sup>th</sup> year celebrating our youngest readers and we have certified over 5,100 students.

Chairwoman Riley watched a previous Board meeting when the Enfield Food Shelf was here. She would like to keep an open dialogue with them. Springfield schools sends home students with back-pack boxes on Friday's with food items for the families. She would like to discuss this with them to see if this is something that we could do here in Enfield.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Eagle Academy just started a pilot program where they have in-house food shelf and the students can take home food that is provided by Enfield Loaves & Fishes. That would meld together nicely with your idea.

Chairwoman Riley is not sure what Enfield High's food shelf looks like, but other high schools are doing this.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **a. Discussion & Action if any regarding Enfield Mental Health & Wellness Committee** *(Tabled on 09-12-23)*

Mr. Jonaitis moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder, that the Enfield Board of Education places the Enfield Mental Health & Wellness Committee item back on the table to discuss further.

A vote by **Show-of-Hands – 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Longey stated he reviewed Policy #9132 Standing Committees of the Board. This is where we were discussing forming a standing committee. There is another option that he is suggesting. He has discussed this with both Mrs. Acree and Dr. Calnen, and they both agreed to form a Special Advisory Committee. He would like this item to remain tabled and allow both Mrs. Acree and Dr. Calnen to create the purpose of the Mental Health Committee, membership on this committee and then give that information to Chairwoman Riley. Then we would place this item back on the table for a formal vote to create that special committee. This is the quickest way to move this along.

Mr. Longey read from Policy #9132 Standing Committees of the Board about the process. He

recommends this item remain tabled until both Mrs. Acree and Dr. Calnen are ready to proceed with a description of the goals, the plans the committee will accomplish, membership and then it will be placed on the agenda for the whole Board to approve.

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to table this item until both Mrs. Acree and Dr. Calnen are ready to proceed with a plan.

A vote by **Show-of-Hands – 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Discussion & Action if any regarding Education Specifications for the Thomas G. Acorn Roof Replacement Project**

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder, that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Education Specifications for the Thomas G. Alcorn Roof Replacement Project as presented.

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Pickett asked if these projects would impact the future of the modernization plan. Hazardville Memorial is on the list and if any projects are planned or loans are needed will this impact future plans of the K-5 Modernization Committee?

Mr. Dague stated the referendum will have Parkman, Henry Barnard, Stowe, Alcorn, Crandall Enfield Street and the Annex. Any time you have a school project and work is done on any building, you will certify that the building will be used for 20 years. This case, the Alcorn building has our Central Office, and ETLA program housed there. We are committed to being here in this building for 20 years. Otherwise we would be liable for a portion of the reimbursement. This project has a lower reimbursement than other projects because they are only reimbursing for the Central Office space at 35%. There has been no discussion about moving Central Office for this project.

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

**b. Approval of the Eli Whitney State Project #049-0143RR Roof Replacement Project as Complete**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Eli Whitney State Project #049-0143RR Roof Replacement Project as complete.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Kober would like in the future since this project was part of a referendum, to show visual pictures of the completed project to show the taxpayers what their money was used for.

Mrs. Pickett asked how long will we need to use this building now since the project is complete.

Mr. Gerber stated it would be the same, a 20 year reimbursement.

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

**c. Approval of the Hazardville Memorial State Project #049-0143RR Roof Replacement Project as Complete**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Hazardville Memorial State Project #049-0143RR Roof Replacement Project as Complete.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Jonaitis stated this is for a 20 year loan. Mr. Gerber can look into this, he does not know enough about the payment process and present it to the Joint Facilities Committee.

Mr. Jonaitis does not want to see us end up like we did with Nathan Hale.

Mr. Drezek stated the building will remain in its current use for that period of time. There is an amortization schedule for the repayment of the loan. What Mr. Gerber is trying to say is there are different rules if the building will be used for other things.

Mr. Jonaitis added there has been talk about building 3 new K-5 school and if the referendum passes we would have empty buildings.

Mr. Drezek added that would be part of the plan and the direction for the unused buildings. That was all part of the plan the School Modernization Committee presented and what would be done with the facilities left behind. This needs to be all encompassing because we may still owe money on these building. If we can reuse them for another purpose, we would not need to pay that funding back. We can have the committee come back and update the Board at a future meeting.

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

**d. Approval of the 2024-25 Head Start Baseline Federal Grant, SF-424B Submission Statement and Governing Board Approval Statement**

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc, that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2024-25 Head Start Baseline Federal Grant, SF-424B Submission Statement and Governing Board Approval Statement.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Kober questioned the abbreviated budget. There are 102 students attending. The budget seems very generic. Can you elaborate on this more. How many employees are there? He would like to see more of a line item version of the budget in the future.

Mr. Drezek stated the budget that is in your packets comes from the Federal government. There is more than 1 person that works there. We are the grantee and follow Manchester Public Schools Board of Education and we work in collaboration with Manchester's Head Start and need to follow the federal guidelines. As with any grant, the format follows the application, and it comes directly from the Federal government.

Mrs. Pickett stated our Head Start program is very robust and she complemented Ms. Valley, the Stowe Early Learning Center staff and the staff at Head Start for what they are doing. She encourages us fully to support this.

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

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Chairwoman Riley provided an update on Board members assigned to each standing committee of the Board.

Finance Committee: Philip Kober-Chair, Jean Acree, Dr. Gerry-Secretary, and Alternates are Janet Cushman & Tina LeBlanc.

Curriculum Committee: Jean Acree-Chair, Janet Cushman, Amanda Pickett-Secretary, and Alternates are Peter Jonaitis & Dr. Gerry.

Policy Committee: Janet Cushman-Chair, Philip Kober, Scott Ryder-Secretary and Alternates Peter Jonaitis & Tina LeBlanc

Curriculum – Mrs. Acree reported the next Curriculum Committee meeting will be held on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Finance – Mr. Kober reported the next Finance Committee meeting will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Policy – Mrs. Cushman reported the next Policy Committee meeting will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> and we will hold a Special Policy Committee meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Leadership – Chairwoman Riley reported Board Leadership will meet on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

PK-5 School Modernization Committee – Mr. Ryder does not have an update for the School Modernization Committee at this time.

Joint Facility – Mrs. LeBlanc reported she does not have the next meeting date. Chairwoman Riley has not received any communication regarding the next meeting date for the Joint Facilities Committee either.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the JFK Building Committee will meet on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet soon.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup – Chairwoman Riley reported we have already discussed this previously.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mrs. LeBlanc does not have any Enfield Cultural Arts updates at this time.

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

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2023, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed unanimously with Mr. Kober abstaining.

### **14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None**

### **15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Ryder reported CAFE has invited Board members to attend a New Board Member Orientation & Leadership Conference on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please let Kathy know if you would like to attend. The Enfield Instrumental & Music Association will hold a fundraiser event at Panera on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Wreaths Across America will be laid on December 16<sup>th</sup> at noon at St. Patrick's Cemetery. You are encouraged to rsvp to Pam Townsend if you plan to attend. There is a link on the enfieldpto.com website. Also there will be a Gingerbread Jamboree being held at SELC on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**



**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 28 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Scott Ryder  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary