

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on November 26, 2019.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Walter Kruzel.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Walter Kruzel
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Walter Kruzel
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Walter Kruzel announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar, Chris Rutledge, Wendy Costa, Tim Neville, Joyce Hall, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tina LeBlanc (Arrived at 7:15 PM)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey; Student Representative Syerra Taliceo

Chairman Kruzel stated Mrs. LeBlanc is running late and will join the Board as soon as her daughter's game ends.

6. BOARD GUEST(S)

a. Enfield Kid Mayor

Mr. Drezek welcomed our K-12 Humanities Director to tonight's meeting and our current 2018-19 Enfield Kid Mayor Olivia Nuccio.

Ms. Nuccio thanked the Board for inviting her to tonight's meeting. Being the Enfield Kid Mayor was a lot of fun especially lighting the Town Christmas Tree. She welcomed the 2019-20 Enfield Kid Mayor Kylie Feliciano and wished her good luck.

Ms. Feliciano thanked Ms. Nuccio. Her platform was regarding kid lunches for students that have food allergies like herself. She discussed the process for the Kid Governor and how she made her campaign video. She thanked Mrs. Lindeland, Mrs. Burr, Mr. Drezek, Ms. Middleton and Mr. Senez for their help. Mrs. Wilson surprised her with balloons at an assembly. Even though she did not win the state Kid Governor, she is excited to be the Enfield Kid Mayor. She played her video for the Board and audience.

Chairman Kruzel asked Mayor Ludwick and Ms. Feliciano to join him in the front of the diose. Mayor Ludwick congratulated Ms. Feliciano for being our next Kid Mayor. You are a great speaker and did a fantastic job on your video presentation. He asked her what kind of foods are you looking for? Ms. Feliciano stated she is looking for foods that are free of dyes and foods like dairy are also a concern for some students. She would like a salad bar for students to choose from.

Chairman Kruzel stated our first and second Kid Mayor was from Prudence Crandall. Is Eli Whitney ready for this distinction? He invited her to join him on Sunday, December 1st to

march in the parade or you can just join us on the town green to turn on the lights for the Christmas tree. He will also invite you to attend an upcoming Town Council meeting.

Chairman Kruzel stated the parade starts at 6:00 PM and the Tree Lighting Ceremony starts at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Kruzel presented Ms. Feliciano with a plaque on behalf of the Board and Town Council. Your presentation was outstanding and he does not know what they were looking at. You should have won. Congratulations on being our Enfield Kid Mayor.

Ms. Feliciano received a standing ovation from the Board, Mayor, Administration and Audience members.

Chairman Kruzel added we will see you on Sunday. He also wished Ms. Feliciano and her family a Happy Thanksgiving.

b. Jaclyn Valley, Early Childhood Initiatives Director

Mr. Drezek welcomed Ms. Valley to the meeting. The Board will be asked to approve the 2020-21 Head Start Grants tonight. He wanted to formally introduce Ms. Valley to the new Board members. One of her many responsibilities is overseeing our Head Start program and our Early Childhood programs at Stowe.

Ms. Valley stated coming after Ms. Feliciano is a tough act to follow. Her entire family was here. Family connections are something we support. She is honored to be here on behalf of Enfield Head Start. We are applying for a comprehensive early care program for children and families who are income eligible. The grant we are submitting is for the continuation of funding in the amount of \$868,883. Part of this funding covers training and technical assistance. The other part covers program operation. The goals we will be focusing on is to develop parent partnerships. We will provide parent workshops to reinforce what we are doing in school. Board members have received a copy of the goals in your packet.

Ms. Valley added they will explore options for infants and toddlers by holding focus groups. Not all families know where to go for information and we need to increase awareness for families. Mr. Ryder's name came up during our discussion. She will be reaching out to him about this. We will also explore options for mental health services for families and children.

Ms. Valley stated we currently have 6 classrooms and 102 students at Head Start. Two classrooms are part-day and four classrooms are full-day programs.

Mrs. LeBlanc arrived at 7:15 PM.

Mr. Salazar thanked her and asked about the income qualifications. Ms. Valley stated families need to meet the Federal eligibility requirements to attend head start. She can send him this information.

Ms. Hall stated Enfield Head Start is now in a building with all our early education programs. How many children under the age of 5 are in this location? Ms. Valley stated we have 102 children in the Head Start program; 68 children in the PK Steam program; 85 to 115-120 children are in the Integrated PK program and Enfield Child Development Center has 220 and 120 students from grades K-5.

Mr. Ryder stated it is under 250 children enrolled in EPS programs.

Ms. Hall added this makes for a very entertaining building to visit.

SUSPEND THE RULES:

Chairman Kruzel would like to suspend the rules and address Item #11b now.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge to suspend the rules and move Item #11b Approval of FY2020-21 Head Start Grants.

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

11b. Approval of FY2020-2021 Head Start Grants

Ms. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2020-21 Head Start Grants as presented.

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

Chairman Kruzel asked Ms. Valley to wait and he will sign the grant now.

Mrs. Hall stated that she attended the Head Start Policy Committee meeting, and they also approved the proposed 2 policies.

Ms. Valley added our parents are very involved and are part of this process with the goals and objectives. They help with our discussions and are part of this partnership.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Ms. Valley for everything she is doing at the Stowe Early Learning Center building. The programs there are run excellently.

Mr. Drezek stated over the past 11 months we have discussed some of the big changes occurring in our town with the Eagle Academy and moving the Head Start program to the Stowe Early Learning Center. What you didn't see was the 70-80 hour work weeks Ms. Valley put in for getting the best experience possible for our tiny humans to receive on the first day of school. This all happened because of her. She has been invaluable during this entire process.

Mr. Drezek thanked her and her staff for everything they have done. She has been our true north star throughout this entire project.

Board members gave her a round of applause.

Ms. Valley thanked Mr. Drezek and the Board and invited the Board to come and visit them.

Recess:

Chairman Kruzel stated the Board will take a brief recess for our 2019-21 Board Photo.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Enfield Board of Education take a brief recess.

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

The Board left public session at 7:24 PM and returned to open session at 7:27 PM.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. Early Release Day & Thanksgiving Break – as presented
- c. Grants Report – as presented
- d. Personnel Report – as presented

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Neville announced this will be his last Board meeting. He will submit his resignation to the Town Clerk on Wednesday. He is reluctantly resigning from the Board of Education due to health concerns. This was not an easy decision and it is not in his nature to quit. He cannot help but feel that he has let some of you down. This is the right decision for him and his family. He firmly believes the work the Board does is important. He is sorry that he can't continue this work but is confident the new Board will build on the foundation set by previous Boards.

Mr. Neville has been on the Board for eight years. He thanked Enfield voters. He has worked as an educator for the last 38 years in Enfield. Running for office was a way for him to give back to the Town he loves. He thanked the voters for electing him for 5 terms on the Board of Education. It has been his honor and privilege to represent this town.

Mr. Neville thanked our chairman Walter Kruzel for his leadership and friendship. He will miss working with you. He knows you will continue your efforts as our chairman.

Mr. Neville thanked new Board members and past Board members for your commitment to the teachers and parents. You have signed on to an exciting journey. It has been an honor to share this journey with you. He also thanked them for understanding local politics is a team effort and should never be partisan. He reminded the new Board members that you are only a Board of 9 when you are sitting up here collaborating on a shared vision to educate Enfield's children to the best of our ability.

Mr. Neville thanked Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey for your vision of Enfield. You never pat yourselves on the back and are always deflecting praise. Board members know the truth. Whatever has been accomplished, we are aware that this would not be possible without your vision and support. Enfield is lucky to have such a team. His only regret is he cannot continue to be part of this.

Mr. Neville offers sage advice in their journey as the Board of Education. You will get lots of advice. Your final decision whether your vote for or against something should always be is it best for the kids. If you keep this as your focus, things will go well.

Mr. Neville thanked his family for their support. All of us as Board members know we could not do this job without the support of our families. His wife has been his rock through 49 years of marriage and his 5 children. He offers her his biggest thank you.

Mr. Neville wished everyone the best and sincerest thanks and gratitude for allowing him to serve on the Board of Education these past 8 years.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she started with Mr. Neville 8 years ago. You were always there for her especially when she called you. You are leaving a void but you are leaving a legacy behind you. People that have served with you have learned a lot. We had a conversation 6 months ago, when stuff starts to affect your health and family, it puts things into perspective. We need you but your family and your needs first. That is what is most important. You will never be far and she might still call you with a question or the need to run something by you. Thank you for always listening and hearing her concerns. Six months ago, we both questioned sitting here. Focus on your family and your health. She knows you will be watching our meetings from home and every move we make. She wished him good luck and good health in your retirement from the Board. She will miss you.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated Enfield High participated in the Route 5 Rivalry Football Game and won. We have kept the trophy. It really was a triumphant win. There was a lot of people attending this game. It was a great game and there was a lot of Eagle pride.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished all the staff and administration a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. LeBlanc also wished Mr. Neville all the best. He was his principal at JFK. Focus on your health and your family. He also knows as the new guy he can go to you for advice and you won't be far away. He was looking forward to working with Mr. Neville.

Mr. LeBlanc stated Great Clips in Enfield will hold of coat drive. All donations will be donated to Enfield Loaves & Fishes. He thanked everyone at Great Clips and those that donated coats.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the Welcome to Winter celebration will be held on December 11th at 6:30 PM in the Stowe Early Learning Center Gym. This is presented by the Family Resource Center and KITE.

Mr. LeBlanc stated Panera will be donating a portion of sales this weekend to the Enfield Safe Grad. He urged people to go to Panera and purchase some food or beverage items.

Mrs. Costa stated she has worked with Mr. Neville on the Joint Facility Committee. You were always knowledgeable. She thanked him for his dedication and service to the town. She agrees with him that family and health come first. She wished him the best.

Mr. Rutledge stated JFK will hold their winter concert on December 10th and 18th. He thanked Bethany Ouellette for reaching out to him. He will attend their next PTO meeting.

Mr. Rutledge also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Rutledge thanked Mr. Neville for his years of service to the town and your vast knowledge. You will be greatly missed. He started working with you on the JFK Building Committee. Someone may replace you on the Board but they will never replace your presence.

Mr. Salazar stated he knew of Mr. Neville and what you brought to the board. He was also looking forward to working with you and forming a team. He wished you all the best. Family comes first. They had a big impact on us getting here.

Mr. Salazar stated he is also part of the Enfield Public Schools mentor program. They need members and are especially looking for male mentors. If you are interested in making the difference in a child's life, please participate in this rewarding program one hour a week.

Mrs. Hall stated she started working with Mr. Neville during her last term as a Board member. She was a Board member when he was the principal at JFK. She was looking forward to discussions during this term. She wished him good health and the sacrifice you are making by leaving us. You will be missed.

Mrs. Hall stated there are many websites on education in Connecticut that you might find interesting. You can visit ctedwatch.com. You can find many articles from a variety of sources about education.

Mrs. Hall stated Channel 3 conducted a survey from 50,000 teachers and 3% replied. They also held a focus group with 7 teachers that responded to the questions. They also discussed spending their own money on classroom items. She wonders if our teachers are also doing this.

Ms. Hall stated there is also an article on what teenagers think about the first amendment as

well as an article on recycling on the ctedwatch.com.

Ms. Hall added she also found on another site a civics survey and how most people do not know about the 3 divisions of the government. Civics education is very important. This is something Enfield supports based on the results of our own students voting.

Mr. Ryder stated Mr. Neville is one of his newer friends. He is honest and open with communications. He also thanked him for answering his questions and helping him to grow as a Board member. He has been on many different committees as well as an administrator and educator. He knows you can go anywhere and you will know half of the people there. He thanked him and knows you will answer his calls if needed.

Mr. Ryder thanked Ms. Nuccio for graciously passing the baton to Ms. Feliciano as our new Kid Mayor from Eli Whitney. He is very proud of her.

Mr. Ryder stated PJ Day for Kids will be held on December 13th. All our schools will participate in this event as a district. All donations will go to the CCMC Blood Cancer Division. Several of our students have benefited from CCMC. Students can participate by donating any amount of money.

Mr. Ryder stated our K-8 schools and First Readers will also participate in the Wreaths Across America program. The deadline for online purchasing wreaths is December 1st. You can visit the EnfieldPTO.com and wreathscrossamerica.org websites for additional information.

Mr. Ryder stated he will be the Hazardville and Eli Whitney liaisons. He congratulated the Memorial staff, students, volunteers and PTO that raised over \$6K with their Turkey Trot fundraiser. They also have a HMS spirit wear store. You can purchase items online at enfieldpto.com/hms. They will hold PTO meeting on December 11th in the Library and a Winter Concert at the Annex on December 12th at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will start their 12 days of Christmas raffles. For \$5 a ticket, you are eligible for all 12 days in December to win prizes. Picture retake day is on December 5th. The next Whitney PTO meeting is also on December 5th. They will hold an author visit on December 6th.

Mr. Ryder wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and he thanked Mr. Neville for everything.

Chairman Kruzel stated he met Mr. Neville on the EHS Building Committee. You have been a wealth of knowledge. We will be replacing your seat but can never replace you. He thanked him for what you have done for this town. Family comes first. Thank you for your service. It has been a pleasure working with you and you will be missed. He knows you will be there if he needs you.

Chairman Kruzel stated he drove Mr. LeBlanc and Mayor Ludwick to the Rivalry Football Game. When we got up to pay, they said two adults and one student. We joked about having three student representatives at the game. It was a great football game. He is glad Enfield High won.

Chairman Kruzel stated he is going to give a PSA. When he was out canvassing the town before elections, he noticed how many homes do not have house numbers clearly marked. House numbers are needed for Fire, Police and EMT. Please put house numbers on your homes. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder added ERfC has received reduced rates from the State Department of Education for students that receive free and or reduced lunches for their before and after school programs. This is available for students for \$5 a week if you qualify. You can contact ERfC at 860-253-9935 or at erfcinc.org. Schools accepting applications are: 3 at Henry Barnard; 1 at Prudence

Crandall; 8 at Enfield Street; 9 at Hazardville Memorial and 11 at Eli Whitney.

Chairman Kruzel added you can purchase house numbers at Home Depot, Carr Hardware and Kelly Fradette.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve 2019-2021 BOE Standing Committee Appointments

Chairman Kruzel read the committee appointments.

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2019-21 BOE Standing Committee Appointments as read.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Chairman Kruzel stated Mr. Salazar will chair this committee.

Mr. Ryder asked if we can announce when the next meeting will be held. Mr. Neville does not believe the meeting dates have been set. Chairman Kruzel will have Ms. Middleton contact Mr. Salazar.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Costa reported the Finance Committee will meet on December 9th.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Rutledge reported the Policy Committee will meet on December 11th.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported we met last week and discussed the presentation and update. We also discussed the transfer station and next steps.

f. JFK Building Committee

Mr. Neville reported the JFK Building Committee reviewed the interior design materials, textures, tile and carpet colors. They will put this on the website. We also discussed wing colors.

Chairman Kruzel added they will meet in two weeks. Mr. Neville added they are looking to change the meeting dates. Joint Facilities and JFK Building Committee are frequently held on the same night. Thursday nights are a popular night for meetings.

Chairman Kruzel thanked P&Z for moving this along.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if the power point presentation can be placed on our JFK Building Committee website? Chairman Kruzel stated it is on the Town website. He will look into seeing

if this can be posted there as well.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this would be helpful for people to see what is going on with the renovations since the JFK project is heating up.

Chairman Kruzal will send an e-mail to Mr. Daigle about this.

Mr. Neville added they will be breaking ground on April 20th. Mrs. LeBlanc stated the plan is so well thought out, the public will be happy with this when they see it. It can also address any questions.

g. Joint Security Committee

Mr. Rutledge reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on December 4th.

h. Any Other Committees

Mrs. LeBlanc reported the Joint Insurance Committee will meet in March.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 22, 2019 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-4** passed with Mr. LeBlanc, Mr. Salazar, Mrs. Costa and Mrs. Hall abstaining.

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Special Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2019 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed Mr. Neville abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Enfield Board of Education enter Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Attorney-Client Privilege.

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

The Board remained in Council Chambers for the Executive Session. Both Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Salazar to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 26, 2019.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary