

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 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 January 8, 2019.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Walter Kruzel.

Chairman Kruzel stated that Mr. Neville will participate tonight remotely per BOE policy #9325.43 Participation at Board Meetings by Remote Methods.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Timothy Neville

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Sarah Hernandez

4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Walter Kruzel announced the fire evacuation announcement.

5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rich Regnier, Ashley Depeau, Chris Rutledge, Charlotte Riley, Sarah Hernandez, Tim Neville (participated remotely), Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tina LeBlanc

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent and Student Representatives Matt Campo and Daniel Golden

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

- a. **ETLA**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Special Education Head Teacher Mrs. LaFrancis, along with Enfield Transitional Learning Academy (ETLA) students James Mark and Brittany Wagner. Mrs. LaFrancis and 5 job coaches run the ETLA program. We currently have 11 students in our program. We work within our community. The students work at various establishments that have welcomed the students to work along-side with them. The students develop job skills, social skills and what makes a good employee. We also re-enforce functional daily living skills and independence with the students at Alcorn. The students also volunteer in their community.

Brittany spoke about working at the food shelf. We clean the tables, refrigerator, shelves and help bag food for the customers. We also go to CVS and sort stock and we need to look at the expiration dates.

James spoke about moving the older products to the front at CVS. He also works at Danny's and cleans the chairs, tables, floors and makes the pizza boxes. He makes 50 boxes in a day. Brittany added that she makes 30-50 boxes.

James spoke about going to Springfield College. Brittany said we go to the gym and swim. James spoke about playing basketball with the college students. Brittany added that they play disc golf and go for hikes. James said we also go to Cheney Hall. Brittany added this is the dining hall.

Brittany stated they went to St. Joseph's and helped Danny's serve a turkey dinner. James added that we made candy for 85 people.

James said we recycle and shred at Alcorn. Brittany said we have been folding paper for the popcorn. James said January 19th is national popcorn day. We will be delivering popcorn to everyone.

Mrs. LaFrancis asked both James and Brittany how they felt when they first started at ETLA. You were nervous. How do you feel now? They both said they don't want to miss a day.

Mrs. LaFrancis thanked the Board for inviting them.

Mrs. Hernandez thanked the students for coming. She is very proud of you for telling us about the program. She has found a job that she loves. She wakes up happy every day and her heart is happy. She hopes that you will find jobs that will make your heart happy.

Mrs. LaFrancis added that the students participate in many activities outside of our program. James participates in Best Buddies. He volunteers at the Children's Museum on Sunday's. He is also on 3 different bowling leagues. He also belongs to 4H and shows dairy cows. James said his cow last year was named Pansy.

Mrs. LaFrancis stated that Brittany is part of unified sports. Brittany added that she is part of Lamplighters. T

Mrs. LaFrancis stated these two students are doing a phenomenal job in our program.

Mr. Regnier asked where they find the time to do all these exciting things. Mrs. LaFrancis added they have great parents.

Mr. Regnier asked James where he likes to bowl, is it at Shaker or Bradley Bowl? James stated he likes to bowl at Shaker Bowl. Bradley Bowl is now called spare time. Mrs. LaFrancis added that sometimes the students do not like change.

Mr. Regnier stated he is glad that Brittany is part of Lamplighters. You are all doing so well. He thanked them for coming tonight and the work you are doing for us.

Mrs. Riley cannot wait to go to Danny's pizza and get one of your pizza boxes. She remembers seeing Brittany at our unified sports. Thank you for speaking to us and telling us about what you are doing.

Brittany and James thanked the Board.

Chairman Kruzal thanked them for coming. You did a wonderful job speaking tonight. You are both great!

Mr. Drezek agreed with Mrs. LaFrancis that these students have wonderful parents. He added that we have wonderful staff members that are working with them. We became roommates when Central Office moved to Alcorn. All these students have strong perseverance. They are phenomenal cleaners. They cleaned up the gym that had accumulated junk over the past years and some of the closets for us. These are some of the hardest working students he has ever seen.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives – as presented
- b. MLK Day – NS – as presented
- c. January Events – as presented

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will hold a karate and dinner demonstration from Integrity Martial Arts on January 17th starting at 5:30 PM in the all-purpose room. The Whitney Chorus Concert will be held on January 28th at 6:30 PM in the all-purpose room. The Snow Flake Dance will be held on February 8th. These events can also be found on EnfieldPTO.com website.

Mr. Ryder stated that all EPS schools participated in the CCMC PJ Day on December 14th. We raised \$4,172.25 and placed in the top 5 organizations in CT that participated and the 3rd highest school district that participated. He thanked the administration, teachers and students that participated. He is very proud of our district and would like to make this an annual event.

Mr. Neville left the meeting remotely at 7:36 PM.

Mr. Regnier stated EHS will hold an alumni wrestling match against Rockville on January 9th at 5:30 PM. They will honor the coach that is retiring.

Mr. Regnier added that Hazardville Memorial will hold a PTO meeting on January 9th at 6:00 PM in the library. Integrity Martial Arts will hold a dinner on January 16th at 6:00 PM at Eli Whitney. The Little Caesar's fundraiser event ends on January 18th.

Mrs. Depeau stated Enfield Street will hold a PTO meeting on January 10th at 5:30 PM in the library. Our Little Caesar's fundraiser will end on January 22nd.

Mr. Rutledge wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Rutledge stated Enfield High students can view the program of studies during eagle block on Thursday and Friday. Students can find out about course offerings.

Mr. Rutledge stated we will be hearing the Superintendent's budget presentation tonight. The superintendent did a great job last year keeping our costs down. He urged us to take into consideration CREC costs, MBR and funding from the state. We have a new administration at the state and he is not sure what changes will occur. Last year, the Chairman invited Governor Malloy to attend our Board meetings. He would like the Chairman to invite our legislators Kissel, Hall and Arnone to attend any Board meetings and keep us informed during this year's budget process. We need to be able to properly fund education. He is looking for a smooth process this year with our budget.

Mrs. Riley stated she is seeing first-hand what our students are doing with the new math curriculum. Her second-grade child has brought home work math sheets and she is loving this. She is so excited about this new curriculum and cannot wait for the presentation.

Mrs. Riley stated that we need to present our test scores to the public. We previously received test scores that had errors from the State. We will have a presentation on this coming up. She is sure the correct scores will be reflected in the presentation.

Mrs. Riley stated that she started a conversation with Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey about increasing recess times. She would like for our teachers to give a presentation about active learning stations. This can help our Tier I, II and III students as well as impact a positive culture change with student learning.

Mrs. Riley stated that during the Superintendent's budget presentation, we need to take into consideration magnet schools. Tax payers are footing the bill for CREC magnet schools two times, once in our taxes and then with tuitions. We do not know the costs and are only given estimates until after our budget is set. We need to be prepared for this.

Mrs. Riley discussed the 36 alliance districts and how they will get additional money. We are not an alliance district. The new ECS (Education Cost Sharing) formulation will hold alliance districts harmless. If there is another big decrease in State funding, it will not affect the alliance districts. ECS funding only affects public schools. Pension costs can also impact us. Our excess cost grant funds special education costs. Our special education costs are 4-1/2 times greater than other districts spend per pupil. Our special education population is 17 to 18%. It was not fully funded in 2018. The MBR (minimum budget requirement) cannot go lower than what is set for education. If we do, the state can withhold money. These are some of the items we need to consider during the budget process.

Mrs. Riley added we have a lot of unknowns to consider during our budget process.

Mrs. Riley stated the Henry Barnard PTO met earlier tonight. They are looking for members to join the special person dance committee. We will hold a spirit week in February and will try to coordinate that with Prudence Crandall.

Chairman Kruzel stated that Prudence Crandall will hold a family night on January 11th at 6:00 PM. They will hold their PTO meeting on January 15th at 6:00 PM in the library.

Chairman Kruzel stated he will continue with what Mr. Rutledge mentioned about inviting our legislators to attend a Board meeting. He will also invite the Governor to attend any Board meeting. He would like to familiarize our new governor with Enfield.

Chairman Kruzel stated the K-12 education must be funded by the state.

Chairman Kruzel echoes Mr. Neville's comments about George Rypysc. He worked with him on the high school building committee. He was a dedicated member. This is a big loss for our community. He already had work for him with the JFK renovation. He will be missed.

Chairman Kruzel stated the Enfield Annex cannot be used as a school. The building was turned over to the town and a letter was sent to the state about this building not being used as a school. If it is used as a school, we must fix all the ADA compliance issues.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. BOE Policies – Approve 4000 Series – Second Reading

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. Depeau that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 4000 Series as a second and final reading.

A vote by **roll-call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Superintendent's FY2019/20 Budget Presentation

Mr. Drezek reminded Board members about what we do and who we are. We make a difference in every child, every day. We will need to make a lot of hard decisions. He gave an overview of each of the schools and department accomplishments.

Mr. Drezek stated the per pupil expenditures for 2017-18 was \$14,422. Our Demographic reference Group is "F" as mentioned by Mrs. Riley. We are compared to other districts in our DRG and the state. Our DRG per pupil expenditure is \$17,247. The State per pupil expenditure is \$16,564. Our peers in our DRG are spending \$3,000 dollars more per student than we are in Enfield. We are spending \$2,000 less than the State per student. He believes that other districts in our DRG are not seeing the same accomplishments as we are here in Enfield. The state has not released the 2017-18 numbers yet. We are doing very well with how we are doing. We are the second lowest spending district in our DRG. All the other districts are alliance districts. They will receive additional state funding.

Mr. Regnier stated the DRG "F" reference is just a letter reference and not a grading system. Mr. Drezek stated it used to be called the Economic Reference Group "ERG" and the state changed it to DRG "Demographic Reference Group".

Mr. Drezek reviewed our appropriated budget of \$71,290,125 and the grants we receive for \$3,994,127. He added that we are spending \$75,284,252. We start the budget process in November. He reviewed the timeline for building the budget. We need to submit our budget request by charter to the town by March 1, 2019.

Mr. Drezek stated if we included all the needs requested and known budget increase drivers, we would be looking at a 6.88% or \$76,194,376 budget. We did not believe this number would be in the best interest of the town.

Mr. Drezek stated the town received a \$4,000,000 cut from the state that could have been passed on to us. The Town Council chose not to hold the Board of Education harmless with this reduction. We are extremely grateful to the Town Council for working with the Board. This would not have happened if we did not have open dialogue with them and a mutual trust.

Mr. Drezek reviewed the timeline from last year with state aid. We requested a 1.85% budget and received a 2.5% budget from the town. The Board returned over \$100K to the Town Council at the end of the fiscal year. They then hired a contractor to assist with cleaning our schools to get them ready for the first day of school. The Board and Town Council agreed to allow the Board to carryover up to 1% of budget as a contingency for the next year. Again, this would not be possible without our open dialogue and mutual trust with the Town Council.

Mr. Drezek reviewed our fixed costs going forward for 2019-20 school year - \$72,324,198 or a 1.45% increase. He reviewed the initiatives for moving the district forward. He is looking for supports to be added at all levels: .5 Clerical Staff at Henry Barnard; Show Choir & chamber Singers at Enfield high School; 2 SPED FTE's at Enfield High; 2 SPED FTE's at JFK; 1 Social Studies FTE at Enfield High; 1 ESL FTE at John F. Kennedy and 6 Elementary Building Subs (1 at each elementary school).

Mr. Drezek reviewed the One-to-One Technology Integration Program at Enfield High. Each student and teacher will be provided an iPad. No additional funding is needed for this initiative. He also believes that NEAS&C will recommend this initiative is needed at Enfield High as part of the accreditation process.

Mr. Drezek is recommending a 2.27% or \$72,908,042 budget request for 2019-20.

Mr. Drezek added that he has presented the best budget he can while moving the district forward. Some people may think this request is high. There are several unknowns that will need to be addressed (Retirements, Health and Insurance Costs, Magnet School Tuition Rates and Special Education Excess Cost Grant Funding).

Mr. Drezek reviewed the historical budget perspectives for the last six years. This is the second lowest budget request a superintendent has asked for in the last five years.

Mr. Drezek reviewed the value adds with his budget request: keeps all existing staff and programs; maintains transition classrooms at K-2; continues with district wide PBIS program; Enhances social and emotional supports for students; enhances learning opportunities at all levels; continues with PK-12 STEAM initiative; allows for the compliance of NEAS&C accreditation; and provides athletic opportunities for students through the Unified sports, varsity, junior varsity, freshman and middle school programs.

Mr. Longey distributed the budget books. Mr. Drezek added this should be the last year we distribute budget books. This concludes the Superintendent's budget presentation.

b. January 22nd BOE Meeting – Location Change Needed

Chairman Kruzel stated the Board needs to change the location for the January 22nd BOE meeting. The Town Council will bump us from Council Chambers because of the conflict with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day falling on their regularly scheduled meeting night. If we meet at Alcorn, our meeting will not be filmed by E-TV. He is recommending we cancel the January 22nd regular meeting and hold a special meeting in Council Chambers on January 29th, so it can be filmed for public viewing.

Chairman Kruzel confirmed that E-TV is available to film on January 29th.

Mrs. Depeau moved, seconded by Mrs. Hernandez that the Enfield Board of Education cancels the January 22nd meeting and holds a Special Meeting on January 29th.

Discussion:

Mr. Rutledge asked if this can be a regular meeting instead of a special meeting. Chairman Kruzel stated our regular meetings have been posted with the Town Clerk. Any changes to the posted dates would be considered as special meetings. The agenda will basically be the same except for being a special meeting.

A vote by **roll call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

Chairman Kruzel stated this is being done so we can have our board meetings taped so we can bring people to our meeting and show off our shiny stars – our schools and students.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Hernandez reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on January 15th at 6:00 PM in the Chief Academic Officer's office.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Riley reported the Finance, Budget Committee will meet on January 14th at 6:00 PM in the Business Manager's office.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Policy Committee will meet on January 16th at 5:30 PM in the Superintendent's office.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facilities Committee met on January 3rd. We are in the process of obtaining additional funding for roof repairs.

Mrs. Riley added we are working on RFP's for the buildings to be accessed.

f. JFK Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the JFK Building Committee met on January 3rd. We are in the process of hiring an architect. An RFP will be submitted for the architect. We will also apply for fast tracking just like we did for Enfield High.

g. Any Other Committees - None

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2018 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mrs. Depeau that the Enfield Board of Education enter Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel.

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** 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. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Regnier to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2019.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary