

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2020**

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 14, 2020.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan LeBlanc, Chris Rutledge, Wendy Costa, Tina LeBlanc, Joyce Hall, Stacy Thurston and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Salazar and Scott Ryder

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey; and Student Representative Madison Daigneau

Chairman Kruzel welcomed Mrs. Thurston and Mrs. Zalucki.

6. BOARD GUEST(S)

a. EHS NEAS&C Update

Mr. Drezek welcomed Enfield High School Principal Erin Clark to tonight's meeting. She is here to give the Board an update regarding their accreditation.

Ms. Clark stated many Board members were part of the accreditation process at Enfield High. She reviewed the timeline and process for the Enfield High School NEAS&C Accreditation. She reviewed the accomplishments they received from the NEAS&C.

Ms. Clark added we have been commended by the CT State Department of Education for the expansion of college and career readiness opportunities. We have also implemented a mentoring program to promote school connectedness for all students as well as school climate initiatives including the expansion of equity work and iPad program.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she attended the December meeting and compares the progress with the consolidation to now and how much it has changed things in such a positive way. We are offering our students so much more now. People were apprehensive with the Eagle Block scheduling. This has allowed our students many options. Our students can take AP and vocational courses. We are preparing our students for college with this schedule. This allows the students extra time to finish homework and prepare for classes. The students aren't as stressed with homework.

Mrs. LeBlanc added the EHS Career Center is awesome. They are so helpful to the students finding partnerships, deciding their majors and if they want to go to college or into the workforce after they graduate.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the retention decline is interesting. You are working as a huge team. You have implemented Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III for students playing sports. The extra support is helping our students to be held accountable for their grades. Eagle Block can help students that need to make up tests or great extra help.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the iPads are helping families out. Families do not always have technology in the home. Students can use many different apps with the iPads. The teachers are excited about this technology. There will be some growing pains. We are taking a huge step in the right direction.

Mrs. LeBlanc will attend the assembly on the 19th as a parent. It is exciting to see the changes during the past 3 years since we consolidated. EHS gets better and better. She thanked the staff, administration and the students for a great job.

Mr. LeBlanc stated it is important that Enfield High is getting the students, parents and the outside community involved.

Mr. LeBlanc agrees with Mrs. LeBlanc regarding the Career Center. He received their newsletter and they are offering many tours and trips to different businesses for the student. This is great. We are giving our students many opportunities to explore different kinds of career paths.

Mr. LeBlanc stated we have many businesses in Enfield. He would like to see our students get involved with them.

Mr. LeBlanc is looking forward to the EHS Unified Basketball Game being held on Wednesday, January 15th at Enfield High.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Principal Clark for a great presentation.

Mrs. Hall stated we are doing great work at Enfield High. We need to let people know how wonderful our school system is. Maybe there are Facebook pages that brag about us, but she hasn't seen anything about Enfield. She reads about other schools in the newspaper. There was an article about the Bloomfield schools parent involvement program. They made this sound like they invented this. This is something Enfield has been doing for many years. We need to brag about us. PR is something she has complained about before.

Mr. Drezek stated if any members of the media are present tonight, he is sure they would love to hear us brag.

Mrs. Hall asked about teacher collaboration. How do our teachers have the time to teach, teach each other and work together collaboratively? This sounds fabulous but where is the time?

Ms. Clark stated we have strategically planned prep periods for the teachers. Teachers teaching the same content areas have the same prep time off. Offering an 82-minute block of time for planning works better for our staff. We have also implemented this year PLC time. When we can flip faculty or department meetings, we give staff time to collaborate. We also offer professional learning choice days for staff at the high school level. We always have teachers that want to lead the sessions. We work within the time we have. We also have some real go getters that explore instruction strategies on their free time.

Ms. Hall stated this sounds exciting. This is something that is lost at the elementary schools due to time constraints. Teacher collaboration gets lost. She hopes they are doing something similar at the elementary level. She is delighted to hear what we are doing at the high school level.

Mr. Drezek stated one of our Career Center Counselors is here tonight in the audience – Ms. Julia Barnett.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Ms. Clark for her presentation and encouraged her to keep up the good work you are doing at Enfield High School. We are going to continue to bring more good things we are doing in our schools to our meetings.

Mrs. Hall stated at a recent Town Council meeting a resident stated we are not offering extra-curricular items for our students. This statement was disproven. We offer many extra-curricular and athletic events.

Chairman Kruzel stated it was suggested that we do away with extra-curricular activities and concentrate on academics. He believes they both go hand-in-hand.

Mr. LeBlanc added colleges are looking for well-rounded students with great grades that are involved with athletics and extra-curricular clubs and activities. Any extra-curricular activities are a benefit to the school system.

Mrs. LeBlanc added if you would like to see what kinds of clubs we have in our high school, you should attend Eaglefest in the fall. We have so many different clubs for our students to participate in. The students are extremely enthusiastic about the clubs.

Chairman Kruzel stated at our last Board meeting, it was amazing to see how many of our student athletes made honors and high honors. If we take this away, you will see a decline in our academics.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Ms. Clark.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives Report – as presented
- b. MLK Day - NS – as presented
- c. Legislative Breakfast – as presented
- d. January Events – as presented

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Rutledge stated he is the JFK Liaison. They hold their meetings the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the JFK Library. He had the opportunity to meet with Bethany Ouellette last Tuesday. She was very welcoming. You can always look on Facebook at the JFKmiddleschoolpto page. They have a lot of great information posted for parents. They will hold their Chorus Concert on January 15th and the JFK Grade 6 Band and Orchestra Concert on January 16th in the Auditorium at 7:00 PM. JFK Report Cards should be coming out on January 23rd.

Mr. LeBlanc welcomed Mrs. Thurston and Mrs. Zalucki. Our winter sports are in full force. He is amazed at the talent we have in Enfield. He attended the Eagle Hockey game and was asked if he was a student again. He also attended the EHS String Orchestra Concert last week. They played music from so many different countries. He liked the Gaelic music the best. He also attended the Poetry contest for students in grades 6-12. There was a lot of foreign language being spoken. He was not sure what he was listening too, but the kids were great. The talent pool in Enfield is endless. Keep up the good work.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the Henry Barnard school dance is looking for volunteers. You can contact him, and he will direct you to the correct person.

Mr. LeBlanc stated KITE held a Summer Luau in January the past weekend. The event was sold out. It was a lot of fun. He thanked all the volunteers for everything you did for the students.

Mr. LeBlanc stated First Readers will hold a Trivia Night on February 22nd. More information about this will be coming.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the ground-breaking at JFK will be happening in April 2020. We will get an updated learning environment for our students. The opportunities for our students and our town will be unlimited. He is very excited about this project. There will be some bumps along the road, but we will get through this.

Mrs. Thurston is glad to be back. She is looking forward to being part of the Board again. She was nervous at first. She is glad to be back.

Mrs. Costa stated it seems like a long time since we were here. We were wondering if the weather would hold off for Wreaths Across America, but it didn't. She attended the Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast in December. She did not win any of the raffles or door prizes.

Mrs. Costa stated she attended the Parkman PTO meeting. She was impressed by the number of events and number of parent volunteers. The staff sang Christmas carols to the students on December 20th as they entered the building. They will hold their Winter Choral Concert on January 21st and Winter Instrumental Concert on January 22nd at 6:30 PM? In the gym. They are holding these events are two separate nights because they cannot fit everyone in at the same time. They have several upcoming events - Special Person Dance, Candygrams, Lyman Orchards, Cake-rolls and Butter-braids, etc.

Mrs. LeBlanc also welcomed back Mrs. Thurston. It is refreshing to have you back. You were the missing piece to the puzzle. She knows once Mr. Salazar and Mr. Ryder are back, we will hit the road running. We all know why we are here, and she looks forward to working together.

Mrs. LeBlanc also welcomed back Mrs. Zalucki.

Mrs. Hall previously mentioned donorschore.org for on-line fundraisers for educators. They sent her a gift and two \$25 gift cards to share with someone else to get connected to this program. Several teachers from Enfield have benefited from this program. If you are interested, please let her know.

Mrs. Hall stated the KITE Luau was going to be held in the summer, but they hit some roadblocks with scheduling it. So, they decided to hold it in the winter. It was enjoyed by everyone and was quite successful.

Mrs. Hall stated the First Readers Trivia Night will be held on February 22nd. This is another great event. You can purchase a table for ten for \$130 or individual tickets for \$15.

Mrs. Hall stated the next First Readers ceremony will be held on March 9th. This typically the largest group of First Readers. You be impressed by how many grandparents and relatives come out to support our First Readers.

Chairman Kruzel extended thanks for the Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast. The pancakes were delicious. He attended the Enfield High Girls Basketball Rotary Tournament during the Christmas break. This event was also well attended. He welcomed everyone back.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Superintendent's FY2020/21 Budget Presentation

Mr. Drezek presented his FY2020/21 budget to the Board. Board member will receive their budget book electronically this year. You will also receive this presentation electronically. He is glad the Board members are using your iPads.

Mr. Drezek stated we believe in our slogan – We make a difference in Enfield – every child, every day. We need to remember why we are here.

Mr. Drezek reviewed our accomplishments at each school and by each department. He also reviewed our per pupil expenditure comparison and by DRG. He reviewed the process for building the 2020-21 budget and funding stream. He reviewed the all needs requested and know budget increase drivers and state aid outlook. Our ECS funding is projected to be \$830K. He reviewed our spending projections and fixed costs.

Mr. Drezek stated the State of Connecticut will allow districts to carryover up to 2% of the previous year's funding with Town Council approval. We are in a position to consider a carryover because of the creation of the Eagle Academy. As of today, we have 13 students attending the Eagle Academy which results in nearly \$1 million dollars in SPED tuition savings. If it wasn't for the Eagle Academy, we would not have available funds to be considered for carryover. Our fixed costs would also be \$2 million dollars higher.

Mr. Drezek reviewed his spending request - \$73,559,956 or 2.61% budget and new initiatives for Board consideration. He also reviewed budget unknowns – retirements, health and insurance, magnet school tuition, and Special Education Excess Cost Grant Funding percentage; and six-year historical budget perspective.

Mr. Drezek reviewed the value adds to his budget request: keeping all existing staff and programs; continue with districtwide PBIS program; enhancing social and emotional supports for students; enhancing learning opportunities at all levels; continue with PK-12 STEAM initiative; continue Eagle Academy supports; allow for the compliance of NEAS&C accreditation; provide athletic opportunities for students through Unified Sports, Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman and middle school programs.

b. Policy #9132 Standing Committees of the Board – First Reading

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed changes to Policy #9132 Standing Committees of the Board as a First Reading.

Discussion:

Mrs. Hall would like the word “Committee” on line #60 be removed. This is an extra word.

Mr. Rutledge stated this is a part of the policy that we did not make any changes to.

Mrs. Hall would like to modify this. This is the only change that is needed.

Mrs. Costa sees the Chairman will appoint a Chairperson for each standing committee. When we discuss setting up a special or advisory committee, the Chairman will appoint Board members to serve, we don't see the Chairman appointing a Chairperson for the special or advisory committee. Is that needed?

Mr. Rutledge explained as an example we have a Joint Security Committee with Town Council and Board membership. The Town has different procedures they follow. He does not think that would be needed.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we did discuss this, and it was collectively decided not to include that. That was a good question.

Chairman Kruzel stated we are more concerned with the three standing committees. This is a First Reading so we can bring comments up for consideration.

Mrs. LeBlanc added this is a nice addition to the policy to have alternates for the standing committees. This clarifies the policy.

Mr. Rutledge moved, Seconded by Mrs. Costa to amend the motion to include removing the word "Committees" on line #60.

Discussion:

Mr. Rutledge stated we can determine if this is a friendly motion or not. Both Mrs. Hall and Mrs. LeBlanc agreed on this amendment.

Chairman Kruzel stated we are voting on the amendment to remove the word "Committees" on line #60.

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

Chairman Kruzel stated we will now continue our discussion on the main motion. We will need a roll call on the main motion as amended.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Hall reported the Curriculum Committee met on Thursday, December 12th. She is excited that we are starting the 3rd year of Latin. This is something that was eliminated the last time she was on the Board. This makes her very happy. We were given an overview of our STEAM Program. She remembers when we discussed STEM and adding "A" to it. She is so glad we have STEAM in our PK-12 schools.

Mr. LeBlanc reported we will hold our next meeting on January 23rd from 6:00 – 7:30 PM in the Curriculum office. The meeting is open to the public.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Costa reported the Finance Committee met on January 13, 2020. At the request of the auditors, we will now be certifying grant expenditures as well as financial expenditures.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Rutledge reported the Policy Committee met on January 6th. We discussed the 5000 series and presented a proposed policy change tonight for a first reading. We will hold our next Policy Committee meeting on January 21st at 5:30 PM. The meeting is open to the public and Board members are also invited to attend.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported we met last Thursday and are working on our master plan presentation for roof repairs during this summer.

f. JFK Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the JFK Building Committee meeting was cancelled last week. We met on January 2nd. We are continuing with the phasing. There are 11 phases for the construction. We will meet again on Thursday, January 16th. They will be presenting to the Board and Council for approvals so we can get reimbursements from the State.

g. Joint Security Committee

Mr. LeBlanc reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on March 6th. This committee meets quarterly.

h. Any Other Committees

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

Chairman Kruzel asked if we can post the Budget presentation on our website for public viewing.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2019 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-2** passed with Mr. Rutledge and Mrs. Thurston abstaining.

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Special Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2019 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 5-0-2** passed with Mr. Rutledge and Mrs. Thurston abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

Mrs. Costa moved seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of December 2019, total expenditures amount to \$6,514,618.85, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,193,469.25 and other accounts totaling \$2,321,149.60. All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented.

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. Costa moved seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of December 2019, total grant expenditures amount to \$345,125.83, broken down between payroll totaling \$314,187.58 and other accounts totaling \$30,938.25. All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly documented.

A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

Line Item Transfers – None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we received a Thank You Note for the SAFE Grad Basket we donated to the SAFE Grad Auction.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary