

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 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 28, 2020.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent and Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Music Department Student Honors & Award Recognitions**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Mark Reppucci, our K-12 Music Coordinator, staff members and accomplished students to tonight's meeting.

Mr. Reppucci thanked the Board for this opportunity to showcase our talented students. He thanked the Board and administration for their continued support. He introduced staff members Dan Wabno, Alanna Tarriff, Aaron Ovsiew and Chris Dresko. The students gave the Board an overview of their accomplishments. The following students were recognized.

Tanner Baillargeon (absent) – Digital Audio Production. Mr. McGrath gave an overview digital audio class.

Alyssa Dowding – Benefit Concert. Ms. Dowding gave an overview of the EHS benefit concert and the money they raised for the Enfield Food Shelf and Loaves and Fishes.

Olivia Sears – Tri M Music Honor Society. Ms. Sears gave an overview of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. She is the president of the Tri-M Honor Society.

Anabelle Daly – CMEA Eastern Regional High School Music Festival. Ms. Daly gave an overview of the CMEA Music Festival and the students that were accepted into the music festival.

- Band: Lindsey Ciechowski, Anabelle Daly, Andrew Jones, Jackson Lyver and Abbe Nisula
- Orchestra: Luke Barnes, Benjamin Carriere, Max Dumont and Jonathan Legere
- Mixed Chorus: Gregory Holmes, Jasmine Sanchez, Emily Vandal and Sophia Sheehan
- Treble Chorus: Sophia Sheehan

All National Honors Ensemble – Ben Carriere. Mr. Carriere gave an overview of the All National Honors Ensemble Orchestra that is sponsored by the CT Music Educators Association. He was the first Enfield student accepted into this program. He thanked Mr. Reppucci and Mr. Ovsiew for their support. The trip to Florida was amazing. He performed with 121-member Symphony Orchestra under the direction of conductor Soo Han.

Chairman Kruzel asked all the students and teachers to come to the front of the dais for a group picture.

Mr. Drezek apologized to Mr. Dresko for any e-mails he may have received since he started working for the Enfield Public Schools. Our names are very similar.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked the students and congratulated them for their hard work. She enjoys watching the marching band at football games. The EHS marching band is head and shoulders above the other school bands. She appreciates what you are doing and knows how much you love music. We are enriching the lives of our students with music and theater. She wished them good luck with the rest of their school year and wished good luck to the seniors with their future endeavors.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked the students for speaking tonight. He loves the drive and passion you bring to your respective programs. He looks forward to the recital that is coming up on February 13th. Great job by everyone.

Mr. Ryder asked about the Tri-M Instrumental Petting Zoo? Ms. Sears explained that students can tryout the instruments and get a taste of what it is like to play an instrument.

Mrs. Hall expressed her amazement at the ability of the musicians who have been chosen to represent Enfield in other groups that comfortably fit in and perform with new groups and directors. She is very impressed by all your accomplishments and congratulated them all.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Reppucci for everything he does for our students. He deserves recognition for how successful our music program is.

Chairman Kruzel thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. He urged the students to keep up the good work. You have put Enfield on the map. Continue to sing and play your hearts out. He is extremely proud of you all. Thank you.

b. Special Recognition

Chairman Kruzel and Board members came to the front of the dais. Mr. Neville was presented with gifts from the Board and Administration from his time on the Board. Chairman Kruzel recognized him for his many years of committee work. The Board thanked him.

Mr. Neville stated he was not expecting this. He thanked the Board. Seeing our talented students' tonight is what keeps Board members going. Highlighting our students and staff is important. He loved doing this and his whole life has been in Enfield Public Schools. He knows you all know why you are on the Board – you are here for the right reasons, our kids. He will be watching you on television and he knows how to get in touch with you. It is an honor and privilege to be here tonight. He thanked the Board, Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey. He thanked the voters of Enfield for their continued support.

Chairman Kruzel added the chair in front of the dais is always open for you. Thank you for your service.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representatives Report – none

- b. Draft 2020-21 School Calendar – as presented
- c. January/February Events – as presented

8. AUDIENCES

Monica Wright, Pearl Street – Mrs. Wright is here tonight as a parent and grandparent. She is here about the racial incidents that have occurred at Enfield High to students of color. Her grandchildren and children do not feel safe in school. All students should be able to go to school and not need to worry or be threatened. She is looking for fair justice and treatment for all students. We need to educate parents and students about differences, diversity and inappropriate and unacceptable behaviors. Thank you.

Kelly Jackson, Meade Lane – Mrs. Jackson stated she is here for the same reason. Children of color are not receiving the same treatment or fair representation. She saw the EHS principal's presentation at your last meeting. EHS is a majority white school with a mostly white teachers. Who should our children go to if they have a problem or are uncomfortable? Our children are being called names and racial slurs. They don't have anyone that looks like them that they can go to or understand where they are coming from. How can we fix this? She is also concerned with what she heard that is going on at the middle school with children of color. Who should our kids trust? Thank you.

Jazmyne McKnight – Abbe Road – Ms. McKnight is a JFK student and has seen kids being treated differently because of their race. Students will say something about what is occurring, and they do not respect your opinions. Her friends have been called racial slurs. She does not know what is going to happen when she goes to school. There are not enough people that look like her at school or who she can go to.

Elke Schmidt-Yaple & Courtney Yaple, Prospect Street – Ms. Schmidt-Yaple has concerns with IEP's and how they are being done by Enfield Public Schools. Her daughter is here and will express her concerns. Ms. Yaple is upset by what happened at a Bloomfield magnet school. She was called racial slurs in reverse of what previous speakers stated. Now they want to place her at the Eagle Academy. IEP's are written without parent's consents. Mrs. Schmidt-Yaple stated that she is feeling helpless and does not know what to do. Her daughter is being misunderstood. She was called racial slurs at the magnet school and is now being punished for speaking out. Thank you.

Chairman Kruzal closed public comments since there are no other speakers that have signed up to speak.

Point of Order:

Mr. Rutledge stated we should open-up public communication since there are audience members that would still like to speak.

Chad Woodyard, Parkway Drive – Mr. Woodyard stated he is also here for the same reason. Both he, his wife and his children have been called racial slurs. Unfortunately, this is not something new and nothing has changed. We need to come to an understanding about why this is happening. We all want the same thing and color does not matter. We need to talk and communicate. We are all Enfield residents and Americans. We need to talk and be aware of our likes and differences. This can happen for the generations to come. Thank you.

Susan Braun, Light Street – Mrs. Braun stated her children go out of town for school and invite their friends to trick-or-treat in her neighborhood. Her son's classmates' parents did not feel her child was safe in Enfield and didn't let him come. The classmate's parent had googled Enfield and decided we weren't good enough. That is a shame and she wonders if we are good enough. Thank you.

Lynda Costem, Bloomfield – Ms. Costem lives in Bloomfield and is a member of the NAACP. We are concerned that the children’s voices are not being heard. We need clubs at JFK and EHS

for students of color. Bloomfield holds diversity and cultural events. This is something you can do by discussing this with other area superintendents.

Lahsii Robinson, Coslin Road – Mr. Robinson stated he graduated from Enfield High. He has been asked many racial questions and other questions when he was at EHS.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ryder thanked the audience members for speaking tonight. This is something we will look into.

Mr. Ryder received a letter from CCMC regarding the donations for the Enfield Public Schools PJ day. He read the letter. We collected \$5,075.00 and were the 2nd highest school district that raised money. He thanked everyone that participated.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney and Hazardville Memorial are holding a build a mascot event on Wednesday, January 29th. You can go to ewpto@yahoo.com or to hmspto@yahoo.com or enfieldpto.com/hms or enfieldpto.com/eliwhitney to order one.

Mr. Ryder stated with the Super Bowl coming up and the passing of Kobe Bryant, his daughter and the other families and athletes, sports can unite us. He will be supporting the 49ers in the Super Bowl in honor of his brother-in-law who passed away last year and in support of his sister and nephew. Go 49ers!

Mr. LeBlanc stated the concerns we heard from the audience tonight relate to our society in general. He was taught you need to treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Mr. LeBlanc encourages everyone to support our student athletes and all the other extra-curricular events that are going. You will not be disappointed, and it will be worth your time.

Mr. LeBlanc recognized Enfield Ramblers coach Tom Casio for everything he has done for our student athletes. He was recently recognized at our banquet

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she attended the Enfield High/Suffield Hockey game. Unfortunately, Enfield lost, but it was an exciting, cold and physical game. The Twin Rinks has one of the coldest hockey arenas around in the State of Connecticut.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated Tom Casio coached her kids. A lot of his coaches are former players. It is nice to see this.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked the audience members and students for speaking tonight. It is never easy to speak in front of us. It is not a great feeling when your children do not feel safe. There are a lot of issues in our society as a whole. We live in a world where hate is more accepted. Life is too short. We should value each other and should be treated as equals. Race should not matter. She hears your concerns.

Mrs. Costa thanked the audience members for their comments especially the students.

Mrs. Costa attended the Edgar H. Parkman Winter Concert last week. The students did a phenomenal job. The music students tonight also did a great job speaking tonight. She is glad our students are given this opportunity.

Mrs. Costa attended the Legislative Breakfast. Besides the general budget discussion, they

discussed SPED funding and education expenses. There is an increase with students with disabilities especially in the Birth to 3 age groups. Enfield is already discussing this issue with the Child First Initiative. There was a presentation on this at the Town Council meeting last week.

Mrs. Costa stated the Eagle Academy is saving the district money by successfully bringing students back. They also discuss sharing services. Enfield is already doing this and are working with the town.

Mrs. Costa stated there is a Pancake Breakfast being held on Saturday, February 1st to benefit the Jack-O-Lantern Festival. The cost is \$5.00 a person. Prince, Princesses and Superheroes will also be there.

Mr. Rutledge thanked the audience members for speaking tonight. You showed a lot of courage. He is sorry for what you are dealing with. He will discuss this topic further later on the agenda since it relates to policy. He is confident the superintendent's office will look into this. He remembers watching a commercial as a child for crayons and a family of color was talking to his children and said that he hoped one day color would be just found in a box. It is sad that we aren't here yet. He encouraged the students dealing with this to be strong. Don't let them win.

Mr. Rutledge stated the JFK PTO will meet on February 4th at 6:30 PM, the library. Bethany Ouellette runs a great PTO website and there is a lot of information there. They will hold a student vs. faculty basketball game on March 6th in the gym. They are looking for volunteers. They are also holding a brick fundraising event where you can purchase a brick on the pathway to the flagpole. For additional information, please go to enfieldpto.com/JFK and look for that's my brick or at jfkpto.com.

Mr. Rutledge addressed out of the classroom learning. We have a program at Asnuntuck. He has received a lot of feedback about our website needing revamping. A lot of the information is not always up to date and it needs a general refresh. He would like to suggest that we use some of our students to help with this by giving our students an opportunity and learn at the same time. A website enhancement can help them and us out. This can also help our students academically. This is something that colleges and future employers are looking for.

Mr. Salazar thanked the public speakers tonight, the parents, students and former student. Your comments have not fallen on deaf ears. The mentor program is a great place to start. Every little thing we do can make a change in a student's life can help. There are things we can do by starting to communicate with each other. Starting a conversation with our students is important. Take a small step. This is something we will look into and address.

Mrs. Hall stated cultural differences have been going on for years. How can we get the conversation started? Kids do not see color. Adults reactions can destroy relationships children have developed. Cultural differences can be found around the state and on many different school boards. A school Board in Killingly has decided they will keep their mascot that is offensive to others. Cultural differences can be magnified. We need to acknowledge our differences. If we do this, we can start a conversation and do what is needed.

Mrs. Hall stated she attended the Head Start Policy meeting and we are teaching our little ones to get along. We discussed the viability of the summer sessions programs that are held. Head start expects an attendance rate of at least 85%. The summer programs have gone up and down daily. This is being looked at as part of their self-assessment.

Mrs. Hall attended a CREC Council meeting. All school systems in the state have a problem with minority recruitment. This problem is not just happening here in Enfield. CREC is attempting to address this problem with its CREC Resident Program which is available for

minorities with a BS that are interested in becoming a teacher. It is an 18-month program with ample opportunity to learn what it is like to be a teacher. There are currently 12 enrolled in the program. CREC's hope is they will then become teachers at a CREC magnet school. But since they have not signed a contract to teach at CREC there is nothing that is stopping us from recruiting the graduates.

Mrs. Hall stated Census 2020 will be starting. Counting small children under the age of 5 has been problem in the past. All children need to be counted. All of us need to be counted in order to protect the programs we need in our state that are federally supported.

Mrs. Hall stated the Hartford Area Superintendent's Association, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and CREC are holding a Legislative Breakfast on February 20th at 8:00 AM. We can express our concerns and wishes with our Legislators at this breakfast.

Mrs. LeBlanc received an e-mail from Mrs. Griffin. She would like her e-mail read into the records. When should this be done?

Mr. Rutledge stated this can be done under Correspondence and Communication.

Mr. Drezek stated he received that information about the Legislative Breakfast and is planning to attend. He will send this out to the Board.

Mr. Drezek stated there is a correction on the draft calendar. Spring vacation week should be on the week of April 12-16. The calendar you have has it starting on April 5th.

Chairman Kruzel asked for a new calendar to be sent to the Board.

Chairman Kruzel addressed the audience members. He is not happy about this. He thanked them all for speaking tonight. Our schools are to teach our children. This frustrates him. We are doing so many good things for our students. This is a society problem and we need to start a dialogue about this.

Chairman Kruzel stated Buzz Robotics has started their build for this year's competition.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Policy #9132 Standing Committees of the Board - Second Reading

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa to approve the second reading of Policy #9132 Standing Committees of the Board.

Discussion:

Mr. Rutledge stated he is going to vote against this policy for the time being. We have made some improvements to the policy but left some additional questions unanswered. The policy needs more clarification regarding proxy votes and specify alternates and priorities. We made a great start on this policy. He thanked Mr. Ryder for his input. We want to make sure the policy works. We will discuss this at a future policy meeting and will bring it back to the Board for a first reading.

Mrs. Hall asked if we should just table this item.

Mr. Rutledge stated as the parliamentarian, we could do that, but it would delay the process. We would still need to revisit this at the Policy Committee level. It makes more sense to vote against this instead of a motion to postpone indefinitely. We would need to make a motion to remove the item from the table at the next meeting and vote it down to send it back for a first

reading. By voting this down now, it will save a step in the process.

Mrs. Hall did not agree but agreed to move forward.

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

Chairman Kruzel stated this policy will be brought back to the Policy Committee for further discussion and will be placed on an upcoming agenda for a first reading.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Acceptance of Henry Barnard Partial Roof Replacement Phase II Project, State Project No. 049-0141 RR as Complete, and Authorization to Submit ED049F for Final Payment

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Acceptance of Henry Barnard Partial Roof Replacement Phase II Project, State Project No. 049-0141 RR as Complete, and Authorization to Submit ED049F for Final Payment as presented.

Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel stated this is needed to submit the final draft to the State to receive our reimbursement from the State.

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

b. Action if any regarding the FY2020/21 Budget

Mr. Ryder would like us to collect all our questions at one time and submit them to Mr. Drezek.

Chairman Kruzel stated he will also do the same thing and will forward them to Mr. Drezek to address our questions.

Mrs. Hall would like to know the number of students going to Suffield Vo-Ag and magnet schools. She would also like to know if any of them are going to a technical high school like Cheney Tech.

Mrs. Hall asked about the budget presentation and the per student DRG/State amounts. Are CREC costs budgeted in as part of the State average costs? She received a very confusing response from the CREC director. He said all the CREC students come from local schools. He didn't know the answer.

Mr. Drezek will appreciate all your questions, so we can be prepared. He does not know the exact number of students attending magnet schools.

Mr. Drezek stated the per pupil expenditure based on his understanding of how the state calculates this, every student and every dollar in the state is built into that figure. He got the numbers from the state website, it is all divided by per town and building as per CREC. It is all included in that number.

c. Action if any regarding Prospective Supply Contract - Copiers

This item will be addressed after Item 16.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Salazar reported we met on January 23rd. He is impressed with the opportunities we are providing our students with our high school pathways program. We have created partnerships with our community colleges and universities. He encourages parents and students to look into these programs.

Mr. Salazar reported we reviewed the NGSS scores. As a district, we did very well. You can view these results at the edsight.ct.gov website.

Mr. Salazar also reported on the proposed changes to our technology classes.

Mr. LeBlanc stated he was impressed with a grade 6 project on concussions and how to prevent them from occurring.

Ms. Hall stated the NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) is brand-new in the state and is being implemented one year at a time by grade levels. This is the first year that test results have been shared. Our grade 11 students scored at the top of our DRG. This is quite impressive since we just started this. This is something to brag about.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Costa reported the Finance Committee will meet on February 10, 2020.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Rutledge reported the Policy Committee will meet on February 26th. We will look at Policy #9132 and will continue discussing the 5000 series. The 5000 series relates to student related issues and policies against discrimination since this relates to the topic discussed tonight by audience members. He is looking for a first reading on the 5000 Series Policies in March.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported we met last Thursday and discussed roof repairs.

Mrs. LeBlanc added we discussed a lot about the Town facilities.

Chairman Kruzel also added that we had a solar presentation.

f. JFK Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the JFK Building Committee met last Thursday and will meet on February 6th at 6:00 PM in the Enfield Room. We will present to the Board on February 11th.

g. Joint Security Committee

Mr. Rutledge reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on February 5th. We will meet the first Wednesday in February.

h. Any Other Committees

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

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2019 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

Mrs. LeBlanc read an e-mail from Maureen Griffin about racial concerns.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Enfield Board of Education enter Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel, Matter(s) Related to Pending Litigation and Matter(s) Related to a Prospective Supply contract – Copiers.

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-1-0** passed with Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:40 PM.

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.

Return to Open Session:

The Board returned to Open Session at 9:55 PM.

Item 11c. Action if any regarding Prospective Supply Contract - Copiers

Mr. Rutledge moved, Seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the copier contract as presented by the ACT Group.

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

Extend Meeting Past 10:30 PM:

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Enfield Board of Education extend the meeting past 10:30 PM.

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

Return to Executive Session:

Mrs. Costa moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education return to Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel and Matter(s) Related to Pending Litigation.

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

The Board returned to Executive Session at 9:58 PM.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 28, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 10:21 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary