

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 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 February 26, 2019.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Walter Kruzel.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Timothy Neville
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Timothy Neville
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Walter Kruzel announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rich Regnier, Ashley Depeau, Chris Rutledge, Charlotte Riley, Tina LeBlanc, Sarah Hernandez, Tim Neville, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **CAS Student Leadership**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Intermediate School Guidance Counselors Elaine Helberg, Karen Sargalski and Lionel Torres along with EHS Teen Leadership Teachers Mark Dube and Tony Allegro. They are here with grade four students and a select group of high school students from the Teen Leadership Class and the Diversity Club that participated in this year's CAS Student Leadership Training Conference at Asnuntuck Community College on January 10, 2019.

Mrs. Helberg stated the grade four teachers picked the students from Crandall, Parkman and Whitney that exemplified leadership skills to attend this conference. The students that attended were: Sofia Parolo, Kendall Nicholson, Mialana Jubrey, Conor Howarth, Kelsey Lawlor, Anna Lor, Julie McCloud, Adam Culver, Isabella Petrone and Chase Menard.

The elementary students spoke about the conference. They were with other students from across the state. They learned about making a first impression, effective communication, showing appreciation and responding in a professional setting

Mr. Allegro stated he has brought students from the EHS Diversity Club. The students were: Mahmoud Elsabbal and Muhammad Elsabbal. The students spoke about diversity at the CAS Conference. They came up with examples showing diversity.

The students from Mr. Dube's Teen Leadership II Class were: Tierni Cote, Lahsil Robinson, Alexander Ferris and Amie MacGregor. The students spoke about how they taught the students how to be leaders and how to write a speech. We taught them how to listen and tie a tie.

Chairman Kruzal invited the students to come to the front of the chambers for a group picture.

Mr. Regnier congratulated the students for their accomplishments at this leadership conference. He knows some of the students that are athletes. These skills are displayed on and off the field. Enfield is a better town because of each one of you. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder thanked the guidance counselors for what you are doing for our students. He also thanked our high school students. Learning from your peers makes a huge impact with our students. Thank you.

Mr. Neville thanked the leaders at the high school for teaching the youth leaders at our elementary schools. He thanked the students for being such positive role models. You all make us very proud.

Mrs. Riley congratulated the fourth grade students and the high school students for being such great role models for our students.

Mrs. Riley asked about the acronym for listening. The student responded the acronym is called "SOLER". SOLER stands for Square up, Open posture, Lean In, Eye contact and Respond with questions and restating. This is very easy to teach because it is something you use every day to be a responsible person in society.

Mrs. Riley asked for an example they used to show diversity. The student explained about using a bag with 6 different items. Each person had some of the items in their bag and one person had all the items. This showed the students that the person who had the most resources in their bag could accomplish the most. This showed the students how to be open minded. This is how Enfield is with the poor and the rich.

Mrs. Riley thanked the counselors and the parents. She thanked all the students.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked the students, parents and counselors for coming. She is very proud of you all. She attended a similar diversity training session for the company she works for. This experience you learned will stay with you and will help to shape you as you move along. You can be that change of action similar to Rachel's Challenge in our schools and community. You have been shown great leadership qualities from our high school students.

Mr. Rutledge congratulated the students. This sounds like a wonderful program. You are starting at such a young age and this will make a huge impact on our community. He would love to hear about what you are doing in the diversity club. You need diversity otherwise this world would be rather boring. You need different opinions. He thanked them all for coming tonight.

Chairman Kruzal also thanked all the students. You all spoke very eloquent. He also thanked the teachers for what you are doing.

b. Book Buddy Benches

Mr. Drezek welcomed our K-12 STEAM Coordinator John Dague and former Enfield Mayor Scott Kaupin to the meeting.

Mr. Kaupin stated he is here tonight as the President of the Rotary Club. This is one of the community involvement things he has picked up since leaving the Town Council. He is here to present a community grant they have worked on. Every dollar that is raised by the Rotary Club must be spent in the Enfield Community. The district grant is used on project grants that will benefit the community. Past grants have been used for the rotary garden, playground at the central library, walking path, and a prep table at Enfield Loaves and Fishes. This year we received a suggestion from Scott Ryder about Buddy Benches. We wrote up a grant about

the idea of a Buddy Bench.

Mr. Kaupin explained that a Buddy Bench is for children who do not have anyone to play with at recess. The student will sit on the Buddy Bench and if another student sees them sitting, they will invite them to play. When the student is invited to play, they cannot decline the offer. The benches will be at all the elementary schools, Stowe Early Learning Center, Enfield Head Start, the Parochial Schools, parks and playgrounds across Enfield. We are building 18 Buddy Benches.

Mr. Kaupin stated this is a collaborative effort. The high school students will build the benches. We are really excited about this. We are working along with the Network Against Domestic Abuse and the Enfield Public Schools.

Mr. Dague stated we are very excited to be involved in this project. He distributed a 3D printed model of what the bench will look like. He reviewed the process each class will participate in. He introduced Enfield High School student Dale Fuller.

Mr. Fuller reviewed the process for making the benches: they will prepare the material with thickness planning and jointing; drilling pockets, assembling legs of the benches; they will use a template, trim router and router jig; they will use a laser engraving machine to make a plaque to be installed on the finished Buddy Bench.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the color of the benches. Mr. Dague stated we will be using white oak and will use a cedar stain.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this project means a lot to her. This bench could make a huge change in someone's life. The concept for the buddy Bench is amazing. She wished we had these benches across the town. Sometimes we all have one of those kinds of days and need a buddy. She thanked the Rotary Club for giving back to the Enfield community. What the Technology Department is doing is great. We have so many wonderful opportunities for our students at Enfield High. They are giving back to the community and to our younger students. This is such a wonderful opportunity. She thanked the Rotary Club for everything they are doing for our students, community members and residents.

Mr. Neville echoed Mrs. LeBlanc's comments. The Rotary does such a great job. Including park and recreation and the parochial schools is great. Kudos to all of you. You are all giving back to our community. This is a great program. You are teaching our students to give back to their community. Kudos and thank you all for what you are doing.

Mrs. Riley stated this is a phenomenal idea. Will the benches be at a different height for children? Mr. Dague stated a standard bench is 17-1/2" to 18" inches. We will make the Buddy Bench 16" inches high so they will be more assessable for the students.

Mrs. Riley stated you are doing such a great job at the high school. Seeing the plaque for the Rotary is outstanding.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mr. Kaupin. He is glad this is going to work out for the entire town. He is proud our idea will be in our town, parks and schools. This is fantastic.

Chairman Kruzel stated this is an awesome job. He thanked everyone involved. Thank you Rotary and thank you EHS Tech Ed department.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives – as presented
- b. Family Math Nights – as presented
- c. Transition to Kindergarten – as presented

- d. First Readers Ceremony – as presented
- e. March Events – as presented

8. AUDIENCES

Robert Tkacz, Woodgate Circle – Mr. Tkacz is a former Board of Education, Audit and Building Committee member. He discussed how the demographics in Enfield are changing. Our school population is declining. He distributed materials about districts and their performance, Thompsonville High School and Ms. Clara Barton.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Rutledge stated he was absent from the last meeting and will not be at our next meeting. He visits the high school periodically and has noticed one of the columns is dented. This needs to be addressed. Mr. Drezek stated this has been addressed and it is in the hands of the insurance company.

Mr. Rutledge congratulated the entire JFK Debate Team. He is very proud of them and what they accomplished and learned this year. He looks forward to working with them next year. He added that debate can help you with your communication skills. He debated in high school and in college. Debate teaches you so much.

Mr. Rutledge stated we are offering our students so much with our civics curriculum and the opportunity to learn about civics. He thanked Mr. Joel Senez and our teachers for all the hard work working with our students with the political process. They are doing fantastic work. He discussed the Woodrow Wilson exam. Exposing our students to government scenarios shows them how government works. Rising Stars can offer this to students. He is part of this organization as their first chair. He would love to give our students more opportunities in our town about government by allowing job shadowing.

Mr. Rutledge would like to recognize our students that have made great stride academically. We recognize our athletes and our national merit students. Sometimes a little recognition is all it needs to propel students. He would like to see these students come before the board.

Mr. Rutledge discussed some of the mandates being passed on to towns. The teacher pensions are something that could also be passed on to us. We cannot educate our students properly if we are not funded fully. He is not in favor of school regionalization but does support regionalization for consolidating services. He would like us to send a letter to our legislators to update us with these proposed bills.

Mr. Rutledge stated we all want to make sure that Enfield students have every opportunity. We are offering many opportunities academically for our students to take.

Chairman Kruzal stated we have asked our Enfield legislation delegation to attend the March 26th Board meeting.

Mrs. Hernandez stated debate and civics are very important. We might have differences, but our goals are the same.

Mrs. Hernandez thanked Mr. Tkacz for the demographic information. Context matters. We need to consider this with the education for our students. Speaking about our strengths is important. She loves seeing the diversity in our community. Presuming confidence is important when we talk about our ethnicity, diversity and strengths. By using our strengths and colors, it allows us to presume diversity. We have set a standard in our schools and honor diversity.

Mrs. Depeau also thanked Mr. Tkacz for this historical information and research he has

brought us. We need to look at all the pieces in our community and recognize who we are and where we are going. What is reasonable to expect about Enfield. We need to look at all the pieces in our community. We need to recognize and breakout of this level. We need to break down any barriers. We need to ask the tough questions - are we doing well? What can we do to change? Some of these barriers have nothing to do with the classrooms.

Mrs. Depeau stated the Enfield Street PTO meeting will be held on March 13th at 5:30 PM.

Mrs. Riley stated it is important to know who we are and what needs we serve. Some of the proposed legislative bills and regionalization will not help us in Enfield. Enfield knows their kids and what they need. Regionalization of services is totally different.

Mrs. Riley thanked everyone who attended the First Readers Trivia Night. It was a great time and it helped to raise funds for a really good cause. The First Readers Ceremony will be held on March 11th at Enfield High at 6:00 PM. We will be certifying 166 new readers.

Mrs. Riley stated Friday, March 1st is Read Across America Day. She will also be reading at several schools in honor of Dr. Seuss's Birthday.

Mrs. Riley stated she reviewed the Governor's proposed budget recommendation and we might be okay. There will be an 8% increase in CREC tuition costs. There is a public hearing on Friday. She is thinking about writing something about this to send to them since she will be unable to attend the public hearing. She has some concerns about regionalization and the shifting of teacher pensions to local towns and districts.

Mr. Neville asked about the increase in magnet tuitions and what will this do to our budget. Mrs. Riley will get this information for Mr. Neville.

Add an Item to the Agenda:

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education adds Item 11c Approve Prospective Supply Contract for Transportation to the agenda.

Discussion:

Mrs. Zalucki stated you need to suspend the rules to add the item to the agenda.

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education suspends the rules and adds Item 11c under new business - Approve Prospective Supply Contract for Transportation.

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

Mr. Ryder stated the Eli Whitney Yankee Candle fundraiser will be held until March 8th. This information can be found on the enfieldpto.com website. They will also hold an evening event in March at Nomads. Spring picture day will be held on March 6th. He attended the instrumental concert last night and thanked the teachers and music department for this. The students practice hard and did a great job.

Mr. Regnier stated Hazardville Memorial will hold their PTO meeting on March 13th. They will hold an assembly on March 15th; a McTeacher night will be held on March 21st from 4:30 – 7:00 pm at the McDonalds on Hazard Avenue (Brookside Plaza); and our spring sports day will be held on March 29th.

Mr. Regnier stated it was great to see the students here tonight. Our youth have great values. Whether it is Buzz Robotics, Music, Theatre, they are all great role models. We can say without a doubt that the kids in Enfield are going in the right direction. They have good values and he

thanked our good parents and educators. So many of our teachers are here with their students shows their dedication. We are seeing the same teachers over and over. He thanked them for everything they are doing to support our students.

Mr. Regnier stated our former administration made the needed cuts to our budget. Our current administration understands our budget needs and will do what we need to do. CREC is CREC. He feels the ECS formula that Governor Lamont is rolling out is transparent. He is also being transparent with the teacher pensions. He is telling us what he wants to do. The information is clear. It is never easy when we don't get the money we need. He is hoping we receive good news with the ECS funding for our district. He looks forward to hearing from our legislation delegation team.

Chairman Kruzel stated our representatives will attend the March 26th BOE meeting. Buzz Robotics will hold their pasta supper fund raiser on February 27th from 5-8 PM at St. Bernard's on Hazard Avenue. He encourages everyone to attend this event and help them out.

Mr. Neville would like us to submit our questions for the legislative delegation before they attend the Board meeting. This way they will know what questions we are looking for. Please send your questions to Chairman Kruzel. Chairman Kruzel agreed with Mr. Neville. He will then forward any questions to Mrs. Zalucki for her to send to our legislators in preparation for the March 26th Board meeting.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appoint Joint Facilities Committee Elector

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Depeau that the Enfield Board of Education tables this item until the March 8th BOE meeting.

Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel stated there are some discrepancies on the application that need to be addressed.

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

b. Approve 2019-20 School Calendar

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2019-20 School Calendar.

Discussion:

Mr. Drezek reviewed the proposed 2019-20 calendar recommendations with the Board. This calendar has been shared with the bargaining units. This is our second year of having students start before Labor Day. Since we will not be following policy #6111 Calendars, the Board will need to waive this policy. We have added an extra day to the Christmas vacation.

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education amends the motion to approve the 2019-20 School Calendar.

Point of Order:

Mr. Rutledge asked if the amended motion is to waive Policy #6111 and approve the school calendar?

Mr. Drezek stated you can waive the policy and adopt the calendar at the same time.

Chairman Kruzel restated the motion - the Enfield Board of Education amends the previous motion to include waiving Policy #6111 Calendars and Approve the 2019-20 School Calendar as presented.

Mr. Regnier asked about the 3-hour delays with staff and school buses. Mr. Drezek stated the response has been extremely popular.

Mrs. Hernandez thanked Mr. Drezek for making those necessary weather-related decisions. You are keeping our students and staff safe.

Mrs. Depeau agreed with Mrs. Hernandez.

Mr. Ryder also supports the 3-hour delays. He knows it can be hard for working parents arranging for before school care, but we are getting the school day in. This will benefit us in the long-term come June. He has also received positive responses from the parents he has spoken to.

Mr. Neville added the earlier we can get out of school in June, the better for the Joint Facilities committee to continue working on the roofs during the summer months.

Mr. Drezek stated that not every TV station recognizes a 3-hour delay. Messages can be found on Twitter and by our robo calls. He hopes that this will become an option as more districts use a 3-hour delay.

Mr. Ryder reminded everyone to sign up for school messenger messages.

Chairman Kruzel added Enfield is setting new grounds with our 3-hour delay. We are trend setters.

Mrs. Riley asked about Veteran's Day and why we don't use this as a half day. Our town is very active with supporting our Veteran's, Military and Wreaths Across America. Mrs. LeBlanc agreed with Mrs. Riley.

Mr. Ryder stated this is a Federal Holiday. Do any other towns have school on this day?

Mr. Rutledge stated you can have school, as long as you are using this day to discuss curriculum about Veteran's.

Mr. Drezek stated you must have curriculum that is about Veteran's.

Mr. Drezek added that we are starting school earlier and are missing opportunities for professional development for our staff. We have tried to make long weekends with the calendar. You will see that students will be off on Monday and Tuesday in October and February.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we had that October snow storm a few years back. You also need to remember that Town workers have this day off for Veteran's Day.

Mr. Neville asked about the statewide district calendar. What is the status with this? Mr. Drezek stated it has been delayed again. We are in coordination with the towns in our RESC. We have staff members that reside in surrounding towns. This calendar is inline with the other surrounding districts.

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

c. Approve Prospective Supply Contract – Transportation

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Prospective Supply Contract for Transportation.

Discussion:

Mr. Drezek stated we have negotiated a 3-year agreement with Smyth Bus Company with an option for an additional 2 years if all parties are in agreement. Chairman Kruzel has a copy of the agreement.

Chairman Kruzel reread the motion – Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education Accepts the Transportation Contract with Smyth Bus Company effective July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022 as presented.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee met on February 25th. We had another great meeting. A few changes were made to the Program of Studies. John Dague attended this curriculum meeting and presented two great opportunities for our students. He presented an articulation agreement with Springfield Technical Community College in the area of Mechanical Engineering Technology for our students. He also discussed a partnership with 3M for MAP (Manufacturing and Academic Partnership) program for our students. The purpose of this program will help to identify students interested in the electromechanical field. We will have Mr. Dague present this to the entire Board at a future meeting.

Mrs. Depeau stated that both programs will target a large amount of students on various tracks. This is an excellent example of how our students can take advantage of the kinds of programs we are offering.

Mrs. Hernandez stated it was a great meeting. We are giving our kids an opportunity to earn high paying jobs with these career opportunities. We are providing pathways for our kids. Students can obtain a Bachelor's degree for around \$20K.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Riley reported the Finance, Budget Committee will meet on March 18th at 6:00 PM in the Business Manager's office.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Policy Committee will meet on March 6th at 5:30 PM in the Superintendent's office. We will continue working on the 4000 Policies. There is a chance that he may not be present at the Policy meeting. Each Board member has received the next section of the approved policies to be included in your Policy Book. The meetings are open to the public.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on February 28th. We will review the RFP's.

f. JFK Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the JFK Building Committee met last week and short-listed the Architects. We are down to four Architects and will start the interviews shortly.

g. Joint Security Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Joint Security Committee members are very committed to security in our towns and buildings. We are working hand-in-hand with the Town and First Responders. We will meet in a couple months.

Mrs. Riley wanted to reach out to the chair of the Curriculum Committee to discuss the TAG program again.

h. Joint Insurance Committee

Mrs. LeBlanc reported the Joint Insurance Committee will meet on March 2nd at 4:30 PM.

i. Any Other Committees - None

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Special Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2019 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-1** passed with Mrs. Depeau abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

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

- The month of January 2019, total expenditures amount to \$6,749,155.09, broken down between payroll totaling \$3,952,901.85 and other accounts totaling \$2,796,253.24. 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 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Line Item Transfers - 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 & Collective Bargaining.

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. Neville to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 26, 2019.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary