# BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

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 September 11, 2018.

- **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Walter Kruzel.
- 2. INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE: Tina LeBlanc
- 3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tina LeBlanc
- **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 and Mr. Andrew B.

Longey, Assistant Superintendent

## 6. BOARD GUEST(S)

#### a. EHS SPANISH EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Ms. Jensen, the Enfield High School World Language Teacher and Coordinator introduced EHS students Sophia Santiago and Sarah Haluch to the Board. The students are here to discuss their participation in our summer abroad program to Salamanca, Spain.

The students stated they participated in our summer abroad program to Spain over the summer. We were there for 2-weeks. We went to school from 9-1 where we only spoke in Spanish. We went on excursions during the weekends to Madrid, Spain. We visited museums and took tours of the local towns and important sites while we were living with our hosts families. We also took a cooking and dance class.

Ms. Jensen added the students were totally immersed in the language from the time they got off the plane for 15-16 days. This is the second time we have done this exchange. We are trying to get our French program started for the 2019 summer abroad program in Quebec.

The students added that they only could talk in Spanish when they were in class. We took 2 classes, one was in grammar and the other was in communications. We were there with students from Windsor. It was nice during the breaks to talk in English to the other students. We needed to work together. Our host families also only spoke in Spanish. We were given a binder filled with questions that we needed to complete about what we saw and learned. The questions helped us understand what we were doing while we were there. There were a lot of things there that were very similar to what we do here in the United States.

Ms. Jensen asked the students to share the one favorite thing from being abroad. Both students stated they liked everything and did not want to leave. It was such a great experience. They liked the dance class they took. It took you out of your comfort zone. It was

a lot of fun. They also like cooking. They use their foods differently than us. Their food is very different from what we typically eat. Our host moms made us feel very comfortable. We bonded with them during the two-weeks we were there and were sad to leave.

Mrs. Riley asked how many students went? Ms. Jensen stated the first time we went there were 14 students. This trip, 8 students participated.

Mrs. Riley asked the students how is your Spanish since you came back? Both students agreed that it is much easier now to come up with words and understand the teacher since coming home from their trip.

Mr. Neville thanked the students for coming and telling us about your trip. Would you recommend this to other students and would you do this again? Both students would recommend this trip 100% and would love to go again. It got us out of our comfort zone being there. There are many similarities, but it is different at the same time.

Mr. Neville stated he has found that you tend to learn more when you are out of your comfort zone. This has been a positive experience. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder asked how the host families are selected. Ms. Jensen stated we have been using the same host families for the past 15 years. We use the same language school. We make sure the students are placed in homes for either girls or boys. We will not put a girl and a boy in the same home.

Mr. Ryder asked if we reciprocate with them. Ms. Jensen stated not now. This is a language school we participate with.

Mrs. Depeau stated she took 9 years of Spanish and never had this kind of an experience. This trip is very special. She loved hearing your comments that people from another country are very similar to us. These are some very wise words spoken by high school students. Thank you.

Mr. Rutledge asked about the French exchange program and would you participate with a university. Quebec is a beautiful city. Ms. Jensen stated we started our discussion with a school similar language school in Spain. We are looking to have the same kind of summer abroad program in Canada.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Ms. Jensen and the students. He went to Spain for a week when he was a student. He also had a great time. He is glad the students enjoyed themselves.

#### b. 2018 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Drezek introduced our 2018 Teacher of the Year to the Board. He is also a Social Studies Teacher at EHS.

Mr. Allegro thanked Board Members, the administration and his co-workers for all your support. He especially thanked Mr. Bourassa for helping him with his video with all the special effects. He thanked Mr. Neville for giving him his first teaching job. He couldn't have done this without his colleagues, staff and students at EHS. The staff at Enfield high has so many Enfield raised teachers. Our community comes together in times like this week. He is a proud member of this community. His peers are incredible and very humbling. His students did many amazing things in our community action learning class and they made him look good. The students raised over \$4,000 for the children at CCMC and our local Veteran's. Our students rose to the occasion. He has told his students if you don't like something, you have the ability to change it. The class offers them the perfect opportunity to do this. He is also giving back to his community. His sixth-grade year book listed him as a future teacher. He

wants his students to have the same great experiences he had when he went to school in Enfield.

Mr. Allegro thanked everyone for their continued support.

Chairman Kruzel stated he looked at your eighth-grade year book and it listed you as a future teacher of the year. He presented Mr. Allegro with a plaque for being the Enfield Public Schools 2018 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Allegro received a standing ovation.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that Mr. Allegro also coaches at EHS and helps many students out and not just the students in his class or on the field. Teaching goes above what goes on in a classroom. She was not surprised to hear that he was our 2018 Teacher of the Year. Thank you.

Mrs. Riley watched his video and you should do TED Talks. When will you find out how you have done in the State Teacher of the Year competition? Mr. Allegro stated mid-September he should hear something. She wished him the best of luck.

Mr. Neville stated he is going to make a prediction that you will be on the school Board in the future. He thanked him for being a great teacher and role model. We want to see exceptional people teaching our students just like you.

Mr. Regnier stated he shares your Fermi bond. He congratulated him for teaching our students in the classroom and on the field. He asked him what don't you do? You are great and your colleagues feel the same way about you.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mr. Allegro. We are honored to have teachers like you working for us. Thank you.

#### c. TEACHER EVALUATION PRESENTATION

Mr. Drezek welcomed JFK Assistant Principal Sarah Horan and EHS Social Studies Teacher Gray Wanzer. They are here to discuss our Teacher Evaluation Program.

Mrs. Horan appreciated the Board's commitment to the teachers. Mr. Wanzer stated we held off making any changes to our teacher evaluation program with the opening of Enfield High. The committee reconvened last year, and a lot of changes are needed. All the changes we made were unanimously approved by the 14 committee members.

Mrs. Horan and Mr. Wanzer reviewed the recommended changes. They distributed a sheet with the changes to Board members.

Mr. Neville thanked them for looking at this as an evolving document and making changes as you go along. He urged them to keep up the good work.

Mrs. Riley liked the wording for some of your changes. It seems to be clearer. Thank you for your hard work and the awesome job you are doing.

Chairman Kruzel also thanked the entire committee for their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Drezek added that a lot of work has gone into this. He appreciates the dedication from entire committee and for Sarah and Gray for volunteering to spearhead this committee. You both put in a lot of work into this. Thank you.

## 7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

## a. Welcome Back – as presented

## b. Building Update - Summer Cleaning

Mr. Drezek reviewed the cleaning process done at Henry Barnard and at all our schools over the summer. The Town hired a contractor to help assist them to get our schools cleaned and ready. He thanked the Town Council for arranging this and the staff for taking such pride in our schools.

- c. Welcome New Town Manager as presented
- d. Fiscal Closeout

Mr. Drezek stated the Board previously stated we would be turning over money to the Town around \$100K from our FY2017-18 budget. We received some additional funds for taking some of the displaced students from Puerto Rico. We received \$44K from a grant that was submitted by Pat West and Julie Carroll. This money must be applied to FY2017-18 funds. We are able to return to the Town approximately \$144K.

- e. Hazardville Grammar School class of 1917 as presented
- f. New Alternative Program

Mr. Drezek stated the State has changed the requirements for students receiving alternative education. With the unexpected retirement of our Adult Education Coordinator Kathy Chapdeline over the summer, we merged our Adult Education Program and our Alternative Education Program. I placed Mr. Sargalski in this position as the administrator. We are currently working with Mr. Sargalski, Mr. Mally and Ms. Chapdelaine regarding the required changes. We will house this program at the Enfield Annex. The changes made by the State are affecting other towns as well and we have received commitments from 2 districts to participate in our alternative program as referrals. We are looking for ways to meet the needs of our students and to be able to sustain the program needs and costs. We will present this new program to the Board at a later date.

## g. Card for First Responders

Mr. Drezek stated he received a call from Lori Gates about presenting our police, fire and EMS personnel with cards and notes thanking them for what they are doing. We were able to deliver over 400 cards and notes to these deserving individuals today. He is extremely greatful to have someone like Lori Gates and supports her many deserving causes. He thanked our administrators and students. We are very lucky to have someone like Mrs. Gates fighting for us and working alongside with us.

- h. Family Day as presented
- i. September Events as presented

Mr. Drezek read a prepared statement regarding the tragic events over the past few days. Our thoughts and prayers are with Justin's family and friends and we as a district will continue to support the Brady family. Our focus will remain on our supporting our students and families during this difficult time. He thanked Chief Fox and Town Manager Chris Bromson for their leadership and guidance that has helped us deal with this tragedy. He also thanked our staff members for going out of their way to make sure our kids saw a happy face to greet them when they walked into EHS on Monday. Our teachers, counselors and staff have always put the needs of our students first. He thanked our partners from Enfield Youth Services for everything they have been doing to support us during this difficult time.

- **8. AUDIENCES** None
- 9. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mrs. LeBlanc welcomed students and staff back. It was a hot start to the new year. She liked the Facebook post welcoming Enfield High staff back with the dancing Eagle and Mr. Clark handing out donuts. This was a nice way to welcome back our teachers.

Mrs. LeBlanc also welcomed Chris Bromson. He has held many positions in our town and he will be a good fit our town.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she was at the EHS opening football game and it was great. They haven't won too many games over the past few years. They beat Manchester and it was nice to be there watching such an exciting game. The senior football players were ecstatic with the win.

Mrs. Hernandez stated writing helps her with her thoughts. She read a heartfelt statement about community. There are no words to express what Justin's family is going through. She quoted words from Joe Bidden "he promised there will come a moment that the memory of your son will bring a smile to your lips before a tear to your eye". Grief is not a static point in time. Like the moon, it waxes and wanes at times running brightly, and in other moments consuming darkness, but this too shall pass.

Mr. Neville stated we had a great opening of school. He thanked the staff and administration. He hopes we don't need to use any additional half days during hurricane season.

Mr. Neville stated we all hate days like the one we had yesterday. Our staff was prepared and put together a crisis-team, so our kids would be met by staff as they came to school. Mr. Drezek's communication during this was outstanding. He commends everyone for doing what we do best. Thank you.

Mr. Neville stated the ShopRite Pasta Dinner will be held at Mount Carmel on Friday, September 14th. All proceeds will benefit the Enfield Food Shelf.

Mr. Neville thanked Mrs. LeBlanc for her invocation.

Mr. Ryder stated we have a new tool in place to increase communication. We launched the enfieldPTO.com website just before school started. All Enfield Public Schools PTO's have a website where you can find a calendar filled with events, happenings, PTO meetings and many other items. He will attend as many PTO meetings as he can. Our PTO website is a work in progress. If you are looking for something, please let him know at <a href="mailto:info@enfieldpto.com">info@enfieldpto.com</a> or at <a href="mailto:sryder@enfieldschools.org">sryder@enfieldschools.org</a>.

Mr. Regnier also welcomed back the students and staff. He attended the Eli Whitney opening day. It was a great first day for students. The staff did a great job at Eli Whitney. Hazardville Memorial will hold their PTO meeting on September  $12^{th}$  at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Regnier echoed Mr. Neville's comments, the communication we received during the first week was great. We knew why we were having half days due to the heat. We appreciate receiving the robo calls.

Mr. Regnier stated the communication about the tragedy has also been excellent. During tragic events, the students, staff and community come together. He thanked Mrs. LeBlanc and Mrs. Hernandez for their comments. He also extends his deepest sympathies to the families, students, staff and town. The community will be here for the Brady family. That is what is great about our town, we come together in times of need.

Mrs. Depeau thanked Board members for your comments and condolences to the Brady family and community. She also offers her condolences to the Brady family and community that has been affected. Using the community as a resource during this trying time is important. We have many resources available to those that are struggling.

Mrs. Depeau welcomed everyone to a new school year. She urged parents to bring your child to play at the Family Resource Center at Stowe and Barnard. They will help teach your child how to learn to play starting on September 24<sup>th</sup>. They will also have an open house week that started on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at the FRC centers through September 13<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to find out more about this, you can go to enfield-ct.gov/frc or on facebook for more information about the Enfield Family Resource Center.

Mrs. Depeau discussed safety and bus safety and asked if we have cameras on our buses. Mr. Drezek stated this is something that Smyth Bus is trying to do as they replace busses in their fleet. Cameras are beneficial for safety and for the bus drivers. This is a conversation we started with Mr. Smyth.

Mr. Neville stated we did have portable cameras at one time. Mr. Drezek stated the cameras are outdated and are still available on some of the buses. Technology is more advanced now and is not as expensive as in the past. Some buses have cameras.

Mr. Rutledge stated he just checked out the PTO website and thanked Mr. Rutledge for a good job. It looks great with a lot of information for parents to utilize.

Mr. Rutledge stated EHS will hold a parent advisory committee meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM in the library with Principal Clark. He will also attend this meeting and hopes to see you there.

Mr. Rutledge stated he attended an event on the Town Green over the weekend for a Walk for Alzheimer's. He thanked the members of the girls Volleyball team for their participation. He also wished them a good season. It is great when the community gets together to support these events to help make a difference.

Mr. Rutledge echoed the comments made tonight. The communication we received was great. His heart goes out to the family and friends of Justin Brady. He is impressed with what was put together by our administration to deal with this tragedy. He thanked the first responders, the police and State police for conducting their investigation within 24 hours. Thank you for all your hard work. His family is grieving, and he wished them all the best.

Mr. Rutledge welcomed the students to a new year. You will face new challenges and opportunities. You might need to go outside of your comfort zone.

Mrs. Riley welcomed back the students and staff. She wished them all good luck in the coming school year.

Mrs. Riley stated she attended the Henry Barnard PTO meeting tonight. We still have open positions for vice president and secretary. We will sell t-shirts on Family day and will have a ring toss for the students to win prizes.

Mrs. Riley thanked the Enfield Police Department for their swift action and added they are doing a phenomenal job. She commended the EHS staff and faculty and coaches, youth services, Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey for everything you have done to assist our students in a time of need. She thanked her colleagues for talking to her about this.

Mrs. Riley expressed her deepest sympathy to Justin's family. She wished them peace during this trying time. We need to come together as a community during this time of sorrow and in good times to lift our children. Violence is never a good option for either party that is involved. She urged everyone to stand united just like we did on this horrible day 17 years ago. Enfield is strong, and we can get through this. Show compassion, kindness and respect to each other.

Chairman Kruzel stated he received a phone call and went to the school to help Monday morning. Principal Clark held a meeting with her staff first thing to prepare them. He was there for support. Principal Clark was on top of this. We had crises teams in place to get them through this. This is another great example of what we do in Enfield. We put our best foot forward. He commends the staff, the police, communication, community and the superintendent for everything they have been doing.

Chairman Kruzel stated this is the third year we have had been at Enfield High as a unified high school.

Chairman Kruzel attended the Grand Opening of the Hall of Champions. This was a great event and all the banners are hung. We recognized the members of the EHS building committee.

Chairman Kruzel thanked E-TV for running the graduation ceremony again and again. He thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting. He welcomed the students and staff back to school. This is not the way we wanted to start school.

Chairman Kruzel stated Enfield is known for coming together in times of need. We will get through this.

Mr. Drezek commended Principal Clark for an outstanding job. She and her staff took charge. We are extremely lucking to have her as our principal at Enfield High School.

Chairman Kruzel also thanked Principal Clark for an outstanding job.

#### 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

#### 11. NEW BUSINESS

# a. Approve Teacher Evaluation Program Changes

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Teacher Evaluation Program Changes as presented.

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

## b. Approve 2018-19 Student Representatives and Alternates

Mrs. Depeau moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2018-19 Student Representatives and Alternates as presented.

#### Discussion:

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that Sophia Santiago was here tonight talking about the Spain exchange program.

Mr. Rutledge asked if the students should be present for us to vote on this. Chairman Kruzel stated we need to approve them as our representatives first.

Mr. Drezek stated once the Board has approved them, Mr. Longey and I will meet with them so they can attend the next Board meeting.

Mr. Neville stated the students being recommended came from the administration. Mr. Drezek stated that Principal Clark and the Social Studies Department are recommending them. Both Matt Campo and Jacquelyn Daigneau were a representative and alternate last year.

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

## 12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported we cancelled the Curriculum meeting in August and will meet on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. at 6:00 PM. Ms. Middleton will discuss the state assessment scores and will present them at an upcoming meeting. He would also like to present curriculum items at one meeting per month.

## b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Riley reported the Finance, Budget Committee met on September 10, 2018 and will approve financial reports later on the agenda. Our next meeting will be on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### c. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the September Policy Committee meeting has been cancelled. Board members received the 2000 series and they are available on-line. We will continue reviewing the 3000 Series. He added that we are sticking to policies that reference or are required by state laws. We will not be recommending the entire 3000 series. Next, we will start reviewing the 4000 series.

## d. Leadership Committee - None

## e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the committee met on September 10<sup>th</sup>. We approved the partial roof replacement for Henry Barnard. We had some issues with the State. The work will start on weekends, so it will not affect the students learning during the day. It should be done in approximately 4 weeks. We will need to notify Barnard about the work that will be starting.

Mr. Neville added that the committee did everything that we needed to do correct and on time. This is the first round of 6-8 roofs that need to be done. We will start the process for the other roofs sooner. We are looking at the other town buildings and properties in Enfield. We invite all of you to attend these meetings. We are going to hire a consultant to look at the buildings and properties. We have worked very hard on this committee. We have met every Thursday for several months.

Chairman Kruzel stated according to Mayor Mike, we are the hardest working committee. Thank you for working so hard on this committee.

Mrs. Riley stated the PTO was very happy to hear about the roof.

Mr. Regnier stated we were ready to start this project before school started. The State delayed the process, not us. He wanted to clarify this to the public. This is why the project was delayed. He appreciates your committee members hard work looking at the 33 buildings and properties.

Mr. Neville stated we are happy to get something done. He added 2 sections of the 5 sections will be repaired at Henry Barnard. We are hoping to get the other sections done next summer.

Chairman Kruzel stated we need to work around noise ordinates. The work will get done.

#### f. EHS Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the EHS Building Committee held their last meeting. This item will be taken off our agendas. We are the only project that was done under budget by \$2.2 million dollars. This committee did a phenomenal job. Committee members were recognized at the Hall of Champions Grand Opening. We are the only school project that was underbudget. The plaques are up and the building is beautiful.

Mr. Neville added we held 107 meetings. All committee members volunteered for a 6-7 year timeline. We had very little committee member turnover. The architects have never seen a committee where there was so little turnover.

Mr. Regnier asked Chairman Kruzel to let everyone know what was done for the Building Committee members.

Chairman Kruzel thanked the Culinary Arts students for the dinner they prepared for us at the Hall of Champions. All Committee members were given jackets and were allowed to keep their iPads.

g. Any Other Committees - None

#### 13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Special Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2018 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2018 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously. Mr. Regnier was not at the meeting but he read the minutes and voted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Special BOE Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2018 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

# 14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

#### Fiscal Year 2018 EOY:

Mrs. Riley moved seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's End of Year 2018 certification for:

- Fiscal Year 2018 end of year expenditures amount to \$1,737,163.44, broken down between accrued payroll totaling \$22,955.64 and other accounts totaling \$1,714,207.80. all payments have 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 balance of \$101,750.73 has been returned to the Town.

#### Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel stated a year ago we met downstairs about budget cuts coming from the State. We froze all our budgets. He thanked the administration for their diligence with the budget. He also thanked the members of the Finance Committee for returning \$101,750.73 back to the Town.

Mrs. Riley stated with the grant received for the displaced students, the total amount we returned to the Town was \$146,500.73.

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

#### Line Item Transfers

Mrs. Riley moved seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Enfield Board of Education approves the following line item transfers:

From:	100 – Certified Staff Salaries 200 – Benefits 600 – Fuel/Supplies/Materials	\$ \$1 \$	472,584.00 ,457,499.00 179,939.00
Total		\$2	,110,022.00
То:	100 – Non-Certified Staff Salaries 300 – Professional Services 500 – Support Services 700 – Educational Equipment 800 – dues/Fees/Graduation		314,589.00 ,080.550.00 237,409.00 458,526.00 18,948.00
Total		\$2	,110,022.00

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

## July 2018:

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

The month of July 2018, total expenditures amount to \$1,865,474.41, broken down between payroll totaling \$457,827.33 and other accounts totaling \$1,407,647.08. 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.

## **August 2018:**

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

- The month of August 2018, total expenditures amount to \$3,507,384.31, broken down between payroll totaling \$2,339,528.45 and other accounts totaling \$1,167,855.86. 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.

## 15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

#### 16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education enters Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel.

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. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Neville to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2018.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Tina LeBlanc Secretary Board of Education Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary