

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 24, 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 September 24, 2019.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Hernandez

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Cookie Bromage**

Mr. Drezek welcomed our Athletic Director Cory O'Connell and Cookie Bromage to tonight's meeting. Mrs. Bromage is a retired teacher and former coach for Enfield High School. We wanted to give Cookie a proper sendoff.

Mr. O'Connell stated Cookie has coached for 52 amazing years in Enfield. She has connected with our students and athletes for decades. She is such a positive role model and the epitome of what a coach should be. He thanked her for her dedication and competitive nature. She has earned the respect from coaches and athletes across the state. Thank you for your service to our students. We will miss you.

Mrs. Bromage thanked Mr. O'Connell for his kind words. She thanked the Board, Administration, parents and audience members. Enfield is the only place she ever wanted to teach and coach at. This has truly been her dream job. She will still visit from time to time. Thank you.

Chairman Kruzel and members of the Board presented Mrs. Bromage with a gift on behalf of the Board and Administration for her 52 dedicated years to our students.

Mrs. Bromage thanked the Board for the gift and will cherish this forever. She received a standing ovation.

Chairman Kruzel added that her name looks great on the field.

b. **Curriculum Update**

Mr. Drezek welcomed our Chief Academic Officer Michelle Middleton and our K-12 STEAM,

Math and Computer Education Coordinator Kerry Wiley to tonight's meeting. They will give the Board an update on the Spring 2019 State Assessment Results.

Dr. Wiley reviewed what they started last year for creating a K-12 vision for teaching and learning in mathematics throughout our schools. Mr. Jason LaMesa, our K-12 Math worked by building a culture that celebrates mathematical thinking. We implemented a common problem-solving process with a common rubric. We also purchased a common resource for grades K-6 to provide continuity to the learning experience.

Ms. Middleton reviewed the results for Smarter Balanced ELA Assessments Trends for grades 3-8. We remained level in this area.

Dr. Wiley reviewed the results for the Smarter Balanced Math Assessments Trends for grades 3-8. She thanked all the teachers for their hard work. We increased by 2.8 %.

Ms. Middleton reviewed how the State cut scores for the State SAT Levels. The scores have changed and are not the same for Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 for ELA and Math.

Ms. Middleton reviewed that our ELA scores are still above the state levels.

Dr. Wiley reviewed that our math scores are below the state levels, but we improved by 10 % from last year and by 7% compared to the state level.

Ms. Middleton added that we have made great progress in a year. She reviewed with the Board what we will do this year with ELA.

Dr. Wiley reviewed with the board what we will do with K-12 Math this year.

Ms. Middleton reviewed our AP growth from 2016 to 2019, the number of exams taken, the number of students taking the exams, the number of exam scores 3+ or higher and the number of courses offered.

Ms. Middleton reviewed Learn Together, Grow Together CT. This is a new CSDE resource that looks to explore common problems and issues districts around the state are having. They will highlight districts that are using innovative approaches, ideas and/or strategies that solve these issues. Enfield was one of the feature districts being highlighted in the first issue that was just released today. You can find this at the State site: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Learn-Together-Grow-Together-CT>. They are highlighting our college and career readiness opportunities. This includes our college-level coursework, our program with Asnuntuck Community College, and multipurpose block, career counseling; partnership programs and strong Board support and commitment.

Mr. Regnier attended the math workshop last year that was quite helpful. He appreciated attending this since math is being taught differently from when he learned it. He only wished more parents attended. You are teaching our parents about the new way our students are learning math. We are making good strides and still need to improve in some areas. He applauds the district for addressing this publicly.

Mr. Regnier asked about our math scores compared to ELA scores. Are there any similarities as to why the numbers are dipping?

Ms. Middleton stated math scores are low across the state. There are also some high areas for ELA. The state put together a commission when smarter balance first came out. Grade 5 is the switch to a lot and fast and difficult for students. Students in grades 3 and 4 tend to do better than grade 5. Middle school and high school are struggling statewide. This is something the state is addressing. We are noticing that grade 5 is big switch for teachers.

Mr. Regnier asked if grade 4 is the make or break point for students. Dr. Wiley stated we are doing everything possible trying to identify where we need to do work. We are working on the K-12 vertical alignment. Having the teacher understand the knowledge the students are coming up with so they can build off that knowledge and raise the students to the levels they need to be at.

Mr. Regnier stated he received the SAT data for his child that shows where your child is at. This information was nice to receive because you can see how your child is doing compared to other students and areas where they might be struggling. The information was in color and the information really stands out. He appreciates the information you are putting out to parents.

Dr. Wiley added that each student has a growth target. We are making sure our teachers are aware of this. We are making sure each student is working towards that area of growth.

Mr. Neville asked about the state scores. Ms. Middleton stated the state scores can be found on EdSight where you can look at all the scores. They give you the grade 3-8 grouping scores.

Mr. Neville stated they do not always measure cohorts. It is not apples to apples we are looking at. He asked if the teachers have access to this site. Ms. Middleton stated they have access to this site. They can see how the students did the year before. Dr. Wiley puts together a spreadsheet for the class they currently have, where they scored the year before, what the growth target is and where they should be scoring this year in order to make their growth target for the current year. This helps the teachers instructionally.

Mr. Neville stated we did this in the first year of our math rollout. Ms. Middleton stated every grade went up in math except for one.

Mr. Neville knows how hard everyone is working. He can't wait to see how we do next year. Thank you.

Mr. Rutledge stated you are using the data to drive the education improvements. We are now giving the PSAT's to students in grades 9-11. Can you give an example of this? Ms. Middleton believes this is part of the 10-point growth we have seen in math. The College Board tells where the students should be at in grade 9, 10 and 11. The instruction is individualized, and we can see where they are struggling.

Mr. Rutledge added you can look at the data at a granular level. Thank you for this presentation.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this is extremely helpful for students taking the SAT's now is an added bonus for students. This is an intimidating test. Ms. Middleton stated this can benefit all students.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated you want to see how we have grown as a district. Did you look at other districts within our DRG? Ms. Middleton stated we did, and this information was shared with the members of the Curriculum Subcommittee. We look at last years scores and where we were compared to now. We look at this data over the summer.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the back-to-school night at EHS. She met with two different math teachers (Geometry and Algebra) and the introduction of the iPads is wonderful. Some of the teachers will video their lessons for the students to play back at home. She is curious to see how this impacts our scores. This is very exciting time for our students. We have implemented a Tech test grade for our students for keeping our students off their hand-held devices. She looks forward to seeing our continued growth. Thank you.

Mrs. Riley thanked them for bringing this information to us and showing us the data and the

growth. She congratulated them for identifying the problems and coming up with a plan. She congratulated them for the iPad roll-out. You are doing a really great job. She cannot wait to see where this trend will take us. Thank you.

Chairman Kruzel stated our slogan says it all – we make a difference in Enfield, every child, every day. We are improving. He looks forward to hearing this report next year.

Mr. Drezek stated Ms. Middleton and Dr. Wiley are being modest. We re-envisioned our K-12 math education for our students. This was a 2-year plan that we developed for instruction and implemented it. We did not expect to see the growth that we have seen this year. He thanked them for their dedication. This has been a priority for our district.

Mr. Drezek stated the last slide on their presentation Board member received it previously. He was approached by the State about our college and career readiness programs. He discussed this with Ms. Middleton and Mr. Longey, and they had a conference call with them. We had no idea this phone call would lead to this article being published by the CSDE. We were one of four districts they sought out information about our data. This article is a huge credit to Mr. Dague, Dr. Wiley and Ms. Middleton's efforts. This is a big deal. We have great people doing this for our kids.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representatives – as presented

Chairman Kruzel welcomed our new student representative and reminded her if you need to leave at anytime during the Board member, please do so. This is something he has said to all student representatives.

b. First Responder Cards – as presented

c. Stowe Early Learning Center Open House – as presented

d. Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction Ceremony – as presented

e. Early Release Day – as presented

Mr. Drezek gave the Board an update on the triple EEE virus. We have contacted the Health Department and have decided that all afterschool activities and evening athletic events will end by 5:30 PM. Other districts are also following this voluntary practice. Our athletic schedules will need to be adjusted. This is being done as a precaution. We cannot enforce these precautions for other districts. If parents would like to keep their child from participating in any away games, they should notify their child's coach. Once we have the first frost, this will help. This precaution will stay in effect until further notice.

Mr. Drezek stated the iPad roll-out started this week.

Mr. Drezek stated he attended the Economic Breakfast Partnership hosted by the town this morning at Asnuntuck. The event was well attended. This gave Town Manager Chris Bromson and he a chance to discuss the many partnerships we have in Enfield and the great working relationship we have. Governor Lamont was there as well as Dr. Miguel Cardona, our new Education Commissioner. Dr. Cardona and he are former classmates from middle school. He added that the Governor made an excellent decision appointing him as our Education Commissioner.

Chairman Kruzel added that Dr. Cardona stated that Mr. Drezek sat in the front of the class and he sat in the back of the class.

Mr. Drezek stated he is the Education Commissioner and he isn't. Chairman Kruzel added we got the better end of the stick.

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Regnier stated the Hazardville Memorial PTO meeting will be held on October 9th in the Library. All are welcome to attend. He was wondering if we were going to do anything regarding Triple EEE Virus and he received the message from Mr. Bourassa. The youth clubs will also take the same precaution measures. He appreciates the administrations jump on this.

Mr. Regnier stated Stowe will hold an open house tomorrow. He congratulated everyone involved with this. All the programs located here are making this work. He has heard good things about the Stowe Early Learning Center. Students can use all the resources in the building. Kudos to everyone.

Mr. Regnier stated he has also heard great things about having assistant principals at the K-2 buildings. The teachers feel supported that there is another set of eyes in the building and the students feel safe.

Mr. Regnier stated Town Farm Road used to back up with traffic in the morning. Now with the police presence there, the traffic is moving along nicely. Kudos to the EPD for assisting with this.

Mr. Drezek stated Dr. Berrios came up with a plan over the summer to address this traffic congestion. He thanked Dr. Berrios for implementing this flawlessly.

Mr. Ryder stated www.enfieldpto.com has had 2,000 visitors.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney PTO will receive \$1 from the purchase of a reusable bag at Stop & Shop. We started our Cherry Hill fundraiser event. On the PTO.com website we have a link to purchase tickets for an upcoming UCONN football game on October 19th.

Mr. Ryder thanked the school district for supporting our school-based health centers in our schools. He has heard great feedback about these specialists. The schools have a behavioral specialist available in the buildings for our students.

Mr. Ryder stated we will hold a joint PTO meeting with the Superintendent on September 30th at 6:00 PM in the Alcorn PD Conference Room.

Chairman Kruzel asked the control room to put the www.enfieldpto.com on the tv. Thank you.

Mr. Rutledge thanked everyone that came out to the annex over the past weekend regarding addiction awareness program that was held. We have some great resources available. The event was well attended.

Mr. Rutledge reminded everyone about the ERfC dinner event on the Town Green. This will be held on Saturday, October 5th as well as the Fall for Enfield Event.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated Cookie Bromage for her 52 years of coaching. This is a huge accomplishment. She has touched so many students and athletes' lives during her years of coaching. Coaches become part of your family. She is happy the field was named after her.

Mrs. LeBlanc welcomed our new student representative Syerra. She hopes we get to see you a lot.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the JFK PTO will meet on October 1st at 6:30 PM in the Library.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Enfield High School open house was amazing. She left feeling energized. Our teachers have either A or B block open for students to meet with them. She congratulated Ms. Clark and all the Deans for a great job.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated her son came home with his iPad. She likes the idea of a tech grade for students. The teachers have made it clear that they can see where the student is, and they can shut you off if needed. Students can keep an "A" by not going on their phones while in class. She thinks this is a great idea.

Mr. Ryder asked how many students does the teacher need to monitor in a class? Mrs. LeBlanc stated it would be as many students that are in the class. From what she understands, we have tight controls set.

Mr. Drezek added Mr. Bourassa has set tight controls that prohibit students for going to sites they shouldn't visit. The teachers can control them while they are in the classroom.

Chairman Kruzel stated the Miller Family Farms will hold a Pasta Dinner on September 27th at Mount Carmel from 4:30 – 8:30 PM. All proceeds will benefit of local foodbanks.

Chairman Kruzel attended the Economic Breakfast at Asnuntuck today. This was a great event that was packed full. Our students in the string quartet played music and our culinary students made breakfast that was delicious. We made Enfield proud – working with the council and highlighting what we have done. This was a great job by done by everyone.

Mr. Neville echoed Chairman Kruzel's comments about the Pasta Dinner. The Miller family is a great partner in our community.

Chairman Kruzel stated the Miller family truly supports the Enfield community.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Appoint Joint Facilities Committee Elector – Tabled on 08-27-19

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education places this item back on the table – Appoint Joint Facilities Committee Elector.

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

Chairman Kruzel opened nominations for the Joint Facilities Committee.

Chairman Kruzel moved, seconded Mrs. Riley to appoint Marie Pyzner to the Joint Facilities Committee.

Chairman Kruzel asked if there were any additional nominations? Since there were none, he asked to close nominations for the Joint Facilities Committee.

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley to close the nominations for the Joint Facilities Committee.

A vote by **show of hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously to close nominations for the Joint Facilities Committee.

Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel believes Ms. Pyzner would make a great addition to this committee. She is currently on the Economic Development Committee. She will bring this commissions knowledge to the Joint Facilities Committee.

A vote by **roll call 4-2-1** passed with Mr. Neville and Mr. Ryder abstaining and Mrs. LeBlanc in dissent.

11. NEW BUSINESS - None

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Board just heard the presentation from Ms. Middleton. We identified a problem and came up with a solution. We are looking for a trend to change and the knowledge about what is working and what doesn't work. They are doing a wonderful job for us and he commends the work the Curriculum department is doing. The next Curriculum meeting will be held on October 9th. We encourage you to attend these meetings.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Riley reported the last Finance, Budget Committee was cancelled. We will meet on October 21st.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Policy Committee cancelled their last meeting due to the weather. Based on the amount of time left for this Board, he does not feel it would be fair to the next elected Board to continue reviewing the 5000 series. We are going to cancel the October 2nd meeting. This is something the new Board will continue once committee appointments have been made. The 2019-21 Policy Committee members will continue with the 5000, 6000 and 7000 series. If something comes up, the current Policy Committee can convene an emergency meeting. It has been a pleasure being part of this committee.

Chairman Kruzel commended the 3 R's (Mr. Regnier, Mr. Rutledge and Mr. Ryder) for the work they have done reviewing our policies.

Mr. Neville commended the Policy Committee members for a wonderful job.

Mr. Regnier added it was great having Mr. Rutledge and Mr. Ryder on this committee.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported we did not meet last week due to a lack of a quorum. We have not set the next meeting date yet.

f. JFK Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported we cancelled the JFK Building Committee meeting.

g. Joint Security Committee

Mr. Rutledge stated the Joint Security Committee will meet in October.

h. Any Other Committees

Mrs. LeBlanc reported the Joint Insurance Committee will also meet in October 8th at 4:30 PM in the Enfield Room.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2019 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-1** passed with Mr. Regnier abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Kruzel reported we received a Thank You Note from Olivia Trosen, our Board Guest at the September 10th meeting. This will be sent out to the entire Board in the Superintendent Friday Update Packet.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Enfield Board of Education enter Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel, Collective Bargaining and Attorney Client Privilege.

A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** 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 Mrs. Riley to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 24, 2019.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary