

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 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 25, 2018.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, Charlotte Riley, Tina LeBlanc (arrived at 7:37 PM), Sarah Hernandez, Tim Neville, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Rutledge

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent; EHS Student Representative Daniel Golden and EHS Student Representative Matt Campo

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **EHS Career Counselors**

Mr. Drezek welcomed EHS Career Counselors Julia Barnett and Colene Ceniglio. They are here to give the Board an update about the career center at EHS.

Ms. Barnett and Ms. Ceniglio thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here tonight and to discuss the secondary career counseling program. They showed the Board slides of the activities they have held over the past two years.

Ms. Barnett and Ms. Ceniglio stated when we were charged the task of implementing an innovation career counseling program, we found out that we are a leader in supporting this kind of a program. They created the following mission statement “The secondary careers counseling program mission is to build strong relationships with students, staff and community members and to connect students with job shadowing experiences, guest speakers, career exploration trips, and other opportunities. The Career Counselors will listen to and fulfill the career related needs of the student population by being visible and receptive members of the school and surrounding community.”

Board members were given a list of program accomplishments from the past two years. They introduced EHS students Sam Cole and Scott Lundy.

Ms. Cole reviewed the job shadowing program. She was grateful for this opportunity to explore being a teacher. She now knows that she does not want to go into teaching. She will pursue a nursing career instead. When you are 15 and 16 years old, getting help with making a decision that will affect the rest of your life is so important. She recommends all students should use the career center.

Scott Lundy is a past graduate from Enfield High and is attending CT AERO Tech School for Aviation Maintenance Technician in Hartford. He loved the automotive program with Mr. Cardaropoli when he was at EHS. He was looking at going to STCC but did not want to work on cars. He went to the Career Counselors and they showed him this school where he shadowed there for a day. He loves this program and is grateful to the Career Counselors.

Ms. Barnett and Ms. Ceniglio are available to answer any questions. Ms. Ceniglio added they have received tremendous support from the building administrators. We are going to attend the National Career Pathways Leadership Conference in Kentucky and will bring back ideas from other states. The teachers at EHS have been phenomenal to work with.

Mr. Neville thanked them for coming. How do the students get to you, what is the process? Do all students get to come or do they need to make an appointment? Ms. Barnett stated any student is welcome to come to the career center. They can make an appointment and we send passes for the students to visit the career center throughout the year. We have been working with all the Seniors during September. Our goal is to give every Senior an opportunity to meet with us. All career exploration trips are announced daily for students to visit us during Eagle block and pick up permission slips for trips, sign up for our guest speaker series and resume writing workshops. Some trips are limited.

Ms. Ceniglio stated we also receive teacher referrals and will send a pass for a student to see us.

Mr. Neville asked if they work with the Guidance Department. Ms. Barnett stated they will refer students to us if they are not sure about what they would like to do after graduation. We run interest inventory groups for students. We have a medical careers panel that will be starting up on October 30th. Today, we sent out an e-mail to all staff for them to send interested students to us to attend this medical program. Other high school counselors are doing all of this. We are lucky to have the career center counselors to dive into this program with the students.

Ms. Ceniglio added we do not want to see students invest a lot of money into a career that they do not want to pursue. We want them to explore these career opportunities first to see if this is right for them.

Mr. Neville thanked them and urged them to keep up the good work.

Mrs. Riley asked when the trips, job shadowing programs and guest speakers occurs? Is this done during the day, during Eagle block or after hours? Ms. Barnett stated some are done during the school day and during Eagle block.

Ms. Ceniglio added during school hours, by class or by teacher permission.

Mrs. Riley wished she had this opportunity when she was in school. You are doing an awesome job. Thank you.

Chairman Kruzel thanked them for your program. When we were designing EHS, he remembers the space they put aside for the Career Center. He is glad it is being put to good use. Thank you.

Mr. Drezek stated they have done a tremendous amount of work in a small time. They have built this program from the ground up. This is a new initiative and have a homerun hit with this program. He thanked both Ms. Barnett and Ms. Ceniglio for their hard work.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. **Welcome Student Representatives** – as presented
- b. **Open Houses (Stowe & EHS)** – as presented
- c. **Columbus Day & Staff PD** – as presented
- d. **EHS NEAS&C Visit** – as presented
- e. **Grants Report** – as presented
- f. **Personnel Report** – as presented

Mr. Drezek stated each Board member has received a t-shirt from JFK for their 50th anniversary celebration. This celebration is a work in process and you will receive more information about this event later.

Mr. Drezek stated Shop Rite held a bag-a-thon today. He was not able to attend. They hold this event every year to help the Enfield Food Shelf. They have been great partners in the Enfield Community for many years. He extends our gratitude and thanks to the Miller Family for their kindness to the schools and Enfield Community.

8. AUDIENCES

Nimo Akua, Thistle Lane – Ms. Akua shared a note her daughter had wrote with the Board. She addressed the Board about her daughter and concerns she has.

RECESS:

Mr. Regnier moved, seconded by Mrs. Depeau that the Enfield Board of Education enter a brief recess. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0**. Board members unanimously agreed to hold a brief recess at 7:32 PM

Mrs. LeBlanc arrived at 7:37 PM.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman Kruzel stated the Board is now back in session at 7:40 PM.

9. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Neville attended a workshop on opioid addiction by Senator Chris Murphy today. It was well attended and there was standing room only. He was impressed with the comments and learned a lot about this. They will be holding more of these workshops. It was eye opening in a bad way.

Mr. Ryder stated the PTO presidents met with Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey and Board members last night. It was great having an audience there. The PTO parents appreciated you all being there. They are our greatest volunteers.

Mr. Ryder stated our PTO website enfieldpto.com up and running. Each school has their own page and it is a great way for parents to see calendars and events happening at your child's school. He appreciates you visiting this site.

Mr. Ryder added there are many ways you can help your schools raise money by signing up at ShopRite, Stop & Shop, Box Tops, Price Chopper, Coca-Cola, Amazon and many more. Schools can receive money just by you patronizing these places. Every little bit adds up and means a lot to each school.

Mr. Ryder stated volunteering at the schools is appreciated. Go to your child's school and volunteer. You can read to the students. It means a lot to the students.

Mr. Ryder wished his parents a happy anniversary. He is involved because his parents were involved when he was in school.

Chairman Kruzel stated the PTO website again – it is enfieldpto.com. He thanked Mr. Ryder for this website. It is awesome and urged everyone to please check it out.

Mrs. Depeau asked if there are instructions on the PTO website for parents about the ways to signup for their child's school to receive school cash?

Mr. Ryder stated each school has their own school code. He needs all the school codes to update each site. He will follow-up with the PTO presidents and will make sure all the site links are available on each school PTO page.

Mr. Regnier welcomed Dan to the Board meeting and welcomed back Matt.

Mr. Regnier stated Family Day was a great event and was well attended. The Enfield Teacher Association was there with books for everyone. The PTO's were selling t-shirts and swag materials. JFK was selling cotton candy. There was a sink tank. It was great to see the community come together for this event.

Mr. Regnier also attended the opioid discussion. He thanked Mr. Drezek for his comments. This epidemic affects the entire family, not just the individuals.

Mr. Regnier stated Hazardville Memorial will hold a welcome back picnic on September 27th at 6:00 PM. Bring your own food. The PTO will provide the music and ice cream. The Halloween Party will be held on October 18th. There are many great events that are listed on the enfieldpto.com website.

Mr. Regnier thanked JFK for the t-shirt. He also thanked Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey for today.

Mrs. Depeau stated ERfC will hold a Fall for Enfield Event on October 6th. This event is very similar to Family Day. It will be held on the Town Green from 10-4 PM.

Mrs. Depeau stated the Enfield Street PTO meeting will be held on October 11th at 5:30 PM. All PTO meeting dates can be found on enfieldpto.com website. Enfield Street will hold their Boo Bash celebration on October 19th.

Mrs. Depeau thanked Akua for her bravery and for speaking to us tonight.

Mrs. Riley congratulated Mr. Ryder for the amazing job he did with the enfieldpto.com website. Everything you need can be found here on this website. There are lunch menus, PTO meetings and links to many different things. Teacher contact information and sports information can also be found here.

Mrs. Riley stated Henry Barnard held their open house last week. The kids participated in the scavenger hunt with their parents and it was a lot of fun.

Mrs. Riley also thanked the audience member for speaking tonight. She has said this before, she is looking for a joint committee to improve our relationship within our community regarding how we act and that your actions and words can offend others. Going on the open forum upsets her by what people are saying. We need to be kind and respectful to each other and make our community better. She knows this is something we can do, and Enfield is better than this.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the enfieldpto.com website is now promoting Safe Grad events. We will be holding the EHS Safe Grad at Sonny's Place. We will be holding an event at Red Robbin on September 26th from 5-8 PM. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Enfield Safe Grad. We will hold the Safe Grad Auction on December 1st at the Elks.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the EHS Football Game on Friday, September 21st and the band did a great job. She loved the half-time show. It is great to see everyone attending these events. The football team lost but they played another great game. They have won 2 games. It has been a long time since we have had a winning football team.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated Enfield High will hold their open house on September 27th at 6:30 PM. She enjoys going and meeting the teachers. She thanked Tracy Garrity for all her help with PowerSchool. She is such a rock star.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that she was also asked by a teacher to participate in the first day of school book. She loves shopping for books for grade 3 students and thanked Mrs. Tarbox for asking her. She liked leaving a note in the book for the student.

Mrs. LeBlanc attended the Hall Champions grand opening. It was great to see all the banners. She recognized some of the names from when she was in school. There were some bumps in the road and everything is moving along nicely.

Mrs. Hernandez thanked Akua for speaking tonight and being so brave. We need to do a better job of fostering civility. Kindness is always an option.

Mrs. Hernandez stated we do many things well in Enfield, and there are some things we can do better. The school, teachers and administration are always looking to make things better and build that sense of community. Kindness is always a choice to be kind. We can learn from our children. Children listen to what we are saying and doing. She has gone on the forum and is also surprised by what she sees. She does not want to hear "kids these days". It is "adults these days". We need to work on what we are saying and doing. She wants to hear from you, what makes you special and what makes you, you. The simple things that we do are what makes this town and community great.

Chairman Kruzel asked about school grants for out-of-town students. There was a question at a Town Council meeting that if we accept the grant for JFK, we would also be accepting more students from out-of-town.

Mr. Drezek stated they are separate entities. The building project and school choice program are two different things. The Board sets the amount of choice students we will accept. Chairman Kruzel added that school construction has nothing to do with the number of choice students we will accept. He wanted to clarify that with the public.

Mr. Ryder stated the high school has air conditioning. When we call an early release because it was too warm was because the other schools are not air conditioned.

Mr. Drezek explained the 4-tier bus schedule. Making decisions for delays is also run on a 4-tier bus schedule. It was said that we did this for JFK for the boiler issue. We had enough time to plan for this. It worked for JFK because they are in the middle of the bus tier.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the buses are not air conditioned. Mr. Drezek added you also need to take into consideration afterschool activities. We make the decision for early dismissals for heat as well as for snow.

Mr. Ryder stated there was misconceptions about the JFK grants and early dismissals. It is good to get this correct information out to the public.

Chairman Kruzel stated Facebook was designed to share pictures and to connect with family from around the United States. This is how he got connected with Facebook. It is now a cesspool and is out of control. Many comments and forums are off the rails. It is not just Facebook, this is also happening with newspapers. No one is fact checking anymore. Just because it is posted, it does not mean it is real. Enfield is better than this. He urged everyone to communicate if you have a problem, don't post your problems. Let's try to clean this up.

Mrs. Depeau urged parents to talk to your kids. We know you are busy. Our children do not realize we are here for them and they are suffering. She also forgets to ask her kids how their day was. You need to listen to your children. You don't know what you don't know. Advocate for your children if you need to.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS - None

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported that we met on Thursday, September 13th and it was a great meeting. Ms. Middleton was unable discuss the student assessment scores due to the delay receiving them from the State and with the problems with some of the assessment scores. We will discuss this at our next meeting.

Mr. Neville added we were presented the K-12 Math Vision and how we are evolving by Mr. LaMesa and Dr. Wiley. They attended a workshop in Chicago and brought back what they learned. They presented a video and we would like them to present this at an upcoming Board meeting in February or March.

Mr. Neville stated our next Curriculum meeting will be held on October 22nd.

Mr. Neville added errors were with the grade 8 student smarter balanced assessment reports that were sent to the grade 9 parents. They will be coming out in a bit.

Mr. Drezek stated the K-12 math vision will be presented to every secondary math teacher. The administration saw this presentation from Mr. LaMesa and Dr. Wiley. We try to limit the times teachers are being pulled from their classrooms. We will present this presentation to the elementary teachers and it will require substitute coverage. You may receive some calls about this. Thank you for your enthusiasm about math.

Mrs. Depeau stated we can also share this presentation with parents on the enfieldpto.com website. It is great to have parents and community members buy into this. Mr. Neville also agrees with this idea.

Mr. Drezek added that is part of this, having parents buy into this at a parent information night is something Mr. LaMesa also wants to do.

Mrs. Hernandez added that Mrs. Depeau is great with math. The presentation opened my eyes and perception to math. Math is a language that needs to be learned. She almost likes math now.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Riley reported the Finance, Budget Committee will meet on October 15th.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Policy Committee meet on October 2nd and will continue reviewing the 3000 Policy Series. Board members have received table of content pages for the policies that have been approved.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported they are working on the permits for the Barnard roof project.

Mr. Neville added weather permitting they will work on the Barnard roof on weekends. Columbus Day weekend will allow them 4 days to work on the Barnard roof. We are hoping this will be done by the end of October. We have made good progress on this. We are looking at the roofs first at all our buildings. This is a huge discussion for all the 33 town owned facilities. We have some big financial decisions that will need to be made.

Chairman Kruzel added maintenance will only go so far with our roofs. The cost of maintenance is also increasing. We will meet next Thursday,

f. Any Other Committees

Chairman Kruzel reported we have an Insurance Committee meeting coming up. Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Insurance Committee meeting will be held on October 2nd at 4:30 PM.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2018 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** 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

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 25, 2018.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary