

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 8, 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 October 8, 2019.

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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sarah Hernandez & Chris Rutledge

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

Chairman Kruzel stated that Mr. Rutledge had a previous commitment this evening and is unable to attend tonight's meeting.

**6. BOARD GUEST(S)**

**a. Lori Gates**

Chairman Kruzel welcomed Lori Gates to tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Gates thanked the Board for their support. This year's Wreaths Across America theme is "Everyone Plays a Part". Over 1,600 ceremonies are held across the United States and Canada at the same time. We rely on public donations. St. Patrick's cemetery has over 1,500 veterans buried there. We will hold this year's ceremony on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at noon. It is our honor to remember and respect every veteran.

Mrs. Gates stated laying the wreaths is a heartfelt task. We encourage people to attend this ceremony and when you lay the wreath down, say the veteran's name. You will have a personal connection with this person. Wreaths can be donated all year long for \$15. This can be found on the website – [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org).

Mrs. Gates stated the convoy has been coming to Enfield since 2011. They have been here 5 times before and they will back again this year. This is because Enfield has made such a huge impression on them. They will visit Edgar H. Parkman School on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. She will keep us posted with the timeline for the convoy's trip through Enfield to Parkman. Enfield comes together when it matters, and she is so proud to be part of this town. Thank you everyone that has supported this program.

Mr. Neville thanked Mrs. Gates for the work she does being part of this great event. Enfield oozes patriotism. Mrs. Gates stated this is a great opportunity. She received a text last week about this.

Mr. Ryder thanked her for doing this. He asked if the route the convoy will travel will take them directly to Parkman or will they try to go by all the schools. Mrs. Gates has not received the route information yet. She will ask them to go by all the schools again.

Mrs. Gates stated there is a part for fundraising for the PTO's to get involved. By registering each PTO organization, they can receive \$5 from the \$15 wreath purchase. This is a win-win for everyone.

Mr. Ryder stated we can discuss this further. He will post this information on the Enfieldpto.com website. He would like to have this up and running by next week.

Mrs. Riley thanked Mrs. Gates for doing such a phenomenal job for our veteran's. She encourages everyone listening to this out in TV-land to join us by standing by the side of the road and witness the convoy going by once we know the route they will be taking. First Readers will sign up for wreaths.

Mrs. Gates stated the deadline for purchasing wreaths is before Thanksgiving.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mrs. Gates for her patriotism. She thanked everyone for what they are doing in this community.

Chairman Kruzel asked her to get us the information and we will spread the word. Mrs. Gates extended kudos to everyone involved with Wreaths Across America. Our website is [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) or you can contact me.

#### **b. Teacher Evaluation Presentation**

Mr. Drezek welcomed JFK Assistant Principal Sarah Horan and EHS Social Studies Teacher Gray Wanzer.

Mrs. Horan stated they are co-chairs for the Teacher Evaluation Committee. She reviewed the process for meeting the needs of our students using best practices. The committee met several times during 2018-19 revising our current Educator Evaluation Manual. We looked at our rubrics for our specialists (Social Workers, Psychologists and Speech/Language Pathologists). We presented this to the State, and they did not have any questions on our changes which never happens.

Mr. Wanzer reviewed the changes they made with the rubrics for the Social Workers, Psychologists and Speech and Language Pathologists. The State did not have any questions or amendments to our changes. These changes require the Board's approval. Our teachers will be meeting with their evaluators very soon.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the committee did a great job evolving an all-inclusive plan. Teachers have many different roles. You are getting the best out of everyone. She appreciates all the work the committee has put into this plan besides doing your day job. Thank you – nice job.

Mr. Neville also thanked them. He applauds your efforts. He knows this is not an easy task. This plan looks right. Keep up the good work.

Mrs. Riley likes how this plan incorporates family and the community. This plan will impact the child the most. You did an awesome job. Thank you.

Chairman Kruzel stated the consensus is you did a great job and we will approve this, so you do not need to hang around.

Mrs. Horan and Mr. Wanzer thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Ryder would like to receive this electronically. Mrs. Zalucki will send it to the Board.

Mr. Regnier stated he found a typo on the Social Worker Domain #1 for performance levels 2 and 1 – the word “School” was left off “Social Worker”. It is listed in other places as School Social Worker. Mrs. Horan thanked him for that correction.

Chairman Kruzel wished them a good night.

**c. JFK Building Committee**

Chairman Kruzel welcomed the JFK Building Committee Chair Randy Daigle and committee members.

Mr. Daigle stated we would not be here if it wasn't for the JFK Pre-Ref Committee. We passed the referendum in November and hit the ground running the next day. He has been lucky to chair each of the projects in Enfield. We hired JCJ Architects and an owners representative Chris Cykley from CSG Consultants. We have also hired a construction manager at risk. Throughout the project, they have reviewed the project and the costs. We are ahead of schedule and are within budget. We have received input about this project from all kinds of stakeholders.

Mr. Jim Hoagland, JCJ Architects stated we spoke to everyone in the JFK building and wanted to know what worked and what wasn't working well. We also consulted with our people and came up with the design for the building. He thanked everyone involved with this team effort.

Mr. Hoagland reviewed the existing site plan. We addressed safety concerns with buses and vehicles entering and existing the school. We will also add additional parking spaces. We will have a loop off the parent loop for special vans. We will rework the athletic fields, so they run north/south. The basketball courts will be moved closer to the athletic fields. We will regrade the athletic fields and will have handicap accessibility ramp to the fields.

Mr. Hoagland reviewed the existing overall floor plans, the proposed first floor plan and the proposed second floor plan. You will truly now have a main office with a departmentalized structure. We will keep the 4 teams for each grade level plus support spaces. The principals will be located at the center of the hub instead of being in the wing. Students will pass by them. This will increase awareness and should improve student behaviors. Security was a key component when we looked at the redesign.

Mr. Daigle added that the public will no longer be able to walk through the school. We have isolated the entrance. Parents will need to wait for their child in the main office.

Mr. Hoagland reviewed the proposed classroom wing plan, the new main office plan, the proposed center hub plan, the proposed public spaces plan, the new auditorium/public lobby, the new hub area and a view of the science and technology classroom, the new hub area and a view of the robotics class room, a typical classroom, a typical science room, exterior materials, and new public entry views.

Mr. Daigle added the school will be 100% air-conditioned. The basketball court will be moved closer to the athletic fields. The sidewalks to the athletic fields will be ADA compliant. The basketball court will have lights. The fields will have security lights. There will not be any sprinklers added to the fields.

Mr. Daigle stated JCJ was involved with the school redesign for Sandy Hook. They know what is needed for schools. We do not discuss our safety plans publicly. We have discussed the security measures with the appropriate staff.

Mr. Cykley stated CSG looked at the educational specifications and met with staff and JCJ came up with this design. We know what the needs are for this project. The office of school construction is also involved with this project. This project is 70.71% reimbursable. It is critical that the office of school construction is involved throughout this project. The PCB removal is included in the costs. We also tested the soil and we do not need to remove as much as was previously expected which is a cost savings.

Mr. Cykley reviewed the cost summary for this project. The reconciled estimate is \$72,500,00; the FF&E soft costs and contingency is \$11,873,294; and the overall cost of the project is \$84,373,294.

Mr. Kellogg thanked the Board for selecting JCJ. We will meet with P&Z. We have met with the Office of School Construction. He reviewed the staging for the project. We will minimize the impact to the educational learning during the construction. Phase I will start in April 2020 – August 2020. During Phase II, we will start with the auditorium, café and technology wing. Phase III, we will start with the administration wing. All the portable classrooms will be gone at the end of the project.

Mr. Daigle stated the bids at the high school did not include IT costs with the FF&E. The contingency fund for the JFK project is just for that – to finish the building. All the costs have been included in the total cost \$84,373,292.

Mrs. LeBlanc welcomed them back. She worked with Mr. Daigle for the EHS Pre-Ref Committee. She has always supported renovating JFK. She also attended JFK. Both her and Mr. Regnier sat in the red, white and blue seats in the auditorium. She appreciates the thoughtfulness with the swing spaces. Her children lived through the EHS renovation. The construction bothers the parents more than the students. The students ate in the cafeterium. The JFK fields is a hot button item and she is glad that they will be addressed. She is glad that you will now know where the main office is. Separating the public space is important. JFK is used by the community and this is important. Having air conditioning at JFK is important. She likes that there will be lights for the Basketball outside courts. Many kids use these courts. She understands about the security. The temporary classrooms should not impact the educational learning for the students. Renovating wing by wing will be the least disruptive process.

Mrs. LeBlanc added this is a huge relief that this project is moving forward. You are all doing a great job and she appreciates your thoughtfulness. She is so excited for the teachers, students and families in Enfield. We have great leadership with this project, and she can't wait till see what will come. Thank you.

Mr. Kellogg added the swing space between the classrooms will be secure areas. The contractors will not be walking around the building. The students will never be in the same area as the construction workers. The main entrances will be identifiable.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the 18,610 square footage being renovated. What is the reimbursement for this? Mr. Cykley stated the entire project is Renovate to New. This project also includes the auditorium.

Chairman Kruzal added this is a change from the start of this. Mr. Cykley added the state changed their minds on this. The entire project is now reimbursable.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the pool was also a hot button and this would not be eligible for reimbursement. We have the pool at Fermi to use.

Mr. Daigle stated the pool was not reimbursable because it was not part of the education. It is a recreational aspect. We would have needed to spend a lot of money that would have fallen directly on the taxpayers to renovate the pool.

Mrs. Riley thanked them for the great presentation. She asked about the PCB testing and will the construction company be responsible for the testing and reporting results to the EPA? Mr. Cykley stated the abatement work will start in June 2020. The EPA reporting will now be done by the construction company and they will handle all of this.

Mr. Daigle added the benefit of having the construction company handling this, is this is all reimbursable by the State. Anything contaminated will be abated and will be reimbursable. By us assuming this, we are saving money.

Mrs. Riley asked about going solar for learning purposes. Mr. Daigle stated this might be considered. We are looking at outside classrooms and cafeteria space. We are still working on the mechanicals for the building and we will put as much as we can on the roof. We are not sure what space will be available for solar panels. We will look into solar and green space at some point. Geothermal is not feasible at this time.

Chairman Kruzel added we will be doing away with the loop around the building.

Mr. Regnier stated we will be installing new boilers. Mr. Daigle stated that is correct.

Mr. Regnier stated the lockers will also be replaced. Mr. Daigle stated that is also correct.

Mr. Regnier stated we will be losing the tennis courts. Mr. Daigle stated that is correct.

Mr. Regnier asked about sports during this year at JFK. Mr. Daigle stated students will be bussed for practices and games and bussed to alternate fields to use.

Mr. Regnier asked about the auditorium space and will there be space on the ends to exit the auditorium. At the high school you can only exit one way. Mr. Daigle stated there will be space on both sides to exit. There will be egress on both sides. The high school code was different.

Mr. Neville thanked them for the presentation – job well done job. He is impressed with all the changes. Security has always been a concern. You have resolved this problem. He is glad the abatement work has been addressed. You addressed the traffic patterns and parent pickup area. The ambulance entrance is a great plan. The extra hallway will help with students getting to the gymnasium. Having an ambulance and handicap entrance to the fields is a great idea. He likes how you listened to the staff and considered their needs and curriculum needs. Kudos to everyone involved.

Mr. Ryder is extremely excited this project is moving forward. He also supported the referendum. The building will be completed by August 31, 2022. Mr. Daigle stated we will be working on final punch list items.

Mr. Ryder stated current grade 3 students will have a new middle school and a newer high school to attend. How great is this! He is very excited about this for our students.

Mr. Ryder has seen JCJ at JFK. Will the presentation be made public and will be available on the town website. Mr. Daigle stated it will be made public. It is also on our Facebook page. We will also hold a public presentation at EHS. He will let you know the date once it is finalized.

Mr. Ryder asked if there will be a PTO closet and spirit wear store? Mr. Daigle stated we will have a concession stand with a bathroom at JFK.

Mr. Ryder stated the student experience is so important. This is what our students will remember. He wants to keep the lines of communication open. The end results will be worth it. Timelines are very important to the families, students and staff. Thank you.

Mr. Daigle stated we are trying to give them experiences where they can learn. We want them to want to go to school and to be excited. We believe students will want to be in these spaces. Communication and day-to-day contact will be made with the principal. We knew at the high school when tests were going to be given. We looked at schedules in two-week intervals. There will be total transparency throughout the entire project. The team and committee are all about transparency. We waited to have our public presentations until we had all the facts. We have the backup to go along with this plan. The state is happy with our plan. Open communication is exactly what we are going to do.

Chairman Kruzel added they are always meeting. They will do the same process they did at the high school. We love the design for JFK. We will no longer have a courtyard that you can't access. Thank you for all your hard work. We have the A-Team on this project. Committee members received a round of applause.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives – as presented
- b. Meet the Candidates Night – as presented
- c. Jack-O-Lantern Festival - Cancelled – as presented

Mr. Drezek reported that he held his first meeting with the superintendent's advisory committee today. That was the first question he asked about regarding the iPad rollout. He thanked everyone involved with this. We did have technical issues with PowerSchool and some Microsoft issues but this is being addressed.

## **8. AUDIENCES - None**

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Regnier stated Hazardville Memorial will hold their fall sports day on October 18<sup>th</sup> along with Eli Whitney. Students can wear any kind of sports attire to school on that day. Memorial's picture day will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. They will also hold a Halloween and Book Fair on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Riley stated we held a First Readers booth on the Town Green for the Fall for Enfield Event. We had a sight word game for the students and offered options for parents for helping their children learning their sight words. It was a lot of fun. We are looking for volunteers to help us with the kids for our First Readers Ceremony on November 4<sup>th</sup>. We are also looking for a volunteer to take photographs of the First Readers.

Mrs. Riley stated the Barnard PTO committee is moving along nicely. The book fair is being held this week. We will hold an ice cream social on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Mrs. Riley asked about if certain high school classes want to use a certain app on the iPads and they have not been loaded yet. Does the teacher need to request this?

Mr. Drezek stated we discussed this at the Superintendent's Advisory Committee today. There have been a few hiccups with the apps with licensing for a specific number. This is being addressed currently.

Mr. Ryder stated the Eli Whitney and Hazardville Memorial Fall Sports Day will be held on October on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The UConn Football Game will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup> at noon. You can purchase tickets on our website [www.enfieldpto.com/eliwhitney](http://www.enfieldpto.com/eliwhitney). The reading department held an author visit for students on October 7<sup>th</sup> with Brandon Mull. He also held a book signing at Barnes & Noble.

Mr. Ryder thanked our teachers for a smooth start to the new year. We have a great group of administrators and a great new principal at Eli Whitney and at JFK. If you have any questions or problems, please start with your building principal. He appreciates everything they are doing.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mr. Regnier, Mrs. Depeau and Mrs. Hernandez for all their hard work as Board members. He hopes to see you in the schools and urged them to not be strangers.

Mr. Neville echoed Mr. Ryder's comments about our Board members that are not returning. He thanked them for their time and committee work. This is the volunteer work we all signed up for. He encourages everyone to get involved. What we are doing is important. Thank you, Rich.

Mr. Neville thanked Lori Gates for everything she is doing for our Veteran's and our community. We have a great patriotic town. This would not happen without people like Mrs. Gates. You are one of our unsung heroes in our town.

Mr. Neville attended the dinner on the Town Green. This was a great community experience. It was a lot of fun and a great event.

Mrs. LeBlanc expressed her deepest sympathy to the Mazzone family for their recent loss. Coach and Mrs. Mazzone have a large presence in our town and community. She just wanted to let them know we are thinking of them during this difficult time.

Mrs. LeBlanc expressed her concerns regarding the Youth Vote Debate. She feels we should hold the debate. She feels politics played an important part with this decision. We missed a perfect opportunity for our students to learn about when parties fracture and for our students to come up with a new format for the debate. She does not support the decision not to hold a debate. The debate is about the students and not the adults.

Chairman Kruzel stated we have 3 Board members that will be leaving us. He agrees with what Mr. Ryder and Mr. Neville said. We have one more meeting before we pat you on the back and send you on your way.

Chairman Kruzel stated he also attended the KITE annual meeting where the Early Childhood Commissioner spoke. The meeting was well attended. KITE does a great job for our town. Having KITE at the Stowe Early Learning Center is a perfect opportunity for them to be involved with the Enfield Public Schools. He thanked the town for making this all happen.

Chairman Kruzel also expressed his condolences to the Mazzone family.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Approve 2020 Regular Board of Education Meeting Dates**

Mr. Drezek reviewed the options for the 2020 Regular Board of Education Meeting Dates and the conflict with the Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Mr. Ryder stated Option #2 will allow the Board meeting to be viewed on E-TV. He supports option #2 and meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday during September.

Board members agreed that Option #2 would be best.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education suspends Board

Policy #9321 to schedule Board meetings for the Third and Fifth Tuesday in September 2020.

A vote by **roll call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education approves Option #2 for the 2020 Regular Board of Education Meeting Dates.

A vote by **roll call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

**b. Approve Teacher Evaluation Program Changes**

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

A vote by **show of hands 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

**c. Action if any, Regarding Approving the ESAA Contract**

Chairman Kruzel stated this item will be addressed after Item #16.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Riley reported the Finance Committee will meet on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

c. Policy Committee - None

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported we will meet on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

f. JFK Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the JFK Building Committee will also meet on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

g. Joint Security Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Security Committee met last week.

Mr. Ryder added the Joint Security Committee will meet again after the election takes place.

h. Any Other Committees

Mrs. LeBlanc reported the Joint Insurance Committee met today. We met with the actuary. We will meet again in March 2020.



**13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2019 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION - None**

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**11c. Action if any, Regarding Approving the ESAA Contract**

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Regnier that the Enfield Board of Education approves the ESAA Contract as presented.

A vote by **roll call 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mr. Neville to adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 8, 2019.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary