

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 9, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on January 9, 2024.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairwoman Riley.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Janet Cushman
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Janet Cushman
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Peter Jonaitis, Philip Kober, Tina LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett and Charlotte Riley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Scott Ryder

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent; Student Representatives Kayla Surprenant and Alicia Lizzotte

Chairwoman Riley stated due to the weather and traveling distances, we asked our Board guests and student representatives not to come to tonight's meeting.

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**
  - a. **Accountability Update** – This item will be addressed at an upcoming Board meeting.
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
  - a. **Student Representative Update** – This item will be addressed at the next Board meeting.
  - b. **MLK Day - NS** – as presented
  - c. **EPS Update** – This item will be addressed at the next Board meeting.
8. **AUDIENCES**

Chairwoman Riley read a prepared statement regarding audience participation. We will allow 4 minutes for each audience member to speak.

Christine Tetreault, Green Manor Road – Mrs. Tetreault spoke about the Town Council meeting held last night and the proposed flag resolution. She would like to know what does this mean for our schools? How far does this resolution go? Will this impact student clothing or bringing a flag to school? Thank you.

9. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Dr. Calnen provided the Board an update about KITE, the McKinney Vento Act & homelessness, ECDC, Enfield Family Resource Center, Sparkler program, and added PLA is accepting applications for their next class that starts on February 3, 2024.

Dr. Calnen added that Hazardville Memorial is partnering with KITE through playful observations in the classroom. First Readers will hold a Trivia Night fundraiser event on February 24<sup>th</sup>. He also spoke about the Rocking Chair Readers, the KITE Policy meeting that was held on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and two EHS parents that attended the Parent and Family Engagement Conference that was held in New Orleans in December.

Mrs. Pickett spoke about a safety issue at Enfield High School concerning the need for a traffic light on Enfield Street. This is something Mr. Kruzel has mentioned. She would like this item to be addressed at the next safety committee meeting. She has shared information from the Department of Public Safety and Transportation. She would like to see our signage addressed quickly.

Mrs. Pickett stated budget season is upon us and she would like to see our MOU with the EPD reviewed for our SRO's.

Mrs. Pickett also has some concerns about the new resolution that was passed by the Town Council. She believes there will be some additional guidance or legal opinions that will be forthcoming. This is a safe place, and we have a clear mission of the Board and is hopeful everyone will be supported.

Mrs. Pickett encourages parents to look at your school newsletters and support upcoming school fundraiser events. She thanked our area business that partner with our schools.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Lori Gates for arranging for her to ride in one of the Wreaths Across America truck. This was very heartwarming. She had the opportunity to talk with a great Veteran who was so moved by the convoy and our celebration. He was driving the truck that was going to Shanksville, PA. Our veterans are so humbled.

Mrs. LeBlanc also attended the Friends of Rachel pancake breakfast. This was such a great well attended event. We have so many talented students that were showcased at this event. Thank you to everyone that helped to organize this.

Mrs. LeBlanc addressed Mrs. Tetreault and stated that we will look into this. There was a legal opinion done about the use of our buildings or having people on our property during the day. They were thinking about allowing people to use the track during the day while school was in session. We discussed safety concerns and received a legal opinion. This is a gray area.

Mrs. LeBlanc extended her sympathy and condolences to the families in Somers regarding the tragic house fire. She cannot even fathom what you are all going through.

Mr. Kober echoed Mrs. Leblanc's comments about the Somers fire. He also recognizes those affected in Somers Public Schools and community for your loss.

Mr. Kober spoke about an e-mail several Board members received about Enfield athletic coach. This has been referred to the Superintendent. This is also something that we cannot comment on.

Mr. Kober asked about his request for information he sent to the Superintendent's Office a month ago. He would like an update on this. Thank you.

Mrs. Acree provided the Board with an update about events and happenings at Prudence Crandall school. They will be collecting gently used shoes.

Mrs. Acree addressed Mr. Zanoni who sent her an e-mail. This item will be discussed at the next Curriculum meeting.

Mrs. Cushman encouraged everyone to attend the Internet Safety event being held at JFK in the auditorium on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM. There are also many other events being held at the schools for literacy and numeracy nights so please mark your calendars.

Mr. Jonaitis thanked Senator Kissel and Representative Hall for attending the Town Council meeting and for discussing funding held last night. He also commended each Town Council member for their robust discussions. They shared their feelings, beliefs and opinions to the public who deserves to be informed.

Mr. Jonaitis added the Town Council passed a policy regarding flags. It was asked if the flag policy pertains to schools, but it was not addressed. They also discussed time limits for discussions and who can speak at meetings.

Mr. Jonaitis stated the number of Enfield registered voters that voted during the November election was also discussed. Only 29% of registered voters voted and 71% didn't. This bothered him. Most people that will talk at our meetings are not happy about something. We also need to remember we are not a wealthy community. We have seen some of the nice things other towns have. We can only spend what we can afford but we can still dream.

Chairwoman Riley provided the Board an update about an upcoming Buzz robotics. They have had a busy start by fundraising, learning about safety and building the robot. They will be collecting bottles at the Annex and will hold a pasta supper sometime in March.

Chairwoman Riley added Hazardville Memorial will hold their PTO meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> virtually. She also provided upcoming fundraising events for Memorial. She attended their Deck the Halls event in December, and the school was vibrantly decorated. She was blown away when she walked into the school. Then she found out the Kindergarten students are in a pilot program about learning to play. This really works because she has seen this with her own children. Our teachers that are part of this program are now showing other teachers how this program works in other districts across the state. This is amazing. She congratulated Hazardville Memorial, for everything they are doing this right!

Mrs. Pickett added progress reports will be coming out digitally on January 19<sup>th</sup>. She also stopped by Hazardville Memorial, and it was truly amazing as well as Stowe.

Chairwoman Riley reminded parents to check your spam folders.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

Mrs. Cushman reviewed the proposed policy recommendations for Policy #6146 Graduation Requirements.

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc, that the Enfield Board of Education approves the recommended changes for Policy #6146 Graduation Requirements for a First Reading.

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Pickett added the Curriculum Committee has discussed this policy and the recommended changes. The changes have come from the legislation.

Mr. Longey added that personal finances is something that has been added to this policy. This is something that is important to teach our kids. This is an elective class for our students. Also the required amount of credits per graduating class is also included in the policy. This is a great policy.

A vote by **roll-call – 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. Cushman reviewed the recommended changes to Policy #6159 Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program (IEP).

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the recommended changes for Policy #6159 Individualized Education Program/Special Education Program (IEP) for a First Reading.

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Pickett added this policy is important for our special education students that are protected by Federal guidelines. She would like to know how our district will support this process and student rights in our district with family engagement. Maybe this could be an upcoming presentation about what we are doing for our families. She supports the recommended changes.

Chairwoman Riley stated there is a misspelling in the first new section that needs to be corrected.

A vote by **roll-call – 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the recommended changes for Policy #6162.51 Surveys of Students (Student Privacy) for a First Reading.

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Cushman stated we discussed removing the portion that addressed invasive physical examination. This section caused a lot of concern and confusion. The Policy Committee decided to create a new policy that would just address the section regarding physical examinations. The new policy would not be included in our student handbooks.

Mrs. LeBlanc agreed that this policy needed to be reviewed. We are required to include this information in a policy because it is Federally required. She appreciates the work of the Policy Committee presenting a new policy that specifically addresses what is Federally required.

Mr. Jonaitis stated this is required Federally? Mrs. LeBlanc stated that is correct and we need to use this exact wording. This is not something that happens here. This happens in more rural areas where students do not have access to physicians or local hospitals. This is a Federal United States policy. There are school districts that actually need to do this.

Mr. Jonaitis added we do not need to do this. Both Mrs. LeBlanc and Chairwoman Riley added this is a policy we need to have, but it does not happen in Enfield.

Mr. Jonaitis stated we are not asking for political affiliation, religious beliefs and all that stuff.

Mr. Longey stated he believes the confusion is we split one policy into two policies. The motion on the table is for Policy #6162.51 Surveys of Students (Student Privacy). The invasive piece we will address next. This policy addresses student surveys.

Mrs. Pickett added we will address Policy #6162.52 Surveys of Students (Physical Examinations) next.

Mrs. LeBlanc did not mean to cause any confusion. She was just happy you created another policy that addressed this.

Mrs. Cushman stated that was a good explanation of why this was first included in the policy and why this is being mandated.

Mr. Kober added this revision goes hand-in-hand with the new policy we created Policy #6162.51 Surveys of Students (Student Privacy). He just wants to inform the public this was first included in one policy.

A vote by **roll-call – 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. Cushman reviewed the proposed new Policy #6162.52 Surveys of Students (Physical Examinations)

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves new Policy #6162.52 Surveys of Students (Physical Examinations) for a First Reading.

### **Discussion:**

Mr. Jonaitis asked for them to explain the difference between the two policies #6162.51 and #6162.52? What is the Federal Government telling us to do?

Mrs. LeBlanc stated in Policy #6162.52 we need to include the wording about invasive physical examinations.

Chairwoman Riley added we removed the wording invasive physical examinations out of Policy #6162.51. Policy #6152.51 will go home with students. Policy #6152.52 will not go home with students, but we are required legally to have a policy about invasive physical examinations. So now we have two policies that will not cause confusion or concern. We have access to physicians and medical professionals and do not live in a rural community.

Mrs. Pickett asked about the two forms that go along with this policy. Mr. Longey stated Form #2 will not be included with this policy. We will remove Form #2.

A vote by **roll-call – 7-1-0** passed with Mr. Jonaitis in dissent.

## **12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Curriculum Committee: Mrs. Acree reported the Curriculum Committee met on December 20<sup>th</sup> and we reviewed the Program of Studies revisions. Our next meeting will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Pickett would also like to see a presentation about our program of studies. This can be found online but it would be nice to see this as a brief presentation. Our district has created a lot of pathway and college connections work for our students. This would be an opportunity for us to highlight all our efforts since we consolidated the two high schools.

Finance Committee: Mr. Kober reported the Finance Committee cancelled our January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will meet on January 17<sup>th</sup> for a special meeting.

Policy Committee: Mrs. Cushman reported the Policy Committee will meet on January 16<sup>th</sup>. The first and second readings for the policies discussed tonight can be found online under the heading of BOE, BOE Policies and click on the link for Items for Revisions – Public Comment.

Leadership – Chairwoman Riley reported Board Leadership met on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and discussed the budget. We will schedule another Board Leadership meeting.

PK-5 School Modernization Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported they will hold their final

meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> at JFK.

Joint Facility – Chairwoman Riley reported they cancelled their last meeting. They will meet next on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

JFK Building Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported she is not sure when the JFK Building Committee will meet next.

Joint Security Committee – Chairwoman Riley reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The questions and concerns mentioned by Mrs. Pickett will be discussed at this meeting. Mr. Kober has also expressed concerns.

Enfield Mental Health Committee – Mrs. Acree reported that both she and Dr. Calnen met with Mr. Longey. Our first step will be to send out a survey to the principals. We will start with the primary schools first, then the intermediate and secondary schools. We will review the data from the surveys and use this for our talking points when we meet with each principal group to address the needs of our district. Dr. Calnen and Mrs. Acree also met with KITE representatives to address collaboration opportunities with them.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mrs. LeBlanc was unable to attend the last meeting and does not have any Enfield Cultural Arts updates at this time. As soon as she receives meeting dates, she will add them to her calendar.

Mr. Jonaitis would like to know if Ms. Middleton has addressed his questions regarding modified classes?

Mr. Longey stated he believes this item will be placed on the next Curriculum Committee meeting agenda. Members of the Curriculum Committee agreed with what Mr. Longey stated.

Mrs. Pickett asked if they have created a survey, or will you use a tool? She thanked them for the work they are doing on this committee.

Mrs. Acree stated we will develop a survey.

### **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2023, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

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

**15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION** - None

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

### **17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kober moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 9 2024.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Scott Ryder  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary