

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Time-Place:

**Council Chambers
820 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT**

Date: 04-25-23

7:00 PM Regular Meeting

<https://youtube.com/live/hXfAP9d0zuM>

1. **Call to Order – 7:00 PM**
2. **Moment of Silence – Gerald Calnen**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance – Gerald Calnen**
4. **Fire Evacuation Announcement**
5. **Roll Call**
6. **Board Guest(s)**
7. **Superintendent's Report**
 - a. **Student Representative Update**
 - b. **Early Release Day**
 - c. **FY2023-24 Budget Public Hearing**
 - d. **EPS Update**
8. **Audiences**
9. **Board Members' Comments**
10. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. **Policy Revisions – Second Reading**
11. **New Business**
 - a. **Approval of School Readiness Continuation Grant**
 - b. **Policy Revisions – First Reading**
12. **Board Committee Reports**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Curriculum Committee- Finance, Budget Committee- Policy Committee- Leadership Committee- Joint Facilities Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- JFK Building Committee- Joint Security Committee- Enfield Mental Health & Wellness Workgroup- Enfield Cultural Arts Commission- PK-5 School Modernization Committee
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13. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - **Regular BOE Meeting Minutes: March 28, 2023**
 - **Special BOE Meeting Minutes: April 5, 2023**
14. **Approval of Accounts and Payroll:**
 - **For the Month of March 2023**
 - **Line Item Transfers, if any**
15. **Correspondence and Communications**
16. **Executive Session**
17. **Adjournment**



Date: April 25, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Superintendent's Report

- a. **Student Representative Update:** Each of our Enfield High School Student Representatives may have some information or comments to share with the Board regarding events/happenings at Enfield High.
- b. **Early Release Day:** As a reminder, students will be dismissed early with lunch on Wednesday, April 26th for a staff half day PD.
- c. **FY2023-24 Budget Public Hearing:** The Town Council will hold their FY2023-24 Proposed Budget Public Hearing on Monday, May 1st here in Council Chambers starting at 6:00 PM. A Board Quorum Agenda is enclosed in your packets.
- d. **EPS Update:** I will update the Board regarding our schools at this time.



Date: April 25, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Policy Revisions – Second Reading

Board Members approved a first reading for policy revisions at your March 28th meeting. Tonight Policy Committee members are recommending a second and final reading. Enclosed in your packets are the policies with the proposed changes including the recommended changes from the last Board meeting (changes are in green). These policies have been placed on the website for public input.

Policy Revisions:

- 4112.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting
- 5123 Promotion/Retention

Policy Committee Chair Scott Ryder and/or Policy Committee Liaison Assistant Superintendent Longey can address any Board member questions regarding these proposed policy revisions.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding approving the proposed policy revisions as presented for a Second Reading.



Date: April 25, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Approval of FY2023-24 School Readiness Continuation Grant

Enclosed in your packet is a memo from Amy Morales, Operations Manager, Child, Youth, Family Division and Enfield School Readiness Liaison and LeAnn Beaulieu, KITE Chairperson about the School Readiness Continuation Grant they are applying for. The Board approved this grant last year on April 26th. They are looking for the Board's approval for continuation of this grant for the FY2023-24 school year. The Town Council will approve this at their May 1st meeting.

I can address any questions Board members may have at this time.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding approving the FY2023-24 School Readiness Continuation Grant as presented.



Date: April 25, 2023
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Policy Revisions – First Reading

Members of the Policy Committee met on Tuesday, April 18th and are recommending a first reading for several policies. Enclosed in your packets is the proposed new policy and policies with changes. These policies have been placed on the website for public input.

New Policy:

- 5145.54 Civility

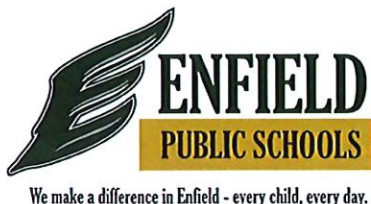
Policy Revisions:

- 6174 Summer School Policy
- 9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings
- 9325.2 Order of Business and Meeting Conduct

Policy Committee Chair Scott Ryder and/or Policy Committee Liaison Assistant Superintendent Longey can address any Board member questions regarding these proposed policy revisions and new policy.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding approving the proposed policy revisions and new as presented for a First Reading.

Item #7c.



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

1010 ENFIELD STREET • ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06082
TEL: 860.253.6531 • FAX: 860.253.6515

April 21, 2023

Mrs. Sheila Bailey, Town Clerk
Enfield Town Hall
820 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT 06082

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Please be advised that a quorum of the Enfield Board of Education may be in attendance at the FY2023-24 Proposed Budget Public Hearing being held in Council Chambers with Town Council members on Monday, May 1st at 6:00 PM.

Please note this is not a Board meeting. No Board actions will occur, and no Board minutes will be taken.

cc: BOE

ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Enfield, Connecticut**Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified****4112.5****Security Check/Fingerprinting**

In order to create a safe and orderly environment for students, all offers of employment will be conditional upon the successful outcome of a criminal record check. In addition, any person applying for employment with the Board shall submit to a record check of the Department of Children and Families Child Abuse and Neglect Registry before the person may be hired.

***Note:** Applicants for all positions, certified or non-certified must submit to a check of Department of Children and Families Child Abuse and Neglect Registry.*

Applicants, as required, shall make disclosures containing (1) current and past employers' contact information; (2) authorization allowing contact with such employers; and (3) statements about any past misconduct, discipline, or licensure penalties as a result of sexual misconduct or abuse allegations.

The District, prior to hiring such applicants, applicants, will (1) ensure that they complete the above stated three requirements; (2) review applicants' employment history after making a documented, good faith effort to contact previous employers for information; and (3) request any available information about applicants from SDE.

With the exception of employees hired to work in the Head Start Program at Stowe Early Learning Center, The background/reference checks shall be done in compliance with the statutory guidelines contained in Board policy #4112.51/4212.51, as amended.

District employees shall within 30 days after they are hired submit to state and national criminal checks. District students employed by the school system are exempted from this requirement.

Workers placed in a school under a public assistance employment program shall also submit to the criminal check if such individuals will have direct contact with students.

School nurses and nurse practitioners appointed by the Board or under contract with the Board shall also submit to a criminal history check pursuant to C.G.S. 29-17a.

Student teachers placed in District schools as part of completing preparation requirements for the issuance of an educator certificate, effective July 1, 2010, shall also be required to undergo the same criminal background checks already required for school employees.

Criminal Justice Information

Criminal Justice Information (CJI) is to be maintained in accordance with the administrative regulation pertaining to the use and disclosure of criminal justice information.

Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified

Security Check/Fingerprinting (continued)

(cf. 4112.51/4212.51 - Employment/Reference Checks)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221d Criminal history records checks of school personnel. Fingerprinting. Termination or dismissed. (as amended by PA 01-173, PA 04-181 and June 19 Special Session, PA 09-1, PA 11-93 and PA 16-67)

29-17a Criminal history checks. Procedure. Fees.

PA 16-67 An Act Concerning the Disclosure of Certain Education Personnel Records

Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy, Version 5.4, U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, October 6, 2015

Policy Adopted: January 8, 2019
Policy Revised:

ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Enfield, Connecticut

Students

5123

Promotion/Retention

I. Promotion or Retention Policy: Grades K-5 ⁸

Student promotion shall be determined by academic performance and social and emotional maturity. The Administration and faculty shall apply these criteria when determining whether to promote or retain a student. Promotion/retention should be the result of the combined professional judgment of the school principal, teachers, guidance counselor and/or other support personnel; input from parents ~~including parental~~ and/or guardians concerned with the progress of the student ~~are~~ will also be considered.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for developing procedures, in furtherance of this policy, that are designed to foster student achievement and reduce the incidence of social promotion. Such procedures shall:

- 1) Include objective criteria for the promotion and graduation of students,*
- 2) Provide for the measuring of the progress of students against such criteria and the reporting of such information to parents and students,*
- 3) Include alternatives to promotion such as transition programs, and*
- 4) Provide for supplemental services.*

Such procedures may require students who have substantial academic deficiencies that jeopardize their eligibility for promotion or graduation to attend after school programs, summer school or other programs that are designed to assist students in remedying such deficiencies.

~~Promotion/retention of students from grade to grade is determined on an individual basis. To decide whether a student who is not progressing satisfactorily should be advanced to the next grade, all objective evidence (tests, samples of work, attendance, etc.) is brought together and recommendations of all persons, including parental and/or guardians concerned with the progress of the student are considered. Final action taken is determined by what is best for the individual student. The Principal of the school is responsible for making the decision concerning the promotion or retention, of a student.~~

~~A. **Promotion**—A student promoted is one who is meeting the standards expected for the particular grade level.~~

~~B. **Retention**—A student retained is one who is functioning below the expected standard, as outlined on the student report card and would benefit by repeating the grade.~~

II. ~~Promotion: Grades 6-8~~

Students

Promotion/Retention

~~H. Promotion: Grades 6-8~~ (continued)

- ~~A. A minimum grade point average of 4.0 (C-) is required to be promoted from grade 6 to grade 7, from 7 to grade 8 and from grade 8 to the high school level.~~
- ~~B. Students not achieving the required 4.0 (C-) shall have the opportunity to attend summer school to attain the required grade point average. Students returning to the same grade for a second year shall be required to repeat the course of study prescribed for such grade.~~
- ~~C. The grade(s) earned in summer school are combined with those earned during the school year to raise a student's GPA to a minimum of 4.0 (C-).~~
- ~~D. Students will enroll in English and/or Math summer school. Literacy and numeracy skills emphasized in these summer school courses are essential for strong academic achievement at all grade levels and for successful performance on the State Standardized Test.~~
- ~~E. The Principal is responsible for making the final decision concerning student promotion or retention.~~

II. Promotion: Grades 9-12

A. Grade 9 to Grade 10

- 1. A minimum of (4) credits are required to be promoted from grade 9 to, grade 10. Students must earn (1) credit in Mathematics and (1) credit in English.
- 2. Students who do not earn the required (4) shall have the opportunity to attend summer school in order to be promoted. Students must meet the summer school requirements as described in BOE Policy #6174 – “Summer School” in order to earn credits toward promotion in summer school.

B. Grade 10 to Grade 11

- 1. A minimum of (10) credits are required to be promoted from grade 10 to grade 11. Students must earn (2) credits in Mathematics and (2) credits in English included in the (10) credits.
- 2. Students who do not earn the required (10) credits shall have the opportunity to attend summer school in order to be promoted. Students must meet the summer school requirements as described in BOE Policy #6714 – “Summer School” in order to earn credits toward promotion in summer school.

Students

Promotion/Retention

C. Grade 11 to Grade 12

1. A minimum of (~~16.5~~ **17.0**) credits are required to be promoted from grade 11 to grade 12. Promotion to grade 12 can be made at the conclusion of the school year, at the conclusion of summer school, or at the conclusion of the first semester of the school year. Students promoted after the first semester will be assigned to a senior homeroom but must have the capability of graduating that school year in order to be promoted.
2. Students who do not earn the required (~~16.5~~ **17.0**) credits shall have the opportunity to attend summer school to earn up to (2) of the required number of credits for promotion. Students must meet the summer school requirements as described in BOE Policy #6174 – “Summer School” in order to earn credits toward promotion in summer school.

- D.** The Principal is responsible for making the final decision concerning student promotion or retention.

~~IV~~ *III*. Special Education Students

Special education students will be subject to the general policy regarding retention and promotion, unless extenuating circumstances are in evidence which might exclude such students from the grading policy as determined by the P.P.T.

It is expected that the P.P.T. will anticipate exemptions to Board policy as early in the program planning stages as may be feasible.

~~V~~ *IV*. Exceptions

Exceptions to the above policy may be requested by the administration from the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

P.A. 99-288 An Act Concerning Education Accountability

10-221(b) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

10-265g Summer reading programs required for priority school districts. Evaluation of student reading level. Personal reading plans. (as amended by PA 01-173 and PA 06-135)

10-265l Requirements for additional instruction for poor performing students in priority school districts; exemption. Summer school required;

Students

Promotion/Retention

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes (continued)

exemption (as amended by PA 99-288, PA 01-173, PA 03-174 and PA 06-135)

Approved: June 16, 1986
Effective: September 1, 1986
Revised: May 29, 1998
Revised: May 19, 2005
Revised: February 24, 2009
Revised: May 13, 2014
Revised: September 23, 2014
Revised: February 23, 2021
Revised:

To: Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent
From: Amy Morales, Operations Manager, Child, Youth and Family Division and
Enfield School Readiness Liaison
LeAnn Beaulieu, Chairperson of KITE (Key Initiatives to Early Education)
Date: April 25, 2023
Subject: School Readiness Grant Continuation for July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

- The Office of Early Childhood has released the Continued Funding Application for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for the continuation of funding for the School Readiness Grant and the Quality Enhancement grant.

This grant provides 28 preschool slots for a total of \$249,872 and \$3,881 in Quality Enhancement funds to provide professional development and trainings to enhance the quality of early childhood education programs.

- The grant also includes \$12,494 in funding to be used for the purpose of coordination, program evaluation and administration which will be used to fund a portion of the School Readiness Liaison's salary.
- KITE (Key Initiatives to Early Education) serves as Enfield's School Readiness Council and will perform the work of the Council as outlined in the School Readiness Statutes.
- Last year, we presented to the Board of Education that the Enfield Child Development Center was the recipient of the funding. As this is a continuation grant year, they will continue to be the recipients of this funding for 28 preschool slots and there are no changes to the grant in this new fiscal year.
- The School Readiness Grant requires signatures by the Town Manager and the Superintendent of Schools. The grant will be voted on by the School Readiness Council at the KITE meeting on May 3 and is due on May 4, 2023.

ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Enfield, Connecticut

Students

5145.54

Civility**Purpose**

The Enfield School District believes that a safe, civil environment is essential to high student and staff achievement, to the free exchange of ideas central to a quality educational process, and to the development of youth as thoughtful participants in our democracy. Conversely, uncivil conduct, like other forms of disruptive behavior, interferes with a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students.

The Enfield School District Board of Directors encourages administrators, faculty, staff, students, volunteers, parents, and other community members to participate in maintaining a clear expectation of civil conduct and problem-solving throughout the school district. The Board is committed to providing training and resources to support this expectation and refuses to condone uncivil conduct on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, whether by staff, students, parents, volunteers, or other District visitors.

The basic purpose of this policy is three-fold:

1. To promote a work and learning environment that is safe, productive and nurturing for all staff and students, and to encourage the free flow of ideas without fear or intimidation;
2. To provide our students with appropriate models for respectful problem-solving; and
3. To reduce the potential triggers for violent conduct, such as fear, anger, frustration and alienation - especially by making problem-solving procedures and alternatives to violence readily accessible to both youth and adults who need them.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, "**uncivil conduct**" includes the following: directing vulgar, obscene or profane gestures or words at another individual; taunting, jeering, inciting others to taunt or jeer at an individual; raising one's voice at another individual, repeatedly interrupting another individual who is speaking at an appropriate time and place; imposing personal demands at times or in settings where they conflict with assigned duties and cannot reasonably be met; using personal epithets, gesturing in a manner that puts another in fear for his/her personal safety, invading the personal space of an individual after being directed to move away, physically blocking an individual's exit from a room or location, remaining in a classroom or school area after a teacher or administrator in authority has directed one to leave, violating the privacy of another individual's belongings (except for lawful searches by school officials conducted in connection with the administration of school rules and applicable laws), or other similar disruptive conduct.

"**Uncivil conduct**" does not include the expression of controversial or differing viewpoints that

Students

Civility

Uncivil conduct (continued)

may be offensive to some persons, so long as (1) the ideas are presented in a respectful manner and at a time and place that are appropriate, and (2) such expression does not materially disrupt, and may not be reasonably anticipated to disrupt the educational process.

Expectations

In support of this policy, the Superintendent shall be responsible for the development of District training, written and oral communications, resource lists and other tools for the use of staff, students and community members in achieving the purposes of this policy. Specific procedures appropriate to the needs of staff, students, and parents/community members will be available to all persons who have legitimate business within the District.

In all cases, individuals who perceive they have been treated in an uncivil manner will be urged to resolve their concerns through simple, direct or assisted communication with the person(s) at the source of the concern. When this is not possible or appropriate, any person who needs help in identifying and/or using appropriate problem-solving procedures may seek assistance from the school principal, principal designee, or work site administrator. Individuals are encouraged to work out issues of concern promptly and preferably no later than two (2) days after an incident has occurred. No retaliation will be tolerated against individuals for working in good faith under this policy and its related procedures to resolve concerns.

School Governance Councils are encouraged to guide, support, and evaluate local efforts to establish and reinforce a culture of civility and respect for all.

This policy seeks to promote a school culture of respect and civility. Severe or persistent acts of uncivil conduct may, however, violate other school rules, such as the District's policies against harassment and sexual harassment, or specific conduct codes. Violation of such policies may result in further action, such as discipline, adverse employment action, or criminal charges, as applicable. Nothing in this policy is intended to interfere with the ability of school officials to maintain order and discipline in the schools or to enforce school rules and applicable laws.

The Superintendent and appropriate staff shall review this policy as deemed necessary.

Severability Clause

If any part of this policy or its related procedures is found to be unlawful or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect to the full extent permitted by law.

(cf. 0521 – Nondiscrimination)

(cf. 1120 – Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings)

Students

Civility (continued)

(cf. 1250 – Visits to the Schools)
(cf. 1251 – Loitering or Causing Disturbances)
(cf. 1316 – Conduct on School Property)
(cf. 1320 – Relations between the Public and School Personnel)
(cf. 1330 – Use of School Facilities)
(cf. 1700 – Otherwise Lawful Possession of Firearms on School Property)
(cf. 3517.2 – Vandalism)
(cf. 5131.911 – Bullying)
(cf. 5145.51 – Sexual Harassment)
(cf. 5145.53 – Civility)
(cf. 6114.7 – Safe Schools)
(cf. 6145.22 – Sportsmanship)
(cf. 9273 – Civility Code)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 1-225 Meetings of the government agents to be public.
 1-232 Conduct of the meeting.
 10-220 Duties of boards of education.
 10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rule(s), policies, and procedures.
 10-239 Use of school facilities for other purposes.
 53a-185 Loitering in or about school grounds: Class C misdemeanor.

Policy Adopted:

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Instruction

6174

Summer School Policy

I. A summer school program of study ~~will~~ *may* be offered each summer to residents of Enfield and surrounding communities for the purpose of:

1. Making up credit loss and/or required courses.
2. Improvement of Grade Point Average (GPA).
3. Elective courses.
4. Enrichment.
5. Maintenance of Skills/Academic Intervention.
6. ~~CMT/CAPT Support~~ *Smarter Balanced Assessment and/or NGSS Assessment*.
7. Literacy/Numeracy Support for Graduation Requirements.

II. General Guidelines:

A. Elementary School:

The primary objective of the elementary Summer Learning Academy is to strengthen student skills in literacy and numeracy, support student success on the ~~CMT~~ *Smarter Balanced Assessments*, and provide continuity of the elementary curriculum.

B. Middle School:

1. The primary objective of the middle school summer program is to strengthen student skills in literacy, *science*, and numeracy, provide support for student success on the *Smarter Balanced Assessment and NGSS Assessment* ~~CMT~~, ensure continuity of the curriculum, and reinforce study skills. ~~The grades earned in summer school are combined with those earned during the school year to raise a student's GPA to a minimum of 4.0 (C-).~~
2. ~~Board Policy 5123 defines the conditions under which a student may achieve promotion in summer school.~~ Enrollment for any summer school
3. ~~course taken in Enfield or outside the Enfield school district by an Enfield Public Schools student must receive the prior approval of the student's guidance counselor and building administrator.~~

Instruction

Summer School Policy

C. High School:

1. The primary objective of the High School ~~summer~~ **summer** school program is to afford students the opportunity to make up lost credits/required courses, **and/or** improve grade point average ~~and/or take enrichment courses~~. Details are specified in part of this policy.
2. Enrollment and credit for any summer school course taken in Enfield or outside the Enfield school district by an Enfield Public Schools student must receive the prior approval of the student's guidance counselor and building administrator.
3. Summer school courses, unless approved in advance by a building administrator, will be treated as level 3 courses for GPA computational purposes.
4. No more than 50% of the total credits needed in a required subject area for graduation may be accrued in summer school.
5. The student must complete all established requirements for a given summer school course to receive credit.

III. High School Summer School Options:

A. Making-up lost credit(s)/required courses.

1. Available to students who have lost credit(s) due to the attendance policy or who have failed courses.
2. Students must have been enrolled for the entire course and earned a course average of 50 **45** or a grade of 50 **45** on the final exam during the regular school year to enroll in a summer school course.
3. Credit for any summer school course will be awarded only to the amount lost in any individual school year.
4. If a required or make-up course is not offered during summer school, an appropriate substitute course, approved by a building administrator, may be taken.
5. Both the regular year's grade and the summer school grade will be included on the transcript and shall be factored into the student's career GPA.

Instruction

Summer School Policy

B. Improving Grade Point Average:

1. Available to students who have passed a course during the year but who wish to improve their grade.
2. The final grade earned in summer school courses will be added to the student's high school transcript. Both the grade earned during the school year and the summer school grade will be included on the student's transcript.
3. Computation of a new GPA using the final grade earned in summer school will be at the discretion of the student.

C. Enrichment Courses

1. These courses are available to students who wish to take prerequisite courses or who wish to increase their general knowledge.
2. Credit awarded for these courses will follow the state guidelines (i.e., 120 clock hours - 1 credit).
3. Course(s) taken at colleges will be granted high school credit on an equal basis but not to exceed a total of two credits.
4. Students may elect to include college credit on their high school transcript and toward their GPA.
5. Any enrichment course will not replace any required course ~~nor can it be applied toward the number of credits required for graduation.~~

D. Graduation Requirements:

1. A summer school literacy, and numeracy, *and/or science* intervention program is offered at the student/parent's expense to all students who have not met the literacy, and/or numeracy *and/or science* performance standards after their ~~junior~~ *senior* year. ~~The program's goal is to raise the level of student performance in literacy and/or numeracy to help the student satisfactorily pass/complete the performance task.~~
2. ~~Only students who have taken and failed the literacy intervention course (*Reading and Writing for Literacy*) and/or the numeracy intervention course (*Integrated Practical Math*) during their senior year are eligible to receive credit for each course in summer school.~~

Instruction

Summer School Policy

IV. Operational Guidelines:

- A. The Director of Summer School is responsible for the:
 - 1. Recommendation of summer school schedule, courses, and hours to the Superintendent of Schools for approval.
 - 2. Assignment of students.
 - 3. Setting and collecting of fees.(B through D applies to middle and high school only.)
- B. Transportation to and from summer school is the responsibility of the individual student.
- C. More than one absence will result in loss of credit and/or dismissal without refund, subject to appeal. If a student is late to class by ten minutes or more, it will be recorded as a tardy. ~~Three~~ **Two** tardies will be considered an absence.
- D. The disciplinary code of summer school will differ in no respect from the regular school year. Violation of the disciplinary code may result in loss of credit and/or dismissal without refund.
- E. A final exam must be taken at the conclusion of all high school summer school courses and will account for 20 percent of the final course grade. The final exam will be comparable in difficulty and scope as that given during the regular school year. The final exam must be approved by the appropriate department chairperson(s). In any generic course a comparable final exam is to be used.

V. ~~Driver Education~~, offered in the summer program, is outlined in Policy 6142.1.

VI. Tuition will be determined on an annual basis with out-of-district students paying a minimum of 15% more than what is required of Enfield residents.

Policy Adopted: December 8, 1986

Policy Amended: October 28, 1991

Policy Revised: May 31, 2005

Policy Reviewed: June 23, 2009

Policy Adopted: May 11, 2021

Policy Revised:

**ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Enfield, Connecticut**

9321

Bylaws of the Board

Time, Place and Notification of Meetings

Regular Meetings of the Board – Regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM except for the following months:

December - Second Tuesday only
July – Second Tuesday only
August – Fourth Tuesday only

Special Meetings of the Board – Special meetings shall be called by the Chairperson upon a written request of one-third of the members or whenever deemed necessary by the Chairperson. Written notice of all special meetings shall be given to the members of the Board at least 24 hours previous to the time stated for the meeting to convene. Said notice shall indicate the purpose of such special meetings; and no other business shall be transacted at such meetings except upon the unanimous vote of the whole Board.

Special meetings are to be held on other days of the week (other than Mondays) so as not to conflict with Town council meetings.

Adjournment of Meetings – Meetings shall adjourn no later than 10:30 **11:00** PM. Extensions in time of adjournment may occur should two-thirds of the members present so approve (in the event five members are in attendance, it will be necessary to have 4 affirmative votes for an extension in time of adjournment; if seven members are in attendance, it will be necessary to have five affirmative votes).

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 1-200 (2) Definitions. “Meeting”
 1-206 Denial of access to public records or meetings.
 1-225 Meetings of government agencies to be public, as amended by June
 11 Special Session, PA 08-3.
 1-227 Mailing of notice of meetings to persons filing written request.
 1-228 Adjournment of meetings. Notice.
 1-229 Continued hearings. Notice.
 1-230 Regular meetings to be held pursuant to regulation, ordinance or
 resolution.
 10-218 Officers. Meetings.

Bylaw adopted by the Board: October 24, 2017

Revised:

**ENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Enfield, Connecticut**

Bylaws of the Board

9325.2

Order of Business and Meeting Conduct

This policy generally describes the items to be discussed and actions to be taken at Board Meetings. The sequence of the agenda is defined below:

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Fire Evacuation Announcement
4. Roll Call
5. Board Guests
6. Superintendent's Reports
7. Audiences
8. Board Members' Comments
9. Unfinished Business
10. New Business
11. Board Committee Reports
12. Approval of Minutes
13. Approval of Accounts and Payroll
14. Correspondence & Board Communications
15. Executive Session
16. Adjournment

Type of Meeting

Define whether this is a regularly scheduled meeting where agenda items can be added; a special meeting where, according to the Freedom of Information Commission only items listed on the agenda may be discussed; or an Emergency meeting where only those items listed on the agenda may be discussed.

Place of Meeting

Self-explanatory.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair declares the meeting started.

2. Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence lacks any specific religious formulation, and therefore it will be presented as a way of creating reflection and respect without endorsing any particular religion.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

Self-explanatory.

Bylaws of the Board

9325.2

Order of Business and Meeting Conduct (continued)

- 3. Fire Evacuation Announcement:** A fire/safety announcement must be made after the meetings called to order. This is required for any public meetings held per fire regulations.
- 4. Roll Call:** Self-explanatory.
- 5. Board Guests:** The Board will receive invited guests (individuals and/or groups) who have been invited to attend the meeting by the Board. These invitations may be related to recognition awards presentations to the Board, or consultant reports to the Board.
- 6. Superintendents' Report:** During this portion of the meeting, the Superintendent or his/ her designee will report to the Board items listed on the agenda or of interest concerning the school system or education in general.
- 7. Audience:** During this period any resident or taxpayer of Enfield, employee of the Board, or Citizen with an interest in our school system may address the Board on issues concerning the school. When addressing the Board, the member of the audience will state their name and address; refrain from making personal attacks on individuals. Since the Board meetings are held to conduct the Boards' business in public, and are not meetings with the public, the Chair, acting on behalf of the Board, has the right to limit the overall length of time devoted to the audience participation, and/or the length of time individuals may spend when addressing the Board.
- 8. Board Members' Comments:** During this portion of the meeting any Board member may bring up verbal communications they have received, communicate ideas or concerns to other Board Members of the Administration, or any one member may request that an item be placed on a future agenda for reaction by the Administration and/or discussion by the Board. With the permission of the Chair, the Superintendent, or designee, may answer Board members' questions and/or concerns.

Bylaws of the Board

Order of Business and Meeting Conduct (continued)

- 9. Unfinished Business:** In this portion of the meeting those agenda items left over from previous meetings are discussed and/or acted upon.
- 10. New Business:** In this portion of the meeting new items to be discussed and/or acted upon are handled.
- 11. Board Committee Reports:** During this portion of the meeting Committees of the Board on various committees will report on the significant activities of these committees. When a Board Committee submits their final report to the Board during this portion of the meeting, the report may be discussed during this time, and the Board may act to accept or reject the report during this portion of the meeting.
- 12. Approval of Minutes:** See: Approval of Minutes in Policy.
- 13. Approval of Account and Payroll:** During this portion of the Board's Finance Committee reports on the amount of expenditures during previous periods and the Board acts upon this report.
- 14. Correspondence and Board Communications:** The Secretary reads, or highlights letters and petitions received by the Board or members of the Board that are of general interest to the community.
- 15. Executive Session:** During this portion of the meeting only the Board and those individuals the Board requests to attend are present. Only those matters listed on the agenda and permitted by the Freedom of Information Act (i.e. personnel, negotiations, pending litigation, real estate, etc.) are discussed.
- 16. Adjournment:** The End of the Meeting. This will be no later than 10:30 **11:00** PM unless the Board is in Executive Session or six members of the Board vote to extend the meeting.

Procedural issues not defined in this or other Board Policies, will be determine by Federal, State or Local Statutes if addressed there or Roberts Rules of Order.

Bylaw adopted by the Board: **October 24, 2017**

Policy Revised: **March 16, 2023**

Policy Revised:

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2023**

DRAFT

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on March 14, 2023.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Madam Chair LeBlanc.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Jean Acree
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jean Acree
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre and Tina LeBlanc

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan LeBlanc, John Unghire and Amanda Pickett

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **GEMS**

Mr. Drezek welcomed our PK-12 STEAM Coordinator Elana Beebe. Ms. Beebe introduced JFK teachers and GEMS Club Advisors Janice Cerrato and Quyen Danis. She added 2 years ago we started developing curriculum for a club for our Tech Ed classes for an under-represented population of students at Enfield High School.

Ms. Cerrato stated as advisors, we are offering 8 sessions to entice students into engineering through our academic pathways at Enfield High School and career offerings. We have many hands-on activities. She gave a shout out to our current grade 8 students (Wilbur, Julia, Rosie, Addison, Emma & Charlotte). We are currently working on robotics. We have worked on pre-construction design and architecture. We will also go into automotive and CNC machining. Tonight, we have our former GEMS students to present to the Board about the work they did last year at JFK.

Ms. Beebe stated last year we had 7 students enrolled in GEMS. One of the students was from JFK and her parents would bring her to EHS to participate with one Sophomore and the rest were Freshman. Four of the students are here today to talk about the program. They are also involved with Buzz.

Kathia Diaz, Gr. 10 spoke about architecture and how they designed a floor plan for a house. This was a very creative experience and it helped them to plan a prototype. This helps us to connect with real life experiences especially for students interested in architecture.

Sophie Carrier, Gr. 10 spoke about manufacturing and how we created unique signs that each student customized using a program called V-card. This helped us to learn about CNC Engineering and Manufacturing using a 2-D image and making 3-D carvings. Using this technology has given us professional experience if we were to go into manufacturing. This also

helped us with Robotics where one of the students made a smiley face logo to place at the Annex where we meet for Buzz. We also make a lot of parts with robotics.

Madam LeBlanc asked for them to show us the signs you made.

Selma Fridgat, Gr. 10 spoke about making a robot and how they learned about wiring and what they are doing with buzz and electrical engineering. We built, wired and coded the project. This was a lot of fun. She showed the Board how you can use your iPad or cell phone to make it move. You can also give it commands. This can also help you with automotive.

Rym Fridgat, Gr. 10 spoke about transportation and automotive unit. She spoke about what they learned and how to change a flat tire, change oil, how an automotive runs and what to do if it breaks down or if you get pulled over. She believes more women will be involved in the automotive field in the future.

Mr. Hamre is amazed at the opportunities and experiences that are available for our students. The architecture, engineering, automotive and robotics units are great opportunities to participate in. He is happy that you are continuing to pursue this. Thank you for your presentations.

Dr. Calnen was glad to see them all here tonight. Seeing your presentations tonight is not something that would have been heard of when he was in school. Girls did not go into engineering, manufacturing or the automotive fields. This is a wonderful program, and you are making major breakthroughs - congratulations. This program brings everything you learn from arts, science, manufacturing and marketing together. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder stated he is a huge fan of everything you are doing. He also wanted to thank the staff and Mr. Dague. This is another example of what we are doing right in Enfield public schools. He thanked Ms. Beebe, Ms. Cerrato and Ms. Danis for being there for our students.

Mrs. Acree thanked them for sharing this presentation tonight. Great job and Girl Power! She also thanked them for being great leaders for our students.

Mrs. Cushman also thanked them for sharing. How are you spreading the word about this? Ms. Beebe stated we are focusing on grade 8 students, so they are able to do some projects and spark their interest in this club.

Madam Chair added when we see our staff and students doing everything right, we want to see this program grow. She knows that is what will happen with this program. She first learned about GEMS at the Invention Convention. It was important for you all to attend our Board meeting. As a mom, when you came in tonight, you gravitated towards each other because you wanted them to be prepared. You have developed your presentations skills that young adults that are graduating from college haven't attained. Going in the workforce, you will use problem solving, collaboration, thinking outside of the box and getting out of your comfort zone. Just because it is a man's world, it doesn't mean a female can't do it. A female can be in a leadership role, be strong and confident. She is very proud of Ms. Beebe, Ms. Cerrato and Ms. Danis for your female leadership. She is proud of all of you – keep up the hard work. She wished you could see what we are seeing. You will all do a great job in your lives. Follow your dreams and do not take no as an answer.

Mr. Drezek added this is Ms. Beebe's first year as our PK-12 Steam Coordinator and she has been doing a remarkable job. We are very grateful to have her. He added that Sophia and Kathia are wonderful STEM students, but they won their division at history day and have advanced on to the state competition that will be held in May. Mr. Zawodniak sent him a picture of them today about this. Congratulations on winning your division and good luck in the State History competition. Thank you all for your presentation tonight.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo stated EHS will hold a UConn Spirit day on Friday. The Junior Prom will be held on Thursday, April 6th at Crestview Country Club. You can no longer purchase any tickets, the cutoff date was March 27th. If any students are planning to leave early to get ready for the prom, the earliest you can leave is 11 AM. All dismissal notes must be handed in by April 4th to Ms. Smith. She congratulated all juniors that took their SAT's on Friday. Senior scholarships are now available in the guidance office. The digital media class is conducting an educational campaign about distracted driving. Grades will close on March 30th for the end of the 3rd quarter. The artist of the month is Abby Poreda. Ashley Levine placed 2nd in the State Deca competition. She also congratulated Brianna Carlin and Madison Bohan for being our Valedictorian and Salutatorian for the EHS Class of 2023.

Student Representative Kayla Surprenant provided the Board with a lot of sports updates. The Outdoor Track Team will have a meet on April 4th in Manchester. The Boys Lacrosse Team has their first game on April 3rd at Bristol High School. The Girls Lacrosse Team has a scrimmage at home against Chicopee and their next scrimmage is Thursday at Rockville High. Their first game will be held on April 4th at home against Bristol Central. The Boys Volleyball Team held a scrimmage today against Westfield in Westfield. Their first game is on April 8th against Simsbury at home. The Girls Tennis Team will have their first game on April 5th at Bristol Eastern. Boys Tennis will have their first game on April 5th at Platt.

b. Thank You

Mr. Drezek stated the Board is almost at the completion point for your term as Board members. You all know this is unfortunately a thankless job. March is Board Appreciation month. In front of you are gifts and tokens of thanks and recognition of your devotion and dedication to the students, families and staff. Mr. Longey will forward you a video presentation from JFK. You represent all the kids in Enfield, and they all wanted to thank you for your selfless dedication. You are all volunteers, and we can get into some contentious conversations in these chambers. You signed up to help our kids. He thanked Mr. Lord and Enfield Street for the banner that is here tonight. Thank you for what you have done.

c. Spring Vacation – as presented

d. EPS Update

Mr. Drezek stated Mr. Ramos who attended our last meeting was selected as the State Unified Coach of the Year. Congratulations Mr. Ramos. We couldn't be prouder to have you teaching here in Enfield and to represent our state.

Mr. Drezek stated beginning this week the School Modernization Committee will start meeting. His Superintendent's Advisory Committee will resume meeting in the future.

AUDIENCES - None

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Acree stated she attended Crandall's Pride Assembly today. Three students received Kindness Awards for the month of March. Also, students were recognized for their classroom accomplishments. They also showcased two students that participated in the Invention Convention and who will continue at the Regional Invention Convention. They gave her a special Crandall T-Shirt. The students read letters they prepared for the Board expressing their gratitude. She read a couple of them to the Board. She gave an update from Prudence Crandall Principal Andrew Duperre about the grade 3 students visit from the Connecticut Water Company. Smarter Balanced Assessment testing will start on April 19th. The intermediate schools will be hosting their One Book, Three Schools initiative starting on April

20th with an unveiling party. On April 27th there will be a districtwide virtual presentation about vaping and the health effects from vaping and ways to talk to your children about this. Mr. Duperre also wishes everyone a happy April vacation.

Mrs. Acree attended the Enfield Chorus Festival at EHS last Saturday. The choral ensembles were beautiful. She thanked Mr. Reppucci and his fine music educators (Malissa Clark, Kimberly Jacques, Elizabeth Gagnon, Amanda Tilghman, Elizabeth Tomczek and the wonderful singers and musicians). Congratulations to everyone for a great job!

Dr. Calnen reported the Head Start Policy Committee met on March 27th and they approved funds for Head Start. They have also submitted their self-assessment plans and Quality Improvement funding and Governing Board Approval Statements for Board approval tonight. This information has been included in the Board packet.

Dr. Calnen added Kite will hold a community conversation on March 29th. He added that both education and health co-exist and it has been examined by the State of Connecticut via a study. Enfield is one of 11 towns being considered for the expansion of school based health services to help our community by the State of Connecticut. He would like to meet with CHC about this recommended expansion of school based services.

Mrs. Cushman thanked all the students and teachers that took the time to provide us with all the notes, cards and gifts. We were all stunned when we walked in here tonight.

Mrs. Cushman added it was fun to see Fox61 Meteorologist Ryan Breton at Hazardville Memorial this week. The kindergarten students learned a lot from him. Mrs. Nuzzolo kindergarteners are weather watchers and they have learned about all of the weather forecasting tools and equipment they use.

Mr. Hamre stated the JFK PTO will hold a mattress fundraiser event on April 30th. Any purchases will benefit the PTO. The JFK PTO will meet tomorrow remotely at 6:00 PM. You can also refer to the JFK newsletter for additional information.

Mr. Hamre congratulated Mr. Ramos for being named the Unified Coach of the Year. We are very proud of your accomplishments.

Mr. Hamre thanked PLA for allowing him to speak to the current students about the process and benefits of PLA.

Mr. Hamre also enjoyed the Enfield Chorus Festival. It was great. The auditorium is amazing. He thanked Mr. Reppucci for everything he has done and for his outstanding staff.

Mr. Hamre added today is an emotional day about what has happened in Tennessee and then coming here tonight and seeing all of these gifts. Thank you for recognizing us. This is greatly appreciated and is a reminder of why we are here. He added if you are struggling, please reach out for help.

Mr. Ryder thanked our GEMS students and teachers. He recommends that more students should look into these programs and give it a shot. There is a lot of room to grow.

Mr. Ryder stated the Town's Clean Sweep is coming up on April 22nd which is also Earth Day. A lot of things are being planned and are listed on the town's website and on Enfieldpto.com.

Mr. Ryder added Eli Whitney will hold a math night on April 6th. The fun will start at 4:30 and will end at 6:00 PM. Parents and students are welcome to attend and to participate in the many activities they have planned.

Mr. Ryder stated both Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney will hold their change for superheroes. They will collect change for the CT Children's Hospital. Students can wear their PJ's to school on April 6th.

Mr. Ryder stated students will take SBAC tests on April 19th. The Eli Whitney Principal for the Day Essay's are also due on April 19th. He has posted the second Yard Goats game on the Enfieldpto.com website for anyone that is interested to attend. Whitney will also start their fundraising for butter braids soon and they will hold a spring Bingo night on April 27th. Each year we invite the incoming grade 3 students (current grade 2 students) to tour Eli Whitney and the classrooms. It helps to get them acclimated to the school they will be attending in the fall.

Mr. Ryder congratulated both Rym Fridat and Kayla Surprenant for being NCCC kindness recipients. He added that it is nice hearing kids outside playing again on the playscape and basketball court. He is grateful for the time change and the warmer weather upon us.

Madam Chair reported Safe Grad will hold a spring can and bottle drive on April 22nd at JFK. They will hold a car wash on May 6th at the Raffia Road Service Station.

Madam Chair thanked Mr. Drezek for the update on Mr. Ramos. She is extremely proud of the work he has been doing with Unified Sports. She also appreciates having the Unified Sports events put on her calendar.

Madam Chair was also invited to PLA. She enjoys talking about government, elections and all the fun things they do.

Madam Chair thanked our GEMS students and advisors for attending tonight's meeting. This is such an empowering program.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

10. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Approval of FY2023-24 Head Start Grants**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education endorses the FY2022-23 Head Start Grants, Approval Statements and Self-Assessment Plans as presented.

Discussion:

Madam Chair asked for some clarification regarding the money. It is not Covid funds it is Federal funds. Dr. Calnen stated that is correct.

Madam Chair asked about the position for the quality literacy and would be sustainable. Dr. Calnen stated that is also correct.

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

b. **Discussion & Action if any regarding the April 11, 2023 Regular BOE Meeting**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education cancels the April 11, 2023 Regular Board of Education meeting.

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

c. **Policy Revisions – First Reading**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #4112.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting for a first reading.

Discussion:

Dr. Calnen asked for clarification regarding Head Start employees at Stowe. Mr. Ryder stated this policy change will put us in alignment with Manchester. They are the ones we are in partnership with for Head Start. This will not delay us with any new hires while we wait for background checks. In the meantime any teacher or employee that has not been cleared would never be alone with any student. This policy revision will not delay us when hiring any new qualified candidate and it puts us in-line with what Manchester is doing.

Mr. Longey added any background checks that are done are in reference to our Board policy. Head Start is a Federal program and any background checks that are done, are now done by following Federal policies. These changes will put us in line Federally.

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

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5123 Promotion/Retentions as a First Reading.

Discussion:

Mr. Ryder would like to recommend a change to the first paragraph on the second to last sentence. The last two lines need to be clarified. The change will be *input from parents and/or guardians concerned with the progress of the student will also be considered.*

Mr. Ryder proposed the following amendment: that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5123 Promotion/Retentions with the proposed changes.

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman the proposed amendment regarding Policy #5123 Promotion/Retentions as a First Reading.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mrs. Cushman for the clarification of this policy.

Madam Chair added we really do have rock stars on our Policy Committee. They do not miss anything. She appreciates all your hard work.

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

11. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Madam Chair reported the Curriculum Committee met on March 21st. They discussed a new online Program of Studies. This online version will make the process easier for students. Mrs. Pickett would like Mr. Dague to attend an upcoming Board meeting to demonstrate the online POS format when it is live. Our next meeting will be held on April 20th. We will discuss the selection process of books.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee meeting will be held on April 3rd.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee met on March 21st and our next meeting will be held on April 13th.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Board Leadership did not meet.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee met on March 23rd and our next meeting is on April 13th.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder stated the JFK Building Committee met on March 23rd and our next meeting will be held on April 6th.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup – Dr. Calnen did not have anything new to report regarding the Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mr. Hamre reported the site preparation for the Gazebo has started. He hopes it will be in place for the summer for performances. The ECAC, in cooperation with the Town Manager are soliciting ideas for musical and performance acts. We are still waiting for dates for the open mic nights that will be held at the Enfield Public Library community meeting room. Yesterday was World Theatre Day. He thanked those that are involved in theatre. He encourages you to see any theatrical show. The Opera House Players performance of the Hunch Back of Notre Dame can be seen at the Annex. Enfield High School is currently rehearsing for the Sound of Music. He is happy building sets with Mr. Reese, and it is nice seeing the other parent volunteers. Valley Rep is performing their production of Holidazed at Asnuntuck Community College. You can purchase tickets for these performances. He encouraged everyone to get involved in the arts.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder will get the date for their next meeting.

Madam Chair would like to add the Pre-K-5 School Modernization Committee to our lists for committee reports. The members have been selected for this committee and we will start meeting on Wednesday. We had 34 people apply for this committee. We will tour each of the schools to see the concerns at each building.

Mr. Ryder reviewed the schedule starting tomorrow at Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney on March 29th; Henry Barnard and Prudence Crandall on March 30th; Enfield Street, Edgar H. Parkman and Eagle Academy on April 3rd; and Stowe Early Learning Center and a tour of John F. Kennedy on April 4th. Touring JFK will give committee members an opportunity to see what this building now looks like. We will then discuss what we saw at each of the schools and come up with a plan for our presentation to the Board and Town Council.

Mr. Hamre stated he just received word that ECAC Open Mic night will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Enfield Public Library in the community meeting room starting on April 5th at 6-8 PM.

Madam Chair added that Mr. Ryder and Mrs. Cushman will be our Board liaisons and Mr. Nelson and Deputy Mayor Cekala will be the Town Council liaisons on the PK-5 School Modernization Committee. We also have additional administration from the Town and school administration, including Mr. Dague. This committee is being led by staff and community members. The committee has been made up of staff from every school. It is important that every school is seen, heard and feels valued. We are also focusing on academics. We have seen what our kids have gone through post-Covid. We have received great presentations from Ms. Middleton. We know there are issues with the transitions years. Putting this committee together is a great way to tackle this with our staff and community leading this charge. We will hit the ground running on Wednesday. She is excited to tour the schools and hear from our staff members.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2023, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

Madam Chair stated coming in here tonight put a smile on our faces. Seeing the graciousness of our students, staff and PTO's is well appreciated. Sometimes this can be considered as a thankless job. Seeing the students faces is why we do this. She loves receiving notes and gifts from the students. She has also saved everything she has received from our students and staff over the past years. Thank you.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman to adjourn the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2023**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on April 5, 2023.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Madam Chair LeBlanc.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Tina LeBlanc
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tina LeBlanc
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Joshua Hamre, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder and Tina LeBlanc

MEMBERS ABSENT: Janet Cushman, Jonathan LeBlanc, and John Unghire

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, and Town Manager Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Councilor Despard, Councilor Hopkins, Councilor Ludwick, Councilor Mangini, Councilor Nelson, Councilor Pyznar, Councilor Santanella, Councilor Unghire, Deputy Mayor Cekala and Mayor Cressotti

6. **INVITED BOARD GUEST(S)**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Town Council members and members from the School Modernization Committee. Mr. Drezek reviewed the process that has brought us here tonight. The needs of our kids have changed, and this has been expressed during his budget presentation. We have space constraints in several of our buildings and the need for additional instructional support. Mr. Dague provided the Board with a presentation about our current elementary structure for PK, K-2 and 3-5 building structures. He has been discussing this with Ms. Zoppo-Sassu. The Town Council allocates CIP funds for scheduled projects that will keep us on the same path. Our facilities are a bit dated. We have a current structure in place with aging facilities or should we start looking at something different. The Board wanted to hear from the community members and from stakeholders before a decision was made. We formed a PK-5 School Modernization Committee with an aggressive timeline and toured each building. He thanked everyone that participated in this committee. If any changes are going to be made to our current structure, it is better to know this know so we can plan. It is both his and the Town Manager's responsibility to present you with plans for the future of our district and town.

Mr. Drezek added we toured each facility and heard from key stakeholders including teachers, staff members, Board and Town Council members. The committee will address the Board and Town Council tonight. Ultimately, this will be a community decision. We are starting with the 20 of you tonight and this is something the entire community will weigh in on.

Madam Chair welcomed members of the Town Council for joining us tonight to hear this presentation.

Mr. Ryder stated we identified our aging building needs and scheduled projects. We cannot continue to put band-aides on our 50-60 year old buildings. Budget season and scheduled

facility projects are coming up and repairs will be needed over the next several years. Schools attract families to towns. We selected 15 members from the 36 applications we received. The committee was comprised of teachers, staff members, community members. We looked at their qualifications, input they could share and community presence. We tried to get as many members as possible so they would be able to reach out to multiple groups to share information and help spread the word. He also thanked the members on this committee including Board and Town Council Liaisons (Ken Nelson, Gina Cekala, Bob Cressotti, Tina LeBlanc, Janet Cushman & Scott Ryder). We toured our PK-5 facilities. We saw firsthand the majority of issues that need to be addressed at Stowe, Eagle Academy, Hazardville Memorial, Eli Whitney, Enfield Street, Edgar H. Parkman, Henry Barnard and Prudence Crandall and held a working meeting at John F. Kennedy middle school. We chose to end at JFK to give committee members a tour of the recently renovated JFK. Seeing JFK excited committee members to see how well thought out everything was and how the architect and builders worked with staff, department heads and administrators. Each room was carefully planned from the walls, furniture, and speakers in the ceiling. Our high school and middle school students have been gifted by our town with these beautiful buildings and our elementary students deserve the same.

Mr. Ryder welcome our first School Modernization guest speaker Vicky MacLeod.

Mr. Drezek added our DPW department provided us with a baseline projection for CIP improvement projects at \$36 million that will keep our buildings as status quo. If you have not had the opportunity to view Mr. Dague's presentation, please do so. The presentation has been placed on our website.

Mr. Ryder added the amount of \$36 million is for repairs now and does not include any additional hiccups they might encounter during renovations.

Mr. Ryder stated Ms. MacLeod will talk about Space Concerns.

Vicky MacLeod, Raffia Road – Ms. MacLeod thanked the Board for allowing committee members to speak tonight about the many concerns with our elementary schools. We have broken this down by Space, Facility, Family Impacts and Academics. She will discuss space concerns. As they toured each building, space was a major concern. Many schools have converted spaces and are sharing spaces. OT/PT space were adapted, calming/sensory quiet spaces do not really exist. Social work and CHC are also sharing spaces. Special Education, Reading, Math, Writing, Speech Therapy sessions can all be happening at the same time increasing noise levels and causing distractions for students and teachers. These interruptions disrupt class instruction time. Staff travel with their carts from buildings and do not have privacy. The spaces that have been converted are gymnasiums, cafeteria, stages and OT/PT spaces are using closets. Elementary schools are showing signs of challenges and difficulties. Stowe has multiple programs and houses 480 students. Foot traffic in this one building is extremely high. They have AM/PM Head Start, Full day Pre-K, ECDC, KITE, Integrated Pre-K and Family Resource Center at Stowe. This is the first school our families are being introduced to when starting with Enfield Public School System. Our families, students and staff are struggling. It is time for a change.

Mr. Ryder stated Ms. Soule will talk about Facilities.

Jessica Soule, Brook Road – Ms. Soule thanked the Board and Town Council members for being here tonight and listening to our findings and concerns. Our staff and students deserve to be in safe efficient buildings. After touring the schools, they saw many issues and some issues with the facilities are hidden behind walls, ceilings and floor tiles. The physical environment greatly impacts work and learning. Heating and cooling systems do not maintain proper temperatures, boilers need to be replaced, parking issues create problems and safety concerns when hosting events, there is not enough parking spaces to accommodate for

morning and afternoon bus runs and parent pickup-drop offs, parents are parking on grassy unlighted areas causing safety issues, OT/PT areas need to repairs and remodeling, additional restrooms are needed for students and staff, electrical panels are maxed out due to window units and technology needs, some of the buildings have air quality and mold concerns, additional outlets are needed in classrooms, window replacements are needed, some windows have been replaced with plexiglass. She added that 4 of the elementary schools are scheduled to have their roofs replaced. Many of the doors also need to be replaced. As mentioned by Mr. Drezek it will cost \$36 million dollars now to maintain what we currently have. This does not take into consideration any additional needs that may arise. There are many needs that are not included in that amount. Looking ahead to safety and security, ideally there would be a double set of doors at all main entrances, cameras around the building including blind spots, steel bollards would be in front of the buildings to create a clearly marked barrier, reflective glass on the windows for privacy, doorknobs that locked from the inside of a classroom would be installed, badge readers for all doors to ensure doors remained locked at all times, brighter exterior lighting in all parking areas for the security of students, staff and parents. Technology upgrades are also needed including phones in all classrooms that can call outside, Wi-Fi upgrades are needed for multiple device uses. The physical environment of our elementary buildings greatly affects student learning and teaching. She urges you to do more than just maintain our buildings. Our students and staff deserve more. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder stated Ms. Griffin will talk about Family Impact.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin stated our kids in grades K-2 and 3-5 are riding the buses for a long time. Parents are rushing to get one child to the bus stop and then rushing to get the next one to the other school. The same occurs in the afternoon. Communication received at times is confusing about several events and happenings at multiple schools. Before school and after school care is needed. Students attending these programs also need to travel. Parents can have children in multiple buildings that makes it difficult to attend events. Family engagement is extremely important. Having a K-5 structure will give a sense of belonging, unity and community instead of the current 3 year pit stop. Families will be at a school for 6 years and will be able to establish connections with staff and other families. Families face many difficulties getting to know and trust teachers and staff, especially when supports are needed. Relationships can be strengthened with teachers by creating a sense of safety for students when sharing their needs and concerns. Our children need to feel safe in order to learn. Using a K-5 structure allow students to focus on learning and not re-adjusting to a new building, teachers and staff. Having a K-5 structure will ensure benefits will be there for all students and siblings. The older students will be there to mentor the younger students. This really is the way to go.

Mr. Ryder stated Ms. McGuire-Bruce will talk about Academics.

Kelsey Bruce McGuire-Bruce, Neelans Road – Ms. McGuire-Bruce thanked them for listening to our concerns. This is important work for our town, and we appreciate you being here. You have heard about our space issues, facility concerns, and how our current K-2, 3-5 structure has impacted families. These areas affect our students academically. Our students need consistency. We can see the transition grades cause academic concerns for some students. Specialist times will vary at each level with our current K-2 3-5 model. Teachers also feel the disconnect when students transition to the next level and are not readily available to discuss academics or behaviors with the next grade level teachers by simply walking down the hall to talk to them. Speech, special education interventions and other interventions change when students transition. Our students with the highest level of needs must rebuild their trust with new staff members. This causes regression academically and behaviorally. School procedures change at each building level. Students have a lack of comfort and confidence which means they are not ready to access learning. PBIS can also look differently at each building. At the 3-5 level they no longer have a PBIS coach to support behavior concerns. We are asking second graders to be role models before they are ready. Going back to a K-5 model will allow

us to have true models. We would be able to re-establish student council and reading buddies. Transitions can escalate student behavior. We are seeing this with grades 2 and 3 students. Relationships and connections take time to build. Trust with staff and familiarity eases stress and anxieties. Students need to feel emotionally safe before learning can occur. Transitions make this very challenging. Our current model impacts students learning. Our students need consistency. Our current model is not what is best for our students. Thank you.

Madam Chair stated at this time we will invite Town Council and Board members to ask any questions or share their comments regarding the presentation from the School Modernization Committee.

Councilor Hopkins thanked the members of the School Modernization Committee and asked if you looked at other models that other towns are using and what are the benefits? He feels our school funding should be increased based on what he has seen and heard. Thank you.

Councilor Pyzner thanked the members of the committee. Education is the greatest gift we can give to our kids. Her kids attended a K-6 grade level model and she was opposed to the K-2 3-5 model. She spoke with a lot of parents about this. You are separating families. Ms. Griffin discussed this during her presentation, and she appreciates everything you said. When you are picking up your child there are security issues at the schools. We need to put our kids first. Having a good school system is a starting point for your community and it is what drives people to Enfield to live and raise a family. She applauds committee members for your efforts and looks forward to working on this more.

Councilor Mangini thanked committee members for the hard work that is ahead of you. She was on the school consolidation committee and was opposed to the K-2 3-5 model then and now. Consistency is needed along with community involvement. Our schools are 50-60 years old. It is time to move forward. The costs alone will benefit our children's needs financially. Yes, let's move forward. Thank you for your hard work.

Dr. Calnen stated this is having an impact on our children's mental health. Sometimes we overlook the obvious. The environment is having an impact on our kids mental health. This initiative can go a long way and will make an impact on their learning and mental health.

Mr. Hamre thanked the members of the School Modernization Committee. This situation we are currently in was predictable and preventable. He remembers when they were discussing our current grade level. He was sitting in the audience hearing about this plan. We were concerned for our children then losing a sense of community. We need to put our kids first and our future generations with a more holistic approach to their well-being. Mental health is a concern. No one could have predicted what would have happened when we reorganized years ago. Thank you for your commitment to this project.

Councilor Despard is very impressed by this presentation and appreciates the committees hard work. Enfield's future is the ability to attract young families. Modernizing our schools will do this. Our staff and kids deserve state of the art security and is a home run. Thank you for your work.

Mrs. Pickett stated her kids will be transitioning. She is dreading the change for next year. She has a wonderful afterschool routine. Building relationships and a sense of community is important. Thank you for your hard work and for your presentation. Our buildings need work. Accessibility where all students feel welcome are needed. Efficiencies and inclusion of our staff and student support is also needed. Students need a sense of belonging and security. We need to think smarter. We know the transition years are hard on our students. Even if we do this, we will need alignment. How can we ensure the K-5 alignment, 6-8 and 9-12 and create the frameworks. She asked community members to consider this. Having great schools attracts families to our town and will create a sense of community. What are our next steps

and what will be the process? This committee had representation from all partners. She hopes we will continue with community involvement in the process. We also need to consider repurposing buildings and have a plan in place for this. Thank you.

Deputy Mayor Cekala also thanked committee members, teachers and staff for your work. She also thanked the members of the Board of Education for bringing this forward. This is important work. Her kids have attended school in our current K-2 3-5 model. There was a lot of transitioning and many nights of divide and conquer and missing events. She loves that we are getting input from our teachers, staff and families. She appreciates how the committee is doing this in a meaningful way. We have a beautiful high school and brand new middle school. It is time to do our elementary schools. It sounds like we will go back to the K-5 model and improve our elementary schools and rebuild them as new and give our kids another state of the art facilities like we have for our older children.

Councilor Santanella thanked committee members for the work you have done. He has visited the schools. Some of the conditions in our buildings are tragic and unacceptable. We need to discuss the inside as well as the outside of our facilities. We have one of the poorest funded school districts in our state on a per student basis in our DRG. We are one of the poorest funded school districts as an Alliance District. We are one of the lowest funded school districts. The Board's budget is unacceptable. We need to start moving in the right direction. There is no point in putting up fancy buildings if what is going on in our buildings isn't meeting standards of the outside. It is time to look at the budget, educate the public on why we need to spend more on education and on our kids. Just by walking in our buildings you can see why we are betting against our kids, and this is wrong. Our kids deserve better. We need to look at the budget and move in the right direction.

Councilor Unghire commented that she is really excited about this project. We have a wonderful state of the art high school and middle school. This is long overdue. We have amazing teachers, and no one works harder than Enfield teachers. Our teachers take very little and make much with nothing. They bring in their own supplies. She takes her hat off to them. Revamping our elementary schools to make it easier for our teachers and students is wonderful. Some of our teachers are working in conditions that are far from perfect. She is really excited about this project.

Mrs. Acree also thanked committee members for a great informative presentation. Our students, teachers and staff deserve the best we can offer them.

Mayor Cressotti thanked Mr. Drezek for his vision about modernization of our elementary schools. We have discussed this with Town Council and Board leadership and Mr. Dague. He thanked Mr. Dague for all the work he has done with this committee and for your presentation. If you have not had the opportunity to view the presentation, please do so. He is looking at the investment in our town, the school system and attracting families to Enfield. The School Modernization Committee touched upon 4 major areas – Academics, Space, Facilities and Family Impact. We have a talented group on this committee. This is our first step, and we all need to be in agreement with a K-5 model. We have heard the reports and seen the statistics. We are not spending enough on our students as mentioned by Councilor Santanella. We need to make a commitment to education. We are talking about routines, transitions, and the impact on families. He was teaching during the discussion of the current K-2 3-5 model, and he was against it then. He does not believe it benefited anyone. People thrive with routines. Families are dealing with 3 or 4 transitions during a day, and it can be very stressful. We also discussed the mental health of our students. All of this needs to be considered.

Mayor Cressotti added he is happy the Town Council and Board of Education are sitting here tonight with the vision of moving forward. All the other questions will be answered. Our job tonight is to take this recommendation for a feasibility and demographic study for all the elementary schools. Let's move forward with this. This is very exciting. We are looking at

stopping the band-aide bleed. Let's look into the investment in the future of this town, our students and families.

Mr. Ryder also thanked Mr. Dague and Fred Gerber for your hard work. They are both liaisons for the School Modernization Committee. He clarified the rush of the condensed schedule. Mr. Dague has been working on this from the start of this school year. He thanked our teachers and administrators for their help during this process. This decision will not be rushed and will not be fixed in a rushed manner. This will be strategic and purposeful. We will be doing the same thing we did with the high school and JFK for our K-5 schools and Stowe. It is not anyone's fault how we got here. Now is the time to figure out what we will do for the next several generation of students that will learn in our town. It doesn't matter what happened 10 years ago. What matters is what can we do to make our buildings the best they can be for the next 50 plus years. He wants to thank the teachers that are on this committee that were also students here in Enfield and are now teachers in Enfield. It is important for everyone to understand that without the Town Council's help, as the vice chair of the JV team, he welcomes the Varsity team, and we could not do this without their help. Studies are needed to be done in order to get to the next step. He would like them to let us get to the next step and find out what properties might work, costs, where the buildings should be, and how to educate our kids for the next 50 plus years. Your questions will be addressed in time. More research is needed. Our schedule was rushed, but our decision will not be. Our need is rushed but our future can be bright. He hopes the Varsity team feels the same way.

Madam Chair stated when we met at Hazardville Memorial last week reviewing the applicants for the committee. Mr. Ryder called the members and told them this would be a fast moving rigorous schedule. Everyone was in total agreement with the rushed timeline. We needed to see every building. We saw how support services were being divided by dividers, it made her sad to see this. It also made me proud that we have teachers and staff that are keeping their focus on their students' needs although the conditions are not perfect. Seeing a school psychologist using a closet for an office was really eye-opening. We heard about space concerns and needed committee members to see every school. This committee is very eager, and they want to move onto the next steps. This is the first step of work for this committee. We will continue to have great discussions throughout this process.

Madam Chair added this is a long term plan and long term vision as mentioned by Mr. Ryder. When we did this before, the teachers were told in December about change that would occur in September. The families were told about this change around March. We will be doing this differently. This is not an elected official or politically driven committee. The decisions will be made by the voting members of this committee. The BOE and TC liaisons are just that and will not vote. It will be about the research and the will of the committee. We can give advice and input, but it is ultimately the will of the committee. It is important to have staff and community input also.

Madam Chair added it was interesting to listen to the teachers speak at our first meeting at Hazardville Memorial. She was a parent that had a child go to Memorial because their school closed for one year and then they went to Eli Whitney. Listening to how the teachers felt was concerning. They felt alone in a new building with all their new colleagues. They still showed up with smiles for their students and met new parents and worked just as hard for our students even though they were struggling and didn't feel supported. We will not allow that to happen again. As a parent, she did not know this was occurring. She was very grateful for the teachers that showed up every day and did not let any parents know how they were feeling.

Madam Chair appreciated hearing from Counselor Santanella about Enfield's funding. We are one of the lowest funded districts in Connecticut. We have also learned about our very high needs since Covid and how these needs are continuing to grow. We will not be revisiting the past as mentioned by Mr. Ryder as to how we got here. We know how to fix this as a district and how to move forward as a team with our Town Council partners. This also needs to be a

community group effort as well.

Madam Chair stated we cannot address questions at this time. She thanked members of the School Modernization Committee for their hard work, honesty and for their candor. Whether you are a staff member, parent or community member, asking tough questions and putting your feelings out there is important in order to get this work done. She looks forward to being a liaison in the upcoming months.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Recommendation from the PK-5 School Modernization Committee

Mr. Ryder stated we took a poll last night and the majority of the School Modernization Committee would like to move forward to present this idea to the Town Council in order to get our buildings in better shape and to look at consolidation of the K-5 buildings. At this point the recommendation from the PK-5 School Modernization Committee is to ask the Board of Education first to bless this and forward this to the Town Council to make a decision.

Mr. Hamre asked if a motion is needed. Madam Chair stated a motion is not needed. The committee is recommending we revisit a K-5 configuration for our elementary schools. That is the formal recommendation from the committee.

Mrs. Pickett we will still keep our Preschool program at Stowe. Mr. Ryder stated that is correct. We are looking to modernize our PK facility but separately. We would be moving to a K-5 model.

Madam Chair stated that both Mrs. Pickett and Dr. Calnen just let out a huge sigh of relief.

Mrs. Pickett added when Ms. MacLeod spoke about space concerns, for a building with many barriers, Stowe is the most magical place. She will visit there any time of the week. We have special people that work there.

Mr. Ryder added that is the School Modernization Committee's recommendation.

b. Action if any Regarding Approving any Additional Studies based on the Recommendation from the School Modernization Committee

Madam Chair added the Board does not need to take any action this evening.

Madam Chair stated we will adjourn our meeting and the Town Council will then meet to discuss this further.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Special Meeting of April 5, 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary