

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 13, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on June 13, 2023.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Scott Ryder, Jonathan LeBlanc and Tina LeBlanc

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Unghire & Amanda Pickett

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

**a. Enfield's Mayor & Town Manager**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Mayor Cressotti and Town Manager Zoppo-Sassu. He reviewed the dialogue they have had over the past several weeks with our Board Chair about the budget. We have been in constant contact. We were notified last week that the State adopted a budget. Tonight we will give an update about where the money will be coming from. This will give the Board an opportunity to ask any questions and for the viewing public to hear information directly from us about that facts.

Mr. Drezek stated the Board of Education was appropriated a 3.94% budget. This is what we asked for minus the \$250K reduction in the Health Insurance line item. If this budget were not adopted, we would be in a very different place now. There has been a lot of discussion about \$1.4 million reduction and Alliance money. If our budget request were not fully supported we would be \$2.8 million in the hole now. The reason we are not, is because of the Town Manager and her support of our budget. He publicly thanked Town Manager for her support. The way this process works is the Board will submit a budget to the Town Manager. The Town Manager will include it in the presentation to the Town Council for approval. It is not uncommon that our request might not make the first cut with the Town Manager. She went out on a limb to support Education. Mr. Drezek also thanked the members of the Town Council for their support of our budget request. We are extremely grateful for what we have received this year.

Mr. Drezek added next year, the Board of Education budget is approximately \$75 million dollars. The Board of Education will receive \$75 million from the Town in July. The town will receive reimbursement from the State and that is called Educational Cost Sharing (ECS). ECS is the State's responsibility to fund public education. They have a formula they use for the ECS funding that is provided to each municipality for public education. We received \$28.9 million dollars. The council appropriates \$75 million, and the State will give them

approximately \$30 million (\$28.9 million). The cost for Enfield Taxpayers is approximately \$45 million. This is how the formula works.

Mr. Drezek stated this past year there was a bit of confusion regarding the ECS figure. In addition to Enfield being named an Alliance District and the Alliance Funding that would follow the ECS amount. The State will send \$28.9 million to the Town of Enfield. When Enfield was designated as an Alliance District we weren't getting any additional money from the State. The State would directly send us the money. The \$28.9 million from the State reimburses the Town. This goes directly to the Town and John Wilcox includes this money in the appropriations for the Board.

Mr. Drezek stated in February 2022, he was notified by the State Department of Education that Enfield was going to be named as an Alliance District in the Alliance Network. In 2012, the State defined the top 30 neediest districts by the accountability index as the Alliance Network. There is a 5 year re-evaluation process. In 2017, they re-evaluated again. In 2022, it went from 30 districts to 33 districts. Through this evaluation process, 3 districts of the 33 should have graduated out which would open the door for 3 more districts to come in. Enfield was one of these districts. In February 2022, he was notified that Enfield would be included in the next round in the Alliance District. He was told that he could share this information with only the Board Chair and the Town Manager under strict confidence. The reason for this was in February 2022, this was being proposed in the Governor's budget. The Governor's budget will not be adopted until the legislature acts. We were asked to keep this information to ourselves until the budget was finalized. It looked like this was going to come to fruition.

Mr. Drezek added during that conversation in February 2022, the description of how this Alliance Grant would be calculated has become a popular conversation in our town. It is calculated based on the ECS figure (\$28.9 million). Our ECS figure for 2022 was \$29.8 million. The 33 Alliance Districts in February 2022, the calculation from the Alliance Network was our take from the ECS calculation from 2022 and compare it to the ECS calculation in 2012 (which is a 10 year look back) and what ever the difference was that becomes your Alliance Grant. Our Alliance Grant is \$29.8 Million in Fiscal year 2022, and \$28.4 million in Fiscal Year 2012 and this difference or delta is \$1.4 million. The \$1.4 million then becomes what is called the carve out to the Enfield Board of Education. The reason it was important for me to tell the Town Manager was the town will still receive \$29.8 million. When you have an Alliance Grant, the Town will not receive the full amount of \$29.8 million. They will only receive \$28.4 million instead of \$29.8 million. The amount of \$1.4 million will come directly to the Board of Education.

Mr. Drezek stated when the Town presented their budget, they present revenue and expenses. The town will charge revenue and ECS reimbursement that will offset what they need to spend to come up with a mill rate and pass a budget for the Enfield community. It is important to note the Town of Enfield was aware of this possible designation. They would receive \$1.4 million in State aid less because that money would come directly to us. In the long run, the Board will receive \$1.4 million more because of the Alliance designation. The law states that even though the Town is receiving \$1.4 million less, the Town cannot budget us less than the previous year. The burden of the \$1.4 million dollars would fall on the shoulders of our local municipality or the Town of Enfield.

Mr. Drezek added moving to the budget process in May 2022, the three of us knew this information but nothing was etched in stone. The Town Manager needed to make a decision. We could not tell anyone that we will receive this money because the State has not passed their budget yet. The Town needs to adopt a budget before the State does. They needed to make a decision about the ECS funding and if we would receive the full amount or should they budget less? Because if this goes through as an Alliance Grant we will receive \$1.4 million less in aid. The responsible thing to do had they budgeted for \$29.8 million, and the Alliance Grant came in after the budget and the mill rate is set, the Town would have then had to go back to

the Town Council and find \$1.4 million because they would not be getting it from the State because it would come directly to the Board.

Mr. Drezek added there is some confusion about this, and people do not understand. We do this for a living, and it can be hard to follow at times about the \$1.4 million dollars. In May 2022, the Town adopted a budget with \$1.4 million dollars less in revenue and ECS money. They then set the mill rate. They appropriated the Board's budget for the 2022-23 school year, and we moved on our way. That same day we were notified that the State Legislature adopted a budget. They did something that wasn't anticipated in the midnight hour that none of us can figure out. The Alliance Network that was supposed to be 33 districts was now going to be 36 districts that now included Enfield, Plainfield and Stratford. They did not graduate out of 3 districts. The end result of last years budget expanded the Alliance Network to 36 districts. The 33 original districts were still governed by the formula. He shared with us the 10 year lookback on their grant. The State Legislature decided the 3 new districts who qualified as Alliance Districts and their lookback would be one year. You need to look at our ECS allocation from 2022 to 2012 was \$1.4 million. Our 2022 and 2021 ECS allocation was \$0. We were flat funded. Enfield, Plainfield and Stratford were each given a different unequitable formula for our Alliance Grant. Because our ECS allocation from the State was staying at \$29.8 million there was nothing to carve out and we received no additional money.

Mr. Drezek added the Town received their share of this and kept us fiscally responsible. Usually there is a lot of bickering back and forth between Boards and Towns but that is not the case in Enfield. We were all on the same team. When he had a conversation the morning after the Town passed a budget and we realized we would not get any money he was very unhappy. He met with State Department of Education delegation and to be fair to them, they do not make the laws, they need to enforce them. The only remedy we were told about at that time was to contact your legislators, our legislative delegation. They did this. For the last year, we have been focusing on our lobbying efforts. We have discussed several bills and the ECS formula and funding education appropriately. All of this did not pass. The one thing we were adamant about was to treat us all the same. If we qualified with 33 districts, we should have the same look back. This is where Ellen and he have collectively worked together over the last year and have been in constant daily contact. He is on the CAPSS Alliance Committee. Their number one priority this year was equitable funding for all Alliance Districts. We have done everything we could do and were told at a minimum that even if there was not increase in ECS funding, this would be fixed.

Mr. Drezek stated the State Department of Education proposed a Senate bill that would have fixed this. Madam Chair added it is Senate Bill 1028. Mr. Drezek added the State Department proposed this bill and ultimately this bill did not pass.

Madam Chair stated Mrs. Acree, Mr. Hamre and I were downstairs this evening with Senator Kissel and Representative Hall, and she asked about Senate Bill 1028 not passing. They said it died on the calendar.

Mr. Drezek added us receiving any money also died on the calendar. We received the worst of all worlds with this allocation from the State. The Alliance Fairness Act did not pass. Our look back is still one year, and the two other new districts added to the Alliance Network also did not receive any remedies to the 10 year look back. Also House Bill 5033 did not pass in the way we lobbied for. So the ECS formula reconfiguration was not adopted. From an ECS perspective, we are being flat funded for the next two years from the State of Connecticut. This will be 4 years in a row for us. Because our ECS calculation has remained at \$29.8 million our one year look back as being a designated Alliance District is nothing. The Alliance Grant is calculated from your numbers so there is no Alliance Grant. So now we are looking at flat funding for ECS for the next two years including this year and there is no remedy when it comes to receiving an Alliance Grant.

Mr. Drezek stated there has been a lot of discussion about the budget process this year. If the Town Manager and Town Council did not do what they did, we would be looking at 60 people that would not be here come July 1<sup>st</sup>. He cannot thank them enough. With a remedy moving forward, the State Department of Education gave me the same answer - talk to your Legislators and we will continue to do this. He addressed the audience and community members, there is no help coming in the form of funding. We are on our own and that is why our relationship with the Town and Board is so important. If we do not work together, we will all lose. He deferred to the Town Manager and Mayor in case he forgot anything.

Mayor Cressotti stated well said Mr. Drezek and well done. From our point of view, we always try to be fiscally responsible. We were fiscally responsible with setting this budget for the Board. We budgeted conservatively and it was a good thing we did this. We could have had a \$2.8 million deficit with the loss of 60 or more teachers. This is based on what the Town Council and Town Manager did by putting our heads together to do what was correct.

Mayor Cressotti added the \$29.8 million that is allocated to the Board comes directly to the Town as Superintendent Drezek stated. We are responsible for this money and designate it to the Board. The \$1.4 million dollars will be a surplus on the town side, and it will be placed in a reserve account. We will determine what we will do with this whether it is for projects or paying off debt. This money is as a backup. There were 3 different sets of formulas we needed to consider. Would we get money from the Alliance District, money for not being an Alliance District and what we would do? We did the same as last year and kept everything basically the same.

Mayor Cressotti stated he has been involved in public education for 40 years. He supports education and the 3.9% increase in the education budget. We worked hard with Council members to pass this budget. This budget moves us forward and makes an investment in our schools, students, staff, administration, all school employees and our community. We are at the end of the school year dealing with this unnecessary noise about the budget. We did things correctly and support education. He does not know how we have been able to survive while being flat funded. We have lost a lot of teachers. We are pro education. It is unfortunate we will be flat funded. We will continue to work with our Legislative representatives so more bills do not fall off the calendar. We passed a good budget, and we are proud of the fiscally responsible work we have done. Superintendent Drezek thoroughly explained all the different scenarios. Once we set the mill rate, we will not change it.

Madam Chair stated she was disappointed hearing about what bills didn't pass at the State level. She reached out to the Hartford delegation about why this happened. There had been conversations with district leadership and the Hartford delegation. The answer she received from Representative Hall did not sit well with her. Representative Hall said the town did not budget correctly for the ECS cost sharing grant. There is misinformation out there. The town should have budgeted for \$29 million instead of \$28 million for the Education Cost Sharing Grant. The difference is \$1.4 million. The reason we budgeted \$28 million was because there was no guarantee we were getting Alliance funding. If we had budgeted for the \$29 million and we got the Alliance money, the \$1.4 million would have come directly to us and \$28 million would have gone to the Town which would have given them \$1.4 million over budget. We budgeted conservatively and fiscally. She felt the Town did a good job budgeting. We do not have confidence with the State and their numbers. There is miscommunication about the \$1.4 million dollars. They did a good job, and this is town money. She does not like hearing about miscommunication about our budgeting. Those are very strong words. There is an obligation to the taxpayers to make sure we are not overbudgeting. If you over budget, you are putting the burden on the taxpayers. It is up to the Town Council about what they will do with the \$1.4 million. It is not extra money for us. We have been fully funded by our town and Town Council members despite what the State did.

Madam Chair stated her questions is what did our State Legislators do for us? The State

Senate bill 1028 was about changing the Alliance District from 33 to 36 districts. It also included a caveat that once you are meeting your goals and becoming a better performing district, you would come out of the Alliance Network. There was also information about an Equalization Aide Grant that I thought was good. They also included a lot of information about military families. These Bills are not easy to read. I found out that this had died on the calendar and House Bill 5003 passed with amendments. So now we need to look at the amendments. She is frustrated because no one can give her an answer about what our delegation advocated for.

Madam Chair added that Mrs. Acree, Mr. Hamre and she found out tonight that our ECS grant went down, and the needs of our students went down based on our wealth that went up. Is this because we offered free lunch to our students? The State mandated free lunch during Covid. We qualify as an Alliance District based on our low performing needs. That is based on your socioeconomic status. She was told that Plainfield received money because they were not paid enough from the ECS calculation grant. It seems the left had is not talking to the right hand. What is the delegation doing? Should we rely on other delegations to tell us Enfield is going to be okay? What is being advocated? Is the formula being questioned? Is the formulation being looked at? The ECS formula has been in place since 2017 and it will not be revised. If they decide we are not an Alliance District they can cut our ECS grant based on their calculations based on the needs of our students that have gone down and our wealth has gone up. What is happening with the delegation in Hartford?

Mrs. Zoppo-Sassu stated we are still feeling the effects from the re-evaluation with increased home values. The Town Council wanted us to do this in a way so the impact on the taxpayers was minimized. We have initiated the senior volunteer tax credit so seniors over 65 can receive a tax credit of \$400. We knew we wanted to fund education but knew we could not rely on the numbers that were coming from the State based on the calendar timelines. We took a conservative approach because you just never know. What we did with budgeting is the same as what we did last year. ECS & MBR numbers are the same. We have money in our rainy day account for if any needs arise, we are prepared. The superintendent explained the process many times. It is very confusing. We need to continue with these conversations, so people know what we are up against, the challenges we are dealing with, how the formula works and moving forward.

Mrs. Zoppo-Sassu added we need to have conversations about our inter-generational needs. We are using a balancing act and need to work as cohesive group for the Enfield community so everyone benefits. We want young families to stay in Enfield. Education is our calling card. We may have been dealt a poor hand during the legislative session. There are ways for us to do things. We need to understand taxation and programmatic needs. We can make hard decisions if needed. It is about choices and how we fund responsibly. We need to continue our budget conversations throughout the year, not just during budget time. Education is important and we want to continue working with you. We need to advocate for our needs in order to move forward.

Madam Chair stated when she receives an e-mail from the delegation and seeing it being politically driven and pointing fingers and saying we budgeted incorrectly this bothers her. The numbers are coming from the State. She just wants to know how they are advocating for Enfield. Misinformation is very damaging to our taxpayers and residents. We budgeted conservatively and it benefited the taxpayers. If you had budgeted for the full \$29 million it would have been different.

Mrs. Zoppo-Sassu stated a budgeted number of \$29.8 for education would have added \$1.4 million to the mill rate. To pay for the \$1.4 million we would have needed to tax the citizens to raise that money. That is what we were trying to avoid. The conservative number of \$28.9 million benefitted the taxpayers because we were not sure of what was going to happen. Our financial directors for the Town and Board know what they are doing. Together we have done

many creative things without needing to go to a referendum by leveraging our ARPA funds and working together to get projects done like the tennis courts and parking lots. There are some really big challenges, and this town is based on a very conservative financial foundation. We have worked together and were able to move many projects forward - it is a win for everyone.

Madam Chair added the ECS Grant money goes directly to the town. Any Alliance Grant monies will come directly to us and there will be certain ways we will need to spend this money. Thankfully, we were fully funded by the Town.

Mr. Drezek stated you can't always get what you want. He notified the Alliance District Network via CAPPS that he does not see us participating in a lot of activities we spent doing last year. When we were notified in February 2022, that this was coming the responsible thing for us to do was both Mrs. Zoppo-Sassu and he discussed this financially. We needed to prepare for July 1<sup>st</sup> and have a plan ready. There is an accountability plan that needed to be in place. We spent 7 months putting together our plan only to be told we weren't going to receive any money. He thought there was no way they would do this to us again. It is not just the State Department but other colleagues telling us how crazy this is and how can it be happening again to us. We prepared financially and academically to make sure we were in compliance. He has notified the CAPSS Alliance Network to leave us off the list until we see some money we will not participate. This is costing us too much. We do not have enough resources as it is to keep up with what our kids need while creating fictitious plans that will never come to fruition.

Madam Chair stated we have had conversations with Kathy Dempsey, CFO from the State Department of Education. She also explained about the bill that the legislation did not pass. Over the past several years, we have had budget cut discussions. A lot of people think we are crying wolf when we say we will lose teachers. This is not the case. We would have been looking at cutting programs and/or teachers.

Mr. Drezek added he can prove this. Every year the Board can carry over 2% of the budget and it must be included in the proclamation. It wasn't included this year because we do not have any extra money to set aside. In the past, we have been able to set aside our own reserve account to help offset what we might ask for in future years. We have always learned how to make do with what we have. Our teachers have bought their own supplies and have been very creative. A resident spoke about the \$1.4 million and the Alliance Grant, and at that time it was still on the table because the look back language was supposed to be fixed. We thought we would have a cushion. We all know what happened.

Madam Chair stated there has been an us versus them she has seen for the last 12 years. No one wants taxes to increase. We need to find a balance. It is important for elected officials to work together and to understand what is going on in Hartford and how much these decisions impact us in Enfield. We are not pointing fingers. We just want people to advocate for us and do what is right. We are advocating for our Enfield residents.

Mayor Cressotti agrees. We will continue to communicate with our Council, Board and legislative delegation. We knew the scenarios well. Moving forward we will have quarterly budget updates so we will be prepared for the next budget cycle. We want both sides and legislators to work together. Both the taxpayers and education are important to us.

Madam Chair added that Mrs. Cushman reached out to her about inviting the Hartford delegation to tonight's Board meeting. Senator Kissel was available, but Representative Arnone was not available, and she did not hear back from Representative Hall. We would like to have the Enfield delegation attend a meeting in August. Tonight Senator Kissel and Representative Hall were downstairs, and he said we could e-mail him any questions or concerns. We will submit some questions to him. We will keep our Town Council leadership in the loop with these questions.

Madam Chair thanked both Mayor Cressotti and Town Manager Zoppo-Sassu for coming tonight.

Mayor Cressotti wished all graduating seniors good luck.

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

### **a. Student Representative Update**

Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo provided the Board with her final update about EHS and graduation.

**b. Last Day of School** – as presented

**c. EHS Graduation** – as presented

**d. EPS Update** – as presented

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin stated at a previous meeting a question was asked about the budget, funding, and implied it was misrepresented about the value of what the Town pays for their buildings. The town pays for all the buildings. Our funding is low compared to other districts and the percentage of our high needs students is scandalous. We need to support our kids. Anyone that wants to be on the Board needs to advocate for our schools. She read something from the CAFE website about being a good Board member.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Acree stated one of the highlights of being on the Board is being the liaison to Prudence Crandall. She has enjoyed visiting them and attending events including musical performances. She provided an update on June events. She is looking forward to the fall when students come back. She thanked Principal Duperre and his staff for inviting her to attend events and making her feel so welcomed.

Dr. Calnen provided a detailed update about KITE, School Readiness Council Grant, Community Learning Plan, Head Start, PLA, First Readers, 2Gen and Head Start Program Improvement Plans that are included in your packet.

Mrs. Cushman appreciated the conversation we had tonight about the budget. There has been some miscommunication. She appreciated the opportunity to talk with Senator Kissel and Representative Hall. There are a lot of outstanding questions. She shared a quote from Ben Carlson about obstacles. She encourages our graduates to look at these obstacles as opportunities and to persevere during any challenges you may encounter. She congratulated all of our graduates and wished our teachers and students a fun and enjoyable summer.

Mr. Hamre congratulated all the JFK students and thanked Dr. Berrios and his staff for everything they have done for our students. He added this is PRIDE month in Enfield and Enfield is open and welcoming to everyone.

Mr. Hamre attended the event downstairs with Senator Kissel and Representative Hall. They discussed a 21% income increase in Enfield. He does not feel that number is accurate. Mr. Drezek, Mrs. Cisneros and Mrs. Zoppo-Sassu are our number persons. Our information has not changed. He feels the meeting downstairs was selectively distorted. They discussed ECS funding and guns. They feel Enfield is overfunded. Councilman Santanella has spoken about this topic many times. He appreciates the number of times Mr. Drezek has gone over the ECS, MBR and Alliance numbers with us. Education must be funded, and our funding should not be reduced.

Mr. Hamre added Johnny Six Guns is playing outside and one of our talented students Olivia Gaines who is singing with them along with her father. It is very distracting here tonight, but he will adapt and overcome.

Mr. Hamre stated the graduation process has started. Our Covid class is graduating, and students are moving up at JFK and EHS. Congratulations to all our graduates and students.

Mr. Hamre stated Enfield Loaves & Fishes held a gala to help raise funds. They provide meals to our hungry and they have done this for many years. Thank you Maya Matthews and everyone involved with this worthwhile program and service you provide to our Enfield Community.

Mr. LeBlanc stated he has missed the last couple of Board meetings. It is nice to hear the music outside. This is a great event for the town to provide during the summer for the residents.

Mr. LeBlanc added looking at past meetings, the Superintendent has spoken about the budget in 2022. We need to keep advocating to help our town and school move forward. Being fiscally responsible is important, but we need to advocate for education. If cuts are made to education, it will be difficult road to try and bring things back.

Mr. LeBlanc stated Mrs. Griffin spoke about taxes. We need families to stay in Enfield. A good education system will keep families here in Enfield. He will always advocate for education and our schools. This is how you can grow your town.

Mr. LeBlanc is looking forward to the Graduation Ceremony on Friday. He wished everyone a great summer. He attended Hazardville Memorials moving up ceremony. The students had a great time. He also wished Principal Hunter good luck. She is moving away to another district.

Mr. Ryder provided the Board with his Eli Whitney updates. He added that if you are new to Eli Whitney you can stop by on August 15, 16 and 17 from 10-2 PM and meet the principal and take a tour of the building. He wished Ms. Fitzsimmons good luck at Hazardville Memorial. We are all very proud of you. She will be the next principal at Memorial. We also wish Mrs. Hunter well.

Mr. Ryder attended many events during June at our schools including field days/moving up ceremonies, the EHS Scholarships & Awards Ceremony, and the EHS National Honor Society Recognition Ceremony. He added the North Central Chamber of Commerce awarded students at JFK and EHS with their Acts of Kindness Awards for the months of April, May and June. He thanked all of our students, teachers and staff for taking such good care of our students and educating them. Have happy, healthy, and safe summer.

Madam Chair stated she attended the Adult Education Graduation at the Annex, and the energy was excellent. Mr. Drezek, Mr. Hamre and Dr. Calnen were also there. It was great seeing all the family support. The graduates have formed such a great bond with each other. She also attended the EHS Scholarship and Awards Ceremony. Both she and Mr. Ryder were so glad to be there seeing the students that received their awards. We had a great time there also. She will also attend Safe Grad event at Sonny's Place. They are still looking for volunteers.

Madam Chair stated Charlie Tammaro, Austin Rathbun and Cameron McIntosh represented EPS at the Invention Convention State Finals at UConn on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Cameron has been invited to attend the Nationals with his Cool Comb invention and present his invention at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, MI in June 2024. Congratulations to Cameron and his family and look forward to hearing about his trip.



Madam Chair stated EHS will have 366 students that will graduate. We take direction from Ms. Clark and the students regarding the setup on the stage. We will have limited space on the stage again this year and not everyone can sit up on the stage.

Madam Chair stated Senate House Bill 5003 and the two amendments regarding funding and House Bill 1028 died on the calendar if any Board member wants to look into this more. She added that they are still talking about the Nutrition money at Town Council meetings. They are talking about our enrollment numbers decreasing. Our kids have high needs. If you could see our kids and see our school population you would understand this better. It is our responsibility to support all students. She thanked the members of the Town Council for supporting our budget.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. Proposed New Policy & Policy Revisions – Second Reading**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #6144 Controversial Issues as a Second Reading.

A vote by **roll call – 6-0-1** passed with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #9121 Chairperson as a Second Reading.

A vote by **roll call – 6-0-1** passed with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

Madam Chair reminded Board members when you vote according to Roberts Rules, you need say “Yes, No or Abstain.” If we can do this moving forward it would be appreciated.

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Approve Head Start 2023-24 Program Improvement Plan**

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder, that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Head Start 2023-24 Program Improvement Plan as presented.

A vote by **roll call – 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

**b. Action if any regarding the June 27, 2023 BOE Meeting**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree, that the Enfield Board of Education cancels the June 27, 2023 Regular Board of Education meeting.

**Discussion:**

Madam Chair added we will hold a special meeting next week regarding the Superintendent’s Evaluation.

A vote by **roll call – 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Curriculum – Mrs. Acree reported Curriculum Committee will meet on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee met on June 5<sup>th</sup>. We reviewed financial reports, nutrition reports, end of year budget projections and Tag investments. We will review

financial reports tonight.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee has cancelled their June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and will meet again in September. Mr. Longey will send us any policy updates he receives over the summer so we will be ready for our September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Leadership – Madam Chair was planning to meet before the meeting and will now discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation during Executive Session.

PK-5 School Modernization Committee – Mr. Drezek stated we have received a bid. Both John Dague and Fred Gerber will meet with Russell & Dawson Architecture Firm next week. The bid came in under the allocated amount. Once we receive a timeframe after their meeting next week, he will notify the Board so we can schedule another committee meeting.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder does not have a JFK Building Committee update.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet prior to school opening in August.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup – Dr. Calnen reported about our School Based Health Center and plans that have been made to meet with CHC who provides services to our students. They will meet with the CHC Program Manager on June 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the status of Enfield's School Based Health Center and future operations. Mrs. Acree and he are working on a mission statement for our committee to clarify its purpose and need for this committee. Both he and Mrs. Acree contacted our State Legislators to inquire about resources the State of CT is making available for schools.

Mrs. Acree added 2 bills were passed in the legislature about School Based Mental Health. The State Department of Education will provide grants to expand services from 2023 through 2025 for school districts to hire and retain additional social workers, school psychologists, school counselors and for families marriage and family therapists, therapists and nurses. The other bill is titled Early Childhood Mental and Behavioral Services and Providers. The new law focuses on mental and behavioral health services for early childhood, and it includes several provisions like providing mobile crisis services available 24/7. It also requires the DPH to establish a pilot program expanding children's behavioral health services being provided by pediatric providers. It also addresses provider recruitment and retention.

Madam Chair thanked them both for your hard work on this. They reached out to me for the previous resolution from the Mental Health Committee.

Dr. Calnen stated that was a different entity that was disbanded. The mission is pretty much the same and will share a copy of the mission statement once it is finalized.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mr. Hamre asked that everyone treat each other with kindness. It is PRIDE month, and a Juneteenth celebration will be held on Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the first night of the ECAC weekly concert series being held out back. He has also been very distracted tonight listening to the wonderful music they are playing. He congratulated our Enfield Poet Laurette – Enzema Hutchins. Open mic night will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Enfield Public Library.

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

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre, that the Special Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2023 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-1** passed with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2023, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-1** passed with Mr. LeBlanc abstaining.

#### **14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL**

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of May 2023 the total expenditures amount to \$7,036,552.74, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,915,673.38 and other accounts totaling \$2,120,879.36 and;
- All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly document.

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

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of May 2023 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$675,438.91 broken down between payroll totaling \$549,078.59 and other accounts totaling \$126,360.32; and
- All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly document.

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

Line Item Transfers if any - None

#### **15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION**

Madam Chair thanked our Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo for being our first representative since Covid. You have made an impact and we appreciate your energy, honesty and willingness to share with us. Good luck and we will see you on Friday.

#### **16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education enters into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel – Superintendent's Evaluation.

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

Both Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 9:03 PM. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session

#### **Open Session:**

The Board returned to open session at 9:29 PM.

#### **17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree to adjourn the Regular Meeting of June 13, 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

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