

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2020
Time: 5:30 PM**

Available Live on YouTube

https://youtu.be/5Z_-Npja5z0

The meeting will also be aired on ETV – Channel 16 the following evening

- 1. Call to Order – 5:30 PM**
- 2. Invocation or Moment of Silence – Walter Kruzel**
- 3. Roll Call**
- 4. Superintendent's Report**
 - a. School Closure/Distance Learning Update**
- 5. New Business:**
 - a. Approve 2020 Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarship Recipients**
 - b. Approve 2020 Safe Grad Contributions**
 - c. Approve 2020-21 Head Start COLA & Quality Improvement Grants**
 - d. Approve Adult Education Program Improvement Transition Grant for 2020-21**
- 6. Board Members' Comments**
- 7. Board Committee Reports**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Curriculum Committee- Finance, Budget Committee- Policy Committee- Leadership Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Joint Facilities Committee- JFK Building Committee- Joint Security Committee- Any additional Committees
--	--
- 8. Approval of Minutes:**
 - Special BOE Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2020
 - Regular BOE Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2020
 - Special BOE Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2020
- 9. Approval of Accounts and Payroll**
 - For the Months of February, March & April 2020
 - Line Item Transfers, if any
- 10. Correspondence & Communication**
- 11. Adjournment**



Date: May 12, 2020
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Superintendent's Report

- a. **School Closure/Distance Learning Update:** At this time, I will update the Board regarding school closures and distance learning.



Date: May 12, 2020
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Approve 2020 Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Since 2004, the Enfield Board of Education has announced the recipients of the Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarships at a Board meeting. These scholarships are awarded each year to a male and female graduating student from Enfield High School.

Enclosed in your packet is information provided by the Enfield High School Common Application Selection Committee. Due to student confidentiality, they are recommending that both students be referred to as Student A and Student B instead of announcing their names publicly.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriately to award the 2020 Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarships for Student A and Student B as presented.



Date: May 12, 2020
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Approve 2020 Safe Grad Contributions

For many years, the Board of Education has donated to Safe Grad. Last year, the Board approved donating \$1,000 to the Enfield High School Safe Grad Committee. Due to current events, they will be doing something different for the graduating class of 2020. We are recommending continuing with this donation. Such donations are permissible under the Town Charter.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding donating \$1,000 to the Enfield High School Safe Grad Committee on behalf of the Graduating Class of 2020.



Date: May 12, 2020
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Approve 2020-21 Head Start COLA & Quality Improvement Grants

Ms. Valley, our Early Childhood Initiatives Director is requesting Board approval to apply for a Federal Cost-of-Living (COLA) grant and Quality Improvement Grants. Enclosed in your packet is information regarding these grants.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate regarding Approving the Head Start FY202-21 Federal COLA Grant and Community Quality Improvement Grants as presented.



Date: May 12, 2020
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Approve Adult Education Program Improvement Transition Grant
for 2020-21

The CSDE has once again has invited Enfield Adult and Continuing Education to Apply for a *continuation* of a grant that we were awarded last year 2019/20. The grant Transition : Post Secondary Education and/or Training, is funded at the same level \$40,000. The grant is authorized by the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) Public Law 113-128*. WIOA builds on the strength of prior workforce legislation by requiring solid collaboration with mandated partners and more powerful relationships between adult education and the Connecticut Workforce Development Boards. The legislation encourages alignment between core programs to implement critical elements of Connecticut's Unified State Plan.

Since 2014 Enfield has been awarded grants in direct response to AEFLA, maintained this grant and met all standards and goals.

We are continuing this grant program as an expanded collaboration with Asnuntuck Community College and other community partnerships. Approximately 30-35 students will be eligible to participate. The grant is federally funded and no additional costs will be incurred by Enfield Public Schools.

Enfield Adult Education is requesting continuation of the *Transition: Post -Secondary Education and/or Training grant*.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any actions) deemed appropriate regarding the approval of the Adult Education Program Improvement Transition Grant as presented and authorize the superintendent to endorse as presented.

Item #8

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2020**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held on March 10, 2020 in the Enfield Room1 located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM by Chairman Kruzel.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Walter Kruzel
3. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Walter Kruzel announced the fire evacuation announcement.
4. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan LeBlanc (arrived at 5:50 PM), Bill Salazar, Chris Rutledge, Wendy Costa, Tina LeBlanc (arrived at 5:55 PM), Joyce Hall, Stacy Thurston, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew Longey, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Jaclyn Valley, Director of Early Childhood Initiatives and EA Aschenbrenner, Consultant

Chairman Kruzel stated Mrs. Costa will participate remotely for tonight's special meeting per BOE Policy #9325.43 Participation at Board Meetings by Remote Methods.

5. FEDERAL HEAD START PROGRAM ORIENTATION

Ms. Aschenbrenner and Ms. Valley reviewed Head Start program roles and responsibilities during a training session with Board of Education members, superintendent and assistant superintendent. They addressed the following topics:

- Reviewed the comprehensive child development program that serves 3-5 year olds and their families; eligibility for Head Start services and Federal Poverty Guidelines along with additional eligibility for Head start services for homeless families, families that receive public assistance and foster children.
- Reviewed ERSEA process for recruitment, selection, enrollment and attendance along with guiding regulations and standards.
- Reviewed our Head Start Management Systems for Leadership and Governance along with a five-year project period.
- Reviewed the organizational flow for Head Start and our program in Enfield. Our leadership consists of the Governing Body, Policy Committee and Management Staff.
- Reviewed the leadership's core responsibilities; duties and responsibilities for the governing body; Policy Council/Committee role; and the Head Start Management Staff day-to-day operations along with governing body reminders.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Special Meeting of March 10, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

Item #8

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on March 10, 2020.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar, Wendy Costa (Participated Remotely), Joyce Hall, Stacy Thurston, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Rutledge

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher Drezek, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

Chairman Kruzel addressed audience members that would like to speak tonight. You will need to sign-up using the sheet that is provided. He added Mr. Rutledge will not be present for tonight's meeting. Mrs. Costa will participate remotely per BOE Policy #9325.43 Participation at Board Meetings by Remote Methods.

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Child First Presentation**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Dr. Gerald Calnen and Jennifer Barrett, LCSW to tonight's meeting. They are here to discuss Child First.

Dr. Calnen thanked the Board for this opportunity to share information about Child First. We have an alarming amount of children that are not emotionally ready for kindergarten or ready to learn. We created an Adhoc Committee to address this problem. Committee members consist of Enfield Pediatric providers, Enfield Kite, Department of Social Services, and Enfield Youth Services. Our task was to come up with a solution. We are working with a nationally recognized program Child First. We presented this to the Town Council in January. Ms. Barrett is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and oversees the Enfield Child First program.

Ms. Barrett thanked the Board for this opportunity to present information about Child First program in Enfield. Our goal is to improve the lives of our young children. We use a two-generational program approach. We have two teams in Enfield that work with pregnant women, families with children from birth to age 5. There are no fees for the families. We are fully funded by grants. We work with families that feel overwhelmed by the behavior or emotions of their young children; have experienced violence or trauma; feel stressed and hopeless and need support and services for their child and other family members. Stress can be toxic and have long-term effects. Our intervention consists of a

2-month assessment process that helps us to form relationships with our families. This is the first year the we have been in Enfield. We have been in other towns longer. Mrs. Hall commented that you are spending one to two months with the families. Ms. Barrett stated we spend one to two months assessing the family and will continue to work with the family longer if needed.

Mr. Salazar asked how has Enfield responded to you being here compared to you being in other towns? Ms. Barrett stated Enfield has kept them very busy. We are working with 65 families. Our case managers are currently working over capacity.

Mr. LeBlanc added this is a crucial program. He agrees with what the mayor stated about this program ensuring that no child will fall through the crack. Working with KITE, he sees that your two-generational approach is important. He is happy this program is available for families in Enfield. Thank you. Ms. Barrett stated she is glad they are in Enfield.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated at times parents can feel very isolated. Working with the parent is important so they can support the child's needs. Spending time with the family for 6-12 months is important for both the parent and the child. At times, parents can feel overwhelmed. Building confidence is important. Ms. Barrett stated our approach can be different than what they were taught by their parents. We help them to put the pieces together and focus on what the child needs. Working with Enfield Youth Services and the Enfield Pediatricians has been great. They are fabulous partners.

Dr. Calnen stated this program interacts with the community. Child First has a strong connection with the town. If you wait for a dysregulated child to enter school, it is too late. Waiting to help these kids will be extremely labor intensive. Pediatricians can help with this. They see all kids and follow them over a long period of time developing a relationship with the family. We can identify these children in our offices by screening them and referring them to Child First. Involving the educational community will also help to recognize needs.

Mr. LeBlanc stated you are in larger towns and cities. You are working with 65 families in Enfield. How many are you working with in the other towns and cities? Ms. Barrett stated Harford has a long waiting list. We receive a lot of referrals. She does not have the numbers for those towns available.

Mr. Drezek added engaging with Enfield pediatricians is important. The Ad Hoc Committee was designed by Dr. Calnen. He has been a champion for all children. We would not be here if not for his commitment and dedication. Mr. Drezek publicly thanked Dr. Calnen.

Chairman Kruzel added we met preliminarily about this, around a year ago. Then we went door-to-door talking with Enfield pediatricians about this program. We want to put the kids needs first. It makes sense involving the pediatricians. They are with your child from birth. Their insight is important. Thank you.

Dr. Calnen and Ms. Barrett thanked the Board. They will leave contact information for you.

Chairman Kruzel asked about the referrals. Ms. Barrett stated we are receiving referrals from pediatricians, daycares and schools. You can go to the Child First website or the Village website – www.thevillage.org, www.childfirst.org or www.kidssafect.org.

Chairman Kruzel thanked them for coming.

b. Science Curriculum Presentation

Ms. Middleton and Mr. Dague thanked the Board for this opportunity to share information about the next generation science standards. Ms. Middleton stated our grade 11 scores were impressive. All K-12 levels have adopted these standards. Our testing starts at the end of March.

Mr. Salazar stated our scores for grade 11 are quite impressive. He asked them to explain this for people watching this. Ms. Middle stated the state percentage was 47.7 % and Enfield's percentage was 68.4%. The state percentage for grade 8 was 52.2% and Enfield's percentage was 53.8% and the state percentage for grade 5 was 53.6% and Enfield's percentage was 51.7%.

Mr. Dague reviewed our science and engineering practices and what students are doing; disciplinary core ideas; crosscutting concepts; grade 6 concussion unit progression and model progression; storyline learning activities; concussion performance task modeling; student explanations, testing and revising; testing strategies and summative model revision.

Mr. Ryder thanked them for the real-life examples by using an egg as your brain and using the building blocks and the story that goes along with it. Every child learns differently. This approach reaches each student differently. He remembers studying science in grade 6. This is a great way for our students to learn. Thank you. Mr. Dague stated the teachers and Mr. Ponte have done a great job at the secondary level reaching the students. They have put in a lot of work incorporating these techniques into the science curriculum.

Mr. Ryder stated connecting with the students is great. We are reaching all the students, not just the ones that memorize everything.

Mr. LeBlanc stated you are incorporating real world situations into these lessons. Concussions are a huge concern and topic. We are teaching this understanding about concussions to our sixth graders. You are also teaching them about our solar system. Mr. Dague stated it is not just science we are teaching them. It is a district focus using real-world connections in several subject areas.

Mrs. Hall stated we are doing this in grades Pre-K through grade 12 not just at the secondary level. The students are introduced to this at Head Start. This is something we were shown at a Head Start Policy meeting.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this was a wonderful presentation. It is showing all kinds and types of instruction for our students. Once the students were moved to JFK, she feels their instruction has been more enriched. We have the science labs. We have great science teachers in Enfield. Some students really like science but don't want to take chemistry. Seeing a crime scene in one of the high school cubbies is amazing. We are giving our students an outlet. We are offering our students so many different offerings. We are reaching our students differently so all students can learn. Thank you.

Mr. Salazar stated he had the opportunity to review this material previously at one of the curriculum meetings. He is so glad to be involved with the district and the work that is going on in our schools. We are doing so many wonderful things in our district that the public needs to see. Thank you and congratulations to the entire team.

Mrs. Hall added that we are teaching our math curriculum in a similar way. She asked Mr. Dague how many eggs survived? Mr. Dague stated they test progressively and not too many were broken.

Chairman Kruzel asked if there is a yoke in the 3D printed egg. Mr. Dague stated that would be a great project for them. He could give that task to the grade 8 team and see what they come up with.

Chairman Kruzel thanked them for this presentation. He would like them to come back again and share additional good news about Enfield.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives Report – None
- b. BOE Workshop – as presented
- c. March Events – as presented

Mr. Drezek gave the Board and public an update on the Coronavirus and steps we are taking. He urged everyone to not panic. He thanked our custodial staff for the job they are doing. As of now, there is no indication that we will close. Any decisions will be made with conjunction with the Health Department. If we close, it will most likely be for an extended amount of time. We have received guidelines and expectations from the State Department of Education regarding closures and distance learning. He is prepared to submit a request for a waiver for distance learning. We began preparing distance learning plans for our students this week in preparation. He thanked our staff for preparing up to 14 days of learning materials for our students if we are forced to close. He is extremely proud of what our staff has done in such a short amount of time. Please take a moment to thank our staff for putting their lives on hold in case we need to make a drastic change to our students learning practices.

Mr. Drezek added the Governor is recommending no out of state traveling, no large meetings or gatherings over 100 people. They are also canceling all athletic contests. As of today, Mr. Drezek has cancelled one international trip. He will not allow any out of state field trips. He is meeting with all administrators on Wednesday to discuss any other planned trips. He asks for everyone's patience while we work through this process that changes hourly.

Mr. Drezek stated he will continue to update the Board and public as much as he can with factual information. He will send home messages to parents and students with updates during the next several days.

Mr. Drezek thanked everyone for your understanding and cooperation during this public health crises. Any decisions we make will be made with our student's best interest in mind. Times like this require all of us to come together. Enfield has a history of coming together in times of need and he has no doubt that we will weather this storm together.

Chairman Kruzel also thanked the staff for what they have accomplished over the past few days. He has so much faith in our staff and administrators. They continually step-up when needed. We will continue to monitor this daily. We will prevail.

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Hall commented about the First Readers Trivia Night. The ceremony for the First Readers was held on Monday, March 9th where 71 students were recognized. She thanked Chairman Kruzel for standing in for Mr. Drezek. Students were provided t-shirts, medals, pencils and books. We are very proud of our First Readers.

Chairman Kruzel stated that Mayor Ludwick stood in for Mr. Drezek and he stood in for Mr. Longey.

Mr. Drezek added now you know why he and Mr. Longey were not there. A conference call with the Governor was planned for the same time as the First Readers Ceremony. He thanked Mayor and Chairman for standing in for them. We will not miss another First Reader Ceremony.

Mr. Salazar congratulated Prudence Crandall for their very successful Read Across America week. They will hold their Family Engagement day on Friday, March 13th. Parents are

encouraged to join their children in their classrooms for math and reading sessions.

Mr. Drezek stated this event has been rescheduled for June 5th. We just found this out this afternoon.

Mr. Salazar stated the Crandall PTO meeting is still happening on Tuesday, March 17th. He encourages parents to participate. He does not think we will surpass 100 people at this meeting.

Mr. Ryder stated Hazardville Memorial will hold their PTO meeting on Wednesday, March 11th at 6:00 PM. The spirit wear assembly is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th. They will also hold spring sports day for students from Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney to wear their favorited sports gear. We are selling tickets for students and families to attend the CT Science Center.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will hold their Yankee Candle fundraiser event that will start on Friday, March 13th until March 20th.

Mr. Ryder stated ERfC is also planning an event on Thursday, March 19th for Memorial and Whitney students and families.

Mr. Ryder stated the JFK students held a basketball game last Friday against staff members. The students won 72-70. It was a great event and everyone had a lot of fun. JFK is hosting an event on Thursday, March 19th at the Outback Steakhouse from 4-9 PM. They are also holding their play "Frozen Jr." on Friday, March 20th at 7:00 PM & Saturday, March 21st at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM. All intermediate schools will go to JFK to see the play on Monday, March 23rd.

Mr. Ryder thanked all our teachers and staff for putting together the packets, keeping us all calm.

Mr. Ryder added that you can receive a free appetizer from Red Robin on Friday, March 20th. All you need to do is bring you EPS ID.

Mr. Ryder stated the Cat in the Hat visited several schools last week on Monday and Friday. He thanked the students and staff for welcoming the Cat in the Hat at Hazardville memorial, Eli Whitney, Stowe Early Learning Center, LEGO, Enfield Street. He had a great time visiting the students and hopes to do this again in the future.

Mrs. LeBlanc also attended the JFK faculty vs. Students Basketball game. The Cat in the Hat was also there as a DJ. The Cat in the Hat was quite busy this week. During the half time of the game, four students played the drums. She would love for them to attend a Board meeting and play for us. Everyone had a great time at this event. It was a lot of fun.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she attended the Enfield Community Purse Bingo event. The turnout was great and learning about what they are doing for the Enfield community was

wonderful.

Mrs. LeBlanc also attended the Enfield Travel Basketball Association Induction Ceremony. This event started last year. They inducted the 2012-13 Seventh and Eighth Girls Travel A Basketball Team into their hall of fame. Out of the ten players, 8 girls went on to play at the collegiate level in basketball, soccer or lacrosse. The girls are now seniors and juniors in college. They are rebranding Enfield Travel Basketball and want to be more active in our community.

Mrs. LeBlanc added Enfield Safe Grad is planning to hold their purse bingo event on Friday, March 20th at Holy Family Church. For more information, you can go to the EHS parents Facebook page or contact Emily Jensen.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked all the volunteers and PTO members involved with the JFK faculty vs. student basketball game. This was a great event and a lot of fun to attend. He thanked Mr. Ryder for his DJ skills.

Mr. LeBlanc stated it was great to be part of the Read Across America program. The kids were great.

Mr. LeBlanc congratulated and thanked the school district for being prepared in case something happens with the COVID-19 virus. We have a pro-active plan in place instead of being reactive.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the CIAC cancelled the winter tournament basketball games. He understands the need for precautions, but he feels for the student athletes. He knows how important these games are. He would like the CIAC to explore all options.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated there is a petition circulating to allow the students to play without any spectators being present. There are over 60,000 signatures.

Chairman Kruzel attended the Stowe Read Across America program. It was great seeing the students and reading to them. They were very attentive while he read to them. He also attended the First Readers event. This event was well attended. Buzz Robotics held their pasta supper. There was a big turnout for this event also.

Chairman Kruzel thanked the EPS staff for what they are doing for our town and students. They care about our students.

Mrs. Costa stated she missed the basketball game and the First Readers event. She was called out of town for an emergency. She thanked the administration and staff for preparing the student packets for just in case they are needed. She does not want to see any airline cancellations. She really wants to get back home.

Mrs. Costa stated Edgar H. Parkman raised \$193 for their wear red day for CHD awareness. This is the last week to order butter braids and cake rolls for their spring fundraiser event. They will hold a purse bingo on March 22nd at the Enfield Knights of Columbus. Tickets are \$35. You can also sign up for the Integrity Martial Arts fundraiser event.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Action if any, regarding Cancelling the April 14, 2020 Regular BOE Meeting

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education

cancels their April 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Discussion:

Mr. Ryder would like to wait until the next meeting to address this or to see where we are in a week or two.

Mr. Drezek does not have any additional answers now. We typically notify the public when we are cancelling a Board meeting.

Chairman Kruzel stated we can still hold a special meeting if needed. We really don't know what is going to happen next.

Mr. Drezek added we only need 24 hours to post an agenda for a special meeting if needed.

Mr. Salazar stated we are voting to cancel the April 14th BOE meeting with the understanding if needed, we can hold a special meeting. Chairman Kruzel stated that is correct.

A vote by **roll-call 6-1-1** passed with Mr. LeBlanc in dissent and Chairman Kruzel abstaining.

b. Policy Revision #5113 Students – Attendance Policy K-12

Mr. Salazar moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education changes the agenda item to include First Reading.

A vote by **show of hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Salazar that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5113 Students – Attendance Policy K-12 as a First Reading.

Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel stated we do not need to read this policy out loud. It is posted on the website.

Mr. Ryder stated the Policy Committee made some changes to the letters that go home with students and made some legal changes to the statutes. We also addressed the language regarding excused student absences, and the letter that will go home with students after the tenth absence. Once you go over your tenth absence, the language is more stern. This doesn't change for the high school students due to credits but the language is kinder for the Pre-K thru grade 8 students.

Mrs. Thurston would like to receive a copy of the parent letters. Mr. Ryder stated each Board member received these by e-mail. One attachment is the policy and the other is the regulation. The regulation has the letters.

Ms. Hall stated the letters are not numbered correctly. Mr. Ryder stated they are referenced but are not numbered. There are five letters that could be sent home to students in the high school and two letters for students in grades Pre-K through grade 8.

Mr. Salazar stated the letter that was dropped had the same content. Ms. Hall would still like the policy to reflect the letter by a number.

Mr. Ryder stated we can make that change to the regulation. The policy is for public

consumption, the regulation is for the rules the administrators will follow.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Salazar reported the Curriculum Committee will meet next week on March 19th.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Costa reported the Finance Committee will meet on March 16th.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee will meet on March 17th.

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on March 12th. Phase II was passed by the Town Council and we have submitted the application to the State.

f. JFK Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the JFK Building Committee will meet on March 17th. We received a letter from the State saying we can send out the bid packages.

g. Joint Security Committee

Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee met on March 4th and will meet next on May 6th.

h. Any Other Committees

Mrs. Costa reported the Joint Insurance Committee will meet on March 17th.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc that the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2020 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

Item #8

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2020**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was virtually on April 28, 2020.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Walter Kruzel.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Walter Kruzel
3. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY: Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar, Chris Rutledge, Wendy Costa, Joyce Hall, Stacy Thurston, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher Drezek, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. **School Closure/Distance Learning Update**

Mr. Drezek stated at our March 10th meeting he updated the Board about us closing school for up to 14th days. We pulled our staff together to prepare distance learning packets for our students. Students left with 14 days of materials to continue their education at home. We applied for a waiver from the State of Connecticut Department of Education for distance learning. The state granted us permission for our distance learning plans. The first phase of our distance learning was on paper because not all students have computers. Our first 14 days of distance learning would be considered as regular school days.

The purpose of the paper packets was to get us through to our April vacation week. High School students have 1:1 devices. JFK and elementary students do not have computer devices. We reached out to every family to see if they had devices for their children to use. Mr. Drezek thanked our principals and staff for reaching out to every family and arranging for them to receive a device for online distance learning. The vast majority of our families have devices in order for us to transition to a virtual platform. We need to be flexible during this time for families and staff when communicating.

Mr. Drezek added when we left on March 12th, we did not know what was going to happen. It is like we are building a plane and learning how to fly it at the same time. We understand that we must be flexible. The only way we are going to get through this is by doing what is best for our kids. Phase II and phase III were paper and electronic. We will eventually transition to a virtual platform. Our teachers are being trained on TEAMS virtually. We are in a better position than some of the other towns.

Mr. Drezek gave an update on grading for our students. This is new and everything is being done in the best interest of our kids.

Mr. Drezek added that so many of our staff and teachers have stepped up. He especially thanked our Nutrition Services Staff – Diane Edwards and Judy Januszewski for

everything they have done. They came up with a plan and have not missed a step when it comes to feeding our students. He is so proud of how our staff have been interacting with our students

and families from the start. He knows this isn't perfect, but everyone is doing their best. This is a lot to ask of parents and students. Health and safety is our most important concern for our families and staff. We are learning as we are going. He understands your frustration and reminded everyone that we must remain flexible and we will get through this working together. He is extremely proud of how we have all banded together.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the special education students and their packets for distance learning. Mr. Drezek stated he knows this is not perfect for our students. He just received word that the Federal Government has denied the waiver for IDEA. Working directly with our students is not allowed. Direct contact with our students cannot be replaced. Our staff are doing the best they can reaching out to their students. It is not perfect, but it is as good as we can get it at this time.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the future for snow days since we are using distance learning now. Will snow days be eliminated? Mr. Drezek stated we should never need another snow day since we are all experts now. Moving forward we will focus our professional learning opportunities on distance learning. We are training as we go. Our teachers will be better prepared for distance learning. We might receive a phone call next school year that we will need to go out again. We will be spending our summer preparing for this if it happens again, so our kids will have as normal of a school day from their homes. If we do this correctly, we shouldn't have any snow days. This decision will fall upon the State.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that is why she was asking about this. It is her understanding that there might be a surge in the fall. There are many questions about school continuing in the fall including at colleges. The initiatives we have taken has been very proactive. She appreciates what everyone has done.

Mrs. Hall asked about students receiving Art, Music and Physical Education. How have we been addressing these supplemental subjects. Mr. Drezek stated they are up and running. Staff have created enrichment activities for the kids to do at home. Our teachers are always reaching out to the students and supplemental subjects have become more formalized. Grading at the high school will allow our students the opportunity to increase grades with these enrichment opportunities.

Mrs. Hall asked when there is a gap in this ordeal, do you plan to recover the equipment that has been distributed to families? Should we start to looking into iPads or having other devices available for all our students? Mr. Drezek stated yes and yes. The buildings did a great job taking devices from each building for families to use. There is a chance they will not come back to us in the same condition. Our next phase, we will need to prepare for the worst and have a process in place for devices. Our shift as a district will need to be on distance learning plans for the future.

Mr. Ryder stated with phase III, Art, Music, Physical Education and Technology lessons have been sent home with supplemental materials. Mr. Drezek stated our computer teachers have gone above and beyond and are assisting Mr. Bourassa with how to videos. We are utilizing our staff and everyone is doing the best they can.

Mr. LeBlanc is wondering if there are any updates regarding the communication you have had with our graduating seniors and if any plans have been made. Mr. Drezek stated he has been meeting with Ms. Clark and Mr. Longey about alternative graduation options. We also met with around 35 senior students via TEAM about their preferences for graduation. Our students would like to graduate on the field. We are planning for both including a virtual graduation ceremony and postponing the graduation date. Our

students have worked hard and deserve recognition. It breaks his heart about this. Large gatherings will not be allowed in the future. Ms. Clark and her team are exploring many different options. We will give you more information in the coming weeks.

Mrs. Hall stated a group of students asked about holding all graduations on a specific date for a statewide graduation. Chairman Kruzel stated that he also heard the same thing. Mr. Drezek stated that questions was raised by the media to the Governor. He has not heard anything else regarding this. We are currently focusing on input from our seniors and what they would like for their graduation ceremony.

Mr. LeBlanc stated based on what Ms. Hall mentioned, graduations might be held on the same day. Mr. Drezek stated that is the idea that was floated. This sounds good but what about parents and security issues. What happens when they all show up? The Governor has not officially said anything about graduations. We are still looking at alternative options for graduations.

Mr. LeBlanc is glad to hear we are looking at multiple options for graduation. We value the work our students put into obtaining their diplomas. Our students deserve to be recognized for their hard work. He believes the ceremony should be done before August. Seniors will be gearing up for heading off to college or other options.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the projected last day of school. Mr. Drezek stated the last day of school will most likely be made by the Board. We need to see what will that last day be like? Will students still be learning remotely? What if the Governor says we can go back? At some point, we will want to create normalcy for our students. The attendance policy has also been waived across the state. Some parents will make the decision to keep their children home. Currently, June 17th is our last day of school. We have waived the 181st day. We do not need to decide about the last day of school now. He has also received that question as well.

Mrs. LeBlanc agrees with Mr. Drezek about waiting until we hear from the Governor about students coming back.

5. Budget Update

Mr. Drezek stated we had our budget in place previously. But since this public health crises erupted, he has been meeting with the Town Manager. We started looking at our finances and we decided to work together and to support each other during this time. Mr. Bromson shared this with his leadership and I discussed this with our Board leadership. Nothing is official and does not require the Board to vote on this until the Town adopts the budget. We are working together to support the Town and the school and do what is best for our Enfield community. We will still be allowed to carryover 2% which will help us. One of the benefits of our Eagle Academy was allowing us to save money from bringing back our outplaced students. If we didn't have this option, we would be looking at layoffs. We will be down some positions but we will not need to lay off any staff.

Mr. Drezek believes we can survive on a 0% budget next year if needed. This is not something we can do often but we want to do what is fiscally responsible for our town and community. We have money in our budget now. We are trying to do this without any non-renewals. We have looked at our budgets, professional development, supplies, curriculum needs and contracts. Both Mrs. Cisneros and Mr. Bourassa are currently working with our vendors arranging for credits for next year. Based on this, we could reduce our line items in the way we are paying our bills now. Our budget will be fluid until we adopt it. Mr. Bromson does not want to decimate our budget. Some areas will be hit. This is a one year hit. He hopes the State will honor our ECS funding. We are working with our Town to do what is fiscally responsible for our community during these

unprecedented times.

Mr. Drezek stated the Town Council will hold a virtual public hearing on April 29th at 5:00 PM. This will look differently than what we have done in the past. Both Mr. Kruzel and he have been invited to attend. Questions need to be submitted to the Town Manager and will be addressed by Mayor Ludwick at the public hearing. The community conversation on the budget will not be held but we will do something for the public. It will look different than what was done in the past.

Ms. Hall asked if Mr. Drezek will need to present the Board's budget at the hearing? Mr. Drezek stated no. The Board's proposed budget is on the website. Both he and Mr. Bromson will make a statement. We will not be making any remarks.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey for making the numbers work.

6. JFK Schedule Changes

Mr. Drezek stated we would have held several discussions regarding scheduling and looping at JFK by this time. Looping normally affects the grade 7 teams. With the number of grade 8, 7 classes and incoming grade 6 students for next year, along with the construction that will occur next year, we have decided not to loop classes. Dr. Berrios will go ahead and make the schedules without the traditional looping process for the next school year. Dr. Berrios will send out communication about this to the families. This is not a decision the Board needs to make. We are limited with our swing spaces at JFK. This may cause questions about this change. We would have held parent meetings about this to address parent concerns. We will do something to address parent concerns.

Mr. Salazar asked about looping concerns. Is the concern for only during the construction process? Mr. Drezek stated normally, when you enter JFK you are with the same group/team the entire time you are at JFK. We are being forced to make this change now due to logistics and will continue with this change from now on.

Mr. Salazar asked if this is because of the lack of space in the building. Mr. Drezek stated not completely. It is because of the way the teams are configured and where they will be going in the swing spaces. We need to separate teams because there are too many in certain grade levels. There are a lot of exciting changes that will be happening at JFK, similar to the changes at EHS. This is all part of the JFK Building Project to enhance learning in a new building.

Mr. Kruzel stated the JFK Building Committee is still meeting. Bids are coming in and we are looking to breaking ground for the project soon.

7. Board Members' Comments

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we hear what our seniors are saying loud and clear. She is glad the superintendent and Mrs. Clark put together the student survey about graduations. She is hoping everything goes smoothly. She thanked our principals for their communications to their students. We know this has not been easy. The teacher parades were amazing. She wishes our families, staff and students good health. Our teachers miss seeing their children. Seeing everyone tonight was great. One of our Board members is in the front lines and goes to work every day. Please send us your questions. Stay safe and healthy.

Mrs. Hall thanked everyone starting with our nutritionists up to our Superintendent for dealing with this extreme situation so well. She thanked the Elementary Principals for their newsletters. They are very creative and entertaining, especially the new Eaglet from the Early Learning Center. She wished everyone good luck in the future.

Mrs. Thurston thanked everyone for doing a great job. It is emotional seeing everyone. Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey you are amazing. She does not know what we would do without you both - thank you for everything you are doing. Our parents are doing a great job homeschooling our kids. They did not sign up for this. She is happy to report that her facility

is COVID free. We are talking with our resident's family members daily using iPads. Our staff is amazing. We are doing what we can to stay healthy and COVID free.

Mr. Kruzel thanked Mrs. Thurston and the staff at her facility. Please thank your staff for all the hard work they are doing for the residents.

Mr. Ryder thanked the Enfield Police Department for assisting with the teacher motorcades. The staff parades were amazing. He thanked everyone that participated in these caravans. He also thanks our nutrition services staff for the amazing job they are doing feeding our kids. You can go to www.enfieldpto.com/meals and we have the hours posted and have placed pictures of the staff on Facebook. He thanked the parents for what they are doing. They did not sign up for this. The kids love seeing each other remotely with Zoom and TEAM calls. He knows how frustrating this is. Enfield PTO is holding spirit weeks for families. He thanked the parents that have contacted him.

Mr. Ryder stated Enfield Unplugged will be renamed to Enfield Recharged. They will have different events for each day. The events will be posted on the www.KITE.org website and the www.enfieldpto.com website. He added that our posts are reaching many people. We have become a resource for our parents. He thanked everyone and wished everyone to stay safe.

Mr. LeBlanc also thanked everyone. There is something special in the way we are doing things in Enfield like our motorcades. Our staff was prepared by preparing the distance learning packets. Graduations are important. He knows we are doing everything we can to insure something is done for our graduates. He feels for our athletes. We are all in this together and we will get through this together. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Stay healthy and safe. Let's get back to work. He also misses seeing everyone.

Mr. Salazar stated these are difficult historical times. We are sharing our strengths and encouragements with each other. He encourages you to support everyone in our community. Everyone is doing a great job for our students and staff. Our parents and staff deserve a lot of credit. We are available and are listening to your concerns. Hang in there. We will get through this together.

Mr. Rutledge echoes the comments that were made tonight. He thanks our front-line people for what they are doing. Stay safe and healthy. Look at the silver lining, this allows us to spend more time with our families. This is also bringing our technology together. He hopes this technology trend will continue and our subcommittees can start meeting remotely also. Stay safe and healthy. He also wishes everyone the best.

Mrs. Costa stated our administration and faculty members have done a bang-up job. She also echoes the comments made. Our parents are doing a great job working with our students at home. We are all trying to find our way while working from home has its challenges. She is glad this didn't happen when her kids were younger. Do the best you can. That is all we can do for our kids. She is worried about the children and what they are being asked to do. This is something we never imagined. Our seniors are missing out. Our work is just beginning. The communications we have been providing to our families are important. She thanked Mr. Drezek for the updates. We need to look at any upcoming roadblocks and look at different ways for learning. We need to help our kids get ready to come back to school and what we are going to do to get our kids ready. How

do we make these last few months for our graduating seniors special? Stay safe, healthy and stay home.

Mr. Longey wished everyone well. Stay home. Virtual meetings are boring. He misses being in the schools. Stay safe everyone.

Mr. Kruzel thanked Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey, Mr. Bourassa, ETV and Mr. Russell. He also echoes the comments made tonight. We have been meeting since January with the Town. We

knew something was going to happen. We were prepared. He thanks our staff for all the work they have done. He thanked the staff for the motorcades. This was an awesome thing to do for our kids and staff. He agrees with Mr. Drezek, we are building the plane and learning how to fly it at the same time. Opening the schools is not going to be easy. We need to do something special for our graduates. He thanked Connecticut Masks for Heroes. They donated masks and we picked them up and gave them to our EMT staff.

Mr. Kruzel thanked the Town Council members, the Mayor and Mr. Bromson. Enfield First. We make a difference in Enfield, every child and every day and for every resident as well. He thanked Board members. Now we need to get back to work. He would like our subcommittees to start meeting remotely. Thank you all during this difficult time.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa to adjourn the Special Virtual Meeting of April 28, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary