

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 23, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on November 23, 2021.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Madam Chair LeBlanc.
2. **INVOCATION OR 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, Jonathan LeBlanc, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire and Tina LeBlanc

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent & Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. 2021-22 Kid Mayor

Mr. Drezek welcomed our K-12 Humanities Director Dr. Meghann Burr. Dr. Burr thanked Mr. Drezek and the Board for inviting them to tonight's meeting. She introduced our districtwide 2021-22 Kid Mayor – Chloe Clark. She is a grade 5 student at Prudence Crandall Elementary Schools.

Ms. Clark stated her platform was about self-insecurities. She wants to be a leader and decided to run for Kid Governor. She thanked her school for their help, her family, her teacher Mrs. O'Connor and her classmates. She also thanked Mr. Senez and Dr. Burr. She shared her Kid Mayor message with the Board. She added that being different is good.

Mr. Hamre stated, Chloe you are amazing, and you are a leader already. Kudos for your efforts. Your presentation was incredible

Mrs. Pickett thanked her for all your hard work. Your message is great – different is good. This is something we can all use it. Thank you for your hard work. You are a leader.

Mrs. Acree thanked Chloe for your platform and message. This was refreshing. You are very creative. You never know, you might have a place in politics someday. She urged her to keep up the good work.

Mr. Ryder stated that at our March 22nd meeting he will address Kindness Day that falls on March 31st. He would love it if you could attend but if you can't he will remind everyone about Kindness Day.

Mr. Unghire stated that you are wonderful and beautiful young lady. Talk about being kind and sensitive is very important. He knows that young girls are sensitive about their appearance and worry about things. He thanked her for her vision and positive message about feeling good. Thank you for bringing this to our schools.

Madam Chair LeBlanc stated your message reminds her of a saying – be as kind to yourself as you are to others. We all need that reminder because we are so hard on ourselves. She loves when our students attend Board meetings. Your classmates see you. You have created a safe place where kids can relate to other kids. She loves your platform and congratulated her. We all need kindness.

Mayor Bob Cressotti congratulated Chloe. This is quite an honor. Your platform at grade 5 shows such confidence, self-awareness and self-esteem. What an opportune time to share your message at Thanksgiving. He congratulated her on behalf of the entire Town Council. He invited her to attend the December 6th Town Council meeting as their special guest.

Mayor Cressotti presented her with a Town Pin and urged her to wear this with pride. He also invited her to attend the Torchlight Parade and Carol Sing on December 5th and to walk with the Town Council and Board of Education member to the Town Green.

Madam Chair LeBlanc presented Ms. Clark with a plaque from the Board of Education and Town Council. Ms. Clark received a standing ovation.

Mayor Cressotti wished everyone a happy, safe and healthy Thanksgiving with your families on behalf of the Town Council and himself. Thank you.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Madam Chair LeBlanc stated we have the need to Suspend the Rules for two items – move Item 11a. Approval of 2022-23 Head Start Federal Grant, SF-424B Submission Statement and Governing Board Approval Statement before Item #8 Audience Participation and add Item #11c. Standing Committees of the Board to the agenda as Item #11c.

MOTION TO MOVE AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education move Item 11a. Approval of 2022-23 Head Start Federal Grant, SF-424B Submission Statement and Governing Board Approval Statement before Item #8 Audience Participation.

A vote by **show-of-hands – 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

MOTION TO ADD AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education adds Item #11c – Standing Committees of the Board to the agenda.

A vote by **show-of-hands – 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. EPS Update

Mr. Drezek stated we received a request from the construction company regarding December 23rd and January 3rd for the students at JFK. The building is under construction and is expected to be completed sooner than expected. Staff will need to set up their classrooms and get ready for students to return. We will address the JFK student calendar at our next

meeting. In the past, we would have used a remote day but that is no longer allowed. We will need to make an adjustment to the school calendar to accommodate the students at JFK. The Board can waive the 181st school day since we are only required to attend school 180 days. We can also be creative with making up any days. He wanted to let the parents and students know about this.

Mr. Drezek stated the CIAC has announced their plans for winter sports and masks. He has discussed this with his colleagues and at the State Department of Health. This plan will affect certain athletes and being able to participate without wearing masks if they are vaccinated. He is sure this will be addressed further.

Mr. Drezek stated we have received several phone calls regarding the state Screen and Stay initiative. This does not mean you can automatically come back to school if you are asymptomatic. There are certain parameters that are in place. Yes, we are participating with this but there are other factors that need to be considered. This will only apply if your direct exposure happened while you were at school. Parents are required to sign an attestation form. Our nurses are trying to relay this information to parents. We will put something out that is clearer about this for parents.

b. Torchlight Parade & Carol Sing – as presented

11a. Approval of 2022-23 Head Start Federal Grant, SF-424B Submission Statement and Governing Board Approval Statement

Madam Chair welcomed Jaclyn Valley our Early Childhood Initiatives Director to the meeting. Ms. Valley introduced our Education and Disabilities Coordinator Shannon Steere. They gave an update of what is happening at STOWE. They presented slides showing a summary from the SELC conferences that were held and students being creative, inquisitive, flexible, critical thinkers, purposeful and reflective and social learners. Mrs. Steere reviewed child outcome data from the Fall of 2021.

Ms. Valley stated they are here to request approval for Head Start Federal Grants that total \$961,231 and \$11,241 for training and technical assistance.

Mr. Unghire asked if they are applying for these grants. Ms. Valley stated this is a 5 year continuation grant that we are applying for. We need to resubmit our application for each year. This is for year 3 and the goals and objectives are for year 4. This is the process we need to follow for this continuation grant.

Mr. Unghire asked about the budget. What is the non-federal money that is listed? Ms. Valley stated that all Head Starts are required to have 25% of the non-federal funds come from other sources. This portion comes from the Board of Education. If we were not part of a school district, we would partner with the community to provide donations and funding.

Mr. Unghire stated this portion of funding comes from the Enfield Public School system. Thank you.

Mrs. Pickett asked how many students are attending Enfield Head Start. Ms. Valley stated we have 102 students that are fully enrolled. This is a huge testament to our program. Nationally, Head Start programs are struggling to be fully enrolled. We are one of two Head Starts in our region that are fully enrolled.

Mrs. Pickett stated the amount that Enfield provides Head Start is the match that most grants require. This is for 102 students that receive a high quality education program. Ms. Valley stated we have 1 part day program also. We currently have 5 full day programs. We were able to use the American Rescue Funds to fund an additional classroom this year.

Dr. Calnen asked about training and technical assistance. Ms. Valley stated we will provide staff with professional development and training as part of the grant. We use this to pay for CPR training and refining our data collection. We are working with the CT Science Center and an executive function coach. We will also use Ready Rosie for staff training.

Dr. Calnen asked if Ms. Valley could elaborate on Ready Rosie. Ms. Valley stated this is a parent training and development program. We also use this as a family engagement tool. They have many different kinds of videos that help parents when it comes to their children. They also provide us with many training videos.

Dr. Calnen asked who developed this program? Ms. Valley is not sure but can look into it.

Mr. Hamre asked if the \$961,231 is for each year? Ms. Valley stated that amount is for each year.

Mr. Hamre asked if we could expand our numbers past 102 students? Ms. Valley stated we would need to apply for. We would need to prove our need to expand the number of students we serve. We would need to provide data showing this need. We are a delegate of Manchester, and they are our grantee. Manchester has more seats than we do. We are in partnership with them.

Madam Chair thanked them for the presentation and for working every day with our tiny humans. We appreciate everything you are doing for our students.

Mr. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2022-23 Head Start Federal Grant, SF-424B Submission Statement and Governing Board Approval Statement as presented.

A vote by **roll call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

8. AUDIENCES

Madam Chair read a prepared statement about expectations for audience participation. For now, we will continue to utilize a 3-minute time limit for audience participation.

Matt Schmitt, Bigelow Commons – Mr. Schmitt is here again about critical thought. World known Colgate knows about this and has dedicated a whole page about this topic on their website. He spoke about the harms from wearing masks. He would like this Board to examine strategies regarding masking. He would like this Board to share information with parents about masks and the harm they pose and should be shared. You cannot plead ignorance about this and need to change your policy.

Vanesa Cleary, Taylor Road – Ms. Cleary is a graduate of EHS. She was raised in Enfield and loves her family. She started school in Enfield and required many surgeries. She is developmentally delayed and is currently attending school at ETLA. Enfield schools are like another family to her. She first attended St. Martha's and then Enfield High School. It was very scary attending such a large school but some of the upper classman took me under their wing. She thanked Justin, Catherine and Regina for being so kind to her. She loves all of her teachers and friends she has made. She has received a fantastic education. She has a job and is going to college. Her future looks great. Thank you to all of my fantastic teachers. She wanted to make a donation to places that are dear to her heart. She presented the Board with a check and wished them a Happy Thanksgiving and urged them to stay safe.

Sherry Jackson, Cottage Road – Mrs. Jackson stated the question was raised a few weeks ago

about why we are here. She is here as a resident of Enfield and as a parent. She has contacted her legislatures about the vaccines and the unconstitutional mandates. She feels our constitution has been breached. She received a letter from Mr. Courtney's office about how lucky we are to have vaccines. She called his office about her concerns and is still waiting to hear back from him. She has also called the Governor's office and others and is still waiting to hear from them. Council Chambers is the only place we can speak openly and freely. We are here to voice our concerns and hope the Board will hear us.

Giselle Moore, Ryefield Drive – Mrs. Moore stated she is here to advocate for critical thinking in our schools and community. Thinking critically is important as well as their thought process. Masking our children is not right. We know vaccinated individuals can still spread the virus. Thorough analysis is needed. The Board needs to engage the community to find solutions and work together. She knows you want to do what is best for our children. Thank you.

Ryan Moore, Ryefield Drive – Mr. Moore stated he previously discussed a homework assignment that was given to students. He has urged the Board about discriminating and racism. He spoke about FAIR and what is happening in Enfield. Professional development and equity training are violating laws by discriminating. How would the Board feel if they were held liable for discrimination and the financial implications of this lawsuit? This would have a direct impact on the community. He would like to see the Board form a committee and be transparent so we can find solutions and prevent further damage.

Patrick Flaherty, Jackson Road – Mr. Flaherty is here tonight about critical thinking in our community. The FDA promised full transparency with the vaccines. They have not released any information of the risks from the Pfizer Vaccine. They want 55 years to release this information. It only took the FDA 108 days to gain emergency approval for this vaccine. Now it is going to take years to release the information about this drug. They are mandating us to take this drug. We must think critically about everything and the ramifications. Parents should have the right to decide what is best for their children.

Madam Chair LeBlanc quickly spoke to Vanessa Cleary about Regina. Hearing about her experience with her daughter is touching. She is helping the girls' basketball team as a volunteer and would love to see you. Thank you for allowing her to address Vanessa.

Amanda Marquez, Hoover Lane – Mrs. Marquez spoke about medical testing on humans and experimentations. By creating mask mandates our rights are being violated. History repeats itself over and over. Society is regressing. She spoke about previous outbreaks and masks would not have helped then either. She previously spoke about critical thinking. The Board believes in critical thinking and problem solving. If you choose to wear a mask than do so and those that don't won't.

Sheila Monroe, Stacy Lane – Mrs. Munroe asked if the Board has looked into installing proper air filtration systems in each of our schools for the health of our children and teachers with the COVID relief monies. She would also like to see an itemized list of the monies we have received from the state for COVID relief. She would like to know if there are any projected items you will be using this money on. Thank you.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis congratulated Board members for being elected. She hopes we can work together and do what is right for all our kids. She looks forward to 2 years of positivity. She congratulated Board leadership. She is amazed that people that do not have children in our public schools are speaking. If you don't want your child to wear a mask than don't have them attend a public school. She urged audience members to come here for the right reasons. She does not feel her rights have been taken away by wearing a mask. She has received many vaccinations when she was in the military. Ask what you can do for your country. Why is this so hard to understand. She congratulated our Kid Mayor and for her

vision. Our children are our leaders and our future. Another student thanked all of her educators. This is what Enfield Public Schools is about. Thank you.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Acree stated it was really refreshing to hear from Chloe about running for the Kid Governor. It was touching to hear from Vanessa.

Mrs. Acree applauds both Ms. Valley and Mrs. Steere for all they are doing at Head Start. She hopes you receive your grant. This just shows some of the great things that are happening in the Enfield Public Schools.

Mr. Unghire knows that Vanessa has left Council Chambers, but it was very heartfelt hearing from her. It touched his heart listening to her. He appreciates her thankful spirit. She thanked just about everyone around her. She is thankful for what she has. This such a good example and he was deeply touched. She is an amazing young lady. It was truly a privilege to hear from her.

Mr. LeBlanc expressed his displeasure to Mrs. Jackson about her experience contacting our legislators. He has respect for our legislators and thinks they are doing a pretty good job, but this information is disappointing to hear.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for discussing Screen and Stay. Parents have a lot of questions about this. Sending something out about this will be helpful. He knows the Governor wants to keep kids in schools just like we do.

Mr. LeBlanc congratulated the Enfield Ramblers C and A squads. They will be playing in their Superbowl games against Stafford on Sunday. The kids had a tremendous season and have worked really hard. He would love to see the whole town come out and support the kids. The games will be held at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM and will be held at Enfield High. Go Ramblers!

Mr. Hamre stated this is his first time speaking from this side of the table and it is a privilege. He appreciates the opportunity to have this forum. As he said before, Chloe you are already a leader, and you are speaking up for those that can't. He appreciates what she is doing and encourages her to continue to develop her voice in her education and through her academic career. He echoes the comments Mr. Unghire made about Vanessa. He has heard of people doing this but has never witnessed it until tonight. It is amazing to see this happen from someone who has had such a positive experience. She specifically wanted to thank all of her teachers. This is remarkable.

Mr. Hamre stated the Enfield Lamplighters held a production outside. This must have been extremely challenging. He wanted to acknowledge all of their hard work putting on this production while complying with safety protocols and mandates. Kudos to everyone involved with this production. Unfortunately, he did not attend but he heard it was a fantastic production. He was also working on a production of Cabaret. This is a story of pre-war Berlin, Germany. He had an opportunity to talk to a World War II Veteran about his experience in the war. It was a privilege and honor to speak to him about his experience in Germany.

Dr. Calnen wanted to recognize our wonderful Head Start program. Enfield has such a great program that promotes health and wellness. Health and wellness received in the primary years is extremely important. It is important to reflect on good nurturing experiences and how that can relate to productive, happy healthy citizens. Head Start plays a critical role in this area. He just wanted to give them some kudos.

Mrs. Pickett wished everyone a safe Thanksgiving. Enjoy this time with your families, loved

ones and friends. She urged everyone to reflect on the perspectives of others during the holiday.

Mrs. Pickett stated it is national Native American History month. There are some great resources out there about justice.

Mrs. Pickett urged everyone to be aware of bus safety. If a bus has their flashing lights and sign out, do not pass them. She has seen some scary things in our parking lots and on the roads. Safety in school parking lots is important. We are all in a rush. Please be safe and follow the laws around buses.

Mrs. Pickett stated Kite is sending home with kid's brain building with play pamphlets. These are an amazing resource. She thanked Kite for this information. You can find this on their website at enfieldkite.org. There are some great things listed there for you to do with your family. They are still accepting applications to PLA until December 1st. they will hold their next meeting on December 1st.

Mrs. Pickett stated the Stowe Early Learning Center flu vaccinations are due by December 31st. They also have a flip grid engagement opportunity with the nestling time. They will hold an FEO meeting on December 21st.

Mrs. Pickett stated Enfield Street will hold picture retakes on December 6th and they will hold their PTO meeting on December 8th.

Mrs. Pickett stated residents have received the Adult and Continuing Education brochure in the mail. There are some really great opportunities listed.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Drezek for discussing Screen and Stay. She was not aware of all the protocols and parameters. Families need to understand how this is being handled. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder also thanked Mr. Drezek for the update on Screen and Stay. He looks forward to seeing additional information.

Mr. Ryder stated that at both Eli Whitney and Hazardville Memorial they will have spirit wear week. Each day has a different theme for students. They can dress up as someone you are thankful for, favorite decade and dress like a turkey. He looks forward to seeing how creative they are.

Mr. Ryder reminded students about the early release day on Wednesday and no school during the Thanksgiving break. You can still purchase wreaths for the Wreaths Across American until November 30th. This information can be found on the enfieldpto.com website.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney is still offering their 12 days of raffles for \$5. He thanked the Eli Whitney administration for the BMX event that was held. It was a lot of fun.

Mr. Ryder reminded everyone about PJ Day that will be held on December 10th. All EPS schools will participate including our bus drivers, Town Council and Board members. He encourages everyone to participate for this worthwhile event that helps so many children at CCMC. Information about this event can also be found at enfieldpto.com.

Mr. Ryder wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Madam Chair added Vanessa is amazing. She came to give her thanks to Enfield Public Schools. That was such a heartfelt thing she did and at the right time – Thanksgiving. Her

message has touched us all. Chloe is another student that is amazing. She mentioned during her our oath of office message that we learn so much from our kids and students like Vanessa and Chloe. This was an amazing way to start our meeting.

Madam Chair stated EHS will hold their Powder Puff game at EHS on Wednesday at 12:30 PM. It is great to see student events happening again. EHS Safe Grad will hold a Jingle Jam on December 4th. This is always a great event and is a lot of fun to attend.

Madam Chair congratulated the Opera House Players for the fantastic production of Mama Mia. What is interesting about them is their families are all involved in the production. She loves that about them. She also congratulated the Lamplighters for their production and the amazing voices of our students and their talents. They were outside, but to hear their voices were truly amazing. It gave me goosebumps. Kudos to the Lamplighters.

Madam Chair wished everyone a healthy, safe and Happy Thanksgiving. We have a lot to be thankful for this year.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approval of 2022-23 Head Start Federal Grant, SF-424B Submission Statement and Governing Board Approval Statement

This item was addressed before Item #8.

b. Action if any, related to Collective Bargaining – Clerical, Cafeteria and Library Contract

This item will be addressed after Item #16.

c. Standing Committee of the Board

Madam Chair read the names of the Enfield Board of Education members for each standing committee.

Curriculum Committee – Amanda Pickett (Chair); Dr. Gerald Calnen; Jean Acree; Joshua Hamre (Alternate); and Janet Cushman (Alternate).

Leadership Committee – Tina LeBlanc (Chair); Scott Ryder (Vice Chair); Jonathan LeBlanc (Secretary) and John Unghire (Minority Leader).

Finance Committee – Dr. Gerald Calnen (Chair); Joshua Hamre; Jonathan LeBlanc; John Unghire (Alternate); and Tina LeBlanc (Alternate).

Policy Committee – Scott Ryder (chair); Joshua Hamre; Janet Cushman; Dr. Gerald Calnen (Alternate); and Jean Acree (Alternate).

A complete list of committee/liason appointments for the 2021-23 term can be found on the website.

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves the standing committees of the board and committee liaison appointments for the 2021-23 term as presented.

A vote by vote by **roll call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett reported the Curriculum committee will meet on December 9th.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance committee will meet on December 6th.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the next Policy Committee will meet on December 7th.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported we are in the process of scheduling Board Leadership meetings.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facility Committee meets on Thursday and he is not sure when the next meeting will be held.

JFK Building – Mr. Ryder reported that committee members have just received the minutes from our past meeting. He is not sure when our next meeting will be held.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on December 1st at 8:30 AM.

Joint Insurance – Madam Chair reported the Joint Insurance Committee will meet in March 2022.

Youth Mental Health – Mr. LeBlanc reported they will also meet in March 2022.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Unghire moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 26, 2021, be approved.

A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Special Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2021, be approved.

A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

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 Collective Bargaining
- Matter(s) Related to Personnel

A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Board members remained in Council Chambers for the Executive Session. Both Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 8:30 PM.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session. The Board returned to open session at 9:57 PM.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

11b. Action if any, related to Collective Bargaining – Clerical, Cafeteria and Library Contract

Madam Chair Tina LeBlanc moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the Council 4 AFSCME Tentative Agreement as presented.

A vote by **roll call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 23, 2021.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary