

ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Time-Place:

Council Chambers  
820 Enfield Street  
Enfield, CT

Date: 06-14-22

7:00 PM Regular Meeting

<https://youtu.be/Uu5K5eFDM4I>

1. Call to Order – 7:00 PM
2. Invocation or Moment of Silence – Scott Ryder
3. Pledge of Allegiance – Scott Ryder
4. Fire Evacuation Announcement
5. Roll Call
6. Board Guest(s)
7. Superintendent's Report
  - a. EPS Update
  - b. Graduation & Last Week of School
8. Audiences
9. Board Members' Comments
10. Unfinished Business
11. New Business
  - a. Discussion and Action regarding the 2022-23 Healthy Food Certification
  - b. Discussion and Action if any regarding the June 28, 2022 BOE Meeting
  - c. Action if any, regarding Matter(s) Related to Personnel – Superintendent's Evaluation
12. Board Committee Reports
  - Curriculum Committee
  - Finance, Budget Committee
  - Policy Committee
  - Leadership Committee
  - Joint Facilities Committee
  - JFK Building Committee
  - Joint Security Committee
  - Joint Insurance Committee
  - Enfield Mental Health Wellness Workgroup
  - Enfield Cultural Arts Commission
  - Any Additional Committees
13. Approval of Minutes:
  - Regular BOE Meeting Minutes: May 10, 2022
  - Special BOE Meeting Minutes: May 31, 2022 (Administrative Opening)
  - Special BOE Meeting Minutes: May 31, 2022
14. Approval of Accounts and Payroll:
  - For the Month of May 2022
  - Line Item Transfers, if any
15. Correspondence and Communications
16. Executive Session
  - Matter(s) related to Personnel – Superintendent's Evaluation
17. Adjournment

**Note:**

Item #11c. may be  
addressed after Item  
#16.



**Date:** June 14, 2022  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek  
**Re:** Superintendent's Report

- a. **EPS Update:** I will update the Board regarding our schools at this time.
- b. **Graduation & Last Week of School:** The Enfield High School Graduation Ceremony will be held outside on the athletic field on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM. In the event of inclement weather, the graduation ceremony will be cancelled with a rain date for the following day or until the weather permits for an outdoor ceremony. If the decision to postpone graduation is needed, it will be made by 4:00 PM and will be announced via email, social media and by robo-call. Enclosed in your packet is a press release with additional information about the EHS graduation ceremony.

The last day of school for students attending Enfield High, John F. Kennedy, Eli Whitney, Edgar H. Parkman, Prudence Crandall, Hazardville Memorial, Enfield Street, Stowe Early Learning Center, Eagle Academy and ETLA is on Thursday, June 23, 2022 and the last day for Henry Barnard students is on Friday, June 24, 2022.

We wish all our students, families and staff members a restful and rejuvenating summer. We will see you all back on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> for the first day of our 2022-23 school year!



**Date:** June 14, 2022  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek  
**Re:** Discussion and Action regarding the 2022-23 Healthy Food Certification

Our Nutrition Services Director, Diane Edwards has provided the Board with the enclosed memo regarding the Healthy Food Certification Statement for 2022-23. The State of Connecticut requires all districts to complete the certification statement certifying that all food items sold to students will meet or will not meet the Connecticut Nutritional Standards.

The Enfield Public Schools lunch program meets all Federal and State nutrition guidelines. Ms. Edwards recommends that we do not certify the 2022-23 Connecticut Healthy Food Certification due to the additional restrictions that are required. The costs needed to comply with the certification will exceed the reimbursement incentive.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriate to indicate that the Board elects to not certify the 2022-23 Healthy Food Certification Statement.



**Date:** June 14, 2022  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek  
**Re:** Discussion and Action if any Regarding the June 28, 2022 BOE Meeting

This item will be addressed by Madam Chair LeBlanc.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriately regarding the June 28, 2022 BOE meeting.





**Date:** June 14, 2022  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek  
**Re:** Action if any, regarding Matter(s) Related to Personnel – Superintendent’s Evaluation

*Note: This item may be addressed after Item #16.*

This item will be addressed by Madam Chair LeBlanc.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriately regarding the Superintendent’s Evaluation.



**Date:** June 14, 2022  
**To:** Enfield Board of Education  
**From:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek  
**Re:** Executive Session

The Board of Education has the need to discuss the following item:

- Matter(s) related to Personnel – Superintendent’s Evaluation

Therefore, I recommend that the Enfield Board of Education enter into executive session, with the appropriate personnel invited, for the reasons described above. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, and voting is required. Board members can remain in Council Chambers for the executive session.



# ENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

1264 Enfield Street  
Enfield, CT 06082  
Phone: 860-253-5540  
Fax: 860-253-5555

Principal  
Erin E. Clark

Assistant Principal  
Connell P. Clark

Assistant Principal  
Laura Gagnon

Guidance Coordinator K-12  
Sandra Ingalls

**PRESS RELEASE: June 15, 2022**  
**Superintendent's Office**

## Enfield High School Class of 2022 Graduation Ceremony

The Enfield High Class of 2022 graduation ceremony will be held on June 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM on the Enfield High School athletic field. In the event of inclement weather, the graduation ceremony will be cancelled with a rain date of the following day until the weather permits an outdoor ceremony. There is no indoor option this year. A decision to postpone graduation will be made by 4:00 PM and announced via email, social media and a robo-call.

Admission to the ceremony is by ticket only. Depending on the color ticket you have, seating will be on the turf field or in the bleachers on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parking is available at the high school, the Eagle Academy and Enfield Street School. Parking is also available at St Bernard's School where a shuttle bus will transport people to and from the high school starting at 4:00 PM. Parking is not permitted before 4:00 PM and entry onto the field is not permitted until 4:30 PM.

Noisemakers (including air horns, cowbells and whistles) and signs (including posters and banners) will not be permitted. The throwing and/or possession of beach balls, balloons, confetti, silly string or other related items are strictly prohibited. Food and drink are not allowed with the exception of water in clear plastic bottles. While we encourage guests not to bring bags, the only bags that are permissible are clear plastic bags or small clutch purses or wallets no larger than 6.5" x 4.5".

Graduating seniors must report to the high school gymnasium no later than 6:00 PM on the evening of graduation. Questions about graduation and reserving handicap parking and seating may be directed to Mary Beth Lamagna at Enfield High School (860-763-8804).

## Healthy Food Certification in Schools for School Year 2022-23

### Healthy Food Certification Statement and Recommendation Submitted by Diane Edwards, Director of Nutrition Services

June 6, 2022

Dear Enfield Board of Education Members:

The State of CT Dept. of Education requires all districts to complete the healthy food certification statement which requires action by the school board. The district has the option of certifying that all food items sold to students will or will not meet the CT Nutrition Standards. These food items include all food offered for sale to students at all times in all schools and from all sources, including, but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, fundraisers and any other sources of food sales to students on school premises. The state is currently offering a monetary incentive of \$ .10 per reimbursable lunch served if we chose to certify that we are meeting the CT Nutrition Standards for Foods as required by the CT Healthy Certification regulations.

It is my recommendation that we do not certify for the school year 2022-23. Certifying will require more restrictions to be in place for all fundraising involving food items, the sale of food and beverages at all functions held on school premises at any time and requiring the appointment of a District Contact Person to oversee the entire school system to assure compliance. I do not see a benefit for our school system or the students in our schools from certifying. I believe our wellness policy promotes and provides for an environment that is healthy and nutritious for our students. Our successful triannual State and Federal Review of our program reflects that we meet and exceed the Federal and State Nutrition guidelines of providing a selection of fresh fruits and vegetables every day at every school and serve all whole grains products in addition to meeting the lower sodium and fat recommended levels.

In addition, the costs to comply with the certification will exceed the reimbursement incentive. The funds that come from the certification cannot be allocated to any other department; they must go to the food service department. The additional \$.10 per meal is appropriated to the Nutrition Department yet all areas of the school system will have to make changes that will affect them monetarily, yet they cannot share in the reimbursement incentive.

In conclusion, in consideration of these reasons, I recommend that we do not certify for the school year 2022-23.



**Item #13**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 10, 2022**

**DRAFT**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on May 10, 2022.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree (participated remotely), Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder (participated remotely), John Unghire and Tina LeBlanc

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jonathan LeBlanc

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent (arrived at 7:37 PM) & Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

Madam Chair stated that Mr. LeBlanc will arrive later. He is currently at a Baseball game coaching.

Madam Chair stated we will do things a little differently tonight regarding audience participation. The sign-up sheet will go out now. You can only sign yourself up to speak and you cannot sign up other speakers. If you would like to speak, you must get here in time to sign up. When your allotted time is up and if you continue to speak, I will call for a recess and public comment will end. At our last meeting, I needed to stop audience participation 6 times due to the audience calling out and being disruptive. This will not happen again. I will call for a recess. She reminded Board members, we cannot engage in a conversation with audience members. You can respond to audience members during your comments.

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**
7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
  - a. **Early Release Day** - as presented
  - b. **EPS Update**

Mr. Longey stated Mr. Drezek is at the Bushnell for the Teacher of the Year Awards Presentations at the Bushnell. They are celebrating our Enfield TOY for past two years that were not recognized due to Covid. He will be here soon.

Mr. Longey gave the Board an update on the Alliance District status. As of this time, we have not heard anything from the State and have not received an official notification that Enfield has been accepted as an Alliance District. Mr. Drezek will attend a formal meeting on Monday where he will find out more information about this. He will update the Board with any additional information he receives.

Mr. Longey stated due to staffing issues from Covid, we needed to close Henry Barnard. Barnard is a unique building due to the number of special programs we offer there. We are currently watching several schools due to increasing Covid numbers. We are doing everything we can to keep our buildings open and are using college students when we can. We have moved several staff members around to assist with shortages.

Mr. Longey stated when someone tests positive, they must be out for at least 5 days. We still need to follow CDC guidelines. Even if you don't have symptoms and were exposed and test positive, you must stay out at least 5 days. This is the issue we are running into.

Mr. Longey stated that Mr. Drezek instituted mask wearing for all staff and not students. This was done to preserve and protect our staff. It is really a survival thing now. Staff that wear masks and were exposed and test negative can continue to work. This has been saving us and allowing us to keep our schools open. Once this waive passes, we will change mask wearing for staff.

Mr. Longey addressed the last day of school. The Board already waived the 181<sup>st</sup> day of school for JFK. We will be asking the Board to waive the 181<sup>st</sup> day for Henry Barnard school. Barnard's 180<sup>th</sup> day will be June 24<sup>th</sup>. If this does not happen, Barnard's last day would be on June 27<sup>th</sup>. The state requires that all students must attend 180 in-person days of school, and this must conclude on June 30<sup>th</sup>. No exceptions will be allowed. This will only allow us 5 days if we need to cancel school except for Henry Barnard (4 days for Barnard). If we are forced to close for any reason, we would be forced to consider holding classes on weekends in order to meet our educational statutory requirements. This would be the worst case scenario. Mr. Drezek will be here later to address any Board member questions regarding the 180 days.

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Madam Chair read a prepared statement about expectations for audience participation. We will continue to utilize a 4-minute time limit for audience participation tonight. She added that you will need to sign up to talk and she will not call up anyone from the audience to speak. Thank you.

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Lane – Mr. Jonaitis stated he was a teacher for 38 years in Enfield. He loved teaching. He was a Board member for 6 years and wanted to make a change. He would like the Board to look into modified classes again. He loved teaching these kinds of classes and knew how to reach the students. He would love to see these classes be brought back again. Students are now all in regular classrooms. He feels our average students are missing out the most. He would cross teach the materials to his students. He would like the Curriculum committee to look at the textbooks so no more mistakes are made. He also urged the Chair to look into Robert's rules regarding taking a recess.

Ray Peabody, Washington Road – Mr. Peabody stated when he was on the Board, he met a lot of our teachers. They are really dedicated individuals that teach our kids. They are preparing them for vocations, careers or college or wherever life takes them. Like Firefighters, Paramedics, Policemen and others, they are not in it for the money. He has seen a lot of the Board meetings on TV, and audience members start off by saying "We the people." He read from the Constitution. "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote general welfare, and secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves, our prosperity to ordain, establish this constitution for the United States of America." He has learned that liberty is the guardrail of freedom. We are free to carry arms, but we are not at liberty to go and shoot someone. We have freedom of speech but are not free to call anyone a pedophile and slander them. We have the freedom to drive a car, but you are not allowed to break the laws while driving. He researched Critical Race Theory. This is just one way to study racial bias laws. He encourages people to research this. He thanked each Board member for volunteering to do this work. He thanked the Administration for the outstanding leadership they have shown during the unprecedented Covid crises. He read the preamble of the Constitution because the needs of the group out weight the individuals in some instances. He appreciates you keeping the safety of our kids and teachers in the forefront. Thank you.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mrs. Acree apologized for not being there in person. She is feeling a bit under the weather. She congratulated all the teachers that are being recognized for being nominated as Teacher of the Year. Teaching is a very noble profession. She appreciates your hard work and dedication. Thank you.

Dr. Calnen stated Stowe Early Learning Center had a presentation about tracking student's progress. The Policy Committee approved purchasing Child Plus software that will save us money and time in the long run. SNAP recipients will now receive a higher point rating to enroll at Head Start. The enrollment and attendance at Head Start is at 82%. Enrollment over the past 9 months has not dipped below 80% which is amazing with the rise of Covid cases and a testament about our Head Start program. We also approved a 2.28% COLA to support staff salaries, benefits the BOE will need to provide increase in non-Federal contributions. Funding for quality improvements for staff training,



mental health management, the promotion of language skills and literacy has also been allocated. They will hold a summer program of 3 classes that will be held in July. This week they will hold a routine Federal program review of the Enfield Head Start to monitor program status. Head Start will hold their annual self-assessment on June 3<sup>rd</sup> that will involve staff, families and community partners and other stake holders.

Dr. Calnen stated Kite accepted the School Readiness Council recommendations for professional development and coaching for ECDC and to fund the 28 slots. A Kite Equity Committee has been created to plan for an equity related event. The Board of Education is well represented on this committee. We discussed the self-assessment results that were overall very positive. There were some areas where improvements might be made. This included inclusiveness of collaboration and development of future leadership and committee responsibilities. Strategic use of data is another area that requires attention.

Mrs. Cushman stated this is the time of year for programs where we can appreciate the fruits of the school year and the diligent work of our children and teachers. Edgar H. Parkman will hold their spring concert on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Enfield High School.

Mrs. Cushman stated Enfield Adult Education will hold their graduation ceremony on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Annex Library.

Mrs. Cushman stated she had the opportunity to stop by the Pearl Street Library to see Enfield High School student Sam Barry's artwork display. She is such a talented artist. This is another testimony of the strength of our arts program. She really liked the picture titled "Memory" and wondered what the story was that went along with this piece of art. It was a delightful display. She is very appreciative that the Enfield Pearl Street Library can display our students artwork so proudly.

Mr. Hamre stated the program at the Pearl Street Library is part of the Enfield Cultural Arts Commission and collaboration with the Enfield Public Schools. He was glad to hear the positive feedback about Ms. Barry's artwork. She is an amazing artist and is extremely talented. She comes from an extremely talented family.

Mr. Hamre stated the JFK production of Moana Jr. was outstanding. It was so inclusive. This was only what he saw on stage. He couldn't see those that were behind the scenes working. He congratulated everyone involved in this wonderful production. Our staff goes above and beyond when it comes to working with our students to put on these masterful productions. Kudos to them all.

Mr. Hamre stated JFK has a wish list of items on Amazon and it can also be found on their PTO page at [enfieldpto.com](http://enfieldpto.com) website. If you have any questions, please contact him by e-mail.

Mr. Hamre thanked our two audience members for speaking and for the opportunity to hear from former Board members. This was great to hear from our former Board members.

Mrs. Pickett agreed with Mr. Hamre regarding JFK's production of Moana Jr. It was great and she brought her daughter to see the play. Everyone was part of this play, and it was very inclusive. We have some very amazing students and staff. Thank you to everyone involved in putting on this outstanding production. It really takes a lot of adults to put this together. Thank you.

Mrs. Pickett stated last week we recognized our teachers and staff. At Enfield Street, we participated in the Fun Run. She thanked the members of the PTO for everything they did and the area businesses that participated by donating raffle prizes. She thanked the staff that were involved in this great event. It was a lot of fun and she truly enjoyed seeing children playing again.

Mrs. Pickett stated Parkman will have a Spring Fling Dance and students can also attend a Yard Goat game on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Pickett stated PK-5 students can participate in a Spitfire track and field day meet on June 1<sup>st</sup> at Enfield High School from 4-5 PM. This event is free. They are asking you to bring non-perishable can goods that will be donated to the Enfield Food Shelf. Please come out and have some fun with our track students and staff.

Mrs. Pickett stated Enfield Unplugged has events for families to participate in and unplug from your electronic devices. This is something her family needs to do more of.

Mrs. Pickett stated ERfC will hold a 7 week summer camp for students in grades K-8 starting on June 27<sup>th</sup> and ending on August 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be held at Prudence Crandall Elementary School. For more information, please go to their website at [erfcinc.org](http://erfcinc.org).

Mrs. Pickett stated there is also a student volunteer counseling program ERfC will hold during the summer for interested students in grades 9-12. Students can develop leadership skills and become impactful counselors and role models. They also have before school and after school programming for children.

Mrs. Pickett asked about Covid staffing and how can we help. Mr. Longey stated if you know of any college students that are looking for jobs, please refer them to us. They will need to be fingerprinted. We have a real need for additional supervision. They will be hired as a paraprofessional. Please direct them to us and we will answer any questions they might have.

Mrs. Pickett will help to spread the word in our community. Staffing is necessary to make it through to the end of the school year.

Mrs. Pickett thanked our audience speakers for speaking tonight. She agrees with Mr. Hamre. She also added when audience members share your experiences with them it helps us to find solutions.

Mr. Unghire also thanked our speakers tonight. We also have a third former Board member in the audience tonight. He thanked them for supporting us.

Mr. Unghire stated the Memorial PTO welcomed the staff last week and held a different event each day recognizing them for everything they do for our students.

Mr. Unghire stated on May 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial will hold a Blanket Bingo from 6-7 PM. He encourages families to attend this great event. They held their book week on May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. They will hold the book fair on May 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. They will hold a PTO picnic from 5-7 PM on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ryder apologized for not being there tonight. He is also a bit under the weather.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney also held their book fair last week. They held a picnic and children were able to play on the playground. This morning all grade 5 students went to JFK to see the Moana Jr. performance. He was unable to attend this performance but heard it was amazing. He is glad our grade 5 students were able to see the play today.

Mr. Ryder stated tickets are on sale for the Whitney Wolves Yard Goat day. The game will be held on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and tickets are \$12 each. You can purchase them on [enfieldpto.com](http://enfieldpto.com). The last Eli Whitney PTO meeting will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney students recently wrote persuasive essays about what they would do if they were principal for a day. The deadline was last Friday. The essays are being reviewed and the student with the winning essay will be a principal for a day on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Ryder stated he has posted a lot of dates and events on the [EnfieldPTO.com](http://EnfieldPTO.com) website for upcoming school events like field day, end of the year events and activities. So please check out your schools upcoming events.

Madam Chair stated last week was Teacher Appreciation week. A lot of our schools recognized our amazing teachers. It was a tough week with all the Covid outbreaks. We truly appreciate everything you are doing for our students in our district. Thank you.

Madam Chair added this week it is Nurse Appreciation week. We also have some amazing nurses. You were amazing during the Covid pandemic and continue to be amazing. We know how much you have given and have gone above and beyond. Thank you. She also thanked her daughter who is a nurse for what she is doing.



Madam Chair had the honor to grow up in Enfield and attend Enrico Fermi. She attended a recognition dinner for Coach Ben Alex. He was added to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He was a Fermi coach that impacted a lot of lives. This was a great event to attend. A lot of his former wrestlers attended this event. It was very heartfelt. Congratulations Ben Alex. His wife was a teacher and guidance counselor in Enfield.

Madam Chair stated the EHS Baseball team held their senior night at Dunkin Donuts Park. They played against Suffield and won. It was a great game.

Madam Chair stated students have received their Safe Grad packets. We are up to 55 seniors that will attend the Safe Grad event at Sonny's Place. These can be turned into Mrs. Nelson's office.

Madam Chair stated the senior prom will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The seniors have a lot of events that will be coming up like the class picnic and class night. These end of year events are all sneaking up on us and our calendars are getting full.

Madam Chair stated she served with all 3 of the Board members in the audience. We actually have 4 former Board members in the audience. Mr. Tkacz also was a Board member, but she did not serve with him. Once a Board member, you are always a Board member. Mr. Jonaitis always spoke passionately about modified classes. She added that our Terra Nova program was great, and Mr. Jonaitis did not want this program to end. She thanked Mr. Peabody for the research he did on CRT.

Madam Chair stated ERfC will hold a Toast of the Town on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Twin Hill Country Club. All proceeds raised will go towards helping students attend the summer escape camp program.

Mr. Longey added they will have a great speaker again this year - it is Madam Chair. Madam Chair added they will have live entertainment and she couldn't say no to Connie Provencher.

Mr. Drezek arrived at 7:37 PM

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **a. BOE Policy Adoptions & Policy Revisions – Second Reading**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves the proposed new policies and policy revisions as presented for a second reading.

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

### **b. Discussion and Action if any Regarding the Formation of the Pizza Consent Assignment Task Force (Tabled 04-26-22)**

Mr. Unghire spoke with Mrs. Pickett about the formation of a committee. We collaborated and discussed what will best serve our community. We spoke about the frameworks that could include family members, parents, staff and possibly community partners and students if appropriate. This committee will enhance family partnerships, engagement with our school system and our administration. We can discuss policies and review exiting policies or new policies and how they are implemented in our school system. We will find ways to share and review the curriculum units and lessons including sex and health education so families are aware. We will continue to work together with leadership and determine membership and define the committees purpose.

Mrs. Pickett stated Mr. Unghire captured what we discussed appropriately. She reached out to Mr. Unghire, and this is a joint effort. We are all up here for a common purpose of supporting Enfield Public Schools. We can do our best work when we all work together. There is common ground around family engagement including family voices and the work we do. We are starting from a place of common ground and how can we shape this to be an inclusive positively shaped stakeholder advisory committee. There needs to be additional support from the administration with input from staff and families looking at our existing structures that are already in place. We are on the right path and that is her hope.

Madam Chair stated the core of what you are saying is it is really about the curriculum. Looking at the curriculum and making the parents feel that they are a valued stakeholder. There are questions

about State standards and things like that and why we are teaching things like this in our district. She appreciates your collaboration. You seem to be doing things very productively. She is happy that you are working on this together collaboratively.

Madam Chair added we also discussed keeping this language on the agenda.

Mr. Unghire would like to modify that to include the collaboration effort between Mrs. Pickett and myself and putting together an advisory committee.

Mrs. Zalucki explained that first a motion is needed to place this item back on the table to continue your discussion.

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education approves bringing this item back on the table to discuss the Formation of the Pizza Consent Assignment Task Force.

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

### **Discussion:**

Mr. Unghire would like to modify the motion that is currently on the table.

Mr. Hamre stated we need to address the current motion first.

Mrs. Zalucki explained the Board will need to either accept the motion as presented or vote it down. If this motion fails, it would be off the table. The Board could then make a new motion.

Madam Chair added we would need a 2/3 vote to make a motion.

Mr. Unghire asked if there are any alternatives or amend this motion. Mrs. Zalucki explained you cannot amend this motion. You need to vote either yes or no. If this motion fails, you can make a new motion.

Mr. Unghire asked if he could withdraw the motion? Mrs. Zalucki explained that since we tabled this item from the last meeting, the answer is no. You could have done that at the last meeting. Mr. Unghire stated the motion cannot be withdrawn at this time.

Mr. Hamre called for the vote, seconded by Mrs. Pickett.

Madam Chair stated we will vote on this and then we can make another motion to add an item to the agenda for tonight about our new committee we will form. Then this item will be on the agenda, and we will not need to wait until our next meeting, and we can continue to work on this.

Mrs. Pickett added we can have a preliminary discussion about this tonight and this discussion will continue.

Madam Chair stated this way the work will continue. Mr. Unghire agreed with Madam Chair.

Mrs. Cushman stated this will keep us accountable to keep working on this item.

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

### **Suspend the Rules to add an item to the Agenda:**

Madam Chair would like to add an item to the agenda for discussion and action if any regarding the formation of an advisory committee.

Mr. Unghire added we can work with Board leadership and define some of the gaps within the framework.

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education establishes the formation of an Advisory Committee.



## **Discussion:**

Mr. Unghire stated our next steps would be for us to formalize our framework. Mrs. Pickett and I will work on the framework, and we will present this to Board leadership. Then we can begin to come up with a name for the committee, membership and who would like to be on this committee and then go from there.

Madam Chair stated we will not be taking any action on this tonight.

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to suspend the rules and add an item to the agenda.

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

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education establishes the formation of an Advisory Committee.

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

Madam Chair thanked Mr. Unghire and Mrs. Pickett for their collaboration. She is excited to see what you both come up with so everyone can feel like they added value to this

## **11. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **a. Appointment of Enfield Cultural Arts Commission BOE Liaison**

Madam Chair stated that Mr. Hamre was previously on this committee, and he would like to continue as the Board liaison to the Enfield Cultural Arts Committee. He will work alongside of Councilman Santanella.

Madam Chair added this appointment does not need to be approved by the Board. I will appoint Mr. Hamre to this commission.

Mr. Hamre thanked Madam Chair. This commission is a collaboration effort with Councilman Santanella. We have a vibrant and active art appreciative community. We have incredible talent in our town that. We have the Opera House Players, and we have outrageously gifted students at John F. Kennedy and Enfield High. Hopefully, they will be able to pursue their art and passion beyond their school years. He is happy to be in this position to speak for all the school art programs as well as the Enfield Cultural Arts Commission to promote what they have been working on. Thank you.

Madam Chair asked if any Board member would like to be an alternate to this committee, to let her know.

### **b. Discussion and Action if any regarding the May 24, 2022 BOE Meeting**

Mr. Unghire moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education cancels the May 24, 2022 BOE meeting and will hold a special meeting on May 31, 2022.

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

### **c. Action if any, Waiving the 181<sup>st</sup> School Day for Henry Barnard School**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education waives the 181<sup>st</sup> School Day for Henry Barnard School.

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

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

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett reported she will confirm with Ms. Middleton about the next Curriculum meeting since it is on the same night as JFK's award night. She will get back to you on this meeting. We have been discussing TAG.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee we met on May 9<sup>th</sup> and will have items for Board approval. We reviewed TAG portfolio investments and met with Wolf Financial representatives. We will stay the course with our investments. We also reviewed nutrition financial reports.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee met on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet next on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported she would like Board Leadership to meet and discuss our new committee. She will see which date will work best for Board Leadership members and will set a date for a meeting.

Joint Facility – Madam Chair reported the Joint Facility Committee will meet next on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

JFK Building – Mr. Ryder reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting. Madam Chair added that Mr. LeBlanc has not arrived yet. Mr. Ryder will get an update and will give a report it at our next meeting

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Joint Insurance – Madam Chair reported they will meet on May 12<sup>th</sup>. They might be rescheduling this meeting.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness Workgroup – Dr. Calnen reported the workgroup met on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. We discussed anxiety, depression and substance abuse disorders. We will be working in groups, and we will also discuss infant and early child mental health issues.

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

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2022, be approved. Mr. Ryder asked for 2 corrections to be made (page 12 & 21). Both Mr. Hamre and Mrs. Pickett moved, that the amended April 26, 2022 minutes be approved as indicated. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously with the proposed amendments.

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

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

- The month of April 2022 the total expenditures amount to \$6,493,626.15, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,468,869.18 and other accounts totaling \$1,024,756.97 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 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

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

- The month of April 2022 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$562,701.72 broken down between payroll totaling \$447,129.61 and other accounts totaling \$115,572.11; 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 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

**Line Item Transfers, if any** - None



**15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION**

Madam Chair stated each Board member received an invitation to attend the Enfield Adult Education Graduation Ceremony being held on June 9, 2022 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM as mentioned earlier by Mrs. Cushman at the Enfield Annex.

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education enter into Executive Session – Discussion of Attorney-Client Privileged Communication Regarding Response to FOI Requests.

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

Both Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session at 8:10 PM.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

**Open Session:**

The Board returned to open session at 9:14 PM.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 10, 2022.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:14 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 31, 2022**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held on May 31, 2022, in the Enfield Room located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Tina LeBlanc.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Tina LeBlanc

3. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire and Tina LeBlanc

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jonathan LeBlanc

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Christopher Drezek, Superintendent of Schools

4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**a. Matter(s) Related to Personnel – Interview Candidate for Administrative Opening**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Board enter into Executive Session  
A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Drezek joined the Board in Executive Session at 6:31 PM.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

**Open Session:**

The Board returned to open session at 6:54 PM.

5. **ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE APPOINTMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OPENING**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education appoints Candidate A to be the next Prudence Crandall Principal.

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

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to adjourn the Special Meeting of May 31, 2022.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 31, 2022**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on May 31, 2022.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM by Madam Chair LeBlanc.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tina LeBlanc
3. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
4. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Jonathan LeBlanc (arrived at 7:26 PM), Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire and Tina LeBlanc

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent

5. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

**Buzz Robotics** – Mr. Drezek welcomed our Buzz Robotics students and advisors to tonight’s meeting.

Carolyn Marr, EHS Math Teacher and Lauren Jefferson, EHS School Counselor stated the students will introduce themselves and will give the Board an update.

Kathia Diaz, Gr. 9; Selma Fridjat; Gr. 9; and Aiden Howell, Gr. 12 updated the Board about this year’s Buzz Robotics build season, The North Shore District event, Hartford District event, New England District Championship. We started the season by recruiting 6 freshman and one new senior. They met weekly during the build season at the Enfield Annex. We played special attention to our team aesthetics. At the events, we were able to make adjustments to the robotic as needed on the fly. We earned a second imagery award. We qualified for the New England District Championship that was held at the Big E fairgrounds. Our team and robot performed very well and at one point placed second out of 40 teams. We made it to the semifinal round which was our best finish of the year and finished 41<sup>st</sup> out of 182 teams. This placed us in the top 25 percent. This was an amazing learning experience for us, and we cannot wait to go back again next year. They thanked the Enfield Board of Education for their support.

Mr. Ryder asked how much time is spent during the school day and out of school for Buzz Robotics? He added being part of Buzz Robotics is the equivalent to being on an athletic team or part of a play.

Mr. Howell stated that they do not spend any time during the day. In a normal year, it is like 27 hours a week they spend at the Annex. This year we spent about 18 hours a week.

Ms. Fridjat added we prioritize our time and our education first. We are expected to maintain our grades. During build season we take this time extremely seriously and work around 3 hours each day for 9 weeks.

Mrs. Pickett loved to hear you talking about this project. She also heard you talking about team building, community service and new members. She would like to hear how you recruited members. Ms. Fridjat stated this is her first year. We recently spoke at the grade 8 orientation for incoming freshman students. We introduced them to our robot named Davis. We are trying to get the word out about Buzz Robotics.

Mr. Hamre congratulated the students form making it to the semifinals. This is quite impressive, and we appreciate the work that went into this from the team members and mentors. Please pass along his congratulations to the entire team. He wished them the best for recruiting new members for your next year competition.



Mrs. Acree also congratulated the students and advisors for your creativity and innovation. Kudos to you all.

Mr. Unghire stated that the team progressively improved with each event. What did you do to improve your robot? Did you make changes, improvements or design changes?

Mr. Howell stated the main core of the robot remained the same. After our first couple of matches, we made some tweaks and needed to change things up and fix some things. We also needed to fix some things that broke. We saw some of our robot's flaws at the matches and spent time fixing the flaws. He felt the robot was much better at the third event.

Ms. Diaz stated when we were making prototypes in the beginning, we could definitely see things that would need to be changed. When we were at the matches, we were able to fix things that broke. We were able to see our mistakes and made the necessary changes. It is an important part of the process being able to see your mistakes and fixing them. By doing this we were able to win a lot of matches and awards.

Ms. Fridjat stated we competed against a lot of robots and there was always something to learn. Even if we couldn't implement everything, we wanted this year it was a learning opportunity. Next year we will implement new ideas and designs from what we learned this year.

Mr. Unghire added it was very encouraging to hear you recruited a lot of freshmen this year. This says a lot about Buzz Robotics future. This is very exciting, and he looks forward to your team accomplishments next year.

Mr. Hamre stated Lester Paulson makes guitars and is one of the most prolific inventors in the music world. He encourages them to research him about the process of inventing.

Dr. Calnen congratulated the students for their hard work. Has Buzz Robotics continued to grow over the years? Has Covid impacted you? What got you involved in Buzz Robotics, and could this be a strategy for recruiting others?

Mr. Howell stated we can only have 25 people on our team. We have always had 25 members except for last year. We lost our seniors from last year and we were around 19 members and once we started this year, we were back at our maximum of 25 members. He is not sure if we could have more than 25 members. We are always open for new members to join us. Ms. Marr was his geometry teacher during his freshman year, and he would hear her talking about Buzz Robotics and joined after that.

Mrs. Diaz stated as a freshman and due to Covid, we weren't able to meet and find out about clubs. She saw the Buzz posters and attended the first meeting where she learned about STEM and how in-depth it is and how much you can learn being part of Buzz Robotics. She has learned so much this year. This is a very inclusive group, and you don't need to know anything to join Buzz Robotics.

Ms. Fridjat stated she was motivated to join Buzz Robotics by one person. She always wanted to be part of a team, but sports were not her thing. Spreading the word about Buzz Robotics gets people to hear about this and you never know if this is something you would be interested in joining.

Madam Chair asked if you could have in-person competitions this year. Last year competitions were virtual. As the senior representing Buzz Robotics, I am sure you were happy to be back competing in-person. During your sophomore year when Covid hit, you were not able to compete.

Mr. Howell stated his freshman year was the last year we held competitions. So he got a taste of it, and it was really fun. His sophomore year everything shut down 2 weeks before competitions were supposed to start. He was happy to get back to competitions this year as a senior. He was also on the drive team this year. He tried his best to get the team as far as we could go during competitions.

Ms. Fridjat clarified by saying being on the drive team, you get to drive the robot, shoot the balls and fix the robot when it breaks.

Madam Chair stated you three present yourselves very professionally and are very conversational. You should be very proud of yourselves. Your enthusiasm for Buzz shines brightly. Aiden will be

graduating but Kathia and Selma will be recruiting new members for next year's competition. We are very proud of you all. Thank you for coming.

Mr. Drezek added they are underselling the commitment aspect. During build season and if I call for a snow day, Buzz advisors will call him to see if that applies to them. They are very dedicated to Buzz Robotics.

**Josue Irizarry, ERfC Director** – Mr. Drezek apologized to Josue. They met a year ago and this is the first time publicly he is bringing him before the Board. He has been an invaluable partner to us, and he is sure you will come to like him as much as he does.

Mr. Irizarry thanked the Board and Mr. Drezek for being here tonight. He gave an overview of ERfC before, and afterschool care programs being offered in Enfield. We have been serving Enfield families and children since 1994. He reviewed ERfC before and after school care programs that help to build future leaders in Enfield. They offer unique benefits for families and children. They offer homework and tutoring before school and afterschool. Students academics have improved. We offer reading, STEAM, sports, literacy and team building. We also offer an afterschool teen program for students in grades 6-8. They also offer their Summer Escape Camp for students in grades K-8 and a counselor-in-training program for students in grades 9-12. ERfC offers Saturday programs, sports programs, enrichment programs, Backpack and school supplies events, summer lunch bunch program, family nights and collaborations with Enfield public schools, public library, PTO's, social services, Family Resource Center, Youth Services, Kite, Enfield Food Shelf, Enfield Loaves and Fishes, Cox Communications and Cox Charities, United Way and the Carol Rivest Memorial Foundation.

Mr. Irizarry thanked the Board and Mr. Drezek for your continued support.

Mr. Ryder stated you do not need to be an ERfC student to attend the summer camp program?

Mr. Irizarry stated that is correct. The summer programs are open to Enfield and surrounding towns.

Mr. Ryder stated ERfC has a before school and afterschool program. The before school program and afterschool programs are extremely important for working parents. Thank you for being in our schools. He has heard so many good things about your program. He is lucky to be able to work from home, but your program has benefited so many families. Everyone he has

met at ERfC over the past 10 years has done such a great job. The faces may change but the care doesn't.

Mr. Hamre stated his family used ERfC when his children were younger. It helped us with our work schedules with pick up and drop offs. It would have been challenging without ERfC's services. He is a big fan of ERfC and all of your programs. How will you provide cooking services? Can you give us some examples of what the students would be doing?

Mr. Irizarry stated we do not have a full kitchen, but we were creative. The students made pizza's. We taught them the fundamentals and cooking safety. They also made fudge and pudding.

Mr. Hamre understands there will be some limitations and it will require creativity. He is excited for your program to take on this initiative. Thank you.

Madam Chair remembers one of our teachers Mrs. Gokey with the last few days of schools, and when it was really hot, she would try to fry an egg outside on the sidewalk. She would also bring in a solar powered hotdog machine. These were some of the creative things she did, and this might be something you can do with the kids also.

Mr. Irizarry stated we did an egg drop with the middle school students. They were very excited about this. Some succeeded and some didn't. It was great to see their creativity.

Madam Chair has seen ERfC evolve and grow. Your before school/afterschool care, homework tutors are all important. Our kids have such busy lives afterschool. Having the students homework done is a help for the parents. The Lunch Bunch program is a great option for families during the summer. The teen program can help parents with students at that awkward age when they are not really ready to stay home by themselves. The kids at the JFK program love this. She toured this when Mrs. Hall



was there. The kids made movies and videos. It was really great. You have a program for kids ages K-8, and this is a great option for parents.

Mr. Ryder stated enrollment is supplemented for those that qualify. Do you have any fundraiser events coming up?

Mr. Irizarry stated we have the Toast of the Town coming up on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tickets are still available. This fundraiser event helps us with scholarships for students and also helps students to attend our summer camp. Tickets can be purchased on our website at [erfcinc.org](http://erfcinc.org).

Madam Chair stated you also sponsor the Farm to Table event in the fall. She loves this event and seeing everyone. Mr. Irizarry stated we are planning to hold this event again this fall.

Madam Chair thanked him. One of the things she has seen from being on the Board for so long is you see how programs evolve like ERfC. If there is a half day, will you stay open for the remainder of the day.

Mr. Irizarry stated yes staff is there on half days. If schools close early due to snow and the buildings remain open, we will be there. We also provide care during school vacation breaks. Thank you.

Mr. Irizarry encouraged them to stop by and visit them during the summer. Madam Chair stated this is something we would like to do. We will reach out to you to set a time to visit.

**Altressa Cox Blackwell, Director of Educational Equity** – Mr. Drezek also welcomed a long overdue introduction of our Director of Educational Equity, Mrs. Cox-Blackwell.

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell thanked the Board for having her here tonight. She added this will give me an opportunity to introduce my role as the Director of Educational Equity. Since starting in January, I've already had the pleasure of speaking or working with a few BOE members.

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell stated there is a formal definition of equity which is: being fair, just, and impartial, which extends beyond sameness (or providing the same to all); eliminating discrimination and all forms of bias; fairly distributing/allocating (or redistributing/ reallocating) access, resources, opportunity, and participation to reach an equal outcome for all; and a formal definition of educational equity: which is ensuring educational policies, practices, and resources are responsive to all so each individual has access to, meaningfully participates in, and has positive outcomes from high-quality learning experiences that reduce disparities, provide each student with what they need, and empower each student regardless of individual demographics.

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell added educational equity isn't one size fits all or the same everywhere in every school district. For this reason, we're beginning with all administrators contributing to defining this term, educational equity as it relates to us the Enfield Public Schools. What does being an equitable school district look like in Enfield? To communicate using a common language with one collective voice, our commitment to what we believe the barriers are and what's inequitable. Once identified, we will create a district plan with related school plans to address each barrier with the goal of reducing achievement disparities and improving the educational experience for all of Enfield's students. Our Equity Lens Focus includes the areas of: Teaching and Learning; Staff Development; Talent Management; School Climate; Resources, and Collaboration (with all stakeholders, families, community members, and businesses).

Mrs. Cox- Blackwell stated even though Mr. Drezek has encouraged me to begin by acclimating myself slowly, he knew I would find that difficult to do. To date my activities have included, but aren't limited to:

- Surveying all school principals and leaders, meeting with them 1:1, and visiting all schools with a lens of equity as it relates to school climate and family engagement. Every school is doing something wonderful. Moving forward, the goal is to coordinate those individual school efforts with a district plan (clear vision and purpose, data-driven decision making, strategic planning, as well as building and maintaining relationships with all stakeholders).
- With KITE (a) contributing to the planning of their Community Conversation on Equity for Families (b) participating on Family Engagement Strategy Plan and BOE Stakeholders Advisory



where she learned about the work KITE is doing with Peg Oliveira from the Gesell Institute at Yale around Family Engagement; and (c) she also participated in her first 3 to 3 Equity meeting (Age 3 to Grade 3).

- With our community's Enfield Mental Health and Wellness Mrs. Cox-Blackwell participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workgroup meeting.
- Stowe Early Learning Center invited her to participate on one of the teams for this year's Head Start self-assessment.
- At JFK, Mrs. Cox-Blackwell has joined them for the State Education Resource Center or SERC's Equity training of their Equity Team and entire staff with a goal of increasing capacity for the team to facilitate conversations relating to equity.
- At EHS she continued her involvement with their Equity Leadership Team, Student Equity Leadership Team, Parent Equity meetings, and annual Black History Symposium sponsored by the Social Studies Department.
- Mrs. Cox-Blackwell stated Connecticut has a Network of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion or DEI Directors that was formally organized last year. She joined this professional group in January. We meet monthly and work in partnership with the CSDE and CAS. Almost immediately she volunteered to work on a subcommittee reviewing a draft of an Equity Audit crafted for CT's schools.
- Mrs. Cox-Blackwell also joined the Connecticut Association of School Personnel Administrators and participated in this year's in-person conference which included a presentation by the CSDE Talent Office providing us with updates on their office successes and challenges regarding emergency certifications extended through next school year, teacher shortages and hiring, as well as holding the first symposium on Increasing Educator Diversity, and more.
- Mrs. Cox-Blackwell accepted an invitation last week to join People Empowering People or PEP Spanish Program weekly meeting (comprised of students, parents, and community members) and she introduced herself and heard from them about their program, successes, challenges and learn how they thought I can assist them. She has now formed a partnership with this group.
- She has also participated in various other conferences and webinars (too numerous to mention) all with an equity focus, attended recruitment career fairs (virtually and in-person), and continue to connect with local, regional, and national organizations regarding educational equity.

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell summarized that in her role supporting the BOE's policy on Equity and Diversity (Policy #0523), that she intends to be visible, to listen, as well as provide leadership, guidance, and resources to our district's educators, administrators, students and families that focus on addressing achievement disparities by promoting strategies and practices which will lead to closing the opportunity gap and supporting learning communities that provide equitable opportunities to all students and families.

She also stated this is an ongoing process. We will continue to encourage family engagement and partnerships. Enfield's diversity (of race, culture, language, socio-economic status, and more) is a compliment and strength to the community. She is focused on our students, elevating their voices, and on assisting to provide each student what is needed. She is also very passionate and committed to educational equity in our public schools and the Enfield Community.

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell stated if you've ever received an email from her, she includes a quote at the bottom by Coretta Scott King-"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell is available to answer any question.

Mrs. Pickett stated she has been waiting a long time for this. She started coming to Board meetings as a parent with questions about Ed Site data about our disproportionality and what we are doing to

support our students. Seeing us moving in this direction with a broad definition about equity and how we will address this systematically at the district level and at each school is amazing. Thank you for taking this position. You are elevating students' voices.

Mrs. Pickett asked how will students be instrumental in your plans around building the district plan and the contextual support plans for each school. What would the student's roles be?

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell stated just before she left Enfield High School, we launched a student leadership equity team. We have a focus group that is sponsored by the RE Center which is an equity center that is located in Hartford. They sponsor a focus group for students and families

and then a separate one for administrators. She has shared this information with JFK and EHS administrators. The focus group was held during the day. JFK was unable to juggle their schedule to attend, but EHS was. Two students participated and the topic of the session was giving them an opportunity to share how they thought school education could be more equitable for them. There is a student equity group that is sponsored by the Connecticut Association for School. She participated in a webinar where students presented. Her goal for next year is to see how we can get our students involved. If there is time, there is a way to create student leadership groups at the intermediate level. She is looking forward to doing this. There was a recommendation that we look at starting a student book club regarding the area of equity. She has started discussing this with Principal Clark about a particular book in mind and will see if it is appropriate. If this is not appropriate, we will find something else to get students interested in reading. This is just a couple of things on which I am working.

Dr. Calnen thanked her for being here tonight. It is a real pleasure and we met at the Mental Health Wellness meeting. Looking at mental health through a diversity lens, traditionally mental health hasn't been good historically. Do we have a diverse social worker and other mental health specialist workforce? If not, do you have any ideas about improving this and do these folks have the adequate training in the field of diversity?

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell stated our social workers currently are not that diverse. She asked Dr. Calnen if you are talking about the Town social workers or the school? It makes a difference. Dr. Calnen stated the school social workers?

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell stated diversity does exist at the school level. I can't speak about their training. I can only tell you that going forward, she will be providing professional development for all Enfield Public School staff. Some of this has started at the schools and it may vary school to school like anti bias training. Going forward I'm looking to providing additional resources and providing them resources.

Dr. Calnen stated that is great. It is good to strike when the iron is hot. He believes our budget allows for hiring a psychology worker in every school. It would be really important for them to be well versed in the area of equity and diversity.

Mr. Drezek stated we have a social worker at each school.

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell stated you mentioned mental health and diversity. What you will notice is with some of our more at-risk groups, this means everything. The percentages are higher, and we need to find ways to reach out and connect with them to make sure they are aware of the supports that are in place.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mrs. Cox-Blackwell for being here. You highlighted a point that will be one of your focus areas – educational equity. He finds this to be very important because as a district and if we are going to succeed with higher test scores, or improving our numbers districtwide, we will need the entire student body involved. It sounds like you will look at the numbers and figure out where the gaps are in certain educational areas. You will see who is struggling within particular groups. By doing this, hopefully we can raise the lower scores by assisting those individuals which will help the district out as a whole. He is encouraged and looks forward to seeing what we will be doing with the lower achievement areas and how we can improve our district as a whole.

Madam Chair stated she attended the EHS parent equity meetings. She learned so much by attending these meetings. She learned how the staff was getting involved with equity, diversity and inclusion.



They wanted to be educated and well versed in this area so they could help. When you spoke about school by school, that is important because she has said this before how she loves what they are doing at the high school level, and she would like to see this from pre-K on. Starting with our youngest learners is important.

Madam Chair stated that you are working with Kite and the mental health committee. I love that you are able to partner with these groups and share your voice with them with educational equity. When you said you went to each school by school, it is important to know that one school may be dealing with something different than another school. The ideas are being shared with all the schools. You are bridging them all together with a plan. All situations are not unique and may differ school to school. She appreciates you branching out and owning this role and embracing students in Pre-K through 12.

Madam Chair added she knows you read a lot because we have discussed this before at the parent equity meetings. You have been very busy attending conferences and joining different networks.

Mrs. Cox-Blackwell stated a lot of work is being done at the high school and at Stowe early learning center. She cannot say enough about Jaclyn Valley. She is extremely impressed with her. She went to share resources with her, and she shared some of hers right back to me. Every Kite meeting she attends, Ms. Valley is there also. So a lot is going on. We have our bookends in place and now we are working on the middle levels.

Madam Chair added that we recognize this process will take some time. There will be some growing pains and learning strategies. We are positioned in a good place to move forward. Thank you.

Mrs. Drezek stated when he spoke to Altressa about this position and moving this initiative forward she was steadfast that she would still have interaction with the students, or she wouldn't do it. That convinced him that she is the right person for our district. This is a district wide initiative. She touched upon this in a great way. There is a lot happening at our schools and there is still a lot of work the district needs to do. All of our kids have different needs, and we need to do a better job of identifying their needs and giving them the resources they need.

Mr. Drezek added we were hoping to introduce this definition but as you know from the emails you receive, life gets in the way from time to time. We are not quite there yet but the definition of what we define educational equity initiative in Enfield cannot just be Altressa and I. It needs to be engrained as what we do as a district and a community. We are engaging with stakeholder input particularly starting with our staff. Look at the bottom of our logo there is a motto. He did not make this up. It started with this exact kind of process we are going with for our definition of educational equity. We are not ready to share that yet. We are still gathering input. At the end of the day, our kids all have different needs, and it is incumbent upon us to make sure they get them. We couldn't have a better person to lead this effort. He thanked Mrs. Cox-Blackwell.

Madam Chair added life does come full circle. When you were the principal at Hazardville Memorial, our schools were K-6, and we were talking about closing schools and changing grade configurations. Life comes to full circle. Now you are working with Pre-K through grade 12. Thank you.

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Drezek spoke about what happened in Uvalde, Texas. We take the safety of our students and staff seriously as well as any threats. Our teachers do an amazing job. Don't be afraid to say something. If you need help, please do not be afraid to reach out for help. These are not just your kids, they are our kids also. We have a partnership with the Enfield Police Department and will thoroughly investigate any threats. We are keeping our kids safe.

Mr. Drezek stated we are now an Alliance District. Originally 33 districts were designated as alliance districts. This year, they expanded it to 36 districts. They use a formula to determine

the alliance grant funding they will receive for the 33 current districts. The new 3 districts will have a different alliance grant funding formula that will be used. They will look at last year's funding and our alliance district allowance is \$0. We meet the need to be considered as an alliance district but will not get any extra funding.

Mr. Drezek stated he has reached out to Representative Arnone and Senator Kissel. He is still waiting to hear back from Representative Hall. Mr. Arnone tried to figure out what happened. As an alliance district, we need to submit a plan on how we will spend the money we receive. We will not receive any funding. The legislative session has ended. The definition for becoming an alliance district has changed. We will get protection as an alliance district so our budget cannot be reduced. There are also additional funding that we are eligible for as an alliance district. We are also eligible for other things. As soon as he gets more information, he will share that with the Board. As soon as he found out about this, he contacted the Town manager since this impacts budgets.

Mr. Drezek stated he is going to make a change to our school calendar and the last week of school. This does not need Board approval. The last week of school (June 20, 21, 22, 23) will now be early release day with lunch for all students. Henry Barnard will attend school on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and will be released early without lunch. The reason he is doing this is in late June some of our elementary classrooms are not airconditioned and they get hot. Next year we will be using our cafeterias again. Currently, we have been storing items in the cafeterias. This will allow our elementary staff time to get their items out of the cafeteria and back into their classrooms. This will also allow all our staff time to get their buildings ready for full capacity for next year. He is trying to give parents as much notice as possible. We also have transportation concerns for this week. The last week of school will be early release days.

Mr. Drezek stated we needed to shut down our ETLA program at Thomas Alcorn today. He commends the staff for doing everything they could to keep the program up and running due to staffing shortages and especially Allison Law who is one of our special education coordinators that went to assist them at ETLA. She also assisted us at Henry Barnard for two weeks to help keep them open. We did not have enough staff at ETLA and needed to close the program for the week. He thanked the staff at ETLA and Special Education staff for reaching out to the parents about the program closing for the rest of the week.

Mr. Drezek stated he is tired of giving Covid updates, but this is it. We are still touch and go with covid and it can happen. He is hopeful we do not need to close another school.

Mr. Drezek stated we have a special recognition for tonight. He will ask Madam Chair to continue with this presentation.

Madam Chair stated Mr. Ryder was nominated to be recognized as the CEA's Salute Award recipient. He was unable to attend the awards ceremony and Michelle Wilcox picked up the award on his behalf.

Madam Chair presented this award to Mr. Ryder.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mr. Drezek, Madam Chair and Michelle Wilcox. He appreciates receiving this and wished he could have been there in person to receive this honor and gift.

Madam Chair congratulated Mr. Ryder.

#### **7. Approve Head Start COLA & Quality Improvement Grant**

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves Head Start's COLA & Quality Improvement Grant as presented.

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

#### **8. Approve Lester J. Bodley Scholarship Recipients**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2022 Lester J. Bodley Memorial Scholarships for Student A and Student B as presented.

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

#### **9. Approve EHS Safe Grad Donations for the Graduating Class of 2022**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education approves donating \$1,000 to the Enfield High School Safe Grad Committee on behalf of the Graduating Class of 2022.



A vote by **roll call – 8-0-1** passed with Madam Chair LeBlanc abstaining.

**10. Approve FY2022-23 Budget**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2022-23 Budget.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Ryder asked when Board members will receive the budget books. Mr. Drezek stated he is sure Mrs. Cisneros will get those out to the Board before our next meeting.

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

Mr. Ryder stated the calendar changes for the last week of school, is this something our administrators know about?

Mr. Drezek stated the first person he notified was Smyth Bus about this calendar change this afternoon. He will send something out to our administration about this.

Mr. Ryder added he is looking at the calendars on EnfieldPTO.com and some of the schools have field days and award ceremonies planned for that week. There will also be no PM classes at Stowe that week.

Mr. Drezek thanked Mr. Ryder for giving him the opportunity to apologize to our administrators on camera. There will be some events that he is unaware of that will be moved around. We will not be canceling any end of year student related events. A number of staff members were asking about this calendar change to help accommodate them with grades and report cards. He apologized to ADCO and will talk to them tomorrow.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education enter into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining and a Non-Meeting for collective bargaining strategies.

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

Mr. Drezek joined the Board in Executive Session at 8:33 PM.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

**Open Session:**

The Board returned to open session at 9:17 PM.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder to adjourn the Special Meeting of May 31, 2022.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary