

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Time-Place:

**Council Chambers
820 Enfield Street
Enfield, CT
7:00 PM Regular Meeting**

Date: 12-14-21

- 1. Call to Order – 7:00 PM**
- 2. Invocation or Moment of Silence – Dr. Gerald Calnen**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance – Dr. Gerald Calnen**
- 4. Fire Evacuation Announcement**
- 5. Roll Call**
- 6. Board Guest(s)**
 - a. Jean Haughey, Director of Youth Services**
 - b. Lori Gates – Wreaths Across America**
- 7. Superintendent’s Report**
 - a. EPS Update**
 - b. iPad Update**
 - c. Christmas Break**
- 8. Audiences**
- 9. Board Members’ Comments**
- 10. Unfinished Business**
- 11. New Business**
 - a. Action if any, regarding John F. Kennedy Calendar Modification**
- 12. Board Committee Reports**

- Curriculum Committee	- JFK Building Committee
- Finance, Budget Committee	- Joint Security Committee
- Policy Committee	- Joint Insurance Committee
- Leadership Committee	- Youth Mental Health & Wellness Advisory Committee
- Joint Facilities	- Any Additional Committees
- 13. Approval of Minutes:**
 - Regular BOE Meeting Minutes: November 23, 2021**
- 14. Approval of Accounts and Payroll:**
 - For the Month of October 2021**
 - Line Item Transfers, if any**
- 15. Correspondence and Communications**
- 16. Executive Session**
- 17. Adjournment**



Date: December 14, 2021
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Board Guests

- a. **Jean Haughey, Director of Youth Services:** We welcome Jean Haughey, our Town of Enfield Director of Youth Services to tonight's meeting. She has been a tremendous partner with the Enfield Public Schools. Tonight, we are recognizing her for everything she has done for the students and Enfield community. Please join me and welcome Jean to tonight's meeting.

- b. **Lori Gates – Wreaths Across America:** We also welcome Mrs. Lori Gates. She is here tonight to discuss the Wreaths Across America Program that will be traveling through Enfield and by all our schools on December 15th. She has been supporting our service men and women for many years. We are extremely fortunate to have someone like Mrs. Gates in our community. Enclosed in your packet is additional information.



Date: December 14, 2021
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Superintendent's Report

- a. **EPS Update:** At this time, I will update the Board regarding our schools.

- b. **iPad Update:** Our Chief Technology Officer Guy Bourassa and Business Manager Lorena Cisneros have received funding to purchase equipment from ERATE out of the Emergency Connectivity Funds. We will use the funds to purchase additional iPads. We thank both Mr. Bourassa and Mrs. Cisneros for looking for different ways to receive additional iPads for our students in our district.

- a. **Christmas Break:** All Enfield Public School students will be dismissed early with lunch on Thursday, December 24th. All schools will be closed on Friday, December 24th through Friday, December 31st for the Christmas Break. Students and staff will return to school on Monday, January 3rd. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Date: December 14, 2021
To: Enfield Board of Education
From: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek
Re: Action if any, regarding John F. Kennedy Calendar Modification

As I mentioned at the November 23rd Board meeting, Gilbane Construction is moving the project along faster than we expected at John F. Kennedy. We received a request from them about students attending school and time needed for staff to setup their classrooms. I am proposing the following:

- Wednesday, December 22nd we will dismiss **JFK students only** at 11:00 AM. No lunch will be served.
- Thursday, December 23rd is a planned K-12 early release day with lunch.
- Monday, January 3rd **JFK students** will not attend school.
- Board members will need to waive the 181st day for **JFK students** only.

Therefore, the Enfield Board of Education may take any action(s) deemed appropriately regarding the 2021-22 John F. Kennedy Calendar Modification.

Item # 6b.



You are cordially invited to the Enfield Town Green on
Wednesday, 15 December 2021

for the arrival of four Wreaths Across America trucks that are headed from Harrington, Maine to
Arlington National Cemetery ahead of National Wreaths Across America Day.

This is the only stop this convoy will make in Connecticut.

Due to Covid precautions, there will not be a formal ceremony; in lieu of this, there will be a limited
convoy that will be escorted through Enfield, passing by ALL of Enfield Public Schools prior to the
arrival at the Enfield Town Green, where there will be a presentation of a ceremonial wreath from
Walmart Trucking on behalf of Wreaths Across America to the Town of Enfield, placed by members of
the Enfield Veterans Council.

Please see the attached approximate route passage times for further information.

Enfield has long been one of Wreaths Across America's most talked about towns to visit on their way
to Arlington, and we are so grateful that amidst a global pandemic everyone is willing to work
together to afford an "as inclusive as possible" experience in 2021.

We hope to see you next Wednesday!

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2021

CONVOY DETAILS

10AM Begin at Walmart, East Windsor
RIGHT onto Route 5N to exit 46/I-91N

10:05 CREC

LEFT off I-91N at x49 onto Route 5/Enfield Street
LEFT onto Brainard Road

10:15 CRANDALL

RIGHT onto George Washington Road
RIGHT onto 220W/Shaker Road

10:20 BARNARD

LEFT onto Elm/Moody Roads
RIGHT onto Route 192S/North Maple Street

10:25 HAZARDVILLE MEMORIAL

RIGHT onto Route 190W/Hazard Avenue
LEFT onto Middle Road

10:29 ELI WHITNEY

LEFT onto Olmstead Road
RIGHT onto South Road
LEFT onto Raffia Road

10:34 JFK MIDDLE SCHOOL

RIGHT onto Weymouth Road
EFD2

10:37 PARKMAN ELEMENTARY

RIGHT onto Steele Road
LEFT onto Post Office Road

10:40 STOWE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

RIGHT onto Route 5N/Enfield Street

10:43 MONTESSORI

10:44 ENFIELD ST SCHOOL

10:45 ENFIELD HIGH

10:47 ALCORN SCHOOL

LEFT North Main Street

RIGHT into Town Hall

10:50 END for Veterans welcome and wreath presentation

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

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held on November 23, 2021, at Enfield Town Hall in the Enfield Room located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield.

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM by Tina 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, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire, and Tina LeBlanc

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher Drezek, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Andrew Longey, Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Board Attorney Christine Chinni

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a. **Matter(s) Related to Attorney-Client Privilege**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Board enter into Executive Session A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Both Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey and Board Attorney Christine Chinni joined the Board in Executive Session at 5:47 PM.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

Open Session:

The Board returned to open session at 6:56 PM.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

**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. You are a leader already. Kudos for your efforts. Your presentation was incredible

Mrs. Pickett thanked you 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 has 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 congratulation. 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 getting 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 goals and objectives 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, the 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 are you 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. This 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**

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**

12. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett reported the Curriculum committee will meet on December 19th.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance committee will meet on December 9th.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the next Policy Committee will meet on December 6th.

Leadership – No meeting was held.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facility Committee will meet on December 2nd.

JFK Building – Chairman Kruzel provided the Board with slides of the JFK construction progress.

Joint Security – Madam Chair reported the Joint Security Committee will meet on December 1st.

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.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

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

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 10:06 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary