

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 2019**

An organizational meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at the Enfield Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on November 13, 2019.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mr. Kruzel.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Kruzel
3. **NATIONAL ANTHEM – CHLOE REED**
4. **OATH OF OFFICE FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:**

Deputy Town Clerk, Ms. Karen Coolong administered the Oath of Office for the 2019-21 Board of Education Members – Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar, Chris Rutledge, Wendy Costa, Tina LeBlanc, Joyce Hall, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel.

Ms. Coolong congratulated Board members and wished them a successful term as Board of Education Members.

Mr. Kruzel stated Tim Neville is ill and was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar, Chris Rutledge, Wendy Costa, Tina LeBlanc, Joyce Hall, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Neville

ALSO PRESENT: Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Anthony B. Longey and EHS Student Representative Madison Daigneau

6. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Mr. Kruzel opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson.

a. **Chairperson of the Board of Education**

Mrs. Costa nominated Walter Kruzel as the Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Rutledge. Mrs. Costa read a prepared statement regarding her nomination for Mr. Kruzel.

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa to close the nominations for Chairperson. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kruzel called for a roll call vote for the Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-0** passed unanimously in favor of Mr. Kruzel as the 2019-21 Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education.

b. Vice Chairperson of the Board of Education

Chairman Kruzel opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Rutledge nominated Wendy Costa as the Vice Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Chairman Kruzel. Mr. Rutledge read a prepared statement regarding his nomination for Mrs. Costa.

Mr. Salazar moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder to close the nominations for Vice Chairperson. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-0** passed unanimously for Mrs. Costa as the 2019-21 Vice Chairperson for the Enfield Board of Education.

c. Secretary of the Board of Education

Chairman Kruzel opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Ryder nominated Tina LeBlanc as the Secretary for the Enfield Board of Education, seconded by Mrs. Hall. Mr. Ryder read a prepared statement regarding his nomination for Mrs. Leblanc.

Mrs. Costa moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder to close the nominations for Secretary. All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-0** passed unanimously for Mrs. LeBlanc as the 2019-21 Secretary for the Enfield Board of Education.

7. SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS:

Chairman Kruzel stated we will now present service recognition awards to the outgoing Board members.

Chairman Kruzel, Vice Chairman Costa and Secretary LeBlanc presented Mr. Regnier with gifts of appreciation from the Board and Administration along with his name plate.

Mr. Regnier thanked everyone in Council Chambers, Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey. It was a great 3 years and wished it could have been longer. He congratulated everyone newly elected to the Board. He is sure you will also enjoy your time as Board members. Thank you.

Chairman Kruzel, Vice Chairman Costa and Secretary LeBlanc presented Councilor Riley with gifts of appreciation from the Board and Administration along with her name plate.

Councilor Riley knows the newly elected Board of Education members will do an awesome job for our kids. She will watch you on Tuesday nights from home. You can still see her on Monday nights at the same time and place. She thanked them and added you are the best.

8. COMMENTS, IF ANY, FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Kruzel stated it is his great honor to serve. This is his third term on the Board and second term as Chairman for the Enfield Board of Education. He thanked his wife for her support, his children and mother-in-law. He thanked everyone watching on E-TV and YouTube. He thanked the Youth Vote students. He thanked Republican Town Committee Chair Maryann Turner for all her dedicated work and the town committee members for all their

hard work. He also thanked Board member Chris Rutledge for all his support and dedicated work.

Chairman Kruzel recognized superintendent Christopher Drezek; Assistant Superintendent Andrew Longey; former representative Greg Stokes; Councilor Joe Bosco; Councilor Kelly Hemmler; Councilor Charlotte Riley; Councilor Joe Mueller; Councilor Lori Unghire; former Councilor Liz Davis; former Board member Rich Regnier; Deputy Chairman Virginia Higley; Voices for Enfield Chairman Gina Sullivan; and Constable Maryann Turner.

Chairman Kruzel thanked the residents of Enfield for having faith in his ability to be Chairman of the Board of Education for another term. He also thanked his fellow Board members for their confidence in him as Chairman.

Chairman Kruzel added that his wife gave him this gavel. It is engraved "the future is bright, but watch out it is only going to get brighter". He wants to add that he is not done yet. It is only going to get even brighter. Thank you and God bless Enfield, Connecticut and God Bless America.

9. COMMENTS, IF ANY, FROM THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ryder thanked the Youth Vote students that voted for him. Their vote means so much to him. He also thanked his neighbors for voting for him. It is also World Kindness Day and Cardigan Day. He is hoping we can come up with something insightful like enfieldpto.com, PJ day for the students and other things he has come up with for our schools and students during this term. He believes he is on the Board because of his parent friends and the kids that he has worked with for the past 6 years at Hazardville Memorial, 4 years at Eli Whitney and his first year at JFK. He came on the Board as a parent for the kids.

Mr. Ryder added that enfieldpto.com is currently working on Wreaths Across America. All the schools are participating. By purchasing a wreath for \$15, \$5 dollars will go towards the school of your choice PTO. The wreaths will be placed on Veteran's graves at St. Patrick's Cemetery. He thanked Lori Gates for presenting this opportunity for our schools to participate in.

Mr. Ryder added they are also working on PJ day for kids. Students can wear PJ's to school on Friday, December 13th for \$1 or any amount. This event is recognized by the State of CT. Every penny raised will go to CCMC to help fight childhood cancer. He encourages every to participate in this event.

Mr. Ryder is happy to be representing the parents, students and neighbors in Enfield, Connecticut.

Mrs. Hall did not receive the Youth Vote results and is not sure where she stands with the students except that she has been re-elected. Mr. Ryder will forward this to her. Mrs. Hall received an exciting welcome to the Board as a returnee. She must have done an okay job the last time she was appointed to the Board. She thanked her family for their support since they do not live in town.

Mrs. Hall added that the First Readers is also participating in the Wreaths Across America program. This is one of her pet activities being sure that all the children in Enfield can read and will continue to do this because they enjoy it.

Mrs. Hall thanked everyone that voted for her and for those that came out for this civic opportunity. Thank you.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this will be her 5th term as a Board member. She thanked all the voters that came out and supported her. This means a lot to her. This has been an emotional journey. Sometimes she tends to care a little too much, but that is okay. This is a strength and a weakness for her. She could not do this without the support of her family. Her husband and kids are amazing. People do not see the people sitting behind us – our families. They understand when we need to leave a game early or not have dinner ready.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked her friends here tonight that have supported her. She thanked the Republicans to her right for supporting her as the Board Secretary. She cannot wait to start working with everyone. She is very passionate and will respect our differences.

Mrs. LeBlanc welcomed back Joyce Hall to the Board. She will bring an insight to the Board and she cares deeply. We worked together for one term previously.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Scott Ryder. He has been her rock and confidant for the last two years. She is really excited to get this term started. We are going to do great things together. She welcomes the new Board members and you will also be part of some great things. Welcome and let's get to work.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked everyone. He also thanked God for his faith and if he was elected, everything else would fall into place. He thanked his entire family for their support and many of them are here tonight.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked all the voters that put their faith in him and the entire Board to ensure the best education for all the students in Enfield. They truly are the future and we have some tremendous kids in Enfield.

Mr. LeBlanc added that one of the proudest things he owns is a notebook that he carried with him while we were knocking on doors. In this notebook, he has a piece of the conversation he had with everyone. Meeting everyone is important to him.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked his Republican party for their support. Without them, this would not be possible.

Mr. LeBlanc cannot wait to work with Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey. Mr. Rutledge, Mr. Salazar, Mrs. Costa and Chairman Kruzel have guided him through this entire process. You have always had my back and will be life-long friends.

Mr. LeBlanc stated he is just getting to know Mrs. Hall and is excited to work with her. He has a lot in common with Mr. Ryder. He also likes to promote town pride. Mr. Neville was his principal when he was at JFK. That is pretty cool to be serving alongside of him. Last, he thanked his Aunt Tina for making Enfield history with him and this is something we can both take pride in. Our families are tremendously proud of both of us.

Mr. LeBlanc stated we have an opportunity to be a great Board of Education. A Board that will always put the kids first. He is excited to learn and get to work.

Mr. LeBlanc added that he is a Ramblers Football Coach and the C-Team is playing in their super bowl this weekend in Tolland on Sunday. He wished them the best of luck. Thank you.

Mr. Salazar thanked God for making this opportunity possible. He thanked his wife who is in the audience for her unwavering support. He also thanked his children who are watching this from home. From the day his children were born, they have been his inspiration.

Mr. Salazar thanked the Republican Town Committee and our Chair Maryann Turner. Without their support, this could not have been possible. He thanked the citizens of Enfield for voting for him. He knows that you expect him as a mandate, to work as a team and work hard so we can provide the children of Enfield the best education possible that we can afford. Thank you.

Mr. Rutledge thanked audience members, audience viewers at home, Central Office Administrators, Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice Chairman, Madam Secretary, and to the Board of Education members. He has had the honor and privilege of serving on the Board of Education for the last two years with Chairman Kruzel, Mrs. LeBlanc, Mr. Ryder and Mr. Neville. He hopes to build on our relationship over the next two years. He looks forward to working with our newest Board members, Mrs. Costa, Mrs. Hall, Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Salazar and congratulations on your appointment to the Board.

Mr. Rutledge thanked our outgoing Board members Mrs. Depeau, Mrs. Hernandez, Mr. Regnier and Councilor Riley. It has been a pleasure serving with you. He wishes them all the best in the future.

Mr. Rutledge stated he has spoken about this in the past as being a journey. During our campaign, we worked to present our vision and what we want for the Enfield School System. The voter's voices have been heard. From this point forward it is our duty and responsibility to respect their decision and work hard every day.

Mr. Rutledge stated this journey does not come without sacrifices. The nine of us are doing this because we are dedicated to serve with all our hearts. This journey would not be possible without the support of family and friends. He thanked everyone that has supported us including our campaign teams, husbands, wives, significant others, children, families and fur babies. His dog went with him from each of the polling sites and might have helped him out with the Youth Vote. He offered his sincere thanks and gratitude.

Mr. Rutledge added the past two years have been an incredible journey. He will continue this journey providing Enfield children all the opportunities they deserve. This journey will be taken as a team and as a family. It won't always be easy and there may be some pitfalls along the way. As long as we communicate, work together, build each other up and show respect to this team and to the community there is nothing we can not accomplish together. He looks forward to taking this journey with you and see what we can accomplish. Thank you.

Mrs. Costa thanked her family for their support. Family dinners will resume next week. She thanked the Republican Town Committee and Maryann Turner for all your support. She could not have done this without you all. She thanked them for their support and guidance.

Mrs. Costa gave a heartfelt thanks to all the voters of Enfield for showing your confidence in her to get the job done. She thanked her fellow Board members for their support as Vice Chairman. She congratulated all the newly elected Board members and returning Board members. It is time to get to work and make sure we give the kids the best educational experience we possibly can. Thank you.

EHS Student Representative Madison Daigneau stated she is happy to be here and meet all the newly elected and returning Board members.

Chairman Kruzel recognized two additional people in the audience, Deputy Mayor Szewczak and Constable Kawznicki.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Costa moved, seconded by Mr. Salazar to adjourn the Special Organizational Meeting of

November 13, 2019.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary