

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

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

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Rutledge

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

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

6. BOARD GUEST(S)

a. Child First Presentation

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

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

Ms. Barrett thanked the Board for this opportunity to present information about Child First program in Enfield. Our goal is to improve the lives of our young children. We use a two-generational program approach. We have two teams in Enfield that work with pregnant women, families with children from birth to age 5. There are no fees for the families. We are fully funded by grants. We work with families that feel overwhelmed by the behavior or emotions of their young children; have experienced violence or trauma; feel stressed and hopeless and need support and services for their child and other family members. Stress can be toxic and have long-term effects. Our intervention consists of a 2-month assessment process that helps us to form relationships with our families. This is the first year the we have been in Enfield. We have been in other towns longer.

Mrs. Hall commented that you are spending one to two months with the families. Ms. Barrett stated we spend one to two months assessing the family and will continue to work with the family longer if needed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chairman Kruzel thanked them for coming.

b. Science Curriculum Presentation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS

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

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education cancels their April 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

Discussion:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discussion:

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Ryder stated we can make that change to the regulation. The policy is for public consumption, the regulation is for the rules the administrators will follow.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

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

b. Finance, Budget Committee

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

c. Policy Committee

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

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Joint Facilities Committee

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

f. JFK Building Committee

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

g. Joint Security Committee

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

h. Any Other Committees

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

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary