

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was virtually on September 15, 2020.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Walter Kruzel.

2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Walter Kruzel

3. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY:** Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar, Wendy Costa, Tina LeBlanc, Joyce Hall, Stacy Thurston, Scott Ryder, John Unghire, and Walter Kruzel

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

Chairman Kruzel congratulated and welcomed Mr. Unghire to the Board.

Mr. Unghire thanked Chairman Kruzel. He is honored and humbled to be part of this team. He looks forward to serving the members of this community, students, and staff.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**a. EPS School Update**

Mr. Drezek stated we are in our second week of our Hybrid Plan during a pandemic. This has gone better than we planned. He thanked our students. We only received one phone call about a student refusing to wear a mask. Our kids are awesome and got the message better than some of the adults.

Mr. Drezek added this is something that is new to all of us. Things have gone extremely well. The smooth transition is because of our amazing staff. Everyone has stepped up do what was needed to be done for our kids. Our first day was weird. The feedback he received was very positive. There will be hurdles and roadblocks that we will need to address as we continue. Some schools, buildings and transportation companies have temporarily shut down in the state.

Mr. Drezek reviewed the steps to be followed when contact has been made with someone that has tested positive and contract tracing. We have staff and siblings in multiple buildings. If there is a confirmed case, we will initiate contract tracing. We take this very seriously. I am in constant contact with the Department of Public Health regarding any steps that should be taken. We have asked staff members and students to stay home if they are not feeling well. We need to be cognizant of privacy concerns and HIPA violations. We are limited with what we can share. He thanked our staff and parents for being forthright. If you are sick, stay home. There are no perfect attendance awards. We want our staff and students here safely and do not want to shut buildings down. It is for everyone's best interest. If you have any symptoms, stay home, and monitor them. This is his public service announcement for everyone. He hopes this is the last time he needs to say this. Kids will get sick, but we need to treat every case as the worst. Notify your building principal if your child has any symptoms.

Mr. Drezek added that everything we are doing is in consideration of our kids and staff. Health and safety are our number one priority. We have 5,000 students in this district and he treats them all as if they were his own.

Mr. Drezek thanked everyone for their patience with remote learning. There have been some hiccups online that we are addressing. He thanked both Mr. Bourassa and Dr. Wiley for their assistance.

Mr. Drezek stated Lori Gates has put together a digital presentation for 9/11 recognizing our servicemen and servicewomen. She is an amazing woman and has been doing this for many years thanking our people in the military. She does a lot with Wreaths Across America and Enfield Hooah and urges you to view this presentation at [www.enfieldhooah.org](http://www.enfieldhooah.org).

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mrs. Gates for everything she has done for our community.

### **MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES**

Chairman Kruzel asked for a motion to take Item 6a out of order.

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Enfield Board of Education suspends the rules and moves Item #6a Approve 2020-21 School Readiness Grant Application out of the agenda's order.

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

### **6a. Approve 2020-21 School Readiness Grant Application**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Mrs. Morales, our Family Resource Center Coordinator and School Readiness Liaison to the Board meeting.

Mrs. Morales gave an overview of the 2020-21 School Readiness Grant Application. This grant is for a continuation of funding for ECDC.

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education Approves the 2020-21 School Readiness Grant Application as presented.

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

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mrs. Morales. Mrs. Morales thanked to Board for their continued support of the programs they provide our students.

Mrs. Morales left the meeting at 6:22 PM.

### **MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES**

Chairman Kruzel asked for a motion to take Item 12 out of order.

Mrs. Costa moved, seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education suspends the rules and moves Item #12 out of the agenda's order.

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

### **12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc to enter Executive Session for Discussion of Attorney-Client Privilege Communication regarding Petition Received by District.

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

Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session. No Board action occurred

while in Executive Session.

**Open Session:**

The Board returned to open session at 7:58 PM.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. Approve Policy #6141.329 One-to-One Tablet Program – Second Reading**

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Board approves Board Policy #6141.329 One-to-One Table Program as a second and final reading.

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

**6. NEW BUSINESS:**

**b. Action, if any regarding Attorney-Client Privilege Communication**

Chairman Kruzel stated that he is recusing himself from this item.

Mrs. Costa moved, seconded by Mr. Salazar that the Enfield Board of Education denies the request for a hearing under Section 10-238 of the Connecticut General Statutes regarding the matter set forth in the petition received by the Town Clerk on September 1, 2020 and certified by the Town Clerk on September 8, 2020 on the ground that the petition does not set forth a question requiring a hearing under Section 10-238 because the petition requests that an individual member of the Board resign from the Board, which is a matter resting solely within the discretion of that individual Board member and over which the Board does not have authority or control.

A vote by **roll call 5-2-1** passed with Mrs. LeBlanc and Mr. Ryder in dissent. Mr. LeBlanc abstained.

**7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chairman Kruzel updated the Board regarding committee assignments.

- Finance Committee Membership – Wendy Costa (Chair), John Unghire and Tina LeBlanc with alternates Joyce Hall and Walter Kruzel
- Policy Committee Membership – Bill Salazar (Chair), John Unghire and Scott Ryder with alternates Johnathan LeBlanc and Tina LeBlanc
- Curriculum Committee Membership – Jonathan LeBlanc (Chair), Bill Salazar and Joyce Hall with alternates Wendy Costa and Stacy Thurston
- Joint Security Committee Membership – Jonathan LeBlanc, John Unghire and Scott Ryder

Chairman Kruzel stated Board member will receive an updated list of committee assignments in your weekly update items.

Mr. Ryder asked if Mr. Unghire will be assigned to a school as a liaison. Chairman Kruzel stated he will be assigned to John F. Kennedy Middle School.

Mr. Ryder stated he has received feedback from our teachers while we are maintaining our Hybrid Plan. The class sizes are creating a unique opportunity for our K-5 teachers to offer a

10:1 ratio of instruction. Staff can do more with our students in the 2 days one-on-one. This is a great way for our kids to get caught up on classroom learning they missed during the spring. This is not the easiest for families and teachers. He appreciates the teacher's perspective on this. He thanked all our teachers for everything they are doing. They are doing double, and triple duty and he urged everyone to stay safe. Shutting down in Enfield again would be the worst-case scenario.

Mr. Ryder urged parents to keep their children home if they have any symptoms. He added that hopefully we will not need snow days since we can now distance learn. He can not wait to meet in person and receive public input. He likes the masks with our logo on them. Our PTO's will do what they can and will hold fundraisers for masks.

Mr. LeBlanc is disappointed with the CIAC and the Department of Public Health for what they have put our student athletes through regarding football. We have not received any communication and the decision for football is still up in the air. Other states are allowing students to play. Clarification is needed for the different sports. Soccer has just as much contact as football does. He does not know why football is being singled out. Let the kids play.

Mr. LeBlanc stated he attended the JFK Groundbreaking Ceremony. It was nice seeing everyone in person. He would like Randy Daigle to give the Board and update on the JFK project. When this project is done in 2022, this will be great for our community.

Mrs. Thurston thanked our teachers and students for coming back. She knows this was a tough decision to make. She thanked the students for keeping socially distanced and she wished them all a good school year.

Mrs. Hall asked about reopening with the lack of bus monitors and how it is going. Is the loading and unloading working as planned? Mr. Drezek stated it has been as seamless as it can be. The student arrivals and dismissals times have been tweaked a little. We are transporting 50% less the student population. He believes our bus ridership will remain low even when we go back fully.

Mrs. Hall stated 3 and 4-year old's are now required to wear masks. That was not part of our plan and will we need to do this? Mr. Drezek stated we are making smaller masks for our 3 and 4-year old's. We will get them as quickly as we can.

Mrs. Hall stated ERfC is successfully delivering instruction at their distance learning center at the Enfield Annex. They are anticipating more than 50 participants based on the applications they have received for next week. The majority of parents have enrolled their children for 3 days. Claire Hall has secured funding for free and/or reduced lunch that will reduce the price from for some parents from \$35 per day to \$25.00. The other rates remain the same. They are still accepting applications and can take up to 150 students.

Chairman Kruzel shared a picture of the STOWE Eaglet. Mr. Drezek stated the eaglets has a name – SELC.

Mr. Unghire thanked everyone. He appreciates the opportunity to serve on the Board. He asked for your patience and help. He looks forward to working with everyone.

Mrs. LeBlanc welcomed Mr. Unghire to our Board family. She enjoyed working with Lori when she was a Board member.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the first day of school was very different this year. We prepped for in-class learning and distance learning. She thanked the Enfield High staff. The remote learning went seamlessly. She thanked the students for their patience and bus drivers who have been amazing.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked EHS Guidance Counselor Mr. Carlson for all his help. She welcomed back the students and staff and urged everyone to stay safe.

Mrs. Costa missed the JFK Groundbreaking Ceremony. She was still self-quarantining which ends on Wednesday. She thanked everyone for the great start to the school year. Our kids are excited to be back at school. She has received positive feedback and the parents are pleased with the changes we made with our distance learning.

Chairman Kruzel stated the JFK Groundbreaking Ceremony went great. He thanked the committee members and all the sub-contractors for all the hard work they have done and will continue doing. They were able to start this project earlier and have made good progress. We are ahead of schedule and under budget. He knows we will continue to do this because we are Enfield.

## **8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum – Mr. Salazar and Mr. LeBlanc reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM remotely.

Finance – Chairman Kruzel reported the Finance Committee met on September 14<sup>th</sup> virtually. We reviewed financials and the budget – all is good. Tonight, we will approve financial reports.

Policy – Mr. Salazar reported the Policy Committee will meet on September 22<sup>nd</sup> remotely.

Leadership – None

Joint Facility – Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facility Committee is working on the master roof plan. This will be presented to the Town Council. We will not hold a referendum on the roofs as originally planned due to COVID. We also will receive an update on the transfer station.

JFK Renovation – Chairman Kruzel reported we met last week and meet bi-weekly. Our next meeting is on September 17<sup>th</sup>. We need to submit our technology plans to the OSG, and we might need to hold a special meeting to approve this.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee is scheduled to meet on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mrs. Hall asked if the Joint Security Committee also addresses Cyber Security? With things like ransomware that have recently attacked the Hartford school system, we should be looking into this. Chairman Kruzel does not believe this is part of the Joint Security Committee. This would fall under our Technology department.

Mr. Drezek added this has been discussed at our ITPC meeting.

Mr. Ryder stated the Joint Security Committee is more brick and mortar. Chairman Kruzel agreed with Mr. Ryder.

Reopening – Chairman Kruzel stated we accomplished what we set out to do with this committee – our schools have reopened. We will leave this committee here for the time being until this COVID is over.

Joint Insurance – Chairman Kruzel reported they will meet in October.

## **9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Special Meeting Minutes of August 25,

2020 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

**10. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL**

Mrs. Costa moved seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of August 2020, total expenditures amount to \$3,072,040.85 broken down between payroll totaling \$1,962,254.84, and other accounts totaling \$1,109,786.01. 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 documented.

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

Mrs. Costa moved seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of August 2020, total grant Head Start expenditures amount to \$141,813.47, broken down between payroll totaling \$111,075.70 and other accounts totaling \$30,737.77. 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 documented.

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

Line Item Transfers: None

**11. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None**

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION (this was addressed previously)**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Salazar to adjourn the Special Virtual Meeting of September 15, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary