

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 23, 2020**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was virtually on June 23, 2020.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Walter Kruzel.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Walter Kruzel
3. **ROLL CALL:**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. **EPS School Update**

Mr. Drezek expressed his gratitude to the Enfield Public School family for their support of his family during this difficult time. He thanked the members of the Board for their continued support. Both Mr. Longey and I explain this to our new hires about being part of a family. Your support during this time has been overwhelming and nothing has been more evident. He has received many well wishes from the entire Enfield community and other communities. Thank you.

Mr. Drezek thanked Mr. Longey for everything he has done for him during this time. He has been a rock and he wanted to publicly thank him.

Mr. Drezek reminded the public that you can view the Enfield High School virtual graduation on ETV. Mrs. Clark and her team exceeded our expectations. They did a phenomenal job planning and executing the graduation. We have received nothing but positive feedback about the graduation. He added that we wanted to recognize our graduates and provide them with the best possible experience we could. Nothing can beat a real graduation, but this was as good as we could get. He thanked Mrs. Clark and her team for everything they did for our graduates.

Mr. Drezek stated the Town Council has been discussing changing our worker's compensation and liability carrier. The Town manager has kept in contact with me regarding these discussions. They are exploring going back to CIRMA our previous insurance carrier. I will keep you posted with any future developments.

Mr. Drezek stated our iPads have arrived. We are currently working on a plan for distribution. We were lucky and ordered them before everyone else. A lot of other districts are looking for devices. We also received the final application for the Federal Cares Act. We now know how we will pay for the iPads.

Mr. Drezek stated there are a lot of questions relating to opening in September. The Education Commissioner is expected to make an announcement regarding schools on Thursday. There are a lot of speculations. We will know better once we receive the guidelines. There are many

spikes that are popping up around the country. He will share more once he knows something.

Mr. Drezek added we are trying to get back to normalcy. We have been discussing when we will start holding in person meetings. He is planning to open the central staff offices back up after July 4th. Our staff has done a fantastic job using social distancing and working virtually. We have been staggering some staff coming in the various departments. There will be restrictions that will be put in place. We will also need a cleaning schedule. We need some staff at central office to address questions from the public during the summer and as we gear up for the start of school. This plan will be forthcoming. The Town Hall has also opened with restrictions.

b. Youth Virtual Culinary Institute 2020 – as presented

Mr. LeBlanc welcomed back Mr. Drezek.

Mr. Salazar stated he asked about this at a Curriculum meeting. He would like to know the number of students that did not submit instructional packets. Mr. Drezek stated the building principals will be gathering this information. We will send something out when we receive this information.

Mr. Salazar also welcomed Mr. Drezek back.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that several Board members have commented about meeting in person. She attended the School Reopening Committee and members from B&G stated we most likely will not be meeting back at Town Hall until mid-August. She agrees that we need to start meeting again in person. She would like us to have the option to call in virtually to meetings. We need to take into consideration that some of us might still need to meet remotely due to self-quarantining and anticipating the second wave of COVID. We need to be mindful of what we are saying.

Chairman Kruzel added he heard the same thing, the middle of August before we might meet together. This is all tentative.

Mr. Ryder also welcomed Mr. Drezek back. He thanked Mr. Longey for filling in for Mr. Drezek and answering all our questions. You did a great job.

Chairman Kruzel agreed with all the Board member comments.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Policy Revision #9132 Bylaws of the Board – Standing Committees – Second Reading

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Salazar that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy Revision #9132 Bylaws of the Board – Standing Committees as a second and final reading.

Discussion:

Mrs. Costa would like a correction made on line #52 – change tow to two.

A vote by **roll call 5-4-0** passed with Mrs. LeBlanc, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Thurston and Mr. Ryder in dissent.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Policy Revision #6145 Eligibility – Extracurricular Activities – Gr. 6-12 – First Reading

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Salazar that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy Revision #6145 Eligibility – Extracurricular Activities – Gr. 6-12 as a first reading.

Discussion:

Mrs. Costa questioned the recommended 1.7 grade point average (GPA). She feels this is a bit low. She does not want to see us lowering this average just so students can play sports. She feels education is primary and playing sports is secondary. She does not want us to set the bar too low.

Mr. Ryder stated the 1.7 is the GPA. The 4.0 was never changed previously.

Mr. Rutledge added that Mrs. Costa has brought up an interesting point. Colleges require a higher GPA to be eligible to play sports. He would like to know how many students are not eligible due to the GPA requirements or are on the brink. He agrees that our primary purpose is to educate. He is not diminishing sports by any means. It would be interesting to see the data on how this policy impacts our students.

Mr. Salazar asked for clarification – you would like to know how many student athletes did not qualify.

Mr. Rutledge stated the policy indicated students needed to maintain a C- or better GPA or 1.7 to eligible to participate. He would be interested to see how many students did not qualify or were on the brink.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we cannot compare college GPA's to high school GPA's. She asked if the CIAC dictates the GPA that schools use. Mr. Longey stated the CIAC tells us what the minimum GPA is.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated our coaches require the players to be accountable for their grades and report to the coaches weekly. If their grades are slipping, they are assigned Tier I, II and III assistance with their teachers during Eagle Hour for extra help. If they miss meetings or do not make improvements, they will not be allowed to participate during the week. Enfield high has done a tremendous job being proactive with their student athletes as a preventative measure. If a student has all A's and is struggling in one class, the student is expected to get help during Eagle Hour. The Tier level the student is assigned, will dictate the numbers of times during Eagle Hour they need to meet each week.

Mrs. Costa stated the CIAC recommended GPA is 1.7 but many school districts have increased that. It is nice that we are holding our students accountable. She still questions if 1.7 is the correct number for us.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she can see that other districts might increase the GPA requirements. Knowing parents, they will go directly to the CIAC website for the minimum GPA. She is comfortable with this GPA since it is coming from the GIAC.

Mr. Longey stated we are trying to get through the 6000 series this year. The Policy committee can always revisit this policy. Tonight, we need to make this change so the high school can calculate GPA's. The high school needs the eligibility list for fall athletics. If this is something the Board would like to pursue later, let him know. We would need to form a subcommittee and include coaches and our Athletic Director if you would like to make changes regarding the GPA. They can give you the data you are looking for.

Mr. Drezek stated that is the recommended minimum GPA from the CIAC. He understands the Boards concern about raising the bar. Some of our student athletes are barely making the minimum GPA so they can play a sport. Board members may recall our fall athletic presentation where the athletes attend a Board meeting. Our Athletic Director Cory O'Connell provides the percentages of eligible students. He recalls it being around 98%. Our coaches and teachers are doing a great job making sure our athletes are eligible.

Mr. Rutledge asked if the high school needs us to approve this policy urgently? Mr. Longey stated the eligibility list is also run at the same time in as the report cards. They will base the eligibility from 5 ½ credits or 5b of the policy. They cannot run this yet without violating Board policy. They need this change to be made.

Mr. Rutledge stated we can speed up the process if needed and waive the second reading. Mr. Longey stated it is not critical to do it all tonight.

Chairman Kruzel stated we can place this on the July 7th agenda for the second reading.

A vote by **roll call 8-1-0** passed with Mrs. LeBlanc in dissent.

b. Approve 2020-21 Healthy Food Certification

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education elects not to certify the 2020-21 Healthy Food Certification.

Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel stated in the past, we have chosen not to certify due to the restrictions that would be imposed if we certified.

Mr. Drezek stated this is an annual action the Board is required to take. Mrs. Edwards provided the Board with a memo stating that our school lunch program meets all Federal and State nutrition guidelines. If we chose to certify, there is an additional set of requirements that would need to be followed and could jeopardize our reimbursements for our nutrition program. Your vote to not certify will allow us to continue as is. We just wanted to make sure you know our school lunch program meets all Federal and State guidelines.

Chairman Kruzel stated your yes vote will ensure that we will not certify.

Mr. Salazar stated he just wants to make sure he understands this correctly. The State requires us to do this certification yearly.

Mr. Drezek stated the Board of Education must vote on this each year. If we vote to certify the Healthy Food Certification, we would be bound by State requirements. We would not be able to sell food at Athletic games or provide monthly birthday celebrations. That is why we always say we are meeting all Federal and State nutrition guidelines. Our school lunches meet all guidelines. If we certify, we can jeopardize any reimbursements we currently are receiving. It sounds confusing. We have never certified due to the restrictions that would need to be followed.

Chairman Kruzel added one year we printed the document and it was many, many pages just for us to look at it to vote no.

Mr. Salazar stated this is something the State requires us to do yearly. Mr. Drezek added the State is making the Board vote yes or no. The recommendation is to not certify the Healthy Food Certification.

Mr. LeBlanc stated by voting yes, we are actually voting to not certify. Chairman Kruzel stated that is correct.

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

c. Discussion and Action, if any, regarding Adopting the FY2020-21 Budget

Mr. Drezek stated since this is technically the last meeting of the fiscal year, the Board will need to vote on the budget we will be presenting to the Town. We are presenting a 0% budget. The Town will appropriate a 0% increase with a 2% carryover contingency for next year. There is also a caveat that once the State settles the ECS cost formula, the Town will share that with us. We will not receive this figure until the middle of the summer. The Town Council made an additional appropriation for us last year. This will be done the same way this year once the ECS funding is finalized.

Chairman Kruzel stated the State approves a bi-annual budget. We should receive an increase from the State, but changes could be made at any time.

Mr. Drezek stated there was an additional \$400K in the bi-annual budget last time. Our last conversations with them was to carry that budget forward. The fiscal picture in the State is grimmer during the last 3-months. Until they bang the gavel and appropriate the funding to municipalities, he would not be comfortable counting on it. He is comfortable with the word of the Town Council that they will pass on to the schools any additional funding they receive. The Town Council has done that the past 3 years. The legislature can make changes fiscally.

Mrs. Costa moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Enfield Board of Education adopts the FY2020-21 Budget presented by the Town Council.

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

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Chairman Kruzel stated he attended 4 of the drive-thru graduation sessions. They were phenomenal. The EHS team thought of everything. The weather was perfect on both days. The graduates had fun and he believes that everyone enjoyed it. The processions were orderly and done by the book. He thanked them for a great job. He spoke to the JI reporter who has covered several other town ceremonies and he thought we did a great job.

Mr. LeBlanc watched the virtual graduation procession from home. It was fantastic. It was nice hearing the graduate's comments. He congratulated all the graduates.

Mr. LeBlanc stated Chief Fox gave a presentation to the Town Council. He spoke about what our police department does. Our EPD is fully accredited. They are doing a tremendous job with our youth. The Enfield Explorers program is the oldest one in Connecticut and the second oldest in the United States. Our Youth Academy is a two-week program for children ages 10-13. They also offer an internship program for high school and college age students. Our Enfield Police Department is doing a tremendous job. We also have SRO's that mentor our students while they are in school.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the CIAC is recommending each school district forms a committee for starting sports up in the fall. The sports schedules for the fall were just released. It is good to see sporting events are being scheduled again. Our first EHS freshman football game is on September 10th.

Mr. LeBlanc would like to know what we are doing to keep in touch with our students over the summer especially the students that were struggling to complete their packets during the

school year. We need to look in on these kids and get them geared up for school in the fall.

Mr. Salazar congratulated all our students for the end of another school year. This has been a historical year and we are all looking forward to a better year. He agrees that the graduation production was great. He thanked everyone involved with this. He has not heard of any negative comments about the virtual graduation ceremony. He hopes the students and the families were satisfied with it. They deserved to be acknowledged for their academic accomplishments. It was well done. He congratulated the 2020 graduates.

Mr. Salazar commented on missing student packets as mentioned by Mr. LeBlanc. Unfortunately, some students will not improve if we are distance learning in the next school year. We need to look into what is missing for them and what we can do to prepare them in the summer for the next school year. We need to make sure they are actively participating.

Mr. Salazar stated our Enfield Police Explorers are the 2nd oldest in the United States and oldest in Connecticut. This is just another reason why we are so proud of Enfield. He thanked Mr. LeBlanc for sharing this information.

Mr. Rutledge congratulated all the students and school system for how we handled this past school year. Everyone needed to adapt. It wasn't easy and we need to continue moving forward. We need to build on what we did last year and make necessary improvements. He thanked everyone for their patience and perseverance. We have our school reopening committee and our distance learning plans wasn't something we ever did before. If distance learning is needed again, he encourages us to reach out to colleges and universities that have been successfully doing online education. They could help us with resources or different ways to do things. This is something his employer does. We could take some lessons from them

Mrs. Costa watched the virtual awards ceremony. Everyone did a phenomenal job. The hosts, Mr. & Mrs. Mazzone were very entertaining. All the staff involved should be commended for a job well done. They made lemonade out of lemons.

Mrs. Costa also attended the drive-thru graduation ceremony. This event was well-planned, and the students really enjoyed it. She also watched the virtual graduation ceremony at home. She thanked everyone involved for making this a memorable event for our graduates. Nothing can replace a traditional graduation, but this was done well. Thank you.

Mrs. Costa also attended several virtual CABA meetings over the past two weeks were representatives discussed reopening and the challenges surrounding this. She also attended a session called "Dear School Boards, Your Students and Staff of Color are not okay" that was presented by Dr. Marth Brackeen-Harris. She was looking for more concrete suggestions to be given but it gave us different perspectives and generated a lot of conversations.

Mrs. LeBlanc welcomed Mr. Drezek back. You and your family were in our hearts and prayers. We appreciated Mr. Longey's patience while you were out.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated the Enfield High School 2020 graduates. It was not a traditional graduation, but everyone did a great job. Parents were able to get out of the cars to take pictures. They made the ceremony as personal as they could. There was a lot of Eagle pride there. Parents were very thankful. The weather was perfect.

Mrs. LeBlanc also watched the virtual awards ceremony. Mr. & Mrs. Mazzone were wonderful hosts. She enjoyed seeing the staff involved with this ceremony and about the students plans. She also watched the virtual graduation ceremony. The staff wanted to see the students and see the students graduate. A lot of the staff delivered signs to the graduate's homes. She thanked the Enfield High staff, parents and students for everything.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that both she and Mr. Ryder made a video of them visiting schools thanking parents and staff. We can send you the video if you would like to see it. We had a lot of fun making this. We just wanted to share our thanks for the end of another school year.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated some Doctor's Offices have cancelled sports physicals for student athletes. The CIAC is not giving athletes a break on this. Sports physicals will need to be completed within the 13 months. She contacted our Athletic Director Mr. O'Connell about this. If there are any changes, he will let us know.

Mrs. LeBlanc commented that we have received a lot of correspondence about having our subcommittee and Board meetings where audience members can phone in. It sounds like we will not have any in person meetings until mid-August. She would also like us to explore different options for the public to view our meetings.

Mrs. LeBlanc also watched at the CABE webinar with Mr. Martha Brackeen-Harris. This made you self-reflect. Dr. Martha made excellent points. Our kids are willing to take on more. This generation will teach us and will pass it on down. She spoke about many poignant topics like the Equity Toolkit.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated prior to the pandemic, we had reached out to CABE about their Equity Toolkit. The Board adopted this, but we haven't had a chance to work with it yet. Dr. Brackeen-Harris suggested we read a poem "Wearing a Mask".

Mrs. LeBlanc added that Dr. Brackeen-Harris said our youth are replacing the images of George Floyd with people they know. This becomes very scary to them. This work will be ongoing. You can watch this webinar on the CABE website under professional development. She is committed to looking at things differently and representing everyone.

Mrs. LeBlanc wished everyone a safe and healthy summer. She knows our Central Office staff will be working very hard for us during the summer months.

Mrs. Hall also watched the CABE webinar and agrees wholeheartedly with everything Mrs. LeBlanc and Mrs. Costa said.

Mrs. Hall added the virtual graduation ceremony was impressive as well as the virtual awards ceremony. There were so many awards given out.

Mrs. Hall has asked a number of people about what they remember about their graduation. Other than walking down the hill, she couldn't find anyone that had such a memorable graduation than the 2020 graduates. In some respects, our graduates are very lucky with the drive-thru and virtual ceremony. Graduates that have not made any definite plans to further their education can register at community colleges and attend for free. The Board of regents has an allotment of funds available at community colleges. You must submit your application by July 15th. Please share this information to anyone you might know.

Mrs. Hall stated we have held several Head Start Policy Committee meetings. We discussed summer sessions and students that will be entering Kindergarten in the fall. They will offer virtual sessions to prepare the students for entering school. They will also have kits available for the students.

Mrs. Hall congratulated Mr. LeBlanc for his well-written editorial that was published in the Journal Inquirer.

Mrs. Hall stated that she has received 2 anonymous letters. If you have a good idea that we need to listen to, please let us know who you are.

Chairman Kruzel also has received anonymous letters.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mrs. Hall for her kind words.

Mrs. Thurston congratulated all the graduates. Her husband drove her cousin to the drive-thru graduation ceremony. He was beaming when he came home. He said it was so much fun to be part of this. She watched the virtual ceremony and was also impressed with it. She has spoken to several people about their virtual graduations and they were jealous of what Enfield did. She congratulated Mrs. Clark and her team for everything they did for our graduates. They went above and beyond. She is very proud to be part of this Board especially now for everything we have been doing for our kids.

Mrs. Thurston also welcomed Mr. Drezek back.

Mr. Ryder stated many parents were concerned about the graduation ceremony for their child and having a memorable ceremony. What Mrs. Clark and her team did was amazing. It was nice to hear the comments the students made at the virtual graduation ceremony. What Enfield High School did was great. He congratulated all the 2020 graduates from Enfield High School and Enfield Adult Education. This was Adult Education's 100th graduation ceremony. He thanked all our graduates.

Mr. Ryder added that Enfield Adult Education is available on Facebook and Twitter. They will be holding summer hours. You can call 860-763-7032 for information or you can go to www.enfieldpto.com. They will be adding to their program offerings in the fall.

Mr. Ryder wished all our fathers a Happy Father's Day. He thanked everyone at our K-8 schools for everything they have done for our kids. You all went above and beyond reaching out to our kids saying goodbye for the summer. Thank you for what you did for our kids, it was very special. He welcomed all the incoming pre-school and Kindergarten students.

Mr. Ryder added the JFK yearbooks have been delayed. We will get the word out once they are available.

Mr. Ryder thanked the Enfield Public Schools staff and administration for what you have done. Thank you for helping. This was a stressful time for everyone.

Mr. Ryder asked about the July 7th meeting. Chairman Kruzel stated he will discuss this under the JFK Building Committee report.

Chairman Kruzel also thanked the members of the Enfield Police Department that were at the graduation ceremony. Our members of EPD are great and are top notch as mentioned by Mr. LeBlanc.

Chairman Kruzel stated he visited Enfield Street, Henry Barnard, Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney for their student pick-up days. He thanked the staff for everything they have done on behalf of the nine of us. We have phenomenal staff in this town and in our schools. Since March, it has been a difficult time for everyone. We are Enfield and we got through this and are always on top of it. We will keep working on this. We are a team of 9 and we all put our time in and do what is best for our kids.

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee – Mr. Salazar reported the Curriculum Committee met virtually on June 18th at 5:30 PM. We discussed Project Lead the Way and updates for the Curriculum plan for next year. Ms. Middleton also discussed updates and enhancements coming from Microsoft. Our next meeting will be held on July 2nd.

Finance, Budget Committee – Mrs. Costa reported the Finance, Budget Committee met virtually June 15th. We met with representatives from Wolff Financial Group and discussed Title III grants. We also discussed meeting in person at Alcorn. We will be approving financial reports later on the agenda.

Policy Committee – Mr. Rutledge reported the Policy Committee met virtually on June 16th. We continued reviewing the 5000 series. We also received several policies from CAFE that pertain to current situations like meeting virtually. He is looking to schedule a meeting to review these policies. He would like to include the meeting link for people to attend our next Policy Committee meeting virtually.

Leadership Committee – None

Joint Facilities Committee – Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facilities committee will meet virtually on June 25th. We are also working on the 3rd phase for Barnard's Roof and the other school roofs.

JFK Building Committee – Chairman Kruzel reported the JFK Building Committee met on June 11th. We need to submit the FF&E package to the State by July 9th. He is requesting the Board meet on Tuesday, July 7th. We can move the July 14th meeting to July 7th if there are no objections. We can discuss and approve this item that needs to be submitted to the State by July 9th.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Rutledge reported the Joint Security Committee will meet next on September 2nd.

Mr. Rutledge stated that Mr. LeBlanc left the meeting at 6:52 PM. He lost his internet connection.

School Reopen Committee – Mrs. Costa reported the School Reopen Committee met virtually on June 17th. Representatives from Building and Grounds attended. We discussed general topics including cleaning and social distancing and the impacts for classroom sizes. We are still waiting for the formal guideline from the State. Once we receive this, we will focus on specific items. Our next virtual meeting will be held on June 30th.

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairman Kruzel reported they are currently looking in our property and casualty insurance and we may be switching insurance carriers. This will be discussed at a future date.

Mr. Drezek stated he has continued conversations with Mr. Radar from CAFE about continuing with our Equity Toolkit. Dr. Martha Brackeen-Harris was going to be our facilitator. He has spoken to her and hopes she will still be our facilitator once we can schedule this again.

Mrs. LeBlanc added she is amazing and would love to meet with her.

Chairman Kruzel looks forward to this.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Special Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2020 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** 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 May 2020, total expenditures amount to \$6,186,270.88, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,337,592.11 and other accounts totaling \$1,848,678.77. 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.

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

- The month of May 2020, total grant Head Start expenditures amount to \$344,936.17, broken down between payroll totaling \$322,927.10 and other accounts totaling \$22,09.07. 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 & COMMUNITION: - None

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa to adjourn the Special Virtual Meeting of June 23, 2020.

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

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 30, 2020**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at virtually on June 30, 2020.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Chairman Kruzel.
2. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Walter Kruzel announced the fire evacuation announcement.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan LeBlanc, Chris Rutledge, Wendy Costa, Tina LeBlanc, Joyce Hall, Stacy Thurston, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Salazar

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher Drezek, Superintendent; and Mr. Andrew Longey, Assistant Superintendent

4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa to enter into Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel – Interview Candidate for Administrative Opening.

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

Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey and Candidate A joined the Board in Executive Session. No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

Open Session:

The Board returned to open session at 6:52 PM.

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

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education appoints Candidate A to be the Principal of Eli Whitney Elementary School.

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

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa to adjourn the Special Meeting of June 30, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 7, 2020**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was virtually on Tuesday July 7, 2020.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Walter Kruzel.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Walter Kruzel
3. **ROLL CALL:**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

4. **BOARD GUESTS**

Board members welcomed JFK Building Committee members Randy Daigle, JFK Building Chairman; Chris Cykley, JCJ and Emily Czarnecki, JCJ. Ms. Czarnecki provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the JFK FF&E. She reviewed the furniture selections for classrooms, science rooms, art rooms, music/stage, CTE, teachers, hub, common areas, administration, office staff and cafeteria. She also reviewed the item data sheets, furniture drawing placements and cost estimate.

Mr. Salazar asked if social distancing options for the students have been considered. Mrs. Czarnecki stated the furniture will not be installed until next year. We can make modifications if needed. We are planning for long-term. There are options available to provide acrylic dividers if needed. Students can sit at the cafeteria every other seat if this continues.

Mr. Daigle stated we are required to adhere to the State guidelines and restrictions in order to receive full reimbursement. We are planning for 23-25 students in each classroom. We have guidelines we need to follow for the cafeteria. If the state changes their guidelines, we will address it.

Mr. Salazar added he is looking to see if options can be added like partitions. He hopes a vaccine will be developed but what if another pandemic occurs. The furniture might need to be retrofitted if social distancing continues.

Mr. Daigle stated we have designed the classrooms so they can be expanded if more space is needed. The furniture can be moved around. We are trying to keep the students together and classes together. JCJ has done a great job with the plans and we can add dividers if needed.

Mr. Salazar stated the furniture can be adjusted if needed. We cannot afford to not think this might not happen. We do not want to be shortsighted.

Mrs. Czarnecki added the furniture can be modified if needed.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about the auditorium seating, gym and locker rooms with social distancing.

Mr. Daigle stated the auditorium seating is required by code. You can seat students in every other seat or rows.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about the gymnasium seats and locker rooms. Mr. Daigle stated tonight we are discussing FF&E. What you are asking about would be presented at another time.

Mrs. Czarnecki added those items are part of the construction portion has been bid out.

Mr. Daigle those items will be similar to what we did at Enfield High School. We can give another presentation with that information as an update.

Mr. Daigle stated the State will only reimburse us for the per classroom totals.

Mrs. Costa understands some items will not be reimbursed or are ineligible. She asked about the classrooms.

Ms. Czarnecki stated the State will only reimburse us for the per class occupancy. Some classes will have 29 students and they will only reimburse us for a certain student number. Additional desks and chairs might be needed but will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Mr. Daigle added we will receive 50% reimbursement on certain items if they feel the items can be used by the town or public.

Mrs. Costa asked how does this compare from when we were looking at a referendum? Mr. Daigle stated we are currently under budget.

Mrs. Costa asked how much are we under budget?

Mr. Cykley added we were projecting \$2.8 million. We are at \$2.3 million and are approximately around \$500K under budget.

Mr. Ryder asked about our FF&E reimbursement rate and if it is the same. Mr. Daigle stated yes, our rate is 70.17.

Mr. Salazar asked about the administration seating. Ms. Czarnecki the administration section is not reimbursable due to the age of that part of the building. It was deemed ineligible like the media center. We are still purchasing new furniture.

Mr. Daigle stated the State will not reimburse anything under 20 years old. This area is 18 years old. We will use the media center as swing space and it is now considered as reimbursable space. Just the administration area is not reimbursable.

Mr. Salazar asked about seating. Ms. Czarnecki stated that is all the task chairs, guest chairs and conference room chairs.

Chairman Kruzel added the existing cafeteria space will end up being the new administrative area.

Mr. Daigle stated we would really like to give the Board a full-blown presentation on the floorplans at some point. He thanked the liaisons for sharing information with the Board and Town Council. We are ahead of schedule. All our bids were favorable, and we are currently under budget by around \$5 million on the project. We have been working hand-in-hand with the administration. He commends everyone for all the work that has been done.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mr. Daigle for his chairmanship on the project and keeping us in order.

Suspend the Rules and move Item #7a.

Chairman Kruzel would like to suspend the rules and move Item #7a Approve Phase 2 Furniture Plans, Specifications and Cost Estimate and submit to OSCG for Review and approval and Signoff on Form SCG-042 up on the agenda for Board approval.

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Enfield Board of Education moves Item 7a up on the agenda for Board Approval.

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

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Enfield Board of Education approves Phase 2 Furniture Plans, Specifications and Cost Estimate and submit to OSCG for Review and approval and Signoff on Form SCG-042 as presented.

Discussion:

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

Chairman Kruzel thanked them for their presentation and hard work. We can have another presentation in September or October.

5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. EPS School Update

Mr. Drezek provided the Board with an update regarding opening schools in September. We received our guidelines from the State. We have until July 24th to submit 3 plans for reopening to the state (in-person, hybrid plan and all digital plan). We have posted the guidelines on our website. Altogether, the plan and the links are around 150 pages. He has discussed this with colleagues and legal counsel. At this point, we have more questions than answers. Parents have options regarding the next school year. They can send their kids back to school, they can opt-out, or they can continue with digital learning or homeschool their children in the traditional manner. There are no set directions for us regarding digital learning.

Mr. Drezek added there is a second set of instructions we will need to follow. Our legal counsel has cautioned us to not act too quickly. We will need to discuss this further with our counsel and town counterparts. We need to make sure the Board is not held liable.

Mr. Drezek stated we will start by sending a survey to all staff and employees about coming back. This survey needs to be approved by the EEOC to make sure we are not discriminating against anyone in any shape or form. This is step one. There are many other tentacles we will need to address.

Mr. Drezek added we will also send a survey home to parents that will ask several specific questions. Parents must submit a survey for every child attending school. If we can plan for in person classes, we are not sure how many students will be coming back. We were told to prepare for 30-35% of families opting out of attending school in person. He encouraged everyone to complete these surveys. There is a deadline for the surveys. We also need to ask about internet capabilities for families. We will promote this from every avenue we have.

Mr. Drezek addressed this as a parent. We are asking parents to make a decision about sending your child back to school without all of the information being available and not knowing what school is going to look like in September. He will need to complete 2 forms for his children, so he knows what you are facing as a parent. School will not look like anything we are used to or have experienced in our lives if we are permitted to return to in person classes in September.

Mr. Drezek stated he will not speculate and will only share the facts. All students and staff will be required to wear a mask when in school. All visitors are also required to wear a mask. We have purchased 10,000 masks. Every child and staff member will be provided a cloth mask.

Mr. Drezek added teachers will be permitted to move their mask down in order to deliver instruction, as long as they are socially distanced from the students. We will also purchase face shields for our teachers when they are delivering instruction. Our nursing supervisor has applied for a grant from the Ford Motor Company for the face shields to obtain 6,000 face shields.

Mr. Drezek stated social distancing of 6 feet is not feasible in classrooms. The State guidelines are 3 feet. He wants parents to understand this. Classrooms will consist of desks facing the same direction toward the teacher 3 feet apart. Students will not face each other they will look forward. Instruction will be very different if we want our students back in school in September.

Mr. Drezek stated transportation will operate on near capacity. We do not know what that means. Masks are required to be worn. Bus drivers will not monitor the students. The district will need to hire a monitor to watch students wearing masks. We have bus monitors at Stowe but we have had to use staff since we cannot find people to fill this positions. Parents will need to know that there will be someone on the bus monitoring their children wearing masks.

Mr. Drezek explained about cohorts. Students will be with their classmates and teacher all day long. If a case breaks out, contact tracing will be easier. If a child rides on the bus, that is another cohort with students in that school. We are also transporting students with the sister-schools that need to be considered.

Mr. Drezek added we need to know about internet capabilities. There will be an increase of digital learning at some point. We need to plan to continue operating with distance learning at some point. He wanted to share these points with parents.

Mr. Drezek stated a lot of work is going on in our buildings. We are measuring around the student classrooms and desks. We are moving forward with our digital training for staff, for parents and students before they come back to school. We will be distributing iPads. We need teach our students how to use them. We are conducting meetings on Teams. We have learned that we can do more on Teams than we were aware. Students can submit their work to the teachers.

Mr. Drezek added our curriculum instruction needs to be changed. Our play lab at Stowe will need to be changed. We will need to be concise with our instruction if we come back in September. We are developing flow charts because we will no longer be able to walk around the building like we used to. We will need to make changes to our parent drop-offs and pickups. Everything will be changed and plans are currently being developed.

Mr. Drezek stated he has been asked why can't we stream classes? There are many issues with this. We are trying to see if we can do this legally. Are there labor laws prohibiting this? There are many concerns. There are also confidentiality issues and FERPA concerns with doing this.

Mr. Drezek stated we all want our kids back in school. Our staff wants our kids back in school. We need everyone to be safe and follow the guidelines. We need to protect students and staff. We will not jeopardize the health and safety of our students and staff.

Mr. Drezek thanked those that have sent him ideas. We should be soliciting input from all stakeholders. He wished we could get everyone's ideas. Once we know what the rules are and are clear on them, we will know what we can do and when we can solicit input. At this point,

we can't have these kinds of discussions yet. Another district shared a hybrid plan that included an AM and PM session. They were told by the State this can't be done. The State says if we can open, we will be open all day. The definition for hybrid plan is grey. Until we know what the requirements are, we are limited. We need to know what we can do. All of this is contingent on the virus and the public health data. We are in a better position with our transmission rates than some of our neighboring States. If there are any changes with our numbers, this could all change again. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we can continue to move forward.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Policy Revision #6145 – Extracurricular Activities – Gr. 6-12 Second Reading

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy Revision #6145 – Extracurricular Activities – Gr. 6-12 as a second and final reading.

Discussion:

A vote by roll call 7-2-0 passed with Mrs. LeBlanc and Mrs. Thurston in dissent.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approve Phase 2 Furniture Plans, Specifications and Cost Estimate and submit to OSCG for Review and Approval and Signoff on For SCG-042

This item was previously addressed.

b. Cancel July 14, 2020 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education cancels their July 14, 2020 Regular meeting.

Discussion:

Mr. Rutledge asked if we are going to schedule another meeting to be held in its place? Chairman Kruzel stated we can schedule another meeting if needed.

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

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Ryder thanked Mr. Drezek for taking the time to explain to our staff and families about reopening in person. He has spoken to many people about this. Everyone has ideas and suggestions. We need to wait until we know what the rules are. We received the State guideline document along with the many links to explore. Now we need to see what will work or won't work with input from all stakeholders. The survey is extremely important for staff and parents to complete. We need to know how many of our students and staff will come back in the fall. We need to start to plan for this. He will contact the PTO's to get the word out about completing the surveys. He looks forward to when we can all meet again in person. Stay safe.

Mrs. Thurston stated everyone is looking for answers. Everyone is doing the best they can. We need you to be patient and bear with us as we go through the information. We will let you know as soon as we can.

Mrs. Hall thanked Mr. Drezek for answering some of her questions with your Superintendent Report. What is the deadline for the parent surveys?

Mr. Drezek stated the staff member survey deadline is Friday, July 10th and the parent survey deadline is Friday, July 17th.

Mr. Drezek added that one of the questions we had for the parent that chooses to opt-out, they can change their minds at any time. There are no time-line restraints listed in the guidelines. When we plan for transportation, we need three (3) days to process the plan to transport a student. We will plan for a certain number of students to attend school. Our legal counsel does not feel that is reasonable and they are currently working on a time limit for the opt-out choice. What this would mean is, if you chose to have your child return to school for in person classes, you would need to wait a certain amount of time for us to prepare. It could be a week or more. We will need time to prepare for additional students that return.

Mrs. Hall stated the Head Start program has been conducting its self-assessment this week in order to plan for their future. There is nothing in the guidelines regarding afterschool programs like the one run by ERfC. This could be a critical part when it comes to reopening school.

Mr. Drezek stated he has had conversations with our afterschool and parochial school programs. We transport to these programs. We are in the beginning stages of discussing items with them. We have been communicating with all our partners with what ever we are going to do.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked when we submit our plan, when will you hear back from the State.

Mr. Drezek stated they will not approve our plan. They want everyone to submit their plans, so they have a record. They will not approve them they just want them to share for better practices. We have concerns with this also. What if there is something in our plan that they do not approve. The summer school guidelines stated no more than 10 students per classroom. The new guidelines do not mention how many students can be in a classroom. We just need to keep them 3 feet apart. He has submitted questions about this.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the masks. Would they be required to use them throughout the week and reuse them or can parents send their children to school with their own masks.

Mr. Drezek stated parents can provide their children with masks. We will also provide cloth masks and will have extras on hand if needed. We will need extra masks on the buses for children that forget them at home. The masks can be washed and reused.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for his detailed report. She will share this information with parents on social media and will stress the urgency for completing the survey.

Mr. LeBlanc asked if the questions on the surveys are being required by the State.

Mr. Drezek stated yes and no. We have revised the specific questions to meet our needs if they are coming back and for bussing. We are asking them about internet capabilities. This is information that is vital to us. We tailored the survey to meet our needs.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the School Reopen Committee also wanted to put out a survey. That is why he wanted to clarify where this survey was coming from.

Mr. Drezek stated he needs to send a survey back to the State by July 17th that asks how many of your students are coming back; how many will be riding the bus and how much will this cost.

Mr. LeBlanc stated the timeframe for getting this done is tight. We do not have a lot of time to get this done and figure everything out. School will start in around 7 weeks. This is directed

by the State. Everything is contingent on the virus. We have a lot of questions that need to be answered if we want to get back to school.

Mr. Salazar asked about parent input not being needed at this time. Mr. Drezek stated parent input is important. Legally he is not sure what we can do at this point.

Mr. Salazar stated the State is not clear with the guidelines. You and other administrators have many questions with the guidelines that were presented and are checking with legal counsel. This seems to be a trend with the State. When will input become relevant? School will start in several weeks. Ideas from the public could be helpful to us. He feels there is some hesitation to gather that information at this point.

Mr. Drezek stated putting together a plan with what we are permitted to do and gathering input and ideas may not be feasible in such a short amount of time. We need to find out what the rules are first. There is not a lot of clarity. We need to know what the parameters are to make this happen. He has received operational suggestions from parents and staff. We are limited with the time we have available. The State is giving us local control. It would be easier if the State told us what to do. Within the local control, our foundation needs to be set. We are soliciting input from staff and parents but we are not sure what we will be allowed to do. We have solicited information in the past on other topics. If this goes to virtual learning, we will have a totally different conversation. We know there were problems with this. It didn't work for every student, family and staff. We know we will need to make adjustments. We are being told to open schools up in September. The rules we are discussing are universal. We need to build on our foundation and tailor our opening plan. When we tailor this for the community, we will need input.

Mr. Salazar is hopeful the State will answer your questions in a timely manner. Do you have any expectations when you will hear from them?

Mr. Drezek stated he is having conversations with the State Department of Education more frequently. He understands the frustration and we are sharing this with them. The State created the plan and we need to respond to them by certain dates. Constraints are being placed on local Board of Education's. There is a need and a want to get them back into school safely. If we don't do this by the timeline they have given us, we could be held liable. We still need to discuss this with collective bargaining units. We made a decision to start meeting on Monday so if they throw us another curveball, we will deal with it. We need to stay focused on doing the right things for our staff, families and students.

Mr. Salazar stated the State is asking us to do things that are illegal or perceived to be by our attorneys

Mr. Drezek stated they are asking us to urge parents to drive their children to school. That is in direct violation of what we are supposed to do based on information in the guidelines. He spoke to our attorneys about this today. We need clarification on this. There are other things in the guideline similar to this. Parents can withdraw their child to home school them. In the traditional sense, we would not be responsible for educating them. Now we need to provide some education. There are several areas that need to be clarified.

Mr. Salazar stated cohorting for the children that interact with other children when they ride together on the bus could be less if parents drove them to school.

Mr. Drezek stated in theory yes. Where are we going to feed the children? If we are cohorting, you can feed them in the classroom. We might need to move kids around due to dietary restrictions and may need to utilize other areas. He doesn't want parents to think they will only be around a certain number of other children.

Mr. Salazar stated you will be measuring 36 sq. ft around the desks. You would be looking at 9 ft. total.

Mr. Salazar thanked Mr. Drezek for the information. He appreciates everything you are doing.

Mrs. Costa thanks Mr. Drezek for the update. She stated the Parkman PTO are selling Parkman masks for staff and children to purchase. They have adult and children sizes available.

Mrs. Costa stated she is hopeful when parents are making their decisions about school now without all the rules available, and if they choose distance learning for their child, they will treat it almost like a contract. The distance learning, we will be offering students will not be like what we offered in the fall. You will be making a commitment and will be required to do all the work, not just what you like.

Mrs. Costa clarified that when she spoke about an AM or PM classes, she was asking about the younger grades coming to school and getting used to wearing masks during the month of September. She understands why we can't do this.

Mrs. Costa stated our next Board meeting will be held on August 25th. We can call for a special meeting at anytime if one is needed.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey, CO staff, principals, administrators, assistant principals, teachers, faculty and staff that have been working and canceling your vacations getting all this work done for the district. Our staff cares and they want the kids back in school. We will all get through this together. Thank you.

9. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum Committee – Mr. Salazar reported the Curriculum Committee met virtually on July 7th at 5:30 PM. We discussed our Curriculum plan for next year and reviewed the application model. Our next meeting will be held on July 30th.

Finance, Budget Committee – Nothing to report.

Policy Committee – Mr. Rutledge reported the Policy Committee will meet virtually on July 8th at 5:30 PM. The meeting can be viewed on YouTube. Originally there was an item to allow for public comments. The Chairman made the decision to remove that item. We recently approved Policy #9132 Bylaws of the Board – Standing Committees, he is hopeful we can assign alternates to our subcommittees. We will continue reviewing the 5000 series at our next meeting. We also received several policies from CABA that we will look at.

Mr. Rutledge thanked Mr. Longey for forwarding a policy to CABA to review that would allow for public comments at Board of Education meetings remotely. The policy he has been discussing regarding remote audience participation is not pushing any personal agendas. He has been suggesting this for months. He has been asking for this because it is the right thing to do. He feels the Board should be open for 21st century avenues for communication. Other Boards have adopted similar policies across the state. CABA has been given this policy to review and have offered suggestions. CABA would need to have a legal review the policy. We allow for special guests to present to the Board remotely so why not allow for public comments like many other Boards are doing.

Leadership Committee – None

Joint Facilities Committee – Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facilities committee will meet virtually on July 9th. We are also working on the 3rd phase for Barnard's Roof and the other school roofs.

JFK Building Committee – Chairman Kruzel reported we heard from the JFK Building Committee tonight. He thanked Gilbane and all the staff for everything they are doing. They are looking to hold a groundbreaking ceremony in August.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Rutledge reported the Joint Security Committee will meet next on September 2nd.

School Reopen Committee – Mrs. Costa reported the School Reopen Committee met virtually on June 30th and we reviewed the guideline from the State. Our next virtual meeting will be held on July 14th.

Joint Insurance Committee – Chairman Kruzel reported they are currently looking in our property and casualty insurance and we may be switching insurance carriers. This will be discussed at a future date.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Special Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2020 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Chairman Kruzel added for the record, he requested at the June 23rd meeting to hold tonight's special virtual meeting.

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Special Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2020 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

11. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNION: - None

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa to adjourn the Special Virtual Meeting of July 7, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 29, 2020**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was virtually on Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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, and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Rutledge

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

Suspend the Rules and move Item #5a.

Chairman Kruzel would like to suspend the rules and move Item #5a Review & Approve Final Plans for Henry Barnard Roof and Submit Form SCG-042 to the Office of State Construction Grants up on the agenda.

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Enfield Board of Education moves Item #5a up on the agenda for Board Approval.

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

5a. Review & Approve Final Plans for Henry Barnard Roof and Submit Form SCG-042 to the Office of State Construction Grants

Tom Hibbard from Hibbard and Rosa Architects updated the Board about Phase III project for the Barnard Roof.

Mr. LeBlanc asked when the project will be completed. Chairman Kruzel stated the plan is to be done by Labor Day. Mr. Cykley added we are still waiting for the completion date confirmation. The Building committee will need to meet again to review and approve proposals we have received. He is trying to get this done by the end of August.

Mr. Drezek asked how long have we been working on the Barnard roof? Mr. Hibbard stated we started Phase I in 2018.

Chairman Kruzel added Phase II was done in 2019 and Phase III in 2020. We will still need to replace the gym roof when that warrantee has expired.

Mrs. Costa moved, seconded by Mrs. Hall that the Enfield Board of Education approves Final Plans for Henry Barnard Roof and Submit Form SCG-042 to the Office of State Construction Grants

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

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. EPS Reopening Plan

Mr. Drezek stated there still are a lot of unanswered questions and he is as frustrated as you are. He will hold more Q & A's. It is important that you hear the latest information from him. He will only share the facts and will explain the new buzz word "local control".

Mr. Drezek added his intentions are not meant to be disrespectful to anyone especially at the State level. The Governor has done a great job as well as our Education Commissioner. They did not sign up for this during a pandemic. He is not ignoring e-mails that have been sent to him. He asked everyone for their continued patience. We received a mandate on July 24th and were required to send 3 reopening plans (fully, hybrid and digital learning). These plans do not include our detailed reopening plans and were not required by the State. We were just required to submit 3 plans. These plans were sent to the Board and will be posted on our website.

Mr. Drezek added that what is said during a press conference is not legal, binding, or true. They are giving misleading information to the public. The State asked us to solicit input from parents if they would be sending their child back to school in the fall and for us to ask staff if they would be coming back. He added that it is important that you all understand this. We submitted our 3 plans to the State on July 22nd. The Governor held a press conference on Monday, July 27th where he urged flexibility. He understands that going back to school in person will not work for everyone. They are supporting K-8 full in person plan and a high school hybrid plan. It does not matter that this was said during a press conference. We need to do what the State has told us to do – return back to school 5 days a week. We were never told about flexibility.

Mr. Drezek stated that he is not aware of any area superintendent's that have received any PPE's that were promised. We will provide our students and staff with cloth face masks. We are working with Enfield EMS to make sure our nurses have the appropriate PPE's to protect them when dealing with sick children.

Mr. Drezek added we still have a lot of unanswered questions. Ours plans are draft and are a fluid document. Each district needs a COVID Liaison and he will be ours. He is required to notify everyone about the health matrix if we need to close. The guidelines for closing school have not been received from the State yet. We have been asked to reopen schools during a pandemic without knowing all the information. He made the decision to close schools on March 12th with the Town Manager. He does not have the right to shut us down if we have a confirmed case or our Health Director, Patrice Sulik. The State of Connecticut is making rules for businesses but is not telling us what to do. Local control will make the decision. We are not alone with this frustration. We are going to need to make this decision. He knows how important it is to get our students back to school. He has his own personal opinions on this and is wearing many different hats. He feels the decision will be ultimately left up to us. This is real and he will do what we are told to do, and we will try to keep everyone safe.

Mr. Drezek presented his draft school reopening plan that covered the following: Staff Survey Results; Parent Survey Results; Fall Reopening Model; Temporarily Choosing Not to Participate; School Liaison, communications Plans, and Data Collection; Facilities; Daily Operations; Child Nutrition; Transportation; Health Practices and Protocols; Reporting Illnesses and Addressing Vulnerable Populations; Social Distancing; Use of Face Coverings, Masks, and Face Shields; Planning and Distribution of Information; Containment Plan; Cancellation of Classes, Remote Learning, and Reopening Plans; Future Planning for Remote Blended Learning; Special Education; English Learners (ELS); Family Support and Communication; Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health; After-school Programming; Career and Technical Education; Certification and Personnel Planning; Professional Development; and Q&A. The complete power point presentation can be found on our website at www.enfieldschools.org.

Mr. Drezek can address any Board member questions. He also added that he welcomes questions and can attend any upcoming School Reopening Committee meetings to address questions from committee members.

5b. Approve FY2020/21 School Calendar Revision

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2020/21 School Calendar Revision as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Ryder asked for us to explain why we are revising the calendar for the people watching this at home.

Chairman Kruzel asked Mr. Bourassa to bring the calendar up for people to view it. The State has changed the number of required days for students to attend school from 180 days to 177 days. The first day of school is being moved from Tuesday, September 2nd to Tuesday, September 8th.

Ms. Hall added the State is allowing us three days for faculty and staff training. School will open the day after Labor Day.

Chairman Kruzel does not believe there are any additional changes. The last day of school will be held on the 178th day – June 16th and graduation is still being held on June 22nd. The three days are to be used for faculty training.

Mr. Drezek stated the last day of school and graduation will remain the same. The State requires 177 days, we list 178 student days.

Chairman Kruzel stated we still have one additional day that can be addressed at another time if needed.

Mr. Ryder stated our students will attend school for 178 days instead of the mandated 177 days. Does this now mean that we will no longer be having the need for snow days? We will now be a 1:1 device district. He thanked Mr. Drezek for this. We can assume that snow days will now be distance learning days.

Mr. Drezek stated theoretically yes. The State has not ruled on this yet. For now, the State is just concerned with reopening schools. If snow days occur, he knows districts will petition the State to allow for distance learning on those dates be counted as student days.

Mr. Salazar asked what training will be covered during these three days. Mr. Drezek stated there is a plan. It depends on how we go back. Health and safety need to be included in the training. We have some staff that will need to learn how to use an iPad. A lot of our PD training has already been based on enhancing distance learning for staff.

Mr. Salazar stated we had previously discussed staff training at a Curriculum meeting to be done during August 31 – September 4 for teachers. Now we need to use this time for other training.

Mr. Drezek stated we had already planned for technology training for distance learning for our staff prior to school opening. We now have three additional days that the State is telling us we must conduct health and safety training. Technology training is vital. We have an obligation to make sure our teachers are prepared for distance learning and health and safety training.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mr. Bourassa for putting the calendar up on the screen for everyone to see it. As you can see, August 31st and September 1st are professional learning days for staff. September 2-4 will be used for staff training.

Mr. Drezek stated Tuesday, September 8th will be the first student day regardless of what method we are using.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about student training.

Mr. Drezek stated we need to provide training for our students on how to use the iPads. We can get a jump start by making remote training videos for those that are willing to participate. We are supposed to have in-person training but where could we hold it. We are waiting for clarification on this. We can make training videos available before they arrive back to school. We will do as much as we can before they come back. We will need to review this with the students once they are back in school. We will also need to train parents to be able to troubleshoot any problems the students may have. We need to have resources available for parents. Instructions will be given with each device. iPads will be distributed to students before the first day of school. We are waiting for the cases to arrive. We have the iPads now. We want to give parents and children the opportunity to practice on them before they come back to school on September 8th.

Mr. LeBlanc agreed that students will need in-class instruction. The first week of school can almost be used as a training week for students.

Mr. Drezek stated he has seen models from other communities for a hybrid plan opening. Only certain students would come back so they could transition back to school. We will need to adopt a plan for the Enfield Public Schools. He is going to recommend a plan but will also need input from the Board on what you would like to do. We could do something like half days the first week to help transition the students. We can discuss this later. He would have been prepared to discuss this tonight if we were not just thrown a curve ball on Monday. Last week we were ready to reopen 5 days a week. He is not confident with this now. We can discuss this further in the upcoming weeks.

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

5. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Ryder thanked Mr. Drezek for your honesty and your presentation. He has 2 children in the Enfield Public Schools and he also takes this personally. This will be a personal decision for parents to make about sending their children back to school.

Mr. Ryder stated if you get clarification, he will feel more comfortable going with a Hybrid plan model for reopening schools. This would eliminate some of the exposure for students and staff.

Mr. Ryder thanked the community members that took the surveys. There will be more opportunities for additional feedback from every stakeholder. Half of our parents responded to the survey. We can hold more surveys. He is pleased that we are taking learning for our special education students seriously and our plans for all our student learners that learn differently. We are planning for teachers to use clear mask shields when giving instruction. He thanked them for planning for this. Students learn by watching our mouths and expressions.

Mr. Ryder hates that this is becoming political. He is people over politics. If masks are the reason you are not sending your child back to school, he is okay with that. He just does not want politics to be the reason. Wearing masks are mandated and are required for students and staff. He stands with our teachers. When we open, we will do it as safely as possible. He wished everyone the best.

Mr. Drezek stated he thought we would be told what we needed to do and was not planning on voting on reopening. When the conversation changed to local control, the decision was taken away from us. He will make a recommendation for the Board to consider. The community will decide what we will do. Politics is the furthest from his mind. Now we are told there are options he feels it is only fair to vote on this. We will call for a special meeting in August regarding reopening and the plan we will use.

Mrs. Thurston thanked Mr. Drezek for everything you have been doing. Our first priority is to make sure the students and staff are as safe as possible. She has a personal stake in this. Whatever is decided, you will have our support. Thank you for all your hard work and for keeping us informed.

Mrs. Hall stated she has serious concerns with reopening school with everyone in the building. There are many details that will cut into the student day like using staggered times for starting and leaving school, training students on washing hands multiple times during the day, lunch, and restroom breaks.

Mrs. Hall asked if we have received approval from the Fire Marshall about using hand sanitizers? Are the masks students will be given washable? Since the water fountains will be closed, will we provide bottled water, or will the students be allowed to bring it from home? Will we receive full-day credit for distance learning days? Do we have room in our buildings for isolation rooms? What about students going to magnet schools and students that come from other towns?

Mr. Drezek stated staggered start times will be required. We cannot have student bottled up in the hallways. Social distancing is required. Students will wait in their classrooms until their bus is called. The principals are working on these plans now. We cannot use temperature scans because we would be bottlenecking students at the front door.

Mr. Drezek stated our fire chiefs have been remarkable to work with. We can have hand sanitizers in the classrooms. They are discussing how much can be in the classroom. Hand sanitizers cannot be in the hallways. Some classrooms have sinks, so we can use soap to wash the hands.

Mr. Drezek stated the masks are washable. Parents can hand wash them to keep them clean. We do not have the resources to provide students with a new mask every day. So, they will need to be hand washed.

Mr. Drezek stated we are currently discussing water bottles. We can ask parents to send their child into school with water. What about the students that cannot bring water in. We are still discussing this.

Mr. Drezek stated we will supply students with materials like pencils, crayons, etc. to be kept in their desks. They will not be going to the art room anymore. This will be done in their classrooms so materials for each student will be kept in their desks. We will have a mandated list they will be supplied with. We are eliminating transient components.

Mr. Drezek does not believe CREC's half day programs will exit anymore. Students will need to go to one program. Tough decisions will need to be made about certain programs.

Mrs. Hall asked about receiving full-day credit for attendance for distance learning. Mr. Drezek stated this was addressed in the materials he received today but he has not had the chance to completely look at it. Board members were also sent this information today.

Mr. Drezek stated we will not be using art rooms and can reutilize them. These rooms can now be converted into isolation areas. Each school will be set up differently and can setup isolation rooms to use at each school.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for everything he is doing. She appreciates the comprehensive three plans you submitted and presented to us tonight. She is sorry you are dealing with frustration from the State. She has also received questions regarding clarification from the State.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about Eagle Hour? Mr. Drezek stated this will be gone. All students would eat in their classroom. We are working on this now. This will also affect the teacher's day.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about A and B schedules or will this be changed. Mr. Drezek stated this will stay the same.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if seniors could leave during the day? Mr. Drezek stated if a student leaves, they cannot come back into the building. This is all being worked out. Mrs. Clark and her team are doing a wonderful job. Mr. Longey has been working with Principal Clark on these plans. We are fine tuning our plans so all these concerns will be addressed.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about high school and middle school students switching classes. What cleaning will be done? Mr. Drezek stated you can not cohort at the high school. We are looking at what materials will we provide. We are trying to be creative. We cannot just give out Clorox wipes and we cannot ask teachers to do this. We are looking into this. This will become a staffing issue.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated parents had concerns with TEAMS and utilizing TEAMS differently. This was discussed at the Reopening Committee. Mr. Drezek stated we have been looking into this and are trying to make TEAMS as user friendly as possible. We will be using instructional videos because we cannot bring everyone back into the same room.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if a student comes down with an illness, can they become a virtual learner? Mr. Drezek does not have an answer to that question at this point. He is not sure if this would count for attendance.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about bus driver and lunch aides that bring their children with them. Will this be impacted? Mr. Drezek believes this will need to change. Smyth Bus will need to make this decision about bus drivers.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that even though we do not have the answers to these questions, we are being supportive of our parents. Every family situation is different. Parents are feeling that they are being heard even if you do not have the answer available.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about lock down drills and fire drills. Mr. Drezek stated lock down drills will continue. He is not sure about fire drills. We will figure this all out. The fire chiefs are meeting today. They are great to work with. We are in this together and will figure this all out.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about early childhood programs for PK students? Mr. Drezek stated everything from the State has been for K-12 students. Pre-K programs were not previously included in anything. Today, there was guidance regarding Pre-K. Pre-K is not mandatory. Our Stowe's play lab is great. Everything is hands on. How would we run it now with social distancing and not being able to touch? Education will not look the same when we come back.

Mrs. LeBlanc agrees with Mr. Ryder about politics. She added we will be working with Enfield Youth Services. A lot has happened since we went out during March nationally. The Black Lives Matter, diversity and equity should be discussed with our students. Our kids were distance learning when this was happening. They are unsure of the world we are living in and have concerns. This is important.

Mrs. LeBlanc would also prefer the hybrid plan when we return. She believes parents would also support this plan. The hybrid model will show us how coming back in person and distance learning is working. If the need comes up again for us to go out again, the transition would be more seamless. The hybrid model is her personal preference and it allows for flexibility. We do not want to make parents lives more difficult. Thank you for answering all her questions.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mrs. Hall for her questions. She thanked the members on her team. She looks forward to future updates.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for what you are doing. You answered all his questions with your presentation. We all know safety and a well-rounded education are needed. Sports and club activities are important for our students. Socialization is important to our students. He does not have any children, but he coaches our youth and sports are very important. He would never put any child in jeopardy. He knows we need to get our kids back to school. We need to listen to each other and work together for the safety of our kids.

Mr. Salazar thanked Mr. Drezek for addressing this situation we are faced with without all the information. We are heading in the right direction for us to make a decision based on what is best for our kids since the State is not giving us clear guidelines. He is here to help and contribute in any way that is needed. He looks forward to more information so we can do what is best for our kids.

Mrs. Costa thanked Mr. Drezek for everything your team is doing. It has not been easy and the next 4-5 weeks will not be any easier. We all agree that safety is important. Everyone will have their own comfort levels about what to do with their child. We will also have different opinions including the parents. We need to keep in mind what is best for our students and staff.

Mrs. Costa stated the next School Reopen Committee meeting will be held on August 4th. Please send her your questions for our Q&A. Mr. Drezek can address these questions. Please e-mail her with your questions.

Chairman Kruzel stated you all addressed his questions. Since March, we have been told many different things from the State. Monday, everything changed again. Businesses were told what they could do to open for business. We have been following the rules that have been provided. We need the rules for reopening, so we know what to do in September. We need this information asap. We need to address many issues that need to be address and there are still many unknowns. We need a list of rules.

Chairman Kruzel thanked the 400 people that are watching the Board meeting. This meeting will be replayed on ETV.

Chairman Kruzel added the School Reopen Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 4th. Please send your questions to Wendy Costa.

Chairman Kruzel thanked the Governor for the job he has been doing, but we need a list a rules.

Mr. Drezek added that superintendents will receive a call on Friday regarding clarifications. He will know more on Friday.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey and all the staff for everything you have been doing.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa to adjourn the Special Virtual Meeting of July

29, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 2020**

A special meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was virtually on August 11, 2020.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Walter Kruzel.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Walter Kruzel
3. **ROLL CALL:**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
 - a. **Update on School Reopening**

Mr. Drezek presented his school reopening plan for Board consideration. He reviewed the following topics for a Hybrid Plan: EPS Reopening Parent Survey Results; What Options Do We Have; Hartford Area; Alphabetical Split; K-12 Fall Reopening Hybrid Model; Fall Reopening Hybrid Model; Special Needs Students; Temporarily Choosing Not to Participate; What This Will Look Like K-5; What This Will Look Like JFK; What This Will Look Like EHS; What This Will Look Like at SLC (Pre-K); Social Distancing; Transportation; Reporting Illnesses and Addressing Vulnerable Populations; Use of Face Coverings, Masks, and Face Shields; *This Can All Change; Survey; and Local Control. This presentation can be found on our website at www.enfieldschools.org.

Mr. Drezek stated the plan will remain draft until we are back in school. He added there are no great options. The Hybrid Plan is being presented in the best interest of our kids and for Enfield.

5. ACTION IF ANY, REGARDING SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education adopts the Superintendent's recommended Hybrid Phasing Plan through mid-October.

Discussion:

Mrs. Thurston asked if they would conduct a deep cleaning after the students leave on Friday and over the weekend? Mr. Drezek stated yes and over the weekend. One of the recommended State guidelines is for deep cleaning of the buildings on Sunday. Our B&G employees do not work on Sunday. We are working with B&G and the buildings will be cleaned after students leave on Friday.

Mrs. Thurston asked about the placement of the tents at JFK. Mr. Drezek stated Mark Gahr has the JFK site plans and he will work with the building inspector and Fire Marshall.

Mrs. Hall asked if dividing the students alphabetically will include equivalent grade divisions. Mr. Drezek stated yes. We looked at dividing the students last names starting with L & K and

wanted to balance the students out. We determined just switching students by one letter would affect the student numbers districtwide. There will be some areas that are not balanced. We looked at the numbers and tried to balance the numbers as best as we could.

Mrs. Hall asked about the breakfast ERfC provides students and will this continue this year. Mr. Drezek stated we are working with our nutrition services department and ERfC to make sure the students that qualify for free and/or reduced lunch will continue to receive breakfast also. ERfC is our only afterschool program that we are working with.

Mrs. Hall stated students will be eating in their classrooms. Mr. Drezek stated students will eat in their classrooms.

Mrs. Hall stated she read something that was in the New York Times about talking to students about going back to school with social distancing in place. One parent commented that her child was excited to go to Kindergarten because they have more toys that she could play with. She added that with social distancing and rigid classroom rules, this child will be very disappointed. This is going to be a problem in every classroom. Classrooms will not have that friendly atmosphere they used to have. She added this could be a problem for some children. Mr. Drezek agreed that classrooms will not look the same. The experience will be different. The classes will be half full and the students will be spread-out. It is going to be very different and we will make it the best we can.

Mrs. Hall asked about sharing library books. Books do not clean up. Mr. Drezek stated classrooms will have libraries and the books will need to be isolated for a period. Our curriculum and reading departments are working together. Students will not be able to go to the library. A lot is going to change. It will be strange for students and staff. We will not know how this experience will affect the students. What we are experiencing now, we will be dealing with for a long time. This is a traumatic event for our students. We have an obligation to help them all.

Mr. Salazar asked about the Pre-K students and not deciding about them returning to school yet. He would like to know when a decision will be made regarding the Pre-K students. Mr. Drezek stated it is his hopes that by next week we will know what Stowe will look like so parents and staff will know. There are many variables we need to address about the population that go to the Stowe building. He does not want to comment to a specific date yet. The Stowe building is shared with ECDC. We need to work together. What we do will impact the students at ECDC.

Mr. Salazar added you will announce this next week. Mr. Drezek added hopefully sooner.

Mr. Salazar would like to propose a change to your plan. Chairman Kruzel asked if he would like to make an amendment.

Mr. Salazar stated the plan that was presented, we will wait until October 16th to decide. He would like to give parents time to prepare and plan to go back in person on October 19th. He would like us to proceed with the Hybrid Plan and recommends that we decide now that students will go back in person on October 19th. He does not want us to decide on October 2nd. He wants us to make that commitment now. That is the change he is recommending.

Chairman Kruzel stated Mr. Salazar is making an amendment that we go back fulltime in person on October 19th. Mrs. Costa seconded the amendment.

Point of Order:

Mr. Rutledge asked if Mr. Ryder considers this a friendly amendment? Mr. Ryder stated that he does not consider this as a friendly amendment. There are too many unknowns. He liked

the superintendent's suggestion for the Hybrid Plan. We will give the parents a two-week notice from October 2nd until October 16th to decide what we will do on Monday, October 19th.

Mr. Rutledge stated based on this information we must know discuss and vote on the amendment before we can proceed with the original motion.

Discussion:

Mrs. Hall does not believe this amendment makes sense. We will be looking at conditions on October 2nd. We cannot say at any point that we are fully going back. We cannot guarantee anything in her opinion. Saying we will go back by October 19th is impossible and inappropriate.

Mr. LeBlanc stated if we went with Mr. Salazar's proposal, students could go back to school 5 days a week on October 19th. We could on October 2nd if circumstances changed, vote on what to do.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the superintendent laid his Hybrid Plan out perfectly. We will look at the data on October 2nd. The fall has been the biggest discussion about what the 2nd waive will look like. She supports the superintendent's plan. If a change needs to be made, we can make it on October 2nd. He has provided us with benchmarks on October 2nd, October 16th and 19th. She will not support this amendment.

Mr. Salazar stated on October 2nd we will revisit and decide for October 19th. That is Mr. Drezek's plan. By saying now, we will be going back full time in person, this will give parents time to plan. If we find out on October 2nd things might be different, we can make a change. He just wanted to add this for clarification

Mr. Rutledge stated Mr. Salazar's amendment is just to give certainty that we will go back fulltime and in person on October 19th. If circumstances dictate on October 2nd differently, the amendment is just semantics. If he is interpreting Mr. Drezek's plan correctly, that that is exactly what we are going to do. For that reason, he does not support this amendment either.

Mr. Salazar stated based on Mr. Rutledge's comments, maybe he did not understand Mr. Drezek's plan. He thought we would be choosing a plan on October 2nd.

Mr. Drezek stated we need to give guidelines on how this will work. October 2nd allows us to see how we are doing and how we are doing with our Hybrid Plan. We want to get the kids back full time. This will give us time to gather information. October 2nd is a date to reassess the data. At that point, will we either continue with the Hybrid Plan, bring students back full time, or go with a complete distance learning plan. Everyone agrees that our ultimate end goal is to get the students back in school safely. October 2nd gives us time to gather information and report it back to the Board. We be able to present real data and facts. He wanted to put an end date because this is not indefinite. We needed some benchmarks to use along the way.

Mr. Ryder stated the biggest problem when we went out in March was, we were looking at two weeks and then another two weeks and so on. He does not want to say we are back on a specific date and does not want families to think it will be over. He would like to reassess this on October 2nd and parents will know what we are going to do on October 19th. He does not want us to make a commitment now without knowing all the information.

Mrs. Costa stated our ultimate goal is to get the kids back to school fulltime. We will all have different opinions. Parents have the right to know. This is a way for us to say our intent is we will go back on October 19th fulltime. October 19th aligns with the State's reopening plan with phases. We will look at the data on October 2nd. We need think of the mental health of the students. The longer they are out of school will hurt them. Students will be more inclined to

follow the rules with an end in sight. Getting to the next point depends on everyone following the guidelines for social distancing and wearing masks. She supports the amendment.

Mrs. LeBlanc added everything the superintendent said, you are saying differently. We will reevaluate on October 2nd. Mr. Drezek will be reevaluating daily and will reiterate this information to us. She does not know if you would like the wording changed, specifics or if it is just semantics. What you are saying is how she understood his presentation.

Mr. Rutledge called for the question.

Chairman Kruzel stated the amendment is to add October 19th as the date students return to full time five days a week with the reassessment.

A vote by **roll call 4-5-0** failed with Mr. Rutledge, Mrs. LeBlanc, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Thurston, and Mr. Ryder in dissent.

Chairman Kruzel suggested to move October 2nd to September 29th so it aligns with our Board meeting date? Mr. Drezek stated information is being received daily. He put that date on the plan so the community would know there are deadlines. We can not do this any later than October 2nd. He does not have a problem with changing the date. He just wanted to use a Friday date. Sometimes, you will receive information at the end of the month. We could hold a special meeting to discuss this. He understands everyone's points. He would love to say we will be back on October 19th fully. We need to see how the hybrid plan is working and social distancing is working with the students. We cannot say that because none of us know what the future will bring us. He will share the data with the Board as soon as he gets it. It is hard to predict.

Chairman Kruzel asked for Board member questions on the original motion.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for his presentation. She asked if PE classes will be held outdoors or in the classrooms. Mr. Drezek stated they will be held both in the classes and outdoor weather permitting.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about Freshman orientation, Gr. 3, Gr. 6, and Kindergarten orientation. She is sure we will receive information from the principals about this. Mr. Drezek stated we have been discussing holding some of these kinds of events the week the teachers are back. Our principals are trying to be creative and developing the most welcome back for our kids. There are a lot of events that normally take place in the school during the first month. We will not be able to hold open house events, socials, or these kinds of events. One of the best parts of being a superintendent is when we can walk around the schools and pop into classrooms or reading to the students. We will be postponing these kinds of events.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about families that receive free/reduced lunches that opt out of the Hybrid Plan and are Distancing Learning, will they have the option to receive lunch and breakfast? Mr. Drezek stated that is correct. They might need to register to receive meals like we did in the spring providing you qualify for free and/or reduced. We will have a place where the parents can pick up meals. It might be different than what was done in the spring. Mrs. Edwards need to keep track of the meals being distributed.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the distribution of the iPads. Mr. Drezek stated the principals will be distributing these to the parents. The principals know the families and the students. This will also give students a chance to come to the schools and see the principals.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked if parents that opt out for Distance Learning, will the students still be able to participate in fall sports? Mr. Drezek stated we are waiting for further guidance on this. It was suggested in one of the updates that students that opt out will not be allowed to

participate in sports. There will be a universal rule that will be followed. As soon as we receive clarification on this, we will let everyone know.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated parents would like to see the cleaning and ventilation plans for the buildings. Mr. Drezek stated Building and Grounds will be handling building cleanings.

Mrs. LeBlanc extended her condolences to the Behling family. They are a wonderful family.

Mr. LeBlanc stated if schools are being politicalized as a State, town, and country, we are going to fail. We need to get our kids back to school 5 days a week. We all want the students back in school. Problems will continue to exit down the road. The perfect solution does not exist. We need to get together as a Board and stop politicizing. We need to get the kids back in school. He likes the Hybrid Plan and supports it. The approach is smart and takes into account safety precautions and gives us guidance and what we need to do to get to a 5-day a week program.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for his presentation. He asked what are other districts doing with dates? Are they coming with the same approach as we are? Mr. Drezek stated some districts are just looking at the month of September. Some are going longer through Thanksgiving. It varies from community to community. During the spring, they were telling us information in two-week increments. This plan gives us enough time to gather data and make plans. Surrounding towns are looking at a month increment. Some have made adjustments due to the change for the start of school. Columbus Day gives us an extra day.

Mrs. Costa stated it was reported in the JI that Suffield is doing a Hybrid Plan for three-weeks and will then go full time. She supports the Hybrid Plan and going back on October 19th. Without a decision or needed criteria about what we will need to do for going full time, she is struggling with us deciding on October 2nd.

Mr. Drezek stated we need criteria for closing schools. We have not received criteria for what we should do if there is a confirmed case. We need guidelines from the State. This information could help Board members and parents make decisions.

Mr. Rutledge would like to call the question.

Chairman Kruzel stated he would like to say something, and Mr. Ryder would also like to.

Mr. Rutledge withdrew calling for the question.

Mr. Ryder asked if any building has more than 55 % or 45% in any direction with the breakdown by alphabet. Mr. Drezek does not believe it is more than that. Class lists are being compiled now. Mr. Ryder appreciates that information. He just wants parents to know it will be as close to a 50/50 split as can be done.

Mr. Ryder stated JFK and EHS students will eat their lunches in classrooms during the lunch wave times. Mr. Drezek stated lunch time will be incorporated into the period that are in.

Mr. Ryder stated that any e-mails Board members have received regarding plans have been forwarded to the superintendent and assistant superintendent. He thanked them both for reading them.

Mr. Ryder asked when classroom assignments will be coming out. Mr. Drezek stated they are working on them now and they will all be sent out at the same time.

Mr. Ryder asked about the orientations for Kindergarten, Gr. 3, Gr. 6, and Gr. 9. We will wait to hear from the principals about this.

Mr. Ryder met with Eli Whitney principal about the PTO. He asked if the teachers could send out pictures of the classroom with the 9 desks in each room so the kids will know what they look like. Mr. Drezek stated he does not believe the classrooms will be setup in time. B&G is working on moving the desks around. The classrooms will have 18 desks in them not 9. Students will be assigned to a specific desk. Mr. Ryder appreciated the clarification.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mr. Drezek for explaining about our special needs students and how they will have the opportunity to attend 4 days a week if they so choose.

Mr. Ryder will meet with the PTO presidents and volunteers about not being in the buildings during phase I of our Hybrid Plan.

Mr. Ryder stated we received 3K responses for the first survey. He is hoping all parents will complete the next survey. We are looking for 100% participation. He will ask everyone to spread the word.

Mr. Ryder wished Hazardville Memorial teacher Mrs. Foy-Dupuis a speedy recovery.

Mr. Drezek stated the next communication we need to send out is a welcome letter to our new kindergarten families.

Mr. Drezek stated we will also send out another survey for parents to complete for each of their children about attending school with our Hybrid Plan or opting out for Distance Learning. Students participating with the Hybrid Plan and Distance Learning will receive iPads. He stressed that if you plan to homeschool your child, you will not receive an iPad. You will be solely responsible for educating your children.

Chairman Kruzel stated that 540 people are watching us. He would like you all to call 860-566-4840. This is the number to the Governor's office. This is the plan we are going to use. We need him to give us the plan we need from his office about closing school. Thank you.

Chairman Kruzel asked for a roll call vote.

A vote by **roll call 8-1-0** passed with Mrs. Costa in dissent.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Salazar moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston to adjourn the Special Virtual Meeting of August 11, 2020.

Mr. Rutledge added we are all happy to get back to normal. This may be our new normal for the time being. This has been difficult for everyone. We have worked together and have accomplished a lot as a Board. We are working on a lot of different things trying to make our school system better. At some point, all journeys must end. He has thought about this a lot over the past several months, and announced effectively today, August 11th, he is resigning from the Board of Education. He thanked his fellow Board members for the spirited debates we have had and for your time and efforts. He wished them all the best.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mr. Rutledge for his service.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary