

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 23, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on May 23, 2023.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Madam Chair LeBlanc.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Joshua Hamre
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Joshua Hamre
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire and Tina LeBlanc

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan LeBlanc

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent; and Student Representatives Morgan DiFronzo & Kayla Surprenant

6. BOARD GUEST(S)

a. Buzz Robotics

Mr. Drezek welcomed Buzz Robotics advisors Caroline Marr and Lauren Jefferson to tonight's meeting. Ms. Marr and Ms. Jefferson introduced EHS students Sophie Carrier, Kathia Diaz and Jimmy Paddilla. The students provided the Board with an update about Buzz members, the field trip to Boston Dynamics, their build season, their design, team spirit, team volunteering, competitions, awards they received and fundraising. They thanked Mr. Unghire for arranging for the trip to Boston Dynamics. They also thanked the Board for their continued support.

Mr. Unghire thanked them for being here tonight. It is a privilege to work with you. He enjoys being the liaison to Buzz Robotics. Your dedication and commitment is to be commended. You have learned many skills from being part of Buzz Robotics. He saw the team compete at Western New England College and it was impressive. Your visit to Boston Dynamics left them extremely impressed by all of you. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder congratulated them on winning several team spirit awards. This is very important, and you are all having fun with this extra-curricular activity. He asked them about their fundraising efforts and what their goal is. He would like to share their fundraising events on social media.

Ms. Marr stated they have held pasta suppers, paint nights, can and bottle drives and donor choose events for supplies they receive from parts to spirit items. She will send the information to Mr. Ryder. We have also applied for grants. Ms. Jefferson added this information can be found on our website at buzzrobotics.org. Click on the sponsor tab and you can also find out a lot of information about our team there. Thank you.

Mrs. Pickett stated you have sparked my interest with Buzz Robotics. Hearing about your

Spirit Award and your first District Award you received is exciting and speaks volumes about your team. Thank you and congratulations.

Mr. Hamre also congratulated them for receiving the Team Spirit awards they received two times is amazing. We have a wonderful facility, tools and staff that are helping to make this inspiration possible. Thank you.

Mrs. Acree thanked and congratulated them all for your hard work, dedication and volunteering. Receiving the Team Spirit Award is amazing. Thank you for your creativity and ingenuity.

Mrs. Cushman also thanked them. She attended the competition at Western New England College and was also very impressed. She learned a lot from watching you compete. She asked if any of them are drivers? Ms. Diaz stated she is a coach for the driver. She tells them where to move the robot.

Mrs. Cushman asked them if they took on any new responsibilities with being a team member? Mr. Padillia stated he is the lead programmer. It was a challenge managing the team. Ms. Diaz stated she took on the role of being a coach. It was a learning experience. She also helped with running the Buzz Social Media Account. Ms. Carrier was in charge of safety and was one of the safety captains. She is also in charge of scouting. She would look at what other teams were doing and strategize about their abilities compared to ours. She is also the student representative that chooses our alliances at each competition.

Mrs. Cushman thanked them for being here tonight.

Dr. Calnen congratulated them on the great job and teamwork. He asked them if being on Buzz has influenced them with any future plans? Mr. Padilla stated he will pursue computer engineering or something in the computer science field. Ms. Diaz wants to be an engineer. She is not sure what field she will go into yet. Ms. Carrier stated she also wants to go into the engineering field but is not sure of the area.

Madam Chair stated the grade 8 students will be visiting EHS. Will you try to recruit any of them? Ms. Diaz stated we were able to recruit a lot of incoming students this year. We will hand out flyers about Buzz Robotics when they visit. We also attend community events.

Madam Chair stated one of your events fell on the same night as the Prom and students attended the Buzz event in their dresses and suits. The students responded they attended both events and were dressed up.

Madam Chair added there is a balance for the students with your classwork during build season. Winning the Spirit Award is what we want to see from our students. This speaks volumes about your character. She is glad you were able to attend Boston Dynamics. Mr. Unghire was very excited to plan this event for you. She also thanked Ms. Marr, and Ms. Jefferson and your families for your support. We are all very proud of your accomplishments and commitment. Thank you.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Kayla Surprenant gave an update on EHS sports for Girls Lacrosse, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Tennis, Girls Softball, Boys Baseball. The Track team competed at the CCC Conference championship. She congratulated all the athletes for making All Conference. Girls Tennis will compete in the State Tournament, and the Golf Team is also headed to the CIAC State Championship. The Track Team will compete in the LL State Championship on Wednesday, May 31st. The Track Team will host their annual Spit Fire Track meet on June 7th

at EHS from 4-5 PM for students in grade PK-5. They are looking for non-perishable donations to donate to the Enfield Food Shelf. The Unified Sports meet will be held on June 7th at 5:30 PM at EHS.

Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo stated Senior dues are needed by Friday. The class picnic and class night is being held on June 2nd and fees are also due on Friday. Safe Grad permission slips and fees are also due Friday. The senior prom was last week, and it was fantastic. The Junior Class has started their NGSS testing. Spring elections were held for the 2023-24 school year. EHS Awards and Scholarships will be held on May 31st. Tomorrow is an early release for all students. Grade 8 students will be visiting us. We held a cultural fair last week that was amazing. We had two EHS students receive perfect SAT scores, congratulations to Jimmy Padilla and Lukas Phimvongsa. Credit loss appeal packets are available. Map tournament (kickball) will be starting up today. It is really a lot of fun and you can win a huge trophy.

Madam Chair added the students will wear their medals at graduation.

- b. Memorial Day** – as presented
- c. Incoming Grade 6 Parent Information Night** – as presented
- d. EHS Scholarship & Awards Ceremony** – as presented
- e. EPS Update** – as presented

8. AUDIENCES

Madam Chair will allow each speaker 4 minutes to talk.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin spoke about a Town Council members inappropriate comments made about the conditions of vehicles and students that receive free lunches. An apology is needed. We need to look at the priorities before cutting any funding. We are feeding all of our students and cutting funding is wrong. You do not know what their financial situations are. It should be about the children and educating them no matter who they are or where they live.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Acree stated Crandall students finished their SBAC testing and thanked parents for making sure students were prepared. She provided an update about upcoming events at Prudence Crandall. She attended the Spring Concert on May 17th. The students sounded wonderful. She also thanked all of our amazing Crandall music teachers. Mr. Duperre and staff wished all students a happy summer vacation.

Dr. Calnen provided an update about KITE. They will meet again in September and will meet every two months with invited guest speakers.

Dr. Calnen asked Mr. Drezek about the health education requirements that we discussed at the Curriculum meeting. How do we know that we are in compliance with the Department of Agriculture and Wellness Policy under the Federal school lunch program and the school district's wellness council that is mandated by the USDA Lunch Program.

Mr. Drezek stated your first question will be addressed under new business. In order for us to be in line with Federal and State Regulations, we need to certify what we are doing. He will send the entire Board the information about our wellness council.

Mrs. Cushman would like to recognize the youth vote discussion that was held on May 10th on the 19th amendment. She thanked the students and advisors for planning this event and congratulated the hosts and moderators.

Mrs. Cushman addressed a comment that was made by an audience member via an FOI request from the last meeting. She did not comment at the last meeting because she was not aware of this proposed \$1.4 million dollar cut and wanted to discuss this further with the Republican caucus before commenting. She believes in upholding fiscal responsibility. We are invested in our community, schools, and care deeply about our students and education for our children. When free lunches were no longer going to be available for all our students, we continued to serve them at a cost of \$1 million dollars. The reason the suggestion was made to cut the budget by \$1 million dollars was based on the returns we would receive from the State to cover lunches. This decision was not made for staff reductions but to take advantage of an unexpected reimbursement from the State. The remaining \$400K in cuts came from a plan they felt would make our schools safer and more fiscally responsible. These suggestions were made during budget deliberations without receiving a detailed budget as was previously provided in the past.

Mr. Hamre provided an update about upcoming events at JFK. He thanked the PTO for all the work they do for the students. He added the Enfield Food Shelf, Enfield Loaves and Fishes and the Enfield Safe Harbor need donations yearlong. Housing and food insecurities do exist.

Mr. Hamre has previously spoke about removing a Board member from a subcommittee. Madam Chair has made her decision about this. It is important to understand this. Limiting protections and restrictions should not happen. Everyone should feel welcome and should be supported including the LGBTQ population. Safe spaces are needed for our students. The flags are there so they know they are supported.

Mr. Hamre agreed with Mrs. Griffin that anyone can be one paycheck away from bankruptcy which will lead to food insecurity and housing concerns. No one should look down their nose at anyone. He appreciates your observation.

Mr. Unghire stated he attended a Town Council meeting where Mr. Kruzal brought something to his attention.

Madam Chair asked Mr. Unghire if this is a budget related question, can it wait until we get to that item on the agenda to address the \$250K reduction? Mr. Unghire would like to ask Mr. Drezek about this now.

Mr. Unghire stated Mr. Kruzal mentioned per student amounts, and it looks like we are not allocating enough for our per pupil cost. A percentage of our tax dollars are allocated to our students. Many towns maintain their school facilities which is included in their school budget and that dollar amount is then calculated into the per pupil cost. The town is responsible for our facilities. If we were to do this, what would our per pupil costs be?

Mr. Drezek stated it is in there. It is called in-kind services. Even though the town is paying the bill, when we file with the State, the Town Finance Director provides that number to Mrs. Cisneros. It is all the same money and is included in the per pupil cost.

Mrs. Pickett added you can look at the State website to find this information.

Mrs. Pickett thanked our teachers, families and staff for everything you are doing. She also thanked the Enfield Street PTO. She encouraged families to look at the weekly newsletter. She provided an update on upcoming Enfield Street events.

Mrs. Pickett stated she would like to see a grade 2-3 transition night like the incoming grade 6 parent information night. This will help families and students transition.

Mrs. Pickett asked about any summer programming. Mr. Drezek stated we will have some

summer programming, but it will not be as robust as in the past. Some of the programs are mandatory and some of our summer programming is not free due to financial constraints. We will have credit recovering programs as well as an art program. The past free summer school, transportation and meals programs the funding unfortunately has run dry.

Mrs. Pickett added this is a lost opportunity for families and students. It is unfortunate to hear this, but she knew this was coming. She would love to see on our website a one stop shop for summer programs for families to view.

Mrs. Pickett thanked the Town Council for passing our budget. It is important to understand public school funding. You can go to the State website at public.edsite.ct.gov to learn about funding information for public schools. The Town Council has a challenging job. She finds it interesting that they received a limited plan but knew how to cut it. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder thanked everyone that participated in the Townwide Tag Sale. We had 100 address on the map Saturday, May 20th and raised over \$2,500. This was our 11th year and we have raised almost \$20K that benefits the Enfield Food Shelf. Thank you everyone that participated.

Mr. Ryder also thanked the EHS Baseball Team, students, families, Mr. Gaucher and Madam Chair. He had a lot of fun at the EHS senior night that was held at Dunkin Donut Park. He threw out the first pitch and announced the game. He urged graduating students to take a moment to reflect and appreciate upcoming events and activities. There are a lot of last events that will be happening, and it goes by so quickly. We have 16 full days of school left and the last day of school is on June 15th. He will DJ at Enfield Street and at Eagle Academy. He looks forward to spending time with our staff and students.

Mr. Ryder provided an update about events happening at Eli Whitney. Thank you.

Madam Chair stated the EHS Boys Baseball team senior night at Dunkin Park was a really fun night. It was a great game, and she congratulated the seniors. Unfortunately, they did not win. She also congratulated Mr. Ryder on his first pitch.

Madam Chair attended the PTO president's meeting. Henry Barnard and Prudence Crandall have an amazing partnership. She would love to see the other sister schools form the same kind of partnership that helps families.

Madam Chair attended the PLA Graduation Ceremony. She is very proud of the graduates. They have formed a strong bond and shared some deeply felt moments with each other. The project they have chosen is called "Enfield Hug." They will provide resources for families in Enfield, which is a great idea. Both she and Jaclyn Valley support this initiative. This is another great community project.

Madam Chair spoke about the Safe Grad front row parking spot event. It closes on May 31st and the drawing will be on June 1st. She also spoke about fundraising efforts for Safe Grad.

Madam Chair attended Kite's Buddy Bench dedication for Dr. Calnen. You can see the bench at the Pearl Street Library. The last 2 days of school will be half days and lunch will be served.

Madam Chair stated May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Please check on your friends and yourself and don't be afraid to reach out for help.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approve Lester J. Bodley Scholarship Recipients

Mr. Unghire moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder, that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2023 Lester J. Bodley memorial Scholarships for student A and Student B.

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

b. Discussion and Action regarding the 2023-24 Healthy Food Certification

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, that the Enfield Board of Education elects to not certify the 2023-24 Healthy Food Certification Statement as presented.

Discussion:

Mr. Ryder added this would affect food sales and PTO fund raising events. Mr. Drezek stated once we certify, we can continue to sell food items that do not meet the healthy food certification requirements. We are recommending the Board does not certify the 2023-24 Food Certification recommendation.

Mrs. Pickett asked if this would prevent us from applying for grants. Mr. Drezek stated this will not limit us from exploring any grants the Nutrition services department may apply for.

Mr. Drezek added pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board must certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the Enfield Public Schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30 2024. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from sources including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Madam Chair stated this will be a no vote.

A vote by **roll call – 0-8-0** failed.

c. Revise the 2023-24 School Calendar

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder, that the Enfield Board of Education revise the 2023-24 school calendar as presented.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett stated many districts are all over the map. She would like to see us solicit feedback before we set the next calendar.

Mr. Drezek stated you can advocate for a regional calendar. We used to follow the CREC regional calendar so there wouldn't be any issues. Once you ask for opinions, be careful, you will receive many different scenarios.

Mrs. Pickett stated she understands that not everyone will be happy. When we make the decision about our calendar, we should use multiple sources.

Mr. Ryder stated the calendar is set based on our Board Policy. We can look at the policy and move the month back once dates are set. We can look at both options.

Mr. Drezek added we also look at setting firm graduation dates. It would have been helpful

this year to wait a couple of weeks.

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

d. Proposed New Policy & Policy Revision – First Reading

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #6144 Controversial Issues as a First Reading.

Discussion:

Mrs. Pickett asked if this is a mandated policy and if it is necessary. We just approved a Civil Discourse policy. What is the purpose of this policy? The name of the policy is also controversial. We seem to be over policing.

Mr. Longey stated it is not mandated.

Mr. Ryder stated the Civil Discourse policy is related to behavior and this policy is related to classroom instruction.

Mr. Longey stated this policy has been discussed by the Policy Committee since last fall. We do not need to have this policy. It will give teachers and administrators some guidance. It can be considered as over policing. The subcommittee is recommending this policy be approved.

Mr. Hamre added this is another policy to consider. This policy can preempt any controversial issues.

Mr. Ryder stated this policy shows were it says this or that for staff when we are asked to show us where this is written. We have been discussing this policy for several months.

Mrs. Cushman stated she felt the policy gives our teacher guidelines for discussions with students. The wording in the policy deals with opinions with balanced ideas. She would like some stronger vocabulary to use in this policy so they can come up with conclusions and come up with their own personal opinions. She would like to leave out opinion and replace it with balanced scholarly objective information.

Mr. Unghire stated he reviewed this policy in detail, and we discussed using some alternative wording. Mrs. Cushman had some alternative wording that could enhance the policy. The policy is good, but it could be better.

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

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #9121 Chairperson as a First Reading.

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

e. Approved FY2023-24 Budget

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, that the Enfield Board of Education adopts the FY2023-24 Budget as presented:

Discussion:

Mr. Unghire stated we are not just discussing the \$250K reduction from the Health Insurance line item.

Mr. Ryder added we are approving the new budget number of \$75,928,354.

Mrs. Pickett stated if we receive our Alliance District funding, the town cannot decrease us by that amount. The purpose of the funding is to supplement our funding for education because we are underfunded. She is thankful for the Democratic caucus for voting yes on the budget. Some districts are having their budgets slashed. There is one town in Connecticut where they can vote 3 different ways, yes, no and it is too low. She asked for a greedy budget. We are underfunded and our students and staff deserve more.

Mr. Hamre stated the proposed budget cut was based on a reimbursement we may or may not receive. We are responsible for our budget. He thanked the members of the Town Council. The budget we requested will not increase any services we provide. It will maintain our current services without any staff reductions.

Mr. Ryder stated when he listened to the Town Council discussing the budget, there wasn't any clarity about the 2% carryover. He asked Mr. Drezek to clarify this. In the past, we have been able to carryover, which is now the law. We do not have the 2% to carryover and where did it go.

Mr. Drezek stated it wasn't always agreed for us to carryover money for the next fiscal year. We are saving our own money by freezing our budget. We have a great Business Manager Lorena Cisneros, and she plans appropriately. This was a different year. We do not have it. Our special education costs are up 20%, and our outplacements have increased dramatically. We have our Eagle Academy that has brought some of our outplaced kids back to us. We now have over 25 students at Eagle Academy and there is no more room. There has been an increase with outplacements. The Alliance District threw a curve at us and the Town. We redid our tennis courts and parking lots. We allocated funds to do this. We have stretched our funds the best that we can. We cannot misuse any federal funding. Adjustments have been made. A lot has changed this year. We needed to make some security enhancements this year. We are dealing with inflation, teacher shortages and with supply chain issues. Everything is costing more. This also applies to staff. We have used our 2% reserve. If we need additional funding, we will need to ask the Town Council for more money. We will not spend more than what we are given.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mr. Drezek. It is important for everyone to hear the specifics.

Mr. Unghire stated when we voted on the proposed budget, he voted no. He felt the budget was incomplete and lacked the level of detail that has been provided to previous boards and was insufficient. It was not because of the amount. He represents the taxpayers of Enfield. The Town Council found opportunities for savings that would not cut staff or services. We did not take advantage of those savings. He will not support the budget tonight. He feels more detail is needed.

Madam Chair stated when we presented the budget to the Town Council, we asked them to call us if there were any questions. We have asked for questions from both caucuses. It is not for the Town Council to make recommendations about cuts for us. If the Town Council reduces our budget, Mr. Drezek will then meet with his department heads about reductions. The 2% carryover can be found on page 19 and is explained in detail. It was pretty clear in the presentation why the 2% was no longer available. Regarding ARPA funds, we partnered with the Town last year. We were able to pave Enfield Street and Henry Barnard parking lots and repair the tennis courts at Enfield High to complete some badly needed projects.

Madam Chair asked Mr. Drezek to explain about the Nutrition Services process and why they cannot write a \$1million dollar check.

Mr. Drezek stated it is not our money. This is federal money. All monies collected from Nutrition Services are for reimbursable meals that are provided to our students. In order for the meal to be considered as a reimbursable meal, we must serve certain portions whether the students eat them or not (meals must include grains, milk, fruit, vegetables and protein). The Federal government does not care if they eat the items or throw them out. Prior to Covid, we would charge for the meals.

Mr. Drezek stated during Covid, all students were provided free meals. We had drive through stations for students at JFK and EHS. We were still serving our students food. Nutrition Services is self-funding. In your budget book on page 40 it lists what Nutrition Services charges us. We were not billed during Covid. We were eating the expenses. They need to carry 3 months of operating costs and can keep \$900K in the bank for major repairs or capital expenses. It cost \$280K per month for nutrition services to feed our students. We have 2 new kitchens. The need for equipment is not needed now. They also need to pay their bills within 30 days. The Federal Government will reimburse them in 8 weeks.

Mr. Drezek stated the cost for food did not stay the same even though we are using federal bids because of an act of God – Covid. Supplies are costing more because of supply chain issues. We are finally starting to catch up. We charge \$2.25 per meal and the Federal Government will reimburse us \$4. This will equal up to \$1.4 million dollars.

Madam Chair stated that is money that we will pay back to ourselves because we fronted it.

Mr. Drezek added the money is still in Nutrition Services reserves. We legally need to allow this money to remain in her account to cover our bills. If we do not pay our bills within 30 days, we will not receive any food.

Madam Chair stated if we cut that, we would actually be out of \$2 million. Because \$1 million makes us flush with a little extra.

Mr. Drezek stated it is \$4 per meal. There is money in the reserves that exceeds her 3 month carryover. We cannot legally take that money. One of the allowable expenses for this extra money is there needs to be a reason. If it is an approved expense through the Nutrition Services program, we could use it. We cannot use it to put a roof on a building. If we wanted to start a Farm to School program, we could use the funds for this. This would be considered as an allowable expense. We cannot take the funds to balance our budget unless we asked permission from the state to repay us back the money, we fronted Nutrition Services. We did not charge students for lunch, this is an allowable expense. We had money in the reserves to continue feeding our students for free. This was an allowable expense. We can ask for permission to do something.

Mr. Hamre stated the superintendent is knowledgeable and has excellent staff in the finance department. We have discussed this during our monthly finance meetings. We have asked these questions at these meetings. We have not had a Republican representative at our finance meetings for the last several months. We discussed surplus funds, and the balance was also explained to us. We ask these questions because we are responsible to our taxpayers. Mr. Unghire will vote no. We were given a heads-up by the superintendent that the budget would look different and would be in a different format. Both budgets that were presented included the same information. The format change was known. Turning down the budget because it doesn't look the same is wrong.

Mr. Unghire stated we were told it would be different. He thought it would be better with more detail not less detail. The bottom line number is not enough. We have a responsibility to our taxpayers, and we are doing our due diligence. Half of the budget for the town is for education. We need more.

Mrs. Pickett understands the process. We received a 5 page overview. She sent in questions to be addressed to the chair. We were then given a 35 page color coded budget document. The line items have been consistent from past budgets. Voting no is still no.

Mr. Unghire stated yes, we were provided with a 34 page document. The 5 summary pages were made into 34 pages. There was not more detailed provided.

Mrs. Pickett added you could have asked questions about specific line items. There was a process in place and the information provided in the budget reflected this. If you have questions, you should have asked about them as part of the process that was explained to all of us.

Mr. Ryder stated he is tired of listening to this. You are playing games with our students and staff. Send a Republican representative to the Finance Committee meetings. It has been a long time since there was 3 members at the Finance meetings. There has been no members from your caucus attending these meetings. You then need to communicate with the Town Council members in your caucus and get on the same page.

Mr. Ryder called for the vote.

Madam Chair stated there is some frustration here. She went to the Town Council meetings about the budget. She was frustrated because they were claiming ignorance and claimed they didn't know. We presented the budget on January 24th. We then presented it to the Town Council on May 1st. We offered for them to contact us with any questions they might have. Saying there was not enough information is not true. There was plenty of information and time to address any questions.

Madam Chair stated one of the speakers at that Town Council meeting had an excellent point. They asked what other department from the town was asked to reduce their budget by 48%. The Town Council is playing catchup. There was a credit card bill that was due. They are trying to not raise taxes. What are the new services added? She thanked the members of the Democratic Town Council for doing their homework and for asking us questions and getting acclimated to our budget. There was a Democratic Town Council member that did not like the budget and took the time to ask us questions about the way our budget was prepared. Mrs. Zoppo said for our next budget cycle, we need to get together and let us know what you are looking for. It was also mentioned that even though this budget process is over, we need to continue with a budget check in in November. We have good plans. They are asking about the 2% carryover and where did it go. It was explained at the January 24th meeting and asking for us to cut \$1.4 million because we might get money from our Alliance Grant. You can't spend what we don't have. She does not believe what the State is saying. The Nutrition Services money is a process, and nothing moves quickly with the government. People need to look long and hard at the budget and the reason for not cutting the education budget. She thanked the Democratic Town Council members for supporting our budget.

Madam Chair called for the question. Moved by Hamre, seconded by Mr. Ryder.

A vote by **roll call – 5-3-0** passed with Mr. Unghire, Mrs. Cushman and Mrs. Acree in dissent.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett reported Curriculum Committee met on May 18th. We reviewed our new middle school health curriculum and K-12 health scope and sequence. She thanked Mr. Dube for his detailed presentation. She would like the information he provided committee members posted on our website for parents to review. She also spoke about the opt-out process for lessons. She is proud of the work we are doing. She would like to see more discussions with the Town Social Services department. The next Curriculum meeting will be

held on June 22nd.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the next Finance Committee meeting will be held on June 5th.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee met on May 16th. We have cancelled the June 20th Policy Committee meeting and will meet again in the fall. Mr. Longey will reach out to committee members with any legislative updates he receives over the summer months. We discussed a proposed flag proposal presented by Mrs. Cushman and we decided not to move forward with this item at this time.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Board Leadership did not meet.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on May 25th virtually.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the JFK Building Committee cancelled their May meeting. He is not sure when they will meet next.

Joint Security Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee meeting date has not been set yet.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup – Dr. Calnen did not have anything new to report regarding the Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup.

Madam Chair added she would like to see more of a joint partnership between the town and school. They are sending out a survey and Mr. Dube will receive the results.

Mrs. Pickett added they will share the overall data with Mr. Dube.

Madam Chair stated there should be more of a partnership with the school district.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mr. Hamre provided the Board with a detailed report. He thanked everyone involved with all of the past productions that occurred during the month. He also wished Reilly's Dance performers good luck with their upcoming dance recital. He gave an update regarding the Gazebo concert series and his concerns.

PK-5 School Modernization Committee – Mr. Ryder does not have any updates. Mr. Drezek stated the bids went out on Friday. He added that both Mr. Dague and Mr. Gerber will be meeting with potential contractors. He will keep you updated with any additional information.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre, that the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2023, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

Madam Chair reported that Board members have received invitations for the EHS Graduation Ceremony and reminded them to RSVP your attendance to the Superintendent's office.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 23, 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary