

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on September 27, 2022.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Madam Chair LeBlanc.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Jean Acree
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Jean Acree
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jean Acree, Dr. Gerald Calnen, Janet Cushman, Joshua Hamre, Jonathan LeBlanc (arrived at 7:05 PM), Amanda Pickett, Scott Ryder, John Unghire and Tina LeBlanc

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent & Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo

**SUSPEND THE RULES AND MOVE AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA:**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett to move item #11a. Approve 2022-23 Student Representatives & Alternates before Item #6.

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

**11a. Approve 2022-23 Student Representatives & Alternates**

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Board of Education approves the 2022-23 Student Representatives (Kayla Surprenant & Morgan DiFronzo) and Student Alternates (Jimmy Padilla & Samantha Quail) as presented.

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

Ms. DiFronzo joined the Board at the dais. Madam Chair congratulated her.

**6. BOARD GUEST(S)**

**a. Student Recognition**

Mr. Drezek welcomed student Vanessa Cleary. Ms. Cleary presented the Board with a monetary gift during a Board meeting last November. She spoke about how much Enfield Public Schools meant to her. Tonight, we would like to recognize her.

Mr. LeBlanc arrived at 7:05 PM.

Madam Chair and Vice Chairman Ryder presented Vanessa Cleary with a plaque thanking her.

Mr. Drezek added that he made a promise to our students at ETLA that both he and Mr.

Longey will have weekly basketball games with them. We are looking forward to this.

**b. Jack-O-Lantern Festival**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Kelsey McGuire Bruce and Danielle Reel.

Mrs. McGuire Bruce stated Jack is back! She spoke about the upcoming Jack-O-Lantern Festival that will be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4-8 PM on the Town Green. They will have a Trick-or-Treat tent, bounce house and other inflatables, games, music, DJ and many activities for families including food trucks. Entry is \$5 for children with carved pumpkins and \$10 without one. Children will receive a wristband that will allow them to participate in all activities. We will provide candles for the carved pumpkins. The carved pumpkins will be judged by age groups. If you would just like to come to the Town Green and see what is going on there is no fee. We are offering a free pumpkin pickup event on October 16<sup>th</sup> on the Town Green. We are always looking for sponsors to help us keep this event running. If you are interested, please contact us.

Mrs. Pickett stated this is one of her families favorite events to attend. Mrs. McGuire Bruce stated you can reach us on Facebook at EnfieldJackoLantern or at [enfieldjolf@gmail.com](mailto:enfieldjolf@gmail.com). She is sure the PTO's will be getting the word out about this event.

Mr. Ryder stated that is [enfieldjolf@gmail.com](mailto:enfieldjolf@gmail.com). You can attend this event for free, but you will not be able to participate in any of the events. You can pick up a free pumpkin on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Farmers Market on the Town Green. Mrs. McGuire Bruce stated that is correct.

Mr. Unghire has attended this event before and some of the carved pumpkins are quite amazing. It is worth seeing these sculptured pieces of art. Mrs. McGuire Bruce stated we welcome all abilities, and some people are very creative. This is why we ask you to put your name and age on the back of the pumpkin.

Madam Chair thanked them for coming and sharing information about this event.

**FASFA**

Mr. Drezek stated Mr. White was a former Dean at EHS and is now our School Counseling Coordinator for the district. At our last Board meeting, Mrs. Pickett was about to ask questions about Board Policy #6148 FAFSA Completion Program. I asked her to wait because he had received an email from the Governor's office that Enfield had won the FASFA Challenge. Enfield participated in the FAFSA challenge to increase the number of students that completed applications. We were invited to attend a press conference and luncheon but could not talk about this until after the press conference. There were 3 Governor and 3 Commissioner awards, 6 awards in total. Enfield won a Commissioner's award for large high schools in CT. We had the best FASFA completion increase. Both he and Mr. White attended this event, but Mrs. Ingalls and the guidance team should have been there. As you all know, Mrs. Ingalls retired at the end of last year and was unable to join us tonight. He thanked her for everything she has done. This has been a labor of love getting our kids to complete these applications. Guidance counselors made numerous phone calls about completing the forms. Your hard work and efforts paid off. We received a banner and once it is properly hung, we will send out a picture of it. Mr. White can address any questions from Board members about this.

Mr. Hamre asked about the increase percentage. Mr. White stated 60% of the graduating class of 2022 completed the FASFA application. The class of 2021, 49% completed the FASFA. This is an 11% increase which is quite impressive. Over 60% of the class of 2022, pursued their post-secondary education which is amazing.

Mrs. Pickett asked about how they worked with families to understand why it is important to complete the FAFSA and how did you address barriers for some families? Mr. White stated we

partner with Central Connecticut State University and their financial aid staff. He believes this year's parent information night is October 18<sup>th</sup>. We send messages to all students and families in grades 11 and 12. We also use the financial staff at Asnuntuck Community College, and they can provide ELL services for families that need translation assistance when completing the FAFSA. We can also provide assistance to families that need help understanding the FAFSA process. This year's FAFSA goes live on October 1<sup>st</sup>. We are hoping for another great turnout this year.

Mr. Drezek added we are not eligible to win again.

Madam Chair stated last April she received a reminder call from her son's guidance counselor about completing the FAFSA. It was great receiving this reminder phone call because she thought they had completed it. The process has gotten easier with getting transcripts and SAT scores out to colleges. She appreciates the help with FAFSA because somethings can fall through the cracks.

Mr. White added this was the result of spending many hours working with families. We are fortunate to update our statistics through Edsight to see what the percentages were each month.

Madam Chair added there is no easy way to complete the FAFSA. It is very cumbersome. Mr. White thanked Asnuntuck and CCSU for their support and connections when it comes to assisting families with the FAFSA.

Madam Chair congratulated them all for receiving this recognition.

**c. SEL Presentation**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Julie Carroll, our SPED Director and David White, our School Counseling Coordinator. We have had a lot of discussions about the impact from Covid. We offer a lot of supports and services for our kids. We do not necessarily advertise these services. They are here to discuss programs, resources and services we offer our students. We know that if our kids are not doing well socially and emotionally, they will have difficulties learning. He welcomes Mrs. Carroll and her entire team.

Mrs. Carroll and Mr. White discussed social, emotion learning (SEL). They explained why it is important and who provides SEL opportunities. They reviewed the three different support tiered delivery models.

Stowe Early Learning Center Pre-School Teachers, Virginia Prentiss and Stefanie Domin reviewed what they are doing with SEL at Stowe. They discussed PL, Early Childhood Response to Intervention, Common Language, Intentional Environments, Devreaux E-DECA (screen, assess, plan and strategies). They also explained about Second Step Social Emotional for PK, LEGO Build Me Emotions, Belly Breathing, Visual Feelings Chart and Music with Miss Renee.

PBIS Coach Kim Tait and Social Worker Lauryn Wille reviewed what they are doing for students in grades K-2 with SEL. They discussed Tier I Instruction, Second Step, RULER program, Character Strong program that is being piloted at Henry Barnard, LEGO Build Me Emotions; Mindfulness Lessons, Zones of Regulation Lessons, Growth Mindset Lesson, Classroom Calming Corners and how they focus on building relationships. They reviewed school based behavior assistance teams, SWIS and SEL universal screener programs. If student data indicates they need additional supports, students will receive Tier 2 or Tier 3 Interventions for 6-8 weeks for additional supports.

School Counselor Lauren Short reviewed what they are doing for students in grades 3-5 with SEL. She discussed Tier 1 Instruction, Implementation of PBIS, Responsive Classroom

Practices, School Counselor and Social Worker Lessons, School Integration. She discussed Tier 2 Instruction and Tier 3 Instruction along with additional supports if needed.

Assistant JFK Principal Sarah Brown and School Counselor Shannon Kudryk reviewed what they are doing for students in grades 6-8 with SEL. They discussed Grade Level Team Models, Emotional Regulation (Yale RULER), Character Strong Pilot, Student Assistance Team – Tier II/III SEL support, QPR Suicide Prevention, Partnerships with CHC and Youth Services, and Educational Resources for Children (ERfC) afterschool program. They also discussed the RULER program and Character Strong program.

EHS School Counseling Coordinator David White reviewed what they are doing for students in grades 9-12 with SEL. He discussed Emotional Regulation (RULER), Mentoring Lessons, QPR Suicide Prevention, Wellness, Counseling and Student Intervention Team (SIT). He also discussed Emotional Regulation (RULER), Mentoring, QPR, Wellness, and School Counseling. He also spoke about what they are doing for our students at ETLA.

SPED Coordinator Lauren Andrews, Social Worker Robert Metzler and SPED Teacher Kyle Hurley reviewed what they are doing for students with SEL at Eagle Academy. They reviewed Academic and Therapeutic program, small classes, SPED Teachers, Behavior Technicians, BCBA, Social Worker and the role and responsibilities of Behavior Technicians and the importance and connections they make.

Jonathan Jones a student from the Eagle Academy spoke about what this program means to him.

Mrs. Acree thanked Mrs. Carroll and Mr. White for your well-polished and detailed presentation. She thanked the teachers and staff members for the information. Thank you for and excellent presentation.

Dr. Calnen thanked them for this presentation. You are doing a wonderful job. He learned a lot about the services we offer, and he is really impressed. Our teachers can only do so much. Our kids are dealing with psychological problems, and it is impossible for our teachers to manage problems in the classroom.

Dr. Calnen reviewed the 20/20 rule. Out of this only small percentage receive mental health support. A statement was issued last fall that mental health problems among children is a crisis. He feels it is every bit as serious as Covid. Covid is visible and this mental health crises isn't. Our children are in dire need of therapy. He feels this should be offered in schools which is controversial.

Dr. Calnen asked several questions for Mrs. Carroll to respond to later. He feels it is very important that we deal with the issue of childhood mental health. A few years ago, we dealt with several suicides, and we haven't advanced very far since that. He thanked them for this wonderful presentation.

Mrs. Pickett also thanked them for this thoughtful presentation. It is great to hear about the work of our district. It is great to have a Pediatrician as part of our Board. She also echoes Dr. Calnen's questions. We need to look at what works for each of our schools. Consistency is also needed and was mentioned in your presentation. It is great that we are piloting some new things in our district. Looking at the consistent things like language, skills that are taught, and what our families, students and staff are feeling. Our district has many transitions, so consistency is important.

Mrs. Pickett stated as a parent, this presentation was amazing. We receive communication about what is happening in our schools. Families could really benefit from hearing about this from the experts in our schools. She would like to know how can we do this with families? Her children are bringing this home with them. They have both taught her about belly breathing

and calming coloring before bedtime. What you are doing is going beyond the classroom walls. Her children are teaching her strategies. Thank you.

Mr. Hamre is humbled to sit next to Dr. Calnen and Mrs. Pickett. They are truly subject matter experts. You are also subject matter experts. It was demonstrated very clearly in your presentation tonight. The level of training and time spent to become educators that deal with our students is impressive. His own personal experience from working in the military support community for 10 years included a two-week training about mastering resiliency. It is a program that trains the soldiers and families so they can respond, react and recover quickly. They discuss self-awareness, self-regulation, and optimism. These are key words the army gives to their soldiers and is still being done today. They also give training about implicit bias. He is not an expert on the subject matter that was presented tonight. He appreciates everything you are doing.

Mr. LeBlanc stated your presentation was very educational. He also asked several questions.

Mrs. Carroll stated we are jotting down your questions and would like time to review them and will get back to you.

Mr. Ryder thanked them for the ETLA program. He asked if they work with Nebaworks.com or Allied Attic? They help with job placements. He also had concerns about behavior technicians and if you had enough of them.

Mr. Ryder agreed with Ms. Tait that everyone has a hand in our kids' education and helping to raise them. You are helping to shape our kids' days. He is always very appreciative of everything our teachers, and support staff are doing, you all have a hand in helping our kids. Thank you everyone in our buildings.

Mr. Ryder would like a copy of this presentation. He also asked several questions.

Mr. Ryder asked if PD and PL days are the same. Mr. Drezek stated they are.

Mr. Unghire also asked several questions. He asked about how many behavior technicians we have in our schools. Mrs. Carroll stated we have 46 behavior technicians.

Mr. Unghire stated we did not have calming corners when he was in school. He thanked them for the presentation.

Mrs. Cushman stated she would also like a copy of the presentation. She appreciated your thoroughness with this presentation. There is a lot of good information within your presentation.

Madam Chair stated she is also blown away with Dr. Calnen and Mrs. Pickett and their knowledge. She liked hearing about the resources and partnerships you have and talking with other school groups for collaboration. She knows this is a work in progress and you will be trying different things. She loves when we bring our school community together. She liked hearing about the peer modeling at JFK with Henry Barnard. She feels this will benefit the older kids as well as the younger kids. When our elementary schools were K-6 the older students worked with the younger students as book buddies or read to the younger students. Peer modeling is important.

Madam Chair was blown away with your presentation and cannot wait to reread it. You put a lot of time in effort in this and for preparing for tonight. You put even more time into our students and families. Thank you. We can all tell how much you love what you are doing, and you love helping kids.

Madam Chair would love for you to come back again in the spring and to answer our

questions.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **a. EPS Update**

Mr. Drezek stated Covid is still here. We have seen a number of increases with students and staff. Nothing has affected the operations in our schools, but he cannot promise this won't happen if numbers continue to increase. We have isolation guidelines and will get our staff back in the schools as quickly as we can.

Mr. Drezek stated a lot of JFK parents have concerns about the fields at JFK. They tried to grow grass during a drought, and it did not take. We are not allowed to use the fields yet. The turnover has not happened yet. The Building Committee is going to continue with maintaining the fields before the fields will be turned over to the Town. Please be patient. We cannot use the fields yet.

Mr. Drezek spoke about the flavored milk at Enfield High. An additive is added to the flavored milk and sometimes it changes the consistency of the milk. Some students received this milk and complained that it was slimy. The milk was perfectly safe to ingest, and they were given refunds. There are only 2 milk vendors and we have spoken to them about this. The milk is okay to drink. You can find out additional information from our Nutrition Services Department.

Mr. Drezek stated we have been notified that free/reduced lunches will continue through the month of October. We are hopeful this program will last longer. A 30-day notice will be given when this program will end.

Mr. Drezek stated he was going to give an alliance update tonight. He will be meeting with them this week and is sure he will receive additional information. He will give the Board an update at the next meeting. He is now a member of CAPSS Alliance District, and they will have their first formal meeting on Wednesday. Our first formal in-person meeting with the State and Alliance District will be on Thursday. He will give an update about the alliance network at our next meeting.

Mr. Drezek stated our district performance data has been released publicly. We are now looking at this information. This is our first snapshot since we came out of a pandemic. Our kids are dealing with a lot. We need to ask what resources will be offered and what is the plan? The Curriculum Committee will look at this and then the Board will receive this information. We know you will be asking us questions. Looking at this data is going to take some time to evaluate this information.

Mr. Drezek stated at the last meeting we gave you our district equity statement. Our equity work is continuing. This was discussed by the Town Council members at their meeting. We are currently holding a book club for administrators and met in person to discuss the book we are reading – Five Practices for Equity-Focused School Leadership. We have identified what equity means to us. Now we need to identify what our kids need and the resources they need. He will give Board members copies of this book to read if you would like one.

Mr. Drezek stated the Board previously held a workshop with CAFE and Mr. Radar and Dr. Brackeen-Harris. Equity will mean something different to everyone and that is okay. As a district, we do a lot of great work. Consistency is also needed along the way. We have just partnered with CREC for an equity review for our district that is being led by Mrs. Cox-Blackwell. This will have a component for professional learning for staff, students and parents/families. There will also be opportunities for professional learning for the Board. He will have more on this in the future.

Mr. Drezek added when it comes to expanding our equity work, he has taken opportunities to talk to our students about their informal opinions in classrooms and at the high school with

the superintendent's advisory group. He is also hearing from parents. He wants to hear parental concerns. Everyone has their own ideas and opinions. This is important for us to move forward as a district. He is going to start a superintendent's Parent Advisory Council. You will need to be a parent of a student in the Enfield Public Schools. He will need a good representation of all our families in Enfield. He will be looking for volunteers starting at the Pre-K level through all the grades and ETLA. He is looking for different experiences, culturally, different languages and whatever makes Enfield unique and special. This is not a Board group, this is something he is doing. This is important for us as a district. If parents are interested, reach out to the building principals and let them know you would like to be part of this parent advisory council. He will not set agenda items. His first responsibility is to get you together and hear about what is important to you. Then we will use those topics to set future agendas. If there is a topic or discussion, he can then bring in experts like we did tonight. He will be sending out information to our administrators in the upcoming weeks about this initiative for parent volunteers.

**b. Early Dismissal, Columbus Day & Staff PD's** – as presented

**8. AUDIENCES**

Madam Chair read a prepared statement about expectations for audience participation. We will continue to utilize a 3-minute time limit for audience participation tonight. She added that you will need to sign up to talk and she will not call up anyone from the audience to speak. Thank you.

Juliette Leith, Katherine Road – Ms. Leith commented that our public educators are here to teach core curriculum to our students. We need the Board to work together. We need you to work with the community and support our teachers. We want to hear about what our teachers need and are doing. We have 180 days to improve student learning and achievements. Please be respectful.

Danielle Girard, Edgewood Drive – Ms. Girard stated our children need a voice and should be able to stand up for themselves and find their voices. Banning books will not help them learn. She embraces what her children are learning in school. Color should not affect how they are loved. She urged everyone to read books, learn and grow from them. Diversity will always exist.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin stated the SEL services we provide are wonderful for our students and families. She thanked them for the equity statement. She loves reading books as well as her children. They are reading above grade level. Diversity of books is needed. Mental health support shows them they are normal. We need to continue with equity work.

Amanda Marques, Hoover Lane – Mrs. Marques spoke about the pizza assignment and her questions have not been answered. Being transparent would have prevented this. Parents are still looking for answers.

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Circle – Mr. Jonaitis stated at the last Board meeting it was said you have important business to conduct. What are you doing to get us off of being an Alliance District. You are looking for a policy to remove a Board member. The behavior at the last meeting was very unprofessional. You are elected to the Board, there is no local election this year. Pizza-gate has been going on for some time now. Fundraisers should be done in a controlled area. Enfield is not a racist town. Enfield is a diverse community.

Madam chair asked for the camera to be shut down briefly.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis stated we have discussed this topic many times. She thanked the Administration and teachers for what you are doing. You have treated everyone

with dignity. You are the true leaders. She congratulated our student representative. You are an amazing student. She thanked them for what they are doing for kids and thanked Madam Chair.

Marcy Taliceo, Coolidge Drive – Mrs. Taliceo thanked Madam Chair and Board members for all the work you are doing. She also thanked Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey. This has been a great start to this school year. She spoke about the email she sent to Board members. The strategic plans has been released by the State of Connecticut and the structure plan. FASFA help is definitely needed and thanked them for doing this for students and families.

Patrick Flaherty, Jackson Road – Mr. Flaherty had several questions about SEL. Can you opt out of SEL. Our kids need fact based education. How much screentime will our kids have. They are our kids and not your kids. Parents should be able to see what their kids are doing on their iPads during the day. Taxpayers should be able to review the curriculum. Transparency with this Board is dead.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo asked Mr. Drezek if the milk situation only occurred at the high school, or has it been happening throughout the town at different schools? Mr. Drezek stated the only milk product that was affected was at the high school. We looked at the batch numbers that were distributed in our district and this milk was only found Enfield High School.

Madam Chair stated Morgan will be a great addition to the Board. We have had several student representatives that gave us their opinions and thoughts. We welcome this and you.

Mrs. Acree congratulated our Student Representatives. She looks forward to seeing you at our meetings.

Mrs. Acree stated Prudence Crandall is continuing their spirit week this week. They will hold parent teacher conferences on November 3, 7 and 9<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to the school to arrange for a time to meet with your child's teachers. This is a great opportunity to hear about your child's progress.

Mrs. Acree stated Barnard and Crandall will hold a book fair on October 3 and 6 in the cafeteria. They will also have a bake sale on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and an Ice Cream Social on October 6<sup>th</sup>. RSVP's are needed by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Barnard/Crandall PTO will hold a fundraiser event at Moe's on October 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-9 pm. Crandall student pictures will be taken on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Calnen stated masks are no longer required at SELC, they are optional. They will hold an open house on September 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7 pm. All Head Start students must receive their flu vaccines by December 31<sup>st</sup>. We will hold our Head Start Policy meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Kite will hold their annual dinner meeting celebration on October 12<sup>th</sup> at Enfield High School. Invitations have been sent out. The EHS Culinary students will be preparing our dinner for this meeting that will be held in EHS Café.

Mrs. Cushman stated the Parkman PTO is selling tickets for the soccer fundraising game until October 7<sup>th</sup>. This game will be held in Hartford at the Trinity Health Stadium on October 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a great event to spend outdoors with family and friends.

Mrs. Cushman spoke about her comments regarding books. Movies, television programs, music and video games have ratings that define obscenities. She is not looking to ban books. She would like us as a district to define obscenities and provide guidelines for books in our classroom libraries. This is not being motivated by politics or religion. We need to protect our students. Books have great influence and once you read them you cannot unread them. She has found some pretty disturbing things in some books. Some of these books are showing up



in classroom libraries. She is not saying this is happening in our schools. We need to be proactive and define guidelines about what constitutes obscenities. Obscenities are not protected by our first amendment rights. She would like us to create guidelines to help our teachers. She is an avid reader and does not want to ban books. She wants to protect our kids overall health.

Mr. Hamre also welcomed student representative Morgan DiFronzo and the other representatives to the Board. It will be nice to have a full group on the dais again and get back to how it was before the pandemic.

Mr. Hamre stated the JFK PTO fundraiser is more than halfway done. We are already at 91% of our fundraising goal. The next PTO meeting will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> via teams. PTO meetings will be held either virtually or in-person every other month to accommodate all parents. He thanked the PTO President for this information.

Mr. Hamre added the JFK Curriculum Night and Open House will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 pm. You can find out more information in the JFK October newsletter. They will also hold a parents night out fundraiser on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hamre stated Family Day on the Town Green was a wonderful event. He thanked everyone involved with this. He sat with the Enfield Cultural Arts Commission for the sidewalk chalk contest. He had a lot of fun at this event.

Mr. Hamre attended the EHS open house. He met several teachers and enjoyed meeting them. He apologized to the teachers he was unable to meet with to discuss his children's progress.

Mr. Hamre stated he bought a book several years ago when this dais discussed banning books. He feels this is not our place. Our librarians will provide appropriate reading materials for our students to read. It is not his place to tell your children what they can and can't read. Our librarians have the expertise and will make those decisions.

Mr. Hamre thanked Enfield High School staff for their achievements with FAFSA and for helping families complete FAFSA forms. We have many families with language barriers that need help completing these forms. He also thanked them for the SEL presentation that was provided tonight. He thanked Jonathan Jones for his opinions on how the Enfield Public School SEL program has had an impact on him.

Mr. Hamre thanked Mr. Drezek for establishing a parent advisory group.

Mr. Hamre stated he is new to the Board and is still learning. There is no policy about removing a Board member. An audience member spoke about this tonight. It is up to the citizens and taxpayers to elect us. The only way to change the Board is by electing new Board members. It is up to the local republican and democratic committees who will be running for the Board of Education. He will continue to serve on this board to the best of his abilities as long as he is wanted. He knew this but wanted to ask this question at the last Board meeting for due diligence purposes.

Mr. Hamre appreciates audience members comments.

Mr. LeBlanc stated we need a sign for our student representatives. He congratulated our student representatives and welcomed Morgan DiFronzo.

Mr. LeBlanc asked through Madam Chair to the Superintendent about the HVAC systems in our schools. The Governor announced through ARPA funds that upgrades can be made in schools via grants. Is this something Enfield might be looking into?

Mr. LeBlanc spoke about the request we received from a student about students that have an

A- or higher would not need to take a mid-term or final exam. This is something that is currently being looked into by our superintendent and assistant superintendent.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about our academic presentation about where we stand. When we get the presentation, it will just be a starting point for us. He is not looking to critique the presentation. He knows the last two years has been hectic. We will be able to see what is needed and where we need to go from this point. This presentation will be quite informative.

Mr. Unghire stated Hazardville Memorial will have their picture day on September 29<sup>th</sup>. They will have grade 2 mentor visits on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Unghire stated the press release with the 2021-22 Connecticut state assessment results showed that levels were much lower in English, Language Arts, Mathematic, and Science than from previous years since the pandemic. He commented that Ellington scores have risen, and they were the only town where this occurred. He would like to request through the Chair to the Superintendent that you contact the Ellington Superintendent to have him share their best practices with us. What did they do differently than us to achieve this.

Mr. Unghire added it is bring you bible to school day on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Madam Chair asked about this. Mr. Unghire added it is a national day that happens every two to three years.

Madam Chair asked for audience members to please be quite.

Mrs. Pickett suggest you bring your favorite book to school. She welcomed Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo. She is excited to hear about your perspectives. Your voice is very important to her.

Mrs. Pickett stated during the SEL presentation, some people stepped out. They are using evidence based curriculum. SEL has been around for quite some time and to please check it out. She applauds the work that is being done. If families have any questions in their children's school about SEL, you can contact them directly.

Mrs. Pickett stated before tonight's meeting there was a demonstration on the Town Green about standing up for families of color. She thanked the families and the community members who came out for this. Equity work is being done in our district and as a Board. We are committed. She feels racial equity needs to be at the heart of this work. Everything intersects with your identity.

Mrs. Pickett would also like a book. This would be another great learning opportunity.

Mrs. Pickett is really excited about the Superintendent Parent Advisory Council. This is something she has wanted from when she started attending Board meetings as a parent in the audience. She has had conversations with Mr. Unghire about a board committee. She would prefer a district led initiative. This shouldn't be tainted with any political motives or driven by craziness. It needs to be focused on family perspectives. Leadership needs to hear their voices.

Mrs. Pickett asked through Madam Chair to the superintendent, she would also like to know how we might be able to leverage existing committees so our work is sustainable, and communication can be received. The Head Start Policy Committee is comprised of families. We do have existing committees that we can tap into.

Mrs. Pickett acknowledged some Jewish Holidays Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, happy holidays. We will be approving our calendar for next year. She would like to see us include a backside to our calendar where we can acknowledge all of the various holidays, festivals, holy days, cultural and any holidays that are celebrated in our community to bring awareness and inclusivity.

Mrs. Pickett stated Enfield Street will be having a D'Angelo's fundraiser event on September 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 pm. We just had a really great PTO meeting, and she would like to thank the PTO leadership. This is not an easy job. Thank you for planning so many different events.

Mrs. Pickett agreed with Mrs. Acree about the upcoming parent teacher conferences. Please reach out to your child's teacher. The schools are being very flexible with appointments. You can meet by phone, teams or in person.

Mrs. Pickett stated ERfC has openings for their before school and after school program for students. They offer free/reduced sliding fee scales for families. This is made possible through a grant. Contact them if you are interested. Also, if you are looking for work, they have employment openings for before school and afterschool programs.

Mrs. Pickett thanked our presenters tonight. She also thanked our student representative. She is excited to hear more about the work we will be doing with our Board priorities. She is also interested in hearing about our district goals moving ahead and how we will achieve those goals.

Mr. Ryder thanked Eagle Academy student Jonathan Jones for speaking tonight. He is glad that you are excelling and soaring.

Mr. Ryder welcomed our student representative Morgan DiFronzo tonight. He cannot wait to meet the other student representatives.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will have their first assembly on Friday. If students are presenting at the assembly parents can attend and have been invited. We will have an Eversource Power Squat assembly on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Picture day is on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The Whitney PTO meeting will also be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Trunk or Treat will be held on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. We will hold a Whitney Walk on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Whitney will hold a curriculum night in November. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Mr. Ryder also attended the EHS open house. He thanked the staff and student liaisons that were there assisting parents. He thanked the teachers and staff for everything they are doing and for working with the Freshman students to ease their apprehension.

Mr. Ryder requested through Madam Chair to the Superintendent, he would like to start up the PTO Superintendent meetings again. We stopped this when Covid hit us. We are trying to get back to pre-pandemic events. He would like to schedule one or two meetings

Mr. Ryder urged principals to send him any updates and he will post them on the Enfieldpto.com website. A lot of our events are open to the community. Please send me your events. These events help our students and our community.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mrs. Ingalls and Mr. White for everything they did for the FAFSA challenge. He also thanked Mrs. Ingalls for everything she did from being a principal at Eli Whitney to a Guidance Coordinator. She has helped us out in many different capacities. Enjoy your retirement.

Mr. Ryder thanked the staff at Eagle Academy for everything you are doing. He loves the ratio of staff to students there. They are doing a great job.

Mr. Ryder also thanked Mrs. Carroll and Mr. White the SEL presentation and for everything you are doing for our students. You are all doing a great job.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mr. LeBlanc about mentioning the ARPA funds and our HVAC systems. He is not sure how that will trickle down to Enfield. He would also like us to look into this. There are some policies around HVAC. We discussed this at the Policy Committee, and it affects new

construction. If there is a way to improve our older buildings, he is all for that. We are looking at several new policies that will be coming forward so we can improve on our roofs and parking lots. There is a lot to do, and it is hard to keep up. He appreciates all the hard work we are doing in our town.

Madam Chair also attended Family Day last Sunday. It was a lot of fun seeing everyone. Different schools had booths and vendors. This was another great Enfield community event.

Madam Chair would also like to receive a book. She received an email about traffic that she forwarded to Mr. Drezek and Mrs. Zoppo. She feels having a police officer placed at the top of the hill on Enfield Street at the entrance to Enfield High School for 15 minutes before school starts and again in the afternoon is a good idea. Mr. Drezek asked her to resend him that e-mail.

Madam Chair received an email from Lori Gates. She thanked us for all the 9/11 gratitude cards she picked up. There were 1,712 cards thanking our men and women. She sent them to all 6 fire stations, EPD and EMS. Our first responders appreciated receiving them. She also thanked all the teachers and staff. This overwhelming response is from the heart of our schools and our teachers who have been under fire for almost 3 years now. The words thank you cannot begin to express our gratitude. She read a card that was written in French. Madam Chair also thanked the schools, teachers and students that got these cards out to our first responders.

Madam Chair thanked them for the SEL presentation. We will compile the questions and will get them to you so they can be answered in a constructive manner. Possibly we can have Mrs. Carroll and Mr. White attend another meeting to address the questions.

Madam Chair stated EHS Safe Grad is holding a bottle/can drive and clothing drive on October 15<sup>th</sup> at Enfield High from 9-1 pm. They are also accepting donations for the Safe Grad Auction. Raffle basket or items for the baskets and monetary donations, all are welcome. This is their biggest fund raiser event so they can hold their Safe Grad event at Sonny's place.

#### **MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING PAST 10:30 PM.**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education extends the Regular Meeting past 10:30 PM if needed.

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

#### **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **a. Adopt New Policies & Policy Revisions – Second Reading**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the new policies and policy revisions as presented.

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

#### **11. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **b. Adopt New Policies & Policy Revisions (including Tabled Policies 6148 & 5147.71 – First Reading**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education places the two tabled policies back on the table for discussion along with the new policies and policy revisions.

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

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education approves the new policies and policy revisions as a first reading.

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Pickett stated she has a question regarding Policy #6141.51 and how will this be implemented. She would like to request a change under the procedures where it mentions minority students. She would like this changed to students of color if that is actually what they are referring to. The term minority is offensive to people of color. Minority is not defined in this policy.

Mr. Longey stated this is something we can change now if the Board agrees.

Mr. LeBlanc stated policy #4111.3 defines minority. Can we put this description with policy #6141.51 – Minority is defined as individuals whose race is defined as other than white or whose ethnicity is defined as Hispanic, or Latino as used by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Mrs. Pickett stated the reason she did not bring this definition up in policy #4111.3 is because this is directly tied to legislation and is still referred to as minority teacher recruitment. The policy she has questions on refers to students. She would prefer to see different wording used.

Mr. Longey suggested that they make a motion pertaining to policy #6141.51 only.

Mr. Hamre moved to amend the policy to reflect the words identified by Mrs. Pickett.

Mr. Ryder asked if that is the only place where it reads that way? Policy Committee members like to see the final version of the policy before it is adopted by the entire Board. He would like to send this policy back to the Policy Committee to review again.

Mr. Ryder moved to amend his previous motion that the Enfield Board of Education approves the new policies and policy revisions as a first reading except for Policy #6141.51.

Mr. Hamre retracted his motion.

Madam Chair stated that will work. We will table policy #6141.51.

Mrs. Pickett also asked about Policy #6141.52. It discusses advanced placement at the middle school. Is this connected to TAG? We have discussed TAG in our Curriculum Committee meetings. Mr. Ryder stated it is.

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that we will not include Policy #6141.51, and we will approve as a First Reading Policies #6141.52, 1330, 4118.11, 5141.71 and 6148 as presented.

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

**c. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Curriculum** – Mrs. Pickett reported the Curriculum Committee met on September 15<sup>th</sup>. We discussed African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino History Courses for grade 11 and 12 students. She thanked Mr. Senez for his presentation and Mr. Allegro for his teaching expertise. This is being offered to 40 diverse students in 2 sections. Our next meeting is on October 20<sup>th</sup>. We previously had a presentation about digital citizenship, and we discussed gaps in K-12. She will follow-up on this.

Mrs. Pickett added that she did respond to the student e-mail about mid-terms and final exams. We did discuss this as an item from the table at our last Curriculum meeting. We are looking into this further.

Madam Chair added that it was suggested that if you had a certain grade point average, you would not need to take the mid-term exam. She appreciates the student bringing this forward.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee will meet on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee met on September 20<sup>th</sup>. We reviewed a new series of policies from CABE. He would like the tabled policy from tonight to be added to our next Policy Committee agenda. He asked Mrs. Pickett to email him the suggested changes to Policy #6141.51. We will meet again on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Board Leadership has not meet.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facility Committee met on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. We received updates about the Hazardville Memorial and Eli Whitney roof project. Both projects are almost completed. We are very close to signing off on these two projects

JFK Building Committee – Madam Chair would like to invite the members from the JFK Building Committee to a Board meeting and would also like a tour of the building for Board members.

Mr. Ryder reported the fencing around the building has been taken down. The building looks amazing. The fields are back under the direction of the Building Committee to be fixed properly.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee is still waiting for a report. We will reconvene at that point to review the report. No date has been set yet.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness Workgroup – Dr. Calnen reported this committee has not met and he has nothing new to report.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mr. Hamre reported the Town Council has recently appointment some new members to this commission. The ECAC will meet next on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2022, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL** - None

**15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION** - None

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 27, 2022.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 10:22 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc  
Secretary

Respectfully Submitted,

