

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on February 23, 2021.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jonathan LeBlanc, Bill Salazar, Janet Cushman, John Unghire, Tina LeBlanc, Joyce Hall, Stacy Thurston, Scott Ryder, and Walter Kruzal

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**
  - a. **2020-21 Teacher of the Year – Michelle Burlingame**

Mr. Drezek introduced Michelle Burlingame to the Board. He wanted her to be our first guest once it was safe to bring Board guests to our meetings.

Mrs. Burlingame stated there have been some positives that have come out to the pandemic. We were thrust into technology. She was nominated because of what she had done during this trying time. We are here to support our students and help our colleagues. We developed instructional video's for support staff and students. It was a lot of work, but it was worth it. We are doing things for our students with technology that will have long term positive effects that our students can use now and in the future. Everyone deserves a lot of credit and recognition for everything they have been doing. We all worked together. She thanked her colleagues for everything they have done.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated Mrs. Burlingame for being our Teacher of the Year. This recognition is long overdue. She thanked her as a parent. You had her son for 3 years in a row. She mentioned to her son that you would be at tonight's meeting and he chuckled. Everything you taught him has helped him in college. Congratulations for all your efforts. This has been a crazy year. We are better off now with our technology. Mrs. Burlingame hopes that her son is doing well in college.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mrs. Burlingame for coming to tonight's meeting and being our first guest. He wished her luck with the Lacrosse team this season. Best of luck with both events. Mrs. Burlingame is looking forward to Lacrosse and getting outside again.

Mr. Ryder also congratulated Mrs. Burlingame. This award should count twice this year. He is not sure what the prize is.

Mr. Drezek stated the prize is sitting next to him at the Teacher of the Year Ceremony that is

held at the Bushnell. We are late bringing her here. Both he and Mr. Longey enjoy making this announcement each year. We normally go to the classroom and surprise our teachers. This year it was done via TEAMS. Most of her colleagues were able to use TEAMS is because of her. The high school is lucky to have her, and we are lucky to have Mr. Bourassa. We will have you back again.

Mr. Unghire thanked Mrs. Burlingame and congratulated her for this outstanding accomplishment. You excel at teaching our students. When you think back about your favorite teachers, there is only a handful of teachers you remember who made a difference in their lives. He knows you will be that kind of teacher for our students. Keep up the good work. Mrs. Burlingame thanked Mr. Unghire. That is what every teacher strives to be for their students.

Chairman Kruzel stated he would quadruple the prize if he could. He is not allowed to make executive orders. He thanked Mrs. Burlingame for what you are doing for our school system as well as all our teachers. Please convey our gratitude to our teachers.

Board members gave Mrs. Burlingame a standing ovation.

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

### **a. EPS School Update**

Mr. Drezek stated there are some changes to report, and he hasn't shared this information yet. He has spoken to CAFE about the equity work with the Board and we hope to start this next week. He welcomed Mrs. Cushman to the Board. This is important work the Board will be doing.

Mr. Drezek stated he has received questions from parents about the 2 tickets they will receive to watch their child at winter athletic home events. Unfortunately, we are confined due to space constraints during home games. We are only using a portion of the gym. If a student is not using a ticket, they will be asked to give the extra tickets to their coach to distribute to those as requested. We would like as many that can attend, to attend.

Mr. Drezek stated we have been doing everything the CDC guidelines are now recommending be done. We have been cohorting for some time already. He added that 14 days after you receive your second vaccination, you are no longer required to quarantine if you are a close contact. This has been our biggest concern and detriment to staying open consistently while in a Hybrid model. We still need to protect our staff. This will allow us to have a bit more of normalcy for our students once our teachers have received vaccines even if they have been exposed.

Mr. Drezek stated individuals 55 years and over are allowed to schedule appointments and schools should hold clinics. Holding a designated clinic will allow us to vaccinate town employees, childcare workers, Bus company, EPS Staff, and Parochial Staff. We will need our nursing staff to assist with this clinic. Our nurses have taken the CDC and online component. They are willing to help us with this clinic. We will host a training session for any nurse tomorrow in the area on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> on how to administer the vaccines. This will speed up the process for when we can hold a clinic. He is not sure when we will hold a vaccination clinic. He will take the first available date for us. We need to be flexible. We are ready to hold this vaccination clinic in a day. We need to be flexible. Our nurses will be needed to conduct this clinic. We will not open school without a nurse in the building. Based on this, we will need to call for a remote day or two in March to conduct this vaccination clinic. We have also been told, after the second dose, to be prepared for some side effects for some of the staff. We also need to plan for the second doses. We are coming up on year from the start of this pandemic.

Mr. Drezek added we are struggling to see what next year will look like for our students. If we are able to bring back our kids this year, we will be better prepared for next year. We can assess the needs of our students and have plans in place for next year.

Mr. Drezek stated once we receive the green light for the vaccinations, we will hold our vaccination clinics. We have been told to be ready at a moment's notice. He has been told once you receive your first dose, the State will secure enough doses for your second shot.

Mr. Drezek apologized in advance for the short notice for once we get the date for the vaccination clinics. There will not be a lot of time, and we will move quickly. He is hopeful that all our staff will receive their first dose by March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be as aggressive as we can. A month ago, we didn't know anything. As you are all aware, things can change.

Mr. Drezek announced that students in grades K-5 can attend school 4 days a week starting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. PK students are already back 4 days a week. Wednesday's will remain as remote learning days. Our staff need Wednesday's to connect with their distant learning students. For the students at JFK and EHS, we cannot allow all the students back at this time due to space restraints. Any students at JFK and EHS with an IEP, 504 or any ELL students can come back 4 days a week. It is our hope to bring more kids back.

Mr. Drezek added, if everything goes as planned, and after our April vacation on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 100% of our staff will be vaccinated. It is his intention to bring back all students 4 days a week. Staff will be able to better plan for our student needs during the summer and for next year.

Mr. Drezek stated last year in May, we discussed graduations. Enfield High School did a great job with our virtual and drive through graduation. We will do whatever we can to allow our seniors to walk down the hill at Enfield High School. If everything goes as planned, we will hold graduation outside at Enfield High. Flexibility is the key. If it rains, we will move the date so our kids can walk down the hill and across the stage. He is not saying only the seniors need this. We all need to hang tight and be flexible. We will still need to be socially distant. By June, our staff and students will have had the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Mr. Drezek stated we can start getting our K-5 kids back to school 4 days a week on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Previously, we were looking at March 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the plan and he will send out a letter at the end of the week about this. He is not sure what his Monday phone call will bring us. He urged everyone to continue to be flexible.

Mr. Drezek added we all have short fuses because of this. Hang on, we are almost there. We know parents are frustrated. We get it. He has a senior at home that missed her Junior Prom and sports. She also has not had the opportunity to visit any colleges. Mr. Longey also has a freshman student. We get it and we are doing the very best we can. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Hang on and we will get there. We are almost home. He will keep everyone posted with any new updates.

## **8. AUDIENCES:**

Chairman Kruzal stated since we have people outside that would like to address the Board, we will have one person from inside speak and then one from outside. Once you are done speaking, we will ask you to leave Council Chambers so everyone will have the opportunity to address the Board. Thank you.

Marie Pyzner, Roy Street – Mrs. Pyzner stated we have been living with COVID for a full year. She thanked all 9 volunteer Board members for everything you have done keeping our students

and staff safe. Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey have delivered the best education to every child in Enfield. You have all worked in unity to provide what is best for our children. Thank you for volunteering your time. She thanked Mrs. Cushman for stepping up to take this volunteer position. This speaks volume about her character. She truly cares about our children and education for all our children. The goal is to make sure our children are ready to take on the challenges of the world when they graduate. This has been a long tiring year. We will get back to a new normal and she hopes we can all be kinder, generous, less judgmental and more grateful. Thank you for your leadership and for taking these volunteer positions and all you are doing for our community.

Chairman Kruzel stated 282 people are watching this meeting via YouTube.

MaryAnn Turner, Meadow Road – Mrs. Turner discussed willingness. People get involved because they want to help people and give back to their community. People get involved in politics because they want to. There is a willingness to fill vacant volunteer commission or council positions. They are willing to be part of the Board of Education and Town Council. The number one qualification is a willingness. She thanked Janet Cushman for volunteering her time and her knowledge that she will share with the community. She will share her experiences with you. Enfield volunteers are willing to do the job and to make Enfield a great place to live in. Thank you for making Enfield a great place to live in. Thank you for being kind and for your willingness.

Kelly Hemmeler, Hartford Avenue – Mrs. Hemmeler welcomed Mrs. Cushman. She thanked her for volunteering to this appointment. She looks forward to your experience you will bring to the Board of Education.

Bob Tkacz – Woodgate Circle – Mr. Tkacz commended the members of the Board and Mr. Drezek for a great job and getting our schools open. He thanked Mr. Drezek for his update. He looks forward to a better school system in the future. Thank you.

Amanda Pickett, Guild Street – Ms. Pickett stated February is Black History month. The Smithsonian Museum offers some great events virtually. February is a perfect opportunity to discuss Black History. She would like to see us use our money that will be coming to us to benefit the needs of our students with enhanced learning opportunities. She thanked our teachers for everything they are doing. They have formed relationships with our children. She loves hearing about what her children are learning. She thanked the teachers at the Stowe Early Learning Center and Enfield Street. Each day her son pledges to be safe, kind and responsible. She would like to Board to pledge to their Board Mission Statement from 2017. If we all enter this space with our children at the center, great things are possible. Thank you.

Charlotte Riley, Jondot Drive – Mrs. Riley stated she is the president of the First Readers. The First Readers will have a ceremony for our kids at Asnuntuck Community College on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> in waves. It will be awesome, and she congratulated all our first readers. As a parent of children in grade 2 and 4, this year has been difficult and stressful. This has affected their mental health. She appreciates the students being allowed back on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Her children hate remote days. Please send all our kids back this time and don't let them down. They need to see their friends and teachers face-to-face. Our kids are living with this and need to be in a classroom. Thank you for all your hard work. She thanked all Board members for volunteering.

Erin Baisley, Nonotuck Street – Mrs. Baisley is a parent with three children in our school system. She thanked Mr. Sills for everything he is doing and for working with the parents. They are amazing. We are doing a better job than some of the other school districts. Our kids have live lessons on remote days. At the end of last year, we were told not to worry, and we will make up for it next year. Her first grader has not learned how to tell time. This is something

children have not been taught yet. She does not want to see our kids missing important life skills. She thanked us for the iPads, but students are having difficulties using them because the keyboard is attached. At JFK, students are on them all day. She is concerned with the long-term effects from using them hunched over and the eye strain. The keyboard is not removable. Ergonomically, this needs to be looked at. There may be exercises they could do to help relieve them. This is something we need to be aware of. Her oldest child came home from school and said we had the best day ever – the Wi-Fi went out and the teachers just taught them. Thank you.

Nicole Gemme, Highland Park – Ms. Gemme thanked the staff at JFK. Her daughter has excelled during all this because of her teachers. Her 6 year old is struggling. ECDC has helped the children and are making sure the students are doing their on-line work. She works full time and is not at home on the remote days. Her daughter struggles with this and it is a big challenge for her. She would like to see more support staff added at ECDC and ERfC Distance Learning Center that are helping our children. Doing work with her child at night is difficult. They are up until 8 PM doing classwork. Our children are going home in tears. She is looking forward to March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Josh Hamre, New King Street – Mr. Hamre thanked Mr. Drezek and his staff for doing a great job. You are all rock stars. Everything you have done is with the best interest of the students. The work the staff has been doing has not gone unnoticed. He works at a homeless shelter and he received his vaccination. Getting the vaccinations will help. The second round will have some side effects. The Board will approve the 5000 series policies tonight. These policies impact our military families and LGBTQ families. We need to be here for all our community members and should not minimize their opportunities and protections. They need equal voice recognition. He does not want these policies removed. These policies help protect our children. He recommends a larger venue for our meetings so more people can attend. Thank you.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis thanked Mr. Drezek and his team for everything they are doing. She respects you all and has the utmost respect for you. You have taken a lot of heat. A good leader needs to do the hard things and you are a good leader. She welcomed Mrs. Cushman to the Board and would like her to tell us something about her. Tell us about your passion and vision. People have had some concerns with the Board of Education in the past. Mrs. Turner spoke about willingness and volunteering. We need people to run and volunteer. We need to stop judging. Let's do what is right and use our hearts and do what is right. She thanked the bus drivers for everything they are doing keeping our kids safe. Enfield High and Rachel's Challenge recognized all our bus drivers and gave them masks. You are our heroes and thank you for what you do. She thanked everyone for being here tonight.

## **9. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS:**

Mrs. Hall stated this has been a long month. She also thanked our bus drivers for everything they are doing. She misses not being able to visit our schools and seeing the students as a Board member.

Mrs. Hall stated the Head Start Policy meeting will be held next Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting we discussed positivity and overcoming trauma for children and how to keep them positive.

Mrs. Hall added ERfC Distance Learning Center has provided a needed service for our parents and students. If everything goes as planned, it might not be as active in the future.

Mrs. Hall stated the CREC Council approved the modified constitution and simplified organizational levels. We discussed virtual meetings and discussed holding mixed meetings with individuals in person and virtually. This is something they can now do like we are doing.

Mrs. Hall discussed a new acronym DEI – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The group has done a lot of planning for this. She has a power-point presentation to share with anyone that is interested. Many districts as well as CREC have developed similar groups to when we start our equity work with the Board.

Mrs. Hall added we landed on Mars this week. She finds space exploration very exciting and the videos and pictures they have shown are thrilling to watch. This is something she would have loved to be a part of.

Mrs. Thurston welcomes Mrs. Cushman to the Board. We love the students and are all here for the right reasons. She recommends receiving the vaccinations. They are not mandatory. She has received her vaccinations and the side effects are minimal for some people. It is a relief having the vaccine.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for the update. This is the most positive news we have received since last March. It is important to get our kids back in school. We will be aggressive to get the vaccines for our staff. She thanked you as a parent and as a Board member, we appreciate everything you are doing.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked when the students come back, will they have the option to go back fully or stay remote? Mr. Drezek stated that is correct. We cannot allow students to attend with our hybrid model. They can continue to attend remote or come back 4 days a week for the rest of this school year. It is an either or plan.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about transportation for the K-5 students. Do we need to worry about social distancing? Mr. Drezek stated since the beginning, we have been operating under their guidelines and our buses were allowed to run at near full capacity. We will do what we can to keep spacing in place.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked our school nurses for aiding us with our vaccination clinics. Our nurses have big hearts and she cannot thank them enough for what they continue to do for our students and staff.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the EHS bus drivers were so thankful to be recognized. She thanked the students and Rachel's Challenge for recognizing our bus drivers.

Mrs. LeBlanc understands the spacing concerns for our indoor athletic events. She thanked Mr. Drezek for explaining about the tickets.

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated our EHS Valedictorian – Grace Farris and Co-Salutatorians – Alexis and Cassandra Dean. Congratulations to them all - #girlpower. Hopefully we will be watching them from the football field.

Mrs. LeBlanc also congratulated Aislin Farris for qualifying for the 2021 Olympic trials in 200 meter backstroke. This is amazing

Mrs. LeBlanc expressed her condolences to the family of Keith Nutter. He worked for the town and played an important part with the Torchlight Parade. She sends her deepest sympathy to his family.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mrs. Pickett for participating with the EHS equity phone call held last week. You have a plethora of information regarding Black History Month. She also thanked her for the information you also shared tonight. She appreciates you attending tonight's meeting.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mrs. Riley for the information about the First Readers Ceremony and everything you are doing for our students. She is excited for this upcoming ceremony. You spoke tonight as a parent and what you are experiencing. She commends you for sharing this with us. We have received several e-mails from parents that are struggling. As parents we want to control everything in our kids' lives. We have no wiggle room and we feel helpless when we can't help our kids.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Ms. Gemme and Mrs. Baisley for your suggestions and for coming to tonight's Board meeting.

Mrs. LeBlanc also thanked Mrs. Davis for coming tonight. As a Board member, you need time to learn about yourself and time to reflect and make changes and have an open mind. Politics need to be left at the door.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked Mr. Drezek about our music programs when we go back? Mr. Drezek stated we will get everything up and running. Mr. Reppucci is on top of this. We are doing this with all our programs.

Mr. Ryder stated the plan for K-5 students is to attend school 4 days a week and the students in grades 6-12 with 504 IEP Plans, ELL starting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Drezek stated a formal notice will come out later. We are striving for all students to be back on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ryder stated when we discuss the 2021-22 calendar, he suggests that December 23, 2021 be an early release day with lunch.

Mr. Ryder stated the Parkman PTO will be selling cookbooks as a fundraiser event.

Mr. Ryder reminded parents to go to [edtechhelp@enfieldschools.org](mailto:edtechhelp@enfieldschools.org) if you are having any iPad or technical difficulties. Posting things on the Enfield Forum or Facebook will not get you the help you need. You can also reach out to your child's teacher or principal.

Mr. Ryder stated JFK Robotics will be virtual this year.

Mr. Ryder stated Enfield Plays On lists daily activities on the KITE, Enfield PTO and Stowe websites. The Enfield Recreation Department has Easter and St. Patrick's Craft Kits are available to be picked up on Wednesday's in March at the Central Library.

Mr. Ryder stated EHS Safe Grad will hold a virtual Purse Bingo on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Links can be found on the Enfield High and Enfield PTO.com pages. Enfield Unplugged is looking for volunteers. This event usually occurs the first week in May. Additional information can be found on Enfield PTO.com. Registration for local spring sports is happening.

Mr. Ryder added both Enfield High and John F. Kennedy have posted their second quarter honor roll lists. He feels the students should receive double credit for working so hard and doing your best during a pandemic.

Mr. Ryder stated the Enfield High Program of Studies is available for the 2021-22 school year. You can find this on the Enfield Public Schools and Enfield PTO.com websites. This is important for our current grade 8 students to look at. They will be at the high school in the fall.

Mr. Ryder thanked our school bus drivers for everything they are doing for our kids. He also thanked the counselors and staff for sending out e-mails to parents. It is nice to hear from

you. He also thanked our Rachel's Challenge students for distributing and recognizing our bus drivers.

Mr. Ryder stated the Enfield PTO's will meet remotely next week. KITE has a program they would like to discuss with us. Next week schools will celebrate Dr. Seuss. The Cat in The Hat will be visiting some of our schools outside.

Mr. Ryder stated there is a Wreaths Across America Link on the Enfield PTO.com sites where you can purchase Wreath's now. You don't need to wait until next year to do this. They hold programs all year long. This is something that all K-8 Schools participate in.

Mr. Ryder stated the official PJ Day results are in. We were the 4<sup>th</sup> largest contributor. We raised just around \$7,500. This is amazing even during a pandemic. Enfield always comes through. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder also thanked the audience members that spoke today. Stretching exercises is a good idea. The keyboard on the iPad is the keyboard. The iPads were a tremendous gift. Many school districts are still waiting to receive their devices. He thanked the Superintendent for this gift. He thanked the parents for e-mailing them and for your ideas. We do listen to what you are saying.

Mr. Ryder stated he has 2 children in our schools. The one at JFK is doing great and his other child is struggling with some things. He understands your concerns. It is not easy doing this. Our teachers have been fantastic to work with. Getting our kids back to school 4 days a week will help. This is something he is looking forward to.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about when cameras are turned off or ended early by staff members for remote learners, how will this be proctored? Mr. Drezek stated the administration would address this.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for the athletic ticket information. He asked if there are any concerns with getting the second vaccination for staff members. Will there be enough doses available? Mr. Drezek stated the State has confirmed this. If you receive the first shot, they will order the second dose at that time. He added moving school staff to the front is important. It took some time to accomplish this. He is more concerned about side effects from the second dose. Some people will have flu like symptoms. Mr. LeBlanc agrees that remote learning days might be needed to address this.

Mr. LeBlanc added this information makes him more comfortable. What would be the criteria for our K-5 students coming back 4 days a week on March 22<sup>nd</sup>? Mr. Drezek stated our original date was March 15<sup>th</sup>. We were concerned with the variants of the virus. If there were any changes to this plan, it would come from the governor by an executive order. Our numbers are still in the red zone, but they are also coming down. We will get our tents back at the elementary schools. The weather will be better in the spring. This is the right time to bring our kids back to school.

Mr. LeBlanc stated his hopes are high. This is one of the most encouraging reports about getting our kids back in school. The effects of COVID are here. There are many concerns with the isolation. Mental health concerns are growing and can be found all over the country. Our parents are frustrated, and it is waring on them and our teachers. The vaccine news is showing that our COVID numbers are dropping and this is a good sign.

Mr. LeBlanc stated we are all about our kids. Getting back to normalcy is what we were used to with many activities. Our kids need this again.



Mr. LeBlanc stated Mr. Longey has been working with CHC and we are putting together information that we can look at in the fall. He is looking forward to attending his first Youth Mental Health and Wellness Advisory Council meeting tomorrow. He would like to invite Jean Haughey to attend an upcoming Board meeting in March to share information about this work.

Mr. LeBlanc welcomed Mrs. Cushman to the Board. He also wished Mr. Sills and Mr. Ryder happy birthdays.

Mr. LeBlanc stated with the help of Brianna Beckstrand and Jen Ryan from KITE, we developed a flyer to address questions from parents for Board members to answer. We have also added links on the flyer. It has basic information about the Board. He would like us to share this flyer with the schools, Facebook, PTO websites and post on the website and in any school newsletters.

Mr. LeBlanc shared updates from KITE and the Stowe Early Learning Center. The Pop the Trunk event was a huge success. Thirty-five families learned about the programs at STOWE.

Mr. LeBlanc stated kindergarten registration is usually held in-person. This year the event will be held virtually due to COVID. The content will be the same as previous years. Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> parents will be able to pick up a packet driving by at Thomas G. Alcorn School in the front of the building from 6:30 – 8:30 AM and 5:00 – 7:00 PM. A video presentation about registration will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> and on April 22<sup>nd</sup> a virtual Q&A session with the principal of your child's school will be held. Additional information will be forthcoming about these events.

Mr. LeBlanc congratulated his Baseball players that made the honor roll. All eleven students made the honor roll. He is proud of them all. We tell the students, school comes first.

Mr. LeBlanc stated he was told that the flagpole at Enfield High School needs some work. Can we look into this? Chairman Kruzel stated he is sure Mark Gahr is aware of this.

Mrs. Cushman thanked everyone for their welcoming comments. She thanked Mrs. Davis and she appreciates your curiosity about her. She has lived in Enfield for 25 years. As parents, we want what is best for our kids. Their wellbeing and safety are important. We hold individuals that are involved directly and indirectly with our children with a high standard. She is a special education teacher and home educator. Town Council Member Lori Unghire approached her at an Enfield Together Coalition meeting about the vacant position on the Board. Her children are all grown, and she looked at this as an opportunity to serve our community and the children in Enfield. She thanked audience members for coming to the Board meeting.

Mr. Salazar thanked Mr. Drezek for the good news. These dates are important. Holding graduation outside will be exciting. He hopes this will continue with other events coming back for our students. The events during your senior year are important and help you as you move towards graduation. He is glad we are getting back on track. This is good news and he hopes nothing will derail this plan.

Mr. Salazar congratulated our 2021 Teacher of the Year Michelle Burlingame. He also wished our EHS student Aislin Farris good luck with her Olympic trials in Omaha in June. She would be a great representative of our community. Congratulations to you all.

Mr. Salazar asked about the mentoring program. We will be allowed to meet with our students in person. Mr. Drezek stated he is hopeful about this. We need to get things up and running first. He knows the importance of having mentors. The connection isn't as strong virtually. If there is a way, we will do this. Maybe we can have you meet with your student outside while being socially distant.

Mr. Salazar thanked him for considering this. The time spent with the students is reduced when virtual. The connections we make in-person are stronger than virtually. Thank you for considering this.

Mr. Unghire stated we are almost there. He thanked Mr. Drezek for the hope and encouragement but we still have a few hurdles to overcome. He asked if there is anything else that we can do to expedite this? Have we contacted our State Representatives about the doses? Is there a way our nurses could administer the doses after school to help expedite the process? Sometimes the squeaky wheel gets things done faster and to get the answers we want.

Mr. Drezek stated after our last meeting, he has been very squeaky, and it has not gone unnoticed. Chairman Kruzel has witnessed this. We are exhausting every avenue. Lobbying has gotten us to this point. Every State Representative is doing the same things. They are trying to do this as equitably as possible. He has more faith in what they are telling him now. As soon as he has any additional information, he will let the Board know.

Mr. Unghire stated this is encouraging to her about holding an in-person graduation. What about holding in-person proms? Mr. Drezek stated we are discussing this now. Socially distancing would still need to be in place. We are trying to do things for our kids.

Mr. Unghire agrees that anything we can do for our students to make it better is encouraging.

Mr. Unghire addressed audience member comments. Every member on this Board has a heart. We all love our students and want what is best for them. The 5000 Series being presented for adoption help to exemplify our good hearts by making sure our students will not be discriminated, harassed and bullied.

Chairman Kruzel thanked his fellow Board members for addressing all his comments. Mrs. Cushman has been appointed to be on the Board Finance Committee and she will also be an alternate for the Curriculum Committee. She has been assigned as Edgar H. Parkman's school liaison. Updated lists will be sent to you in your Friday update.

Chairman Kruzel attended the Four Chaplains mass at St. Patrick's Church. The mass was well attended. He thanked the Veteran's Council and the John Maciolek Post for sponsoring this. We are the only town that does this each year. It is a great recognition for our veteran's. he encourages you to attend if you can.

Mr. Salazar asked how many years has this mass been held? Chairman Kruzel stated around 50 years, it started being held at St. Adalbert's and is now held at St. Patrick's. It is a great ceremony

Chairman Kruzel thanked everyone for speaking tonight. Some of your comments brought tears to his eyes. He doesn't like looking at the screens either. As soon as we can, we will get our kids back in school. He misses going to our schools and seeing the students. He loves our town and our staff. He is so proud of everything we are doing. We are close. Thank you.

Mr. Unghire welcomed Mrs. Cushman to the Board. He knows her and she is solid high quality person and a welcome addition to the Board.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

### **a. Approve 5000 Series – Second Reading**

Mr. Ryder moved, seconded by Mr. Salazar that the Enfield Board of Education approves the

5000 series as presented for a second reading.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Salazar stated the Policy Committee unanimously approved these policies that are being presented tonight for a second reading. We have not received any additional feedback regarding the policies.

A vote by **Roll-Call 9-0-0** passed unanimously

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. APPROVE 2021-22 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2021-22 School Calendar.

**Discussion:**

Mr. Ryder would like for December 23<sup>rd</sup> to be an early release day with lunch.

Mr. Salazar asked why?

Mrs. Thurston added that a lot of students will not attend school the day before a holiday.

Chairman Kruzel added it will still count as a full day of school. Mr. Ryder added a lot of people travel during the holiday.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated this will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> time approving the calendar when her child will graduate. Seeing the graduation date is bittersweet.

Chairman Kruzel thanked the administration for this calendar. He asked if we need to make an amendment or can we approve the calendar as amended? Mrs. Zalucki stated we can approve it as amended with this change.

A vote by **Roll-Call 9-0-0** passed unanimously as amended.

Chairman Kruzel asked if we need to waive policy #6111 School Calendar(s)? Mr. Drezek stated no. The way the policy is worded on section #3 barring any contractual conflicts, we will not need to waive the policy. The Board could if they would like, but it is not needed.

Chairman Kruzel stated we are covered. Mr. Drezek stated yes, we are covered.

**b. DISCUSSION AND ACTION IF ANY REGARDING THE 2021-22 BUDGET**

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. LeBlanc that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2021-22 Budget as presented.

A vote by **Roll-Call 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Curriculum – Mr. LeBlanc reported the February 18<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Committee was cancelled due to the weather. Our next meeting will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Finance – Mr. Unghire reported the next Finance Committee meeting will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Policy – Mr. Salazar reported the Policy Committee met on February 16<sup>th</sup> and we started reviewing the 6000 policies recommended by Mr. Longey. The Policy Committee will meet next on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Leadership – Chairman Kruzel stated the Leadership Committee met last night and we discussed the budget and our equity training.

Joint Facility – Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facility Committee will meet on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss the first phases of the roofs at Eli Whitney and Hazardville Memorial. We have invoices to approve.

Youth Mental Health & Wellness – Chairman Kruzel stated we will add this committee to our list of committee reports.

JFK Building – Chairman Kruzel stated the Blue wing is open. Mr. Ryder stated they didn't move - they are still in the library. They will wait for the next wing to open. Chairman Kruzel stated on YouTube you can see the pictures that were taken of the progress made. They are on time and under budget. Great job by Gilbane.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported they are scheduled meet in March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Joint Insurance – Chairman Kruzel reported they will also meet in March.

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

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2021 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-2** with Mrs. Thurston and Mrs. Cushman abstaining.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL** – Nothing to Report

**15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION** – Nothing to Report

**16. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

### **17. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2021.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary