

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 25, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on May 25, 2021.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Salazar, Janet Cushman, Tina LeBlanc, John Unghire, Stacy Thurston, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan LeBlanc and Joyce Hall

ALSO, PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent & Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent

Chairman Kruzel stated that Mr. LeBlanc and Mrs. Hall are unable to attend the meeting tonight.

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **PAWS Time/PACK Time**

Mr. Drezek welcomed Hazardville Memorial Teachers Amber Venoutsos and Kelly Rossetti and Eli Whitney Teacher Karen Suleski. He also welcomed Hazardville Memorial Principal Lisa Hunter and Assistant Principal Andrew Duperre and Eli Whitney Assistant Principal Kristen Fitzsimons.

Ms. Venoutsos, Ms. Rossetti and Ms. Suleski gave the Board an update about the development of the PAWS Time program at Hazardville Memorial and how they expanded the PACK Time program to their sister school at Eli Whitney. They explained the progress made at each of the schools and the outreach opportunities for students to make a difference in the Enfield Community. They also explained their plans to continue this program next year and to create welcome videos for incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten students.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked them for this presentation. She loved everything about it. The development of this program will help the students as they grow. There are so many benefits to this. The students are meeting many different teachers and students from this program. She is a huge fan of peer support and likes the sister-school collaboration with this program. She enjoyed seeing the student's projects. It was great to see what they were using from home for the egg drop. You have included many family members to get involved with the student's projects. She can see how excited you are about this project. You are making Enfield Public Schools amazing. Thank you.

Mr. Ryder thanked the teachers for teaching his children. He was very excited to see you were coming tonight. He saw this program when they were starting it at Hazardville Memorial and

now at Eli Whitney. This program has had such a positive impact at both schools. The behavioral issues have decreased at both schools. Continuing with this program is very important. Thank you.

Mr. Unghire also congratulated them all for a job well done. He sees the value of this program by getting the students involved and developing relationships outside of their classrooms.

Mr. Unghire asked about the hands-on activities. Ms. Venoutsos stated we were looking for STEM related ideas that the kids could do. We tried to tie in current events that they could relate to.

Mr. Unghire stated the activities are to promote interaction between the students. He asked how they rearrange the student groups, so they are not with the same students all the time. Ms. Venoutsos stated they are with the same PAWS time and PACK Time groups.

Mr. Ryder added Board members received an e-mail from Ms. Venoutsos on May 3rd that showed examples of some of the other flip grids. He has been posting these on the www.Enfieldpto.com website.

Mrs. Cushman appreciated getting to see this presentation. She went on Flip Grid to see the classroom interactions with the other students. They had some great ideas. It was great to see their interaction with the other grade levels. This is a great idea and so many positives have come out of this program. Thank you.

Mr. Salazar congratulated them for a great job and thanked you for your hard work. The level of creativity is contagious. It is important for them to have this connection with their peers that binds them to their school. Both PAWS/PACK programs provide them with this and can help them create friendships. This was a job well done.

Chairman Kruzal also thanked them for this presentation and for the program you are bringing to our students. He also congratulated Mrs. Hunter, Mr. Duperre, and Ms. Fitzsimons for everything they are doing. He has faith in our staff, and you have just proved that again. You all go above and beyond. It is phenomenal what we do for our students and it all starts with our teachers. Thank you.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. EPS Update

Mr. Drezek stated people are watching our Board meetings. The minute he announced we would be bringing in guests, Mrs. Hunter contacted him. This program was created by our teachers. He also thanked them and added that our students are in very capable hands.

Mr. Drezek stated regarding reopening plans for the fall, we are still waiting for clarification from the State. We are planning for now and know the plans will change. We will submit our plan to the State and will place it on the website for public input. He is waiting for the rules before we post anything. We may need to make some alterations and tweak some of the high school schedules if some restriction will still need to be in place. We will have lunch waves. Seniors will still have senior privileges. The plans will be sent out to the students and parents when they are finalized.

Mr. Drezek stated details regarding graduation will be coming from Interim Principal Fenton. Graduation will be held outside and guests will be permitted. We are not sure how many guests will be allowed. We are striving for 2019 before COVID changed things. Our graduating seniors will walk down the hill. If it is raining on June 22nd, we will hold it on June 23rd. If we need to hold it with a little drizzle, we will hold it.

8. **AUDIENCES:** None

9. **BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS:**

Mr. Salazar asked about the mask policy and what is the mandate for schools. Mr. Drezek stated the State Department of Education and State Department of Public Health mandates through the remainder of this school year, staff and students must wear masks in all schools. We know mask restrictions have been lifted, but we must continue to wear masks for now even teachers that have been fully vaccinated. He is not sure what the mandate will be in the Fall. This may change and we are waiting for further clarification.

Mr. Salazar stated any mandate changes will come from the Governor. Mr. Drezek stated that is correct and any changes will come directly from the State.

Mr. Salazar thought this clarification was needed to help explain that to the public. The Board of Education can not change the mask mandate.

Mr. Unghire stated he attended his first Curriculum Committee meeting and found it to be quite interesting. He also welcomed Kathy Zalucki back in-person.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for the clarification regarding masks. Waiting for the reopening plans is important and smart. The State made so many changes when we were trying to open.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated that she has received some questions about live streaming the graduation. She will wait to hear from Mr. Fenton about this.

Mrs. LeBlanc shared some upcoming events for Safe Grad. They will hold an event on May 26th all day at Collins Creamery; they will hold a clothing and bedding drive 10-1 PM on June 5th at Enfield High School on the parking lot. Seniors and senior parents will need to fill out a Safe Grad form by June 4th. Blank forms can be found in Mr. Murray's office.

Mrs. Thurston stated the ERfC Toast of the Town fundraiser event will be held on June 4th. Tickets can be purchased at www.erfcinc.org.

Mrs. Thurston asked if we have made any plans for summer school. Mr. Drezek stated we are still finalizing plans for summer school. Both JFK and EHS summer school will be held at Enfield High School. We are trying to find one location for all our K-5 summer school. We are looking at possibly holding 3 2-week sessions to accommodate our teachers. We are still looking for staff. Transportation is available.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated EHS Junior parents will hold their first Safe Grad meeting on June 9th at 7:00 PM in the front of the high school. If you are interested in helping with this year's graduating class at Sonny's Place, you can meet at 6:30 PM in the front of the high school on June 9th.

Mr. Ryder thanked the Memorial and Whitney staff for your presentation. Community day will be held on Friday, June 11th for both schools. June 14th and 15th will be the last in-person days except for JFK with lunch for our K-5 students. Students will receive a packet since they will be turning in their iPads. Memorial and Whitney material collections with dates and times have been posted on the www.enfieldpto.com website pages. Hazardville Memorial is looking for parent volunteers for an event being held on June 3rd at 6:30 PM. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Hunter.

Mr. Ryder congratulated all the First Readers. They held a ceremony last night at Asnuntuck. He also thanked Mrs. Riley for all her hard work with this event. Congratulation to all our new readers.

Mr. Ryder thanked the families from Memorial and Whitney for the cereal food drive they held and was seen in the presentation tonight. They also held a food drive for Buzz Robotics. Thank you for donating to both food drives.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney is looking for T-Shirts to make jump ropes to be used on Field Day on June 11th. Students will braid them together as a field day project. If you would like to drop off any gently used T-Shirts by Friday, June 4th.

Mr. Ryder stated it is the one-year anniversary of George Floyd's death. He added that all lives matter because black lives matter. We have all been impacted by what has occurred over the past year directly or indirectly. We have started making progress, but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done. He looks forward to being part of this work when the Board starts their equity work on June 1st.

Mr. Ryder stated the flip grid videos for incoming classes is a great idea. He would like our administrators to look into this especially for JFK. He would like to see them for each of the grade level building changes, for our students.

Chairman Kruzel also attended the First Readers event. This is a great program for our students. He showed the Board the new tree that was planted at Eli Whitney to replace the tree that was cut down.

Chairman Kruzel stated that parents are very appreciative for the vaccine clinic being held for students. He has been volunteering at the Annex. They are taking walk ins at the Annex.

Mr. Ryder stated ff you receive a shot this month, you are guaranteed the second shot at the Annex.

Mr. Drezek stated the second shot for high school students is on June 2nd. Any student that received their first shot will be fully vaccinated by June 22nd.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approve 2020-21 Lester J. Bodley Scholarship Recipients

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2021 Lester J. Bodley Scholarship for Student A and Student B as presented.

Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel stated a male and female student will be awarded a scholarship per the requirements of this scholarship. He read the requirements of the trust.

A vote by **Roll-Call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

b. Approve Enfield High School Class of 2021 Safe Grad Contribution

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mr. Unghire that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Enfield High School Class of 2021 Safe Grad Contribution.

Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel stated this is for \$1,000 that will go to the Enfield High School Safe Grad.

A vote by **Roll-Call 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Mrs. Thurston reported the Curriculum Committee met on May 22nd. We discussed the EMT 2-credit course and offering an Emergency Medical Certificate. Mrs. Cushman added the course is for 2 semesters. This will allow students to opt out after the first semester. Many students have found this course is not for them. Having the EMR component, allows the students to take half of the course and receive partial credit.

Finance – Mr. Unghire reported the Finance Committee did not meet on May 10th. Our next meeting is scheduled for June 14th.

Policy – Mr. Salazar reported the Policy Committee does not have any meetings scheduled at this time. We have completed our review of the recommended policies.

Leadership – Chairman Kruzel stated we need to schedule a Leadership meeting.

Joint Facility – Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facility Committee will meet on Thursday, May 27th. We are moving forward with our plans for the Memorial/Whitney roofs.

JFK Building – Chairman Kruzel reported the Building Committee will meet in June. We are moving along with this project and we are still on schedule.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee meeting will meet on June 3rd.

Joint Insurance – Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Insurance Committee met on April 20th. He is not sure of their next meeting date.

Youth Mental Health – Chairman Kruzel did not have anything new to report on this committee.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2021 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Board has received an invitation to attend the Enfield Adult Graduation Ceremony on June 3rd at 6:00 PM at the Enfield Annex.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 25, 2021.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary