

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held on September 29, 2020 at Enfield Town Hall located at 820 Enfield Street in Council Chambers.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S):** None

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**
a. **EPS School Update**

Mr. Drezek stated during public speaking tonight, he will take his mask off. The last few days have been quite busy. It is nice to see everyone in the same room again. We were forced to make some decisions regarding closing some of the schools for a couple of days. He takes making this decision very seriously. He clarified the difference of students being 3 feet apart and 6 feet apart - State guidelines are students should be at least 3 feet apart while they are in school. The CDC recommends them being 6 feet apart. We are operating under the guidance of the State of Connecticut and will use 6 feet apart when feasible.

Mr. Drezek stated we came back to school using a HyBrid Plan with desks being 6 feet apart. We have had 3 positive COVID-19 cases – two at Enfield High School and one at Henry Barnard Elementary School. Once we received notification, we started our contract tracing protocols. We had a plan in place for contact tracing but until you have done this, you don't realize what you are up against. The process worked and we learned some lessons. Contract tracing takes a lot of time.

Mr. Drezek stated once he is notified about a positive case, he contacts the Health Department. We look at who has been in close contact with the person. Close contact is someone that was within 6 feet of the infected person for 15 minutes or longer. We look at where they were and start the process of contact tracing – where they are, looking at class lists, seating arrangements and transportation, etc. It takes a lot of time to gather the information. Each phone call can vary in length up to 30-40 minutes. This becomes very real for them and they have many questions you need to address with them while gathering information.

Mr. Drezek explained self-quarantining and if you have direct contact with someone that has tested positive you will need to stay home. If you test positive you will need to self-isolate

yourself. You will need to be by yourself in a room for 14-days. If you have been notified, you need to self-quarantine for 14 days even if you take a test and it is negative. A rapid test will confirm if you are negative. We are requiring the full COVID-19 test. We can not force testing, but for peace of mind, this is recommended

Mr. Drezek explained his rationale with the timing for making any school closure decisions. His number one obligation is to notify anyone that was in close contact with someone that has tested positive. By the time we received confirmation about a positive case at EHS on Wednesday (a remote day), it was around 4 PM. His cutoff for making a decision to notify parents, students and staff at the high school is around 6 PM. He will not send a call out late to parents. He knew we would need time to contact those that were needed. He thanked the staff at Enfield High School and Henry Barnard. Their calm demeanor helped to reassure parents and students. He knew he would not have all the information in time to open our schools on Thursday and Friday. Our Building and Grounds personnel needed time to reclean the buildings. He thanked Ken Kiddo, Mark Gahr, Donald Nunes, and all the B&G staff for everything they did.

Mr. Drezek added that every case is different. He spoke to Patrice Sulik on Wednesday about EHS. She said aren't you glad you only have half of the kids in school. We are very fortunate to be in a Hybrid Model because our desks are 6 feet apart and we only have half of the students present. If a student inadvertently moved a desk, they would not be 6 feet apart anymore.

Mr. Drezek stated as we were contact tracing for the Henry Barnard case, the information you receive can lead to other people that will need to be contacted. We were fortunate that Mr. Graham was doing the contact tracing at Barnard. We are finding that staffing is becoming difficult with some staff needing to quarantine. That is why he made the decision to close Barnard. Safety of our students and staff are our number one priority.

Mr. Drezek stated we were notified about another confirmed case at EHS on Sunday. It took us 5 days at EHS to conduct our contact tracing. He knows what our staff did with the contract tracing. There are things we don't control. Our plans worked and we met our protocols. We cannot control the length of a phone call or if they will even answer the phone when we call. We also cannot control that people will be forthright with the information they give us. We are facing many obstacles when we are conducting our contract tracing.

Mr. Drezek stated he was confident that we would have enough subs at Henry Barnard. Normally, we use around 60 subs a week for the district. Last week, we got 3 from Kelly Services. He was also unsure if we would have a nurse in the building. He will not open a building without a nurse. He understands the parent's frustrations with the quick decision to close on Friday. We are doing everything we can for the right reasons.

Mr. Drezek stated staying in a Hybrid plan a little longer is because of this reason. We needed the extra time to see how this would work. He thanked all our staff for remaining calm and protecting our kids. He is proud of them all. This is our new world. He is not happy about this. DPH has stated the more that districts go back fully, the more cases we will have, and contract tracing will take longer and longer. Experiencing this, he believes this and asks for your patience.

Mr. Drezek stated if there is a confirmed case, we need to follow our protocols. We have had 3 confirmed cases so far. Parents are keeping their children home and are following our recommendations and keeping their children home if they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, these will not be our last cases. We are still waiting for additional for test results to come back. We are trying to keep everyone safe.

Mr. Drezek stated Enfield is different than other districts. Our schools are larger than some

other towns. We cannot control the circumstances and they are all different. The end game is to get our kids back and keep them in school. He does not want to pull them back out. There is still a lot we do not know.

Mr. Drezek added the numbers in Connecticut are up today. We will keep us as normal as possible while keeping everyone safe. The opinion that matters the most is what is best for our kids moving forward. The Hybrid plan is not the end all. He is proud of our teachers working with a Hybrid plan. We know there are some things that need to be fixed. We were able to get our kids back in school and give them some normalcy. We have gained experience that can help us in the future. We also have staffing concerns. The more people that are in self quarantine, the less that are in our buildings.

Chairman Kruzel stated October 2nd is just around the corner. Do you have any recommendations you would like to share about our plans for October 19th now?

Mr. Drezek does not believe he will change his mind in 3 days. He wants kids back in school with some kind of normalcy. It took us 5 days to conduct contact tracing with 40% of the students at EHS. If we have a confirmed case at EHS and we are fully back, he will need to cancel school for 2 weeks. He cannot keep every kid 6 feet apart and if there is a positive case contact tracing will take twice as long. If students are 3 feet apart, that is twice as many students we will need to contact.

Mr. Drezek added with the Hybrid Plan, we have Wednesday for remote learning. The students at Barnard are in cohorts and it took us 1 day to conduct contact tracing. With Wednesday, we gain 3 days to contact trace, clean the building and look at staffing. We will also have the weekend to clean the buildings.

Mr. Drezek is not confident that if we are fully back, we could be closed for 14 days. Our responsibility is to conduct contact tracing and notify everyone that has been in direct contact. If we closed for two weeks our student athletes would be done. He doesn't have the heart to take this away from them. We made the decision to close abruptly in the spring. Kids can absorb a day or two closing. If we closed for 14 days, this is one of the factors we need to consider. We are hopeful if we stay in this phase, we will get quicker at contact tracing. This decision is not being made just for the athletes. We need to think of what is worst for our kids. What is the lessor of two evils? Coming to school part time with the chance of a potential closure or being out for 14 days. If there is a case, all schools would be closed. This includes our special education students. This is better than where we were last year.

Mr. Drezek recommends staying in our Hybrid Plan until Monday, November 9th. November 11th is Veteran's Day and we are closed. Assuming, we do not have any influx, he would then suggest going 2 days in-person learning, Wednesday remote learning and then 2 days in-person learning. Students would be eased back into school.

Mr. Drezek added health experts are saying we will see an increase in October. Some districts are going back fulltime this week. He is not a health expert and does not have enough data about going back full time. He could wait until the end of the week to gather more information and then make a decision. He would not be surprised to receive a phone call about another positive case.

Mr. Drezek stated he knows people will not agree with his decision. He has spoken to our teacher leadership and there are some kinks with our Hybrid Plan. We are working through them. Getting our kids back fulltime, is not feasible. His recommendation is to continue with the Hybrid Plan until November 9th. He knows there will be a difference of opinion with his decision. We are dealing with real obstacles and hurdles. He is comfortable with this date. People want to know what we are doing. He needs to be able to look at himself in the mirror. What is the best decision for our kids with the least amount of interruption? That is his recommendation and people want to know what we are doing.

Mr. Ryder asked when you said close the buildings, we would be conducting remote learning on those days. Schools would not be closed; the buildings would be closed. Mr. Drezek clarified that buildings were closed for in-person learning.

Mr. Ryder noticed when the high school closed on Thursday, Friday and Monday and Barnard closed on Friday, we followed the Wednesday schedule. Would that be like a snow day schedule where we would follow our Wednesday schedule or if we are out for 2 weeks would a Monday be a Monday, a Tuesday would be a Tuesday, etc.?

Mr. Drezek stated we designed the Wednesday schedule for that reason to be remote. If we were to try to continue our regular schedule, we were not prepared for that because we still had in-person days. In the event we are forced to go fully remote, we reserve the right to change that. For now, staying with the Wednesday remote day is the least confusing. Any day a school is closed and including snow days we would use the Wednesday schedule. He does not anticipate having any again even though the State Board of Education has not ruled on that yet. The State has approved remote days. If you receive a robo call the night before what would be a snow day, it would be considered as a remote day of learning for all students. We will follow our Wednesday remote day for any unanticipated in-person school closings.

Mr. Ryder added this is good information to know. If you are home because your child's building has closed, you will follow the Wednesday remote learning schedule.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for clarifying this. She asked about the Wednesday schedule for the students that are attending HAPA half day program or Asnuntuck programs? Mr. Drezek stated the Greater Hartford Arts Program issue has been resolved and we are working on the Asnuntuck program.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about parents that wanted to opt their children back in for October 16th, can they do this, or must they stay with what they are currently using until November 9th to opt back in?

Mr. Drezek stated the October 16th date is only fair to keep in place for families to decide if they would like to keep with what they have or opt back in for in-person learning or wait the additional 3 weeks before they make a decision. They still have the option to opt back in for in-person learning on November 9th.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated you are recommending we will stay in a Hybrid Plan until November 9th. Would we still offer to families the option to use a strictly remote learning plan?

Mr. Drezek stated yes. It is his understanding they could continue using a remote learning plan for the remainder of the year. He does not see the State changing that.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about living in a house with someone that has symptoms and waiting for test results, you should stay home.

Mr. Drezek stated if you or anyone in your household has been tested and you are waiting for results, stay home until the results are back. Do not come to school and do not send your children to school. This means everyone in the home needs to stay home. If we send you home because you have symptoms, you are out for 14 days even if you receive a negative result.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated with the positive cases we have seen, have more parents opted to going fully remote? It is scary out there and some parents have taken their children from Hybrid to fully remote.

Mr. Drezek stated that is another delicate balance. Forty-one families at EHS have opted out due to the one confirmed case. JFK parents are also opting out. He has heard from a number of parents that were hesitant to send their children to school full time. They like the Hybrid Plan. If we go back fully, a lot of parents would pull their kids. We want the kids to attend school. Parents were scared to send their children initially, but the teachers have made them feel safe and at home. That is a testament to all our staff and that is why we have been successful with our Hybrid Plan. He wants to encourage parents to send their children to school and not keep them home.

Mr. Salazar stated our focus is not on athletics but on education. Have you thought of moving the senior athletic recognition days forward? Mr. Drezek stated they are doing that now in the event circumstances change. Mr. O'Connell contacted him about this and started front loading some of the games for this reason.

Mr. LeBlanc respects the Superintendent's decision about staying with the Hybrid Plan until November 9th. Has there been any thought about K-2 students going back with a progression plan?

Mr. Drezek stated yes, we would like our younger learners to attend school more. But then we thought of how would we feed them? They are eating in their classrooms and they are sitting 6 feet apart. If we bring them all together for a class of approximately 19 students, we will need alternate spaces. We could not guarantee the 6 feet distances when they are eating with their masks off. We understand the importance of 6 feet, and this is challenging. Students will not be able to go outside when the weather changes. The guidelines have not changed. We are experiencing positive cases now. If they were eating and a positive case developed, they would all need to go out for 14 days.

Mr. Drezek thanked Smyth Bus for everything they are doing. The guidelines will let us run the bus at full capacity. Finding bus monitors was a harder challenge than finding substitutes. We cannot guarantee that our little ones riding the buses will keep their masks on. The bus drivers cannot stop the bus to make sure all students are wearing their masks. If there was a positive case and the student was on the bus and they took off their mask, the contact tracing would be phenomenal. We are looking at all our hurdles for eating, transportation and contact tracing.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about not leaving a message when you are contact tracing. Mr. Drezek stated we can't solely leave a voice message. We can leave a message, but we need to make contact to confirm they received our message.

Mr. LeBlanc asked if a new survey would go out. Mr. Drezek stated he would like to send out another survey to the parents to let them know they can opt back in if they would like. We have done internal surveys to see how the Hybrid Plan is working with our teachers. He wants to make it clear to families that they can opt back in. He was preparing to make a recommendation at the end of the week, not now. He apologized to the faculty and principals for not telling them this information sooner.

Chairman Kruzel stated he asked the Superintendent the question. Don't blame the Superintendent.

Mr. Drezek added we keep hitting obstacles. We are trying to make this work. This is not about athletics. This is not perfect, and he does not take the recommendation lightly. We are trying to avoid disappointing our kids.

Mr. Unghire asked if we follow up on the students that have tested positive to see how they are doing. Mr. Drezek stated yes. Once we are notified of a confirmed case, we will notify close contacts and need to keep a data base on all our information. We will share this information

with the NCHD. They will also keep track of the data. They will also notify us of any confirmed cases. The school and Health Department will contact the confirmed person and will keep tabs on them.

Mrs. Costa is in support of your recommendation of a Hybrid Plan with a driving decision to go back fully or fully remote. Parents and students should understand the matrix. We are months away from the risks going away. Until there is a vaccine, and everyone takes it, the risk is there. She is concerned with the lack of academics during a pandemic and the mental health of our children. Parents have options. If they had something more concrete that they were basing their decisions on, it would help them with the decisions they make about their children.

Mr. Drezek does not have a definitive answer because the goal posts keep moving. We knew there would be obstacles we would need to face. He is basing his criteria on what is worst for our kids. He is making decisions on what is more impactful for our kids. Having face time and controlling the amount of time they are out or running a risk of bringing them all in and needing to shut down for an extended amount of time. If school was closed for two weeks, we would be remote learning. The availability for social, emotional, and mental health supports in a remote environment is less than when we have them in an in-person environment. We would be eliminating the time they would be receiving services because we would not have the block of time that is needed. We know from the spring the emotional toll this has taken on our kids. How can we guarantee more in-person time? If we can continue to do this in a Hybrid Plan, that is the best scenario for now. He is concerned with the amount of kids being together and the transition rate. We need the in-person contact. What risk is greater? We can control the time they are together, as long as we are using a Hybrid Plan.

Mrs. Costa stated we are planning to send our students back on November 9th. Way beyond that date, there is the likelihood that there will be more cases and we might need to be out for a period of time, that sounds like criteria. As long as there are new cases, this is more than a November 9th decision to remain Hybrid.

Mr. Drezek stated we do not know what the decision from the State will be for guidance going forward. If the transmission rate remains where it is, there may be more flexibility that will let us decide about our programs. It could seem on the surface until there is a cure, we will not be going back full time. We want to go back fully. He does not want to take this from our kids. We are dealing with what we know now and will continue with the dialogue. Smaller districts are going back but based on conversations he has had with other Superintendent's, they may close sooner. He is happy to learn more as we go forward. We do not have any data on this yet. He is hoping to learn more in the upcoming weeks that we can implement here. We still have a lot of unanswered questions.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mr. Drezek. He also thanked all the staff that have made phone calls to parents. He has gone to Central Office and has seen what they are doing. This is our new life.

Mr. Drezek stated his decision does not require a vote from the Board. We will move forward with this plan. He will start notifying the public about this.

Chairman Kruzel stated he also felt this was something we should address now in Council Chambers.

8. AUDIENCES:

Michelle Wilcox, Cheryl Drive – Ms. Wilcox is a life-long resident and teacher in Enfield. She thanked Mr. Drezek for being so respectful to our students and staff of Enfield regarding our health and wellbeing. She teaches at a K-2 in Enfield and students are struggling with social

distancing and wearing masks. She could not imagine having them all in the same classroom 3 feet apart. This would be an unsafe environment. The Hybrid model is far from perfect and the problems can be worked out and adjusted without harming the safety of our children and staff. She is proud to be an Enfield teacher.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Ms. Davis thanked Mr. Drezek for leading the district in the correct way during these tough times. You are putting the safety of our kids and staff first. She has concerns about why the 5000 series policies were tabled. She thanked the Board members that voted for having a first reading of these policies. We have policies that are working, and you are making changes and are removing policies. Why? You are here to represent all of us no matter what your walk of life is. She will be a voice for all our children. We should not be removing policies that protect all our children's rights. There are laws that protect our children's rights. She thanked Mr. Drezek regarding sports. Our coaches are amazing and are keeping our kids safe. Our staff are doing a great job with our kids and keeping their masks on unlike Board members here in Council Chambers. We need to practice what we preach and lead by example. Thank you.

Kelly Helmler, Hartford Avenue – Ms. Helmler congratulated Mr. Drezek for doing a great job. She would not want your job. She addressed all the Board members – you are all volunteers and you have never gone through anything like this before. This is very difficult, and you have not received that credit that you all deserve.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. LeBlanc stated the CIAC came out with a date today for spring football. Mr. Drezek stated the CIAC had the option to move fall sports. Spring football can start on February 7th. He knows this is a sensitive subject. We knew the Department of Public Health would not change their minds back in July. This plan is not ideal, but it is something for the kids to do. Now there are 3 more options to consider. He is just as confused as everyone else.

Mr. LeBlanc stated he is just looking for clarification for Enfield football. Mr. Drezek understands they will play 7 vs. 7 with no contact competition. No tackling and one hand touch. He credits the CCC coaches and athletic directors for coming up with this plan. He approves this plan. You can pass any park as you drive around, and you will see kids playing soccer and little league with spectators. We will allow for 2 guests (spectators) per athlete per home game athletic contest. We will eliminate evening events. Masks will be required, and social distancing must be maintained. Our security teams will enforce these rules. This is where we left football. These kids have been through so much. They will have 7 vs. 7 and lineman challenges. Now the CIAC has come up with 3 options. Option 1 is if you need to close you can start on this date; Option 2 is if you close for a longer amount of time you can start on this date and Option 3 is students that play spring sports can start on this date. We wanted to flip football and baseball in July. We are moving forward with this plan of 7 vs. 7 and lineman challenges.

Mr. LeBlanc appreciates the districts support for our student athletes. He is disappointed with the lack of guidance we have received from the CIAC. He does not see the difference with their definition of higher risk and moderate risk. Soccer is just as high of a risk as football. He is confused with the criteria and why football is being singled out.

Mr. LeBlanc stated we have virtual and distance learning and will not need any more snow days in the future. Will this apply to sick days? This is not a bad idea to consider for students. The student could use their iPads if they are home sick with other illnesses to catch up on schoolwork they are missing.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked our students and staff for following our protocols. The students and staff are not having any difficulties wearing their masks.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about library books and bills parents received for not returning books. The books could have been left in lockers when we left back in March. What can we do about this? Mr. Drezek hasn't heard anything about this. If they were holding books from March, they can turn them in now. He will look into this.

Mr. LeBlanc asked about the lack of staffing due to contract tracing and self-quarantining. Even if your results are negative, you will still need to quarantine. This could raise a bigger problem with faculty. Mr. Drezek stated when we require a staff member to go home and quarantine and the test comes back negative, they are still out for 14 days. If staff members are testing themselves for their own peace of mind and it comes back negative, they are still required to come to work. We did not tell them to get tested, they must come back to work. If they are living with someone that has tested positive, they must stay home for 14 days.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for addressing his questions.

Mr. Salazar stated contact tracing takes a lot of time. He is willing to help in any way if needed. Mr. Drezek thanked Mr. Salazar but there are privacy concerns, and you are a Board member that might pose a conflict. Our contact tracing has gone well because they recognize who is calling them. They recognize their principals that are calling. But you just never know, and we might need you for something else.

Mr. Salazar was notified last week that the Enfield Public Schools Mentoring Program will be starting up again on-line. Many of our kids could benefit from spending time with an adult. It is a very rewarding program especially now with mental health concerns. If you are interested, please contact the schools about the mentoring program.

Mr. Unghire thanked everyone that has gone out of their way to make him feel welcome on the Board. He thanked the Superintendent's Office for providing him with the needed materials he has received and for their assistance and support. Mr. Drezek thanked Mr. Unghire for his kind words.

Mrs. LeBlanc agreed with Mr. Unghire about the assistance and support from the Superintendent's office. She went to the farmers market last weekend on the town green. It was amazing. There were a lot of crafters there. She spent a lot of money and started her Christmas shopping.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated parents like our masks. This is her favorite mask. As soon as we can start working with the schools about purchasing masks that would be great.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated her family is a sports family and we have a football player. There just weren't any good decisions that were made for our seniors. Taking sports away was never a good decision. It was emotional for our kids with the back and forth. She does not have any faith in the CIAC. It feels like they are selling magic beans by getting the kids hope up. We have had winters with snow in March.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about the Lamp Lighters drama club productions? Mr. Drezek stated sports are held outside and music and drama are held in doors. This is something we are still waiting on this. We are trying to figure this out. Mrs. LeBlanc added that concerts can be live streamed to display the student's talents.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked about student attendance. If you are home sick how are you marked absent? Mr. Drezek stated if you are logged in and the teacher can take attendance, it will not be marked as absent.

Mrs. LeBlanc heard about nurses being able to give quick COVID tests in the school districts.

Mr. Drezek stated that heard about a potential deployment of tests for school districts and wondered who would be administering them. He has not seen anything on this yet. Mrs. LeBlanc believes that would bring in a lot of other questions, getting parental consents.

Mr. Drezek stated Mr. O'Connell has sent out the website for ordering items from the school store. I have also asked him to include something about masks and to share that with Mr. Ryder for the PTO's.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked Mrs. Wilcox for attending tonight's meeting and speaking. She thanked her for being a staff member that works with our youngest learners. She also thanked Ms. Davis for being here tonight and speaking about something you believe in so strongly.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated the Hybrid plan has been very positive. It was nice to see her son remote into his classes when they closed. He is having difficulties in one class and has set up times to meet with a teacher on Wednesday virtually. The expectations are clear, and the communication has been good.

Mrs. LeBlanc is very anxious with the upcoming national election and all the civil unrest that is being felt across the country. This is being felt down locally as well. She would like us to come up with a diversity pledge for Enfield and to work with the Town council and include peer mentors to work with our younger students. No matter what happens with our election, she feels the day after with not be good. She wants our town to come together. She wants all our kids to feel safe.

Mrs. Hall commented that that was the last day for the farmers market. Mrs. LeBlanc believes they are having one more day at the end of October.

Mrs. Hall stated at one of our previous meetings, she reported that 3 and 4-year old students would be required to wear masks. She is happy to report based on the information she received from Jaclyn Valley about our 3 and 4-year-old students, they are mask role models of the world. They have mastered wearing masks. The masks are not interfering with the students learning in a Hybrid model. The students are enjoying the new arrival and dismissal procedures and using the exterior classroom doors. The students have transitioned into school very easily.

Mrs. Hall stated the ERfC Distance Learning Center is also proceeding well. Their enrollment has increased, and they have met the necessary quota of 50. They have been accommodating parent visits by setting up appointments after the program has ended at 6:00 PM. This way parents can see where their children are during the day. There is a YouTube video about the DLC that she can share with anyone that is interested.

Mrs. Hall stated the Farmers Market will meet again this Saturday, October 3rd from 10-4 PM. This event is sponsored by ERfC and their will be plenty of community vendors present.

Mrs. Hall stated Saturday evening, ERfC will hold a Farm to Table Dinner. They will have two sessions and reservations are needed. They still have openings for the 4 PM session. She went last year, and it was wonderful. For more information you can go to www.erfc.inc.org.

Mrs. Hall stated there was an article in the newspaper about wearing a mask in classrooms while learning and observing, you cannot see smiles. A teacher came up with an idea and held up a picture of her smiling to show to her students. Another difficulty is when you are learning a language, you cannot see how words are pronounced. That has led to masks that are open.

Mrs. Hall stated New London school district and the public health department has suggested

not going back fulltime, but they were going to do something for the students in grades K-2. They are going to maintain using a Hybrid plan like we are.

Mrs. Hall stated that based on the predictions from the National Health Department, we can expect a serious flu and cold season including COVID that may require us to keep in a Hybrid model even longer than November.

Chairman Kruzel asked Mrs. Hall to repeat the Farmers Market event that is being held on the Town Green. Mrs. Hall stated it is on the Town Green from 10-4 PM.

Mrs. Thurston would like to know what is Ms. Valley's secret for keeping masks on? She has a building of 80, 90 and 100-year olds that will not keep their masks on. She would love for her little ones to show them how it is done.

Mr. Ryder stated our Mentoring Program Coordinator is Jenn Howell and she can be reached at 860-253-4737 or you can reach her at jhowell@enfieldschools.org. He was a mentor, and this is a great program to be part of.

Mr. Ryder stated the Eli Whitney will hold their PTO meeting on zoom tomorrow at 6 PM.

Mr. Ryder gave a mask update – he spoke to the vendor and he will meet with the PTO's presidents to see how many parents would be interested and they will be able to purchase masks. This information will be posted on www.enfieldpto.com.

Mr. Ryder stated iPad insurance has been extended to October 2nd. The cost for insurance is \$35 and there is a sliding fee scale. If you would like to pay for the iPad insurance using www.myschoolbucks.com, you will need to setup a separate account under activities store, then you will click on the EPS technology fee. The money should not be applied to the meals account. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

Mr. Ryder stated tomorrow is an early release day and a distance learning day. Messages have been sent out about this. He added that any communications that parents are receiving from their principals and Superintendent's office will be posted on the www.enfieldpto.com under the appropriate schools. This is an easy way for parents to see the messages that they might have missed.

Mr. Ryder thanked KITE for the K-2 school picture books he received that welcome you to the school. This is such a welcoming book and it is a nice memento to have.

Mr. Ryder stated Hazardville Memorial will hold a jog-a-thon outside for a fundraiser event in October. This information can be found on the PTO Facebook page. We will also hold another fundraiser event for Memorial teacher Lisa Dupuis at the Enfield Pizza Palace on October 6th from 4-10 PM. Mention you are there for Team Lisa.

Mr. Ryder thanked Mrs. Wilcox, Ms. Davis, and Ms. Helmler for speaking tonight. He thanked all the PTO parent volunteers. Facebook can be tough at times. He urged you to be kind and send your questions to the building principals. He thanked our custodial staff, buildings and grounds staff, secretaries, classroom teachers and specialists for everything you are doing and keep smiling. He also thanked Mr. Drezek, Mr. Longey, Mrs. Zalucki and Mrs. Sullivan for everything you do and will continue to do for our district.

Mr. Ryder stated he has a PSA to share with everyone. COVID testing will be done on October 2nd from 9-1 PM at the Enfield Senior Center in the parking lot.

Chairman Kruzel stated he is happy that we are here in Council Chambers live. He thanked the staff at Town Hall for the upgrades to the chambers. It is great to be back. He gave a recap

of 2020 and added this has not been a great year. We have been on top of this since we went out in March. This has been tough on everyone.

Chairman Kruzel thanked the audience members that spoke tonight under public communications. He thanked everyone for all the hard work you have done. What our staff has done and continue to do is great. They re doing what is needed and he has always had faith in our staff. He thanked the staff for the contact tracing they have done. He sees what they are doing and how they are continually raising the bar.

Mr. LeBlanc asked if there have been any plans to consolidate bus routes? Mr. Drezek stated our buses operate on a tiered system. They start with EHS, then they go to JFK and then the elementary schools. If a parent changes their mind about their child riding the bus, we still need to keep that seat open. He has not explored consolidating any runs. He is okay with our buses running currently with a smaller number of students on them for now. If this continues, we can explore it later.

Chairman Kruzel stated the bus routes are timed out. If we add to the routes, the run will be longer. They have a set route they travel. The bus might look empty at times. He gives credit to Smyth Bus and to our bus drivers and thanked them for what they are doing.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approve 5000 Series Policies – First Reading

Mr. Salazar would like to table the 5000 Series Policies tonight and add it to an upcoming agenda. The Policy Committee previously met, and he did not fully understand what was discussed at the time. He would like the committee to meet and review this again.

Mr. Salazar moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education tables Item #11a Approve 5000 Series Policies.

Mr. Longey added there is no discussion when an item has been tabled. You will go directly to your roll call vote. The motion is to table the 5000 series.

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

b. Approve Town Council Resolution – Resolution Suspending the Facility Use Policy and Use of Town Owned Buildings

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Town Council Resolution – Resolution Suspending the Facility Use Policy and Use of Town Owned Buildings.

Discussion:

Mr. Ryder stated this is for all outside users. This is due to our current situation with COVID indefinitely.

Mr. LeBlanc stated this should be re-evaluated down the road. Mr. Ryder added the Town Council would need to bring this back up.

Chairman Kruzel added this goes for the outside drama productions. We are eliminating outside users from using our facilities for the time being.

Mr. Unghire would like the policy number to be included in the resolution. The policy was adopted by the Town Council on July 7, 2008 and revised on March 18, 2019.

Chairman Kruzel stated the Town has resolutions not policies. We will need to amend the original motion to include the policy #1330.

Mr. Unghire stated we need to identify the policy number in the resolution.

Both Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Costa considers this amendment as friendly. The amended motion read as:

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Enfield Board of Education approves the Town Council Resolution – Resolution Suspending the Facility Use Policy #1330 and Use of Town Owned Buildings.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum – Mr. LeBlanc reported the Curriculum Committee met on September 17th and we made curriculum changes due to COVID. Our next meeting will be held on October 15th and we will be meeting in-person at Alcorn.

Finance – Mrs. Costa reported the next Finance meeting will be held on October 12th.

Policy – Mr. Salazar reported the Policy Committee met on September 22nd remotely. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 20th. We will need to reschedule this date due to conflicts.

Leadership – None

Joint Facility – Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facility Committee met last week. We have finished the roof at Barnard. They will repoint the chimney and lengthen the smokestack. We have completed the necessary reports for the State and are waiting for final reimbursement of the project.

JFK Renovation – Chairman Kruzel reported we will meet on October 1st. We approved the technology piece last week.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee is scheduled met in December.

Reopening – Chairman Kruzel stated this committee can be removed.

Joint Insurance – Chairman Kruzel reported they will meet in October.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mr. LeBlanc that the Special Meeting Minutes “A” of September 15, 2020 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mrs. Hall moved, seconded by Mrs. Thurston that the Special Meeting Minutes “B” of September 15, 2020 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 9-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL: None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION:

Mrs. LeBlanc stated she received information from Connie Provencher from ERfC about the Farmers Market. They will meet on the Town Green on Saturday, October 3rd from 10-4 and every Sunday during the rest of October.

Chairman Kruzel reported that we have 159 people watching us on YouTube. Thank you for watching us and thank you ETV.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Thurston moved, seconded by Mrs. Costa to adjourn the Regular Meeting of September 29, 2020.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary