

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on January 10, 2023.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **United Sound**

Mr. Drezek stated last year the State of Connecticut put together a competitive grant process called Voices for Change for student led initiatives and projects. At the CABE/CAPPS Convention, Commissioner Tucker was the keynote speaker at the luncheon, and she singled out two high schools (districts) that went above and beyond and was extremely proud of the way they would be using the funds that were student driven. Enfield High School was one of the schools. He welcomed Mr. Reppucci, Ashley Schell and Daniel Bergman to tonight's meeting.

Mr. Reppucci stated he is extremely excited to be here tonight to talk about this program. Just before the pandemic, Ms. Schell brought me information about United Sound. She is a former Enfield student and is now our Enfield High Band Director. We jumped on the chance to bring the Voices for Change program to Enfield. She spoke to students about this program, and we put a proposal together and sent it in and were awarded a \$20K grant. We used the money to purchase equipment for students that would not be able to. We also provided some adaptive equipment for students if needed and paid for the startup costs. United Sound is a national program, and we are the first high school in Connecticut. The program runs once a week after school. When Ms. Schell put this program together, we were looking for a special education teacher to participate and Mr. Bergman joined us. He is also a musician, and his son is a member of United Sound.

Ms. Schell stated her vision and goal when she started college was to make sure she never needed to turn any student away as an educator from making music. This has always been a focus for her. She wrote a book funded by Syracuse University called Band Together Creating an Inclusive Instrumental Classroom that will provide cost-effective, time effective, and adaptations that do not impact the quality of musical ensembles, so Band Directors like herself

do not turn any students away. She saw United Sound at a conference she attended when she was teaching in Virginia. This checked all her boxes as who she is as a teacher and musician. She is excited to bring this program to Enfield.

Ms. Schell introduced the chapter presidents Charlotte Poltronieri and Kallianna Zaugg. Both students spoke about the program, the times they meet, student musicians, being mentors and what they do, communicating and being responsible leaders.

Mrs. Pickett stated she does not remember being this smart when she was in high school. Thank you for your presentation. This is such a great program that is led by student initiatives. You know what it takes to make a welcoming, safe and inclusive school community. This is a demonstration of equity in action. This is such a beneficial program for all involved. What do you need from us to help sustain this and how can we help this program to grow?

Mr. Reppucci stated we will present this program to the Curriculum Committee as a new course within the school day. Holding this during the school day will allow for more students to participate. Music is for everyone. The grant covered all of the startup costs. There is a registration fee per student, but the program is self-sustaining at this point.

Ms. Pickett loves how you are already thinking about this innovatively and making the program more accessible. She looks forward to this at the Curriculum meeting.

Mrs. Acree thanked them for this great music program. She loves this concept. Music is near and dear to her as a retired music teacher. Kudos to the students that assisted you writing the proposal. Including special students will benefit from this program. It takes practice and hard work being a peer mentor, reading music and helping the students with fingering. This takes a lot of discipline and coordination. Thank you for thinking about others. They will have the opportunity to learn and become musicians. She also likes the fact that they will perform alongside other students in the ensembles. She is looking forward to your next concert. Thank you very much.

Dr. Calnen stated this is truly inspiring. This is really important because there is so much emphasis on language and math achievements which is okay. In the process, we lose sight of the creativity of learning music and art. He congratulated them all for a job well done.

Mr. Hamre congratulated them all for bringing this program to Enfield. Being co-presidents, you have demonstrated strong leadership. Playing music is an art. Music is a wonderful thing. He picked up a guitar when he was 12 and hasn't put it down. He loves seeing this involvement and inclusion. It is great that you are giving all students a chance to be involved. He will stop by one of these days to see the students performing.

Mr. Unghire congratulated them all. Music is a language to those that play and those that listen to it. You should all be commended and proud of what you have accomplished. We are extremely proud of you all.

Mr. Ryder stated grant writing is a difficult thing. You not only helped to write the grant, but you received the grant is amazing. This is something you can put down on your academic resume. This is a skillset that will make you stand out from others. Music is magical. Thank you for peer mentoring with our students. He asked if any of the students are planning to continue your music education like Ms. Schell did? Several of the students raised their hands.

Madam Chair thanked them all for coming tonight. We first heard about United Sound from Mr. Hamre, and we were very excited about this program. She is not musically inclined. Music speaks to her soul, and it has such a calming effect. She is glad we have this program. You will form friendships and will bond over the music and teaching. She appreciates this program being moved forward to the Curriculum Committee. The program is currently one day a week. Having this be a more robust program at EHS would benefit additional students. She asked

about enrollment numbers.

Mr. Reppucci stated we have 3 student musicians and 3 mentors. We are hoping to grow these numbers.

Madam Chair added by having this program during the day, you will be able to increase the number of participants. She is a huge proponent of programs being run by students for students. They can form partnerships and connections. You have a meeting with the Commissioner of Education as next steps for this program. She hopes this happens. We have a lot of great things in Enfield, and she would love for the State to know what we are doing with this grant. There are other towns that will also apply for grants.

Mr. Reppucci stated there is an alliance proposal for alliance districts at Uhart that we will attend and will discuss this program and hopefully other districts will want to participate. Ms. Schell added we are sharing this program with other alliance districts so we can bounce ideas around and get feedback. It is exciting to be part of this program.

Madam Chair agreed it is exciting to be the leader with this program. Being able to collaborate with other districts can be beneficial. This is a really exciting time for you all. She appreciates the students and staff dedication to this program.

Mr. Drezek stated this is a big deal. The Commissioner of Education wants to come and see this program. You should all be extremely proud of what you did. She wants to see what you created. This is a testament to what you have accomplished.

Madam Chair asked if this program is only at the high school and can it be at the middle school? Mr. Reppucci stated this can be at the middle school. One of the students added we are the first high school to adopt this program in Connecticut, but 4 middle schools offer this program. Ms. Schell added having this at the middle school and high school would be great. East Windsor has this program at their middle school.

Madam Chair added we were just able to see the band rooms at JFK, this would be a perfect time to introduce this program there.

Ms. Schell invited all Board members to come see them.

Madam Chair thanked them all for coming.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo reported the door decorating contest awarded Ms. Grout as the winner. She congratulated all participants. Midterms and finals will start on January 18th and will run through January 24th. Grab and go lunches will be available for students. Semester 3 starts on January 25th which is also an early release day. The year book committee is looking for senior group pictures from middle school and elementary school.

Student Representative Kayla Surprenant reported the Buzz Robotics build season started on January 7th. Wrestling had their first wrestling meet. The girls basketball played on Monday, the boys will play tonight and boys ice hockey will play on Friday. The JFK Chorus will perform on January 18th, the JFK orchestra will perform on January 19th, Prudence Crandall will have a concert on January 26th at EHS, Eli Whitney will have a concert on January 27th at EHS and Edgar H. Parkman will have a concert on February 2nd at EHS.

b. EPS Update

Mr. Drezek also welcomed everyone back and wished them all a Happy New Year. We will still be offering free lunches through the end of February for students. He thanked Mrs. Edwards for securing the funds to continue this for students. She has notified parents about the extension. We are hopeful that we will be able to continue free lunches a bit longer.

Mr. Drezek stated at our last meeting, we received a presentation from Ms. Middleton with a snapshot of where we are. We started off this year with our equity statement and a SEL presentation. He will present his budget recommendations at our next meeting. This has been a strange year with legislation changing, and grant funding through Covid relief that is expiring. One of the questions that came up is we know where are kids are after the last couple of years, but what are we going to do. There is a concern with students in grades 2 and 5. It is now January, and we know the impact from this. Some students have had setbacks when moving up to the next grade level or schools. We need direct targeted intervention for these students. We have offered in the past a student success program and after school programs. We are looking at an afterschool intervention program for kids that have already been identified in grades 2 & 5. If funding and staffing is available, we may include other grades. We have interventions in place at the middle school and high school. At this time, we are not sure about staffing for this program. He urged staff members to support this initiative. We need to make sure these kids are receiving interventions they need to be successful for the upcoming transitions for the next school year.

Mr. Drezek added you are all aware of staffing shortages. He is talking about this now to give parents enough notice to make plans. We have offered summer school the past 2 schools years. He does not believe we will be able to off this again.

Mr. Drezek stated he received over 150 parent requests to be part of this committee. He sent out e-mails for his Superintendent Advisory. He did this on his own and is not sure if parents received them. He was just informed that this did not work. He will have Mr. Bourassa send out an e-mail to parents for him. He is looking to start the first of the series of meetings before the end of this month.

c. JFK Grand Opening - as presented

8. AUDIENCES

Madam Chair read a prepared statement about expectations for audience participation. She reminded audience members about Policy #9325.2 Order of Business and Meeting Conduct and explained about audience participation. We will utilize a 5-minute time limit for audience participation tonight. Thank you.

Kelly Jackson, Meade Lane – Mrs. Jackson wished everyone a happy New Year. She asked if Buildings and Grounds could fix the large pothole at the entrance to Eli Whitney School. Thank you.

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Circle – Mr. Jonaitis spoke about the agenda item that will remove the Invocation and Moment of Silence. These are public meetings and we have always had moment of silence, silent meditation or prayer. Removing this is wrong. What will you remove next, the Pledge of Allegiance. This has been done in other places. This Board has made many mistakes. You have interjected yourselves in areas you never should have. This is crazy. He urges you to not remove this item. Boards, Commissions and Councils have always done this. At least keep a moment of silence. This is part of americana.

Liz Davis, North Maple Street – Mrs. Davis also wished everyone a Happy New Year. United sound is amazing. We have so many amazing talented students and staff in our schools. We just keep enhancing their education – thank you. She is thankful her child goes to school here. She looks forward to hearing them play. She does not feel that removing prayer is wrong. Just because we have been doing something for years does not make it right. We

educate ourselves and move forward. Prayer should not be part of the Board of Education meeting. She thanked them for everything you are doing and to keep moving us forward.

Jonathan Grande, Spruceland Road – Mr. Grande also wished everyone a Happy New Year. He appreciates everything you are doing. There is way too much hate going on and removing prayer is hate against god. It is not offensive to pray. The NFL outlawed prayer. Last week at a football game, a player was injured on the field, and everyone came together and prayed. When it comes down to life and death, we all came together and that is what is important. The Board of Education is not dealing with life and death matters. He can understand removing prayer from Board of Education meetings and from schools. He does not agree with removing a moment of silence. A moment of silence will not be offensive to anyone. Please consider this when you go to vote on this item. Thank you.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Acree stated all the students are back at Prudence Crandall after a relaxing vacation. The students have completed their Digital Citizenship lessons by all grade levels. She shared what they learned. They will hold a Literacy and Family Engagement night on January 25th. Students will be able to read, play math games and have hot chocolate with their parents.

Dr. Calnen gave an update on Covid and urged residents to consider wearing masks indoors.

Dr. Calnen stated at the monthly Kite meeting Carol LaLiberte has been elected to replace LeAnn Beaulieu. He thanked Leann for everything she has done for us.

Dr. Calnen stated ECDC has filled all of their 28 slots. The funds they receive will be used for staffing, and professional development learning and supplies. They have been conducting one-to-one virtual sessions. Mrs. Julie Carroll is our homeless liaison. She has a grant that deals with homelessness. He gave an update on service referrals, and 38 ECDC families have signed up for the Sparkler program.

Dr. Calnen stated flyers for the Heritage Fair will be going home with students. They are currently recruiting groups to represent different cultures and countries. The fair will be held on February 25th at JFK from 11:30 AM - 4 PM. There will also be entertainment.

Dr. Calnen stated the Parent Leadership Academy will hold their first meeting on February 24th. The PEP program is in need of Spanish speaking facilitators. Please contact the Enfield Public Schools if you are interested.

Dr. Calnen stated the First Readers will hold a trivia night on February 25th at Mount Carmel at 7 PM. They will hold a graduation ceremony for First Readers on March 6th at JFK. You can go to the first readers website for additional information.

Dr. Calnen stated the December 2Gen meeting has been reschedule for January 19th. They will discuss affordable and high quality childcare.

Dr. Calnen stated the Head Start Policy Committee met and enrollment remains at 102 and the attendance rate is 81%. This is pretty good considering we are dealing with a triple epidemic. He gave an update on services and interventions being provided.

Dr. Calnen they have over 170 participants with Readiness Readers, vision screening have been completed and all students have received their vaccines.

Mrs. Cushman extends her condolences to Maddie's family and friends.

Mrs. Cushman stated at the last meeting Mr. Unghire shared a story about a teacher and an activity she did with her students. There are probably many more stories like this in our

community. United Sound is changing the lives of many. Many stories will come from this program. The students and families from Edgar H. Parkman gave many well wishes to a student that had surgery before the holiday. She is thankful for our community and our schools.

Mr. Hamre stated JFK will hold a virtual PTO meeting on Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30 PM. Yearbooks are on sale on Friday, January 13th. They will also hold a Winter Chorus Concert on Wednesday and a Winter Orchestra Concert on Thursday. Please refer to the JFK newsletter for other upcoming events and important dates. He is looking forward to the JFK open house and hopes many families are also able to attend.

Mr. Hamre congratulated the United Sound students and for bringing this program to the middle school. This program can have a positive impact for many students.

Mr. LeBlanc stated this is his second term on the Board of Education. He is really encouraged to see us getting back to normal and having students attend our meetings again. As a Board, we have seen what we have gone through over the past 2 years. We have our plan of action and course of action for grade 2 and grade 5 students. He is glad to see us back on track.

Mr. Unghire also wished his condolences to Maddie's family. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Unghire stated Hazardville Memorial collected 410 pounds of food for the Enfield Food Shelf. They will hold a virtual PTO meeting on January 17th. They have found that by holding PTO meetings virtually, more parents are able to participate. This proving to be more effective and inclusive.

Mr. Unghire gave an update about the robotics field trip Enfield High School students took to Boston Dynamics. He thanked John Dague, Carolyn Marr and Lauren Jefferson for facilitating this event. He also thanked the bus driver. They were able to tour the facility and saw the robot in action. This was a very educational event. Boston Dynamics is a world class robotics manufacturing facility and were featured on 60 Minutes. This was very inspiring for our robotics and buzz robotics students. The Buzz robotics students took a class picture when they were there. Everyone was extremely well-behaved. He would like to invite the robotics students to attend an upcoming Board member and give a presentation to the Board.

Mr. Unghire was unable to attend the JFK walkthrough before the break. He plans on attending the grand opening event on Thursday.

Student Representative Morgan stated Buzz is currently starting their build season. Madam Chair added she will keep this in mind to have them attend a meeting in the spring.

Mrs. Pickett stated Monday, January 16th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Students will have the day off. She urged everyone to check out the kingcenter.org. to learn more about MLK. She would also like to know how our Education Equity Director is supporting this day.

Mrs. Pickett stated she attended the Stowe Early Learning Center Gingerbread event. She had a lot of fun and loves seeing the interactions at Stowe between the students, staff and families. This place is amazing and has a special place in her heart.

Mrs. Pickett stated progress reports will come out on Wednesday. Many teachers have sent out e-mails to families about this. Enfield Street will hold their PTO meeting on January 12th. She urged everyone to look at their newsletter. It is full of great information. She read about Prudence Crandall's Literacy and Numeracy Night. She loves this and this reminds her about the Digital Citizen Night she attended. She is struggling when it comes to grade 2 math and helping her child. She is thankful for the curriculum guides the teacher sends home.

Mrs. Pickett looks forward to Mr. Drezek's budget presentation. She loves your transition plan. Covid has had an impact on our children. She has seen this firsthand with her children's learning. She urged staff members to participate in the grade 2 and 5 interventions. This is a great way to address our student's needs. She is hopeful that our teachers will also see the need for this program. We know you are overworked. Please consider doing this. This program will impact our students greatly.

Mrs. Pickett added we receive monthly discipline reports. She would like to better understand how this data is shaping our SEL and behavioral health efforts. She is disappointed to hear about summer programs. She is looking forward to us receiving a robust budget that will help address our student's needs. In the past we have been very cautious with our ask to the Town. The data that was presented should not be a shock to anyone. The budget drives this and she is asking for a greedy budget to meet the needs of our students and staff.

Mr. Ryder also attended the Stowe Gingerbread event. He had a great time. Progress reports will be available online for elementary students.

Mr. Ryder stated the Eli Whitney Winter Chorus Concert that was scheduled for January 11th has been postponed and will be rescheduled. The PTO meeting will be held on January 18th. During the month of January, when you purchase a Big Y recycled bag, Eli Whitney will receive \$1. Mad Science will be start up again on January 19th afterschool. Eli Whitney will hold a Family Night on February 23rd from 6-7 PM where you can build a mascot and Hazardville Memorial will hold their Family Night on February 28th. You can order your mascot kits on the enfieldpto.com website.

Mr. Ryder spoke about the Heritage Fair. This is such a great event where you can talk about your families heritage and traditions. He will be reaching out the PTO's about this event. If you have any questions, please contact KITE or go to enfieldkite.org.

Mr. Ryder stated Wreaths Across America will be selling wreaths for next year's event that will be held on December 16, 2023. He thanked Pam and Lori for everything they do. Each year this event is amazing and so much work goes into planning this. You can purchase 2 wreaths for \$15 until January 15th. Please go to enfieldpto.com for more information.

Madam Chair stated she saw the decorated doors at EHS, and they were beautiful. She congratulated Ms. Grout for her win.

Madam Chair thanked the superintendent for the tour they received of JFK. We really enjoyed seeing all the classrooms and spaces. She grew up in Enfield and attended JFK. This building is beautiful and is what our students, families and community deserve.

Madam Chair thanked Ms. March for the invite on January 25th for the Crandall Literacy and Numeracy Night. They will also have a winter PJ night the same night from 6-7 PM. They will have fun math games. Some of these math games are quite hard.

Madam Chair thanked Student Representative DiFronzo for giving the Safe Grad update.

Madam Chair would like to have a Digital Citizen presentation at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Drezek stated Dr. Wiley will come to our February or March meeting. She was scheduled to attend tonight's meet and requested we move it.

Madam Chair added that she has attended some of the girls' basketball games and they are very exciting to watch.

Madam Chair stated the United Sound program, and their vision is amazing. Any time students and staff work together, the result is so positive. She would like to see them come back in the fall or October for an update.

Madam Chair stated she received an e-mail from a parent about our schools and reports. She asked about if we have seen any connections between the students and staff. She would like to share something about this but needs to talk to the teacher first. She thanked Mrs. Griffin.

Madam Chair stated we are wearing purple tonight to honor Maddie. We are all sending our deepest sympathies and prayers to her family and friends.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Adopt Policy Revisions – Second Reading

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Enfield Board of Education approves the policy revisions as presented as a Second Reading.

Discussion:

Dr. Calnen asked about Policy #5113.2 and item #11. He believes in screenings but screenings should be done in consultation with a primary health care provider or mental health professional. It may sound trivial, but screening when done in isolation can lead to some bad outcomes. He would like a change to be made to #11.

Mr. Longey stated the proposed change is coming from legislation and it is mandatory.

Mr. Ryder added #11 is the revision to this existing policy that we must vote on.

Mrs. Pickett added when you call the 211 information line, they are mental health providers. They would be the appropriate people for screening purposes.

Mrs. Pickett stated in that policy it mentions the Board must implement a truancy prevention or intervention model. She would like to read this. Attendance has been discussed a lot and she would like to see a presentation on this. It is also noted on this policy and other policies that the Board shall create a district team. This policy refers to an attendance team. She would like an update on these teams and what they are doing.

Madam chair asked if those are changes or just comments. Mrs. Pickett stated they are comments. In the policy it says the Board shall implement intervention models. In reality, this is happening at the school levels. We are not implementing them. She would just like to know more about them.

Mr. LeBlanc stated after the first reading and after hearing the comments made about Policy #9325.2 he would like to keep a moment of silence on the agenda. He would not be opposed to this change.

Mrs. Acree agrees with Mr. LeBlanc and what Mr. Grande stated during audience member comments. She would like to keep a moment of silence on the agenda for reflection.

Mrs. Cushman stated that was her suggestion regarding Policy #9325.2 and keeping the moment of silence in the policy. She has concerns with the definitions in Policy #5145.511. The policy definitions need to be rewritten. The last sentence in the first paragraph should be kept as it is a good example of a clear and concise definition. She would like both policies to be referred back to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Unghire also agrees with what Mrs. Cushman stated and that Policy #5145.511 should go back to the Policy Committee. Her suggestion is clear.

Mr. Unghire stated regarding Policy #9325.2, we should keep in the moment of silence. He

agrees with Mrs. Cushman and Mrs. Acree. He understands there are court cases that are challenging school districts and by having prayer in the invocation it can cause potential risks. There may be circumstances when a moment of silence or moment of reflection is needed as mentioned by Mr. Grande. This policy should also go back to the Policy Committee.

Madam Chair stated a moment of silence can be added to any meeting agenda.

Mr. Unghire added this should be there and should not need to be added. Madam Chair stated we held Leadership last night and this should have been discussed then or after the first reading.

Mr. Ryder added if discussion is over, he would like to call for the vote.

Mr. Unghire stated he discussed this with his caucus after the Leadership meeting last night. If we met before Leadership we could have discussed this. Isn't that what a second reading is for. Madam Chair added the time to discuss this should have been after the first reading.

Mr. Unghire stated what you are hearing tonight is a result of our discussion. Madam Chair stated there was time for you to discuss this from the last meeting. There are a lot of discussions that happen before the first and second readings.

Mr. Unghire added we are just trying to give our position regarding these policies and give our opinions.

Madam Chair stated she was available all day to talk to you on the phone in honor of working together and transparency and keeping both caucuses aware.

Madam Chair asked audience members to refrain from making comments.

Madam Chair clarified that a moment of silence is always welcome on our agenda. She called for the question and asked for roll call.

A vote by **roll call – 3-6-0** failed with Mr. Unghire, Mrs. Acree, Dr. Calnen, Mrs. Cushman and Mr. LeBlanc in decent.

Madam Chair added these policies will go back to the Policy Committee. Mr. Ryder added all 4 policies will go back to the Policy Committee.

11. NEW BUSINESS: None

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Mrs. Pickett reported we will meet on January 19th.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee met on January 9th. We reviewed the 2023 budget.

Madam Chair asked audience members to refrain from talking.

Dr. Calnen reported we reviewed Nutrition Services Reports. We also discussed free lunches and TAG.

Policy – Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee will meeting on January 31st.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Board Leadership met before on Monday and our next meeting is on February 13th.

Joint Facility – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facility Committee will met on January 26th.

JFK Building Committee – Mr. Ryder reported the JFK Building Committee has invited us all to attend the January 12th grand re-opening of John F. Kennedy at 6 PM in the auditorium.

Joint Security – Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee met in December. We have not set a date for the next meeting. We are meeting quarterly.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup – Dr. Calnen stated the name of the committee is the Enfield Mental Health & Wellness Workgroup.

Madam Chair asked Alex Giner to briefly stop the Board meeting at 8:42 PM while audience members were leaving. The Board meeting resumed at 8:43 PM.

Dr. Calnen reported we are working under the Department of Social Services. This committee is a Board of Education initiative. We agreed on the Mental Health Committee. Unfortunately the Mental Health Committee has been unactive. This might be a good time for the Board to consider what we are seeking to achieve with this committee. What is its mandate and who should be on this committee, and who should be providing mental health services, how should services be delivered by a mental health provider or in the context of a school-based mental health center to whom should services be offered to students or also to teachers or perhaps to school personnel.

Madam Chair stated based on the non-information we are receiving from the Enfield Mental Health & Wellness Workgroup, we are wondering if we can have a follow-up SEL presentation and different strategies. Some of the Board members have additional questions. We have also discussed forming our own Mental Health Committee. We do not want to duplicate efforts. We are not sure about liaisons with this committee. This used to be a really deep partnership with Social Services. We do not have that partnership anymore.

Madam Chair added mental health is a top priority in our schools and is a high concern for kids of all ages since the pandemic and the social challenges they are living with. What options do we have as far as forming our own committee or becoming part of one that is already formed within our district. Dr. Calnen is extremely concerned with the direction of our Mental Health and Wellness committee. Mrs. Acree previously also expressed concerns. We have dedicated Board members, a retired pediatrician and a retired teacher that could definitely offer advice. We need to utilize them. We would like some feedback on the schools initiatives. We also discussed not only our students mental health but our staff's mental health. The teaching profession is dealing with a lot since the pandemic and they are leaving this profession. We want to make sure both our students and staff are being taken care of.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mr. Hamre reported ECAC met last week. We discussed a poetry event that will be held at the high school on January 26th. We are also working with the Heritage Fair Committee and planning for this cultural event. We are planning an open mic monthly event for local musicians and will bring activities to our town. Chris Tetro will have an art display at the Pearl Street Library. We encourage you to check this out. We are discussing a mural project. He attended an event for the Loaves & Fishes and Enfield Food Shelf. We discussed forming something for artists similar to the Hall of Champions at Enfield High School.

Mr. Hamre stated when you are involved with theatrics you meet many people. A friend of his is involved with a production about Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King. It will be at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center. Natasha Ellis will sing several songs about freedom this weekend. They will have an on-line showing on Monday. Ms. Ellis has also been involved with the Opera House Players.

Mr. LeBlanc stated this has been quite the update, and to think, this committee wasn't even on

our agenda a couple of months ago.

Mr. Hamre thanked him. This is what he envisioned when he spoke to councilman Santanella. This is all about the love of the arts and we need to let people know about these things and events. Who knows, but someday, one of our students may be on Broadway and beyond.

Madam Chair stated with the Opera House players, you will see an entire family that is participating. You mentioned Chris. His entire family is extremely artistic and musical. His brother Ayden plays the xylophone.

Mr. Hamre added the Berry family has also been very involved with school productions and Opera House productions. They are very talented. Either the parent passes the passion on to the child, or the child finds this on their own and the parents get drawn into it.

Madam Chair stated we have discussed having the ECAC as a Board Guest. When do you meet? Mr. Hamre stated we meet once a month, he will get you the next meeting date.

Madam Chair added you can talk to Tim Jensen about the Athletic Hall of Fame. He was involved with this and he can assist you with starting this up for the artists. There are some specific criteria to be inducted.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of November 2022 the total expenditures amount to \$6,729,197.39, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,712,870.66 and other accounts totaling \$2,016,326.73 and;
- All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly document.

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

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of November 2022 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$757,966.87 broken down between payroll totaling \$617,892.19 and other accounts totaling \$140,074.68; and
- All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly document.

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

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of December 2022 the total expenditures amount to \$6,855,845.91, broken down between payroll totaling \$4,674,899.58 and other accounts totaling \$2,180,946.33 and;
- All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly document.

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

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mr. Pickett that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of December 2022 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$698,524.30 broken down between payroll totaling \$612,390.20 and other accounts totaling \$86,134.10; and
- All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and are properly accounted for within the books of accounts. Copies of approval for check invoices are properly document.

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

Line Item Transfers if any - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 10, 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary