

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on January 24, 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:** Tina LeBlanc
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Tina LeBlanc
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:**
5. **ROLL CALL:**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Ryder

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

Madam Chair read the same statement that Mayor Cressotti read at the Town Council meeting held on Monday, January 23, 2023.

“Our goal for our public meetings on the Town Council and Board of Education is to have our meetings be orderly where the public is able to attend, participate, and listen. We expect that as elected and appointed officials we maintain proper decorum while conducting the public’s business and for everyone to feel safe. Our expectation is the same for the public. Everyone who attends Town Council meeting or Board of Education meetings need to exhibit respect and responsible behaviors at all times. This will be greatly appreciated by all.”

6. BOARD GUEST(S)

a. Donna Szewczak

Mr. Drezek stated we would like to recognize former Board of Education member and former Town Council Deputy Mayor Donna Szewczak who has retired from public service. She snuck out of town before we could give her a proper sendoff. She was at the JFK grand opening, and I was able to lure her back to attend tonight’s meeting.

Madam Chair stated her first term as a Board member is when she first met Mrs. Szewczak. She has the utmost respect for you. We did not always agree but you were upfront and honest to her, and you were a great mentor. Your extensive knowledge about facilities, roofs and roads is unmatched. There is definitely a gap we are trying to fill since your retirement. We are all extremely proud of your service and dedication to Enfield schools. Even when you were on the Town Council, you never stopped looking out for us. Mrs. Szewczak thanked Madam Chair for her kind words.

Mr. LeBlanc also thanked Mrs. Szewczak for her service. You were his favorite walking partner during the previous two term when we were knocking on doors. Enjoy your retirement and enjoy your time traveling.

Mr. Drezek added we thank you for your time serving on the Board and Town Council. You have constantly advocated for the kids in Enfield. This is the highest honor we are allowed to give out.

Madam Chair presented Mrs. Szewczak with an apple on behalf of the Board of Education, Students and Staff from the Enfield Public Schools. Madam Chair added she was first a Fermi Band Parent. Mrs. Szewczak added don't mess with us band parents.

Mrs. Szewczak added she has been avoiding Mr. Drezek. The time you give to the town serving goes by so quickly. It is really precious, and people do not understand that. She has served for almost a decade, and it just slips by. Please enjoy what you are doing and do the best that you can. Thank you for recognizing her. She also thanked Mr. Drezek for tracking her down.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

a. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo stated today was the last day for mid-terms. The next semester starts on Friday, January 27th. She reviewed the schedule for the week for students. We will have an early release day on Wednesday, January 25th. The Program of Studies Night will be held on Wednesday, February 1st at 7:00 PM in the EHS Auditorium for incoming students. We will have Civil Discourse Circle Meetings on February 7th & 8th. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Murray. This event is open to all students and teachers and will count as a field trip.

Student Representative Kayla Surprenant reported this week the EHS Hockey team has a game tomorrow and on Friday, January 27th which is also Senior night. Both games are at home. The girls basketball team has 2 away games this week, one is tonight, and the other is Thursday, January 26th. The boys basketball team plays on Thursday, January 26th at home. The wrestling team has two games this week, Wednesday, January 25th at home and this will be their senior night and the play on Thursday, January 26th on the road.

b. Early Release Day

Mr. Drezek stated he has notified staff this afternoon that we will be cancelling the planned PD for Wednesday, January 25th due to the impending weather. This is a planned early release day. He has held off talking about snow, but it is here. Parents are preparing for an early release day with lunch. We will do everything we can to stay on this schedule. But as the weather reports come in, we may need make adjustments due to the weather moving into our area sooner than previously predicted. We may need to shorten the day. We do have this option to use an early release day without lunch if needed. It would get our kids home sooner, but we try not to use this option. We like to feed our kids when they are here. So stay tuned.

Mr. Drezek added he received some questions about Monday and why we didn't utilize an early release day. He was informed that the strongest weather would be coming in around 11:30 – 2 PM and this would have placed our kids being dismissed during this time. By keeping everyone in school, it allowed our DPW staff to clear the roads in time for afternoon dismissals. He added it is now winter in New England and buckle up. He hopes we continue to have a mild winter season.

c. EPS Update – as presented

d. Superintendent's 2023-24 Budget Presentation

Mr. Drezek presented his FY2023-24 Proposed Budget to the Board. He reviewed: Our Philosophy; Different Perspectives this year; Equity Statement; Social and Emotional Learning; Central Office Restructure; EdSight – PPE by % High Needs; Academics; Where do we go from here: Support – Yellow; Academics – Orange; Opportunity & Access – Purple; Other by Law – Blue; Current Budget; Fixed Costs; Budget Request; 2% Carryover; Request 3.96%; Unknowns

– not a Typical Year; Challenges this doesn't Address; Reality Check; Barnard 2016-2017 and 2022-23; and Summary.

Mr. Drezek will continue to work to reduce this number. We also need to start thinking about our elementary schools and the direction we are going in. We have not made any cuts to any staff or programs. We have currently frozen our budget. The Board will need to present to the Town Manager our budget by the end of February. If the Board is not prepared to vote on this tonight, we will place it on the next agenda for you to vote on. This will give us and the Town Manager enough time to present her budget to the Town Council to vote on.

Mr. Drezek stated he will address any questions you may have. This budget is now the Board's budget to do with it as you wish. You can add or subtract to it. He has presented his proposed budget. The budget you will approve will go next to the Town Council to approve. We have been very fortunate over the past several years working with the Town Council. It is now up to the Board to proceed with the budget process.

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 3-minute time limit for audience participation tonight. Thank you.

Juliette Leith, Katherine Road – Mrs. Leith read the definition about Separation of Church and State and the 14th Amendment and its history. She would like the Board to keep a moment of silence on the agenda and encourages invocations.

Walter Kruzel, Charnley Road – Mr. Kruzel stated SPED costs have never been fully funded. He added we are the people, and the people want the invocation and a moment of silence kept on the agenda. We have lost Christmas and Good Friday. These are federal and legal holidays that we are paid for. He thanked Mr. Ryder for what he said at the JFK grand opening ceremony. He also thanked Donna Szewczak and Scott Ryder for everything they did getting the pact together for the JFK referendum project. He would like to know if they have hired an architect for the next roof replacement project on the Joint Facilities Committee. This is the time to start applying for grant reimbursements. God bless American and Enfield, Connecticut.

Peter Jonaitis, Farmstead Circle – Mr. Jonaitis spoke about Bob Tkacz's passing and how they spoke over the past two years on the phone weekly – may he rest in peace. He congratulated the State of Iowa for allowing the money to follow the student. He congratulated Dr. Calnen for his courageous vote at the last Board meeting. He congratulated Councilman Mangini for her invocation at the last Town Council meeting. We need to be talking less about the constitution and more about getting us off from being an Alliance District. We need to be talking about education and what is going on in the classrooms. He spoke about the 3'x5' flags in some of the EHS classrooms and safe spaces. What we do in our schools is for all students.

Marilyn Cowles, Fletcher Road – Mrs. Cowles stated she was a teacher and would never want to be a superintendent. The Board is elected as a group, and you represent the residents. Have you asked us about what our opinions are? You are here for the betterment of our students and not for your own personal views. Many parents have gotten involved and shared their opinions and thoughts with you. You should be engaging with the parents and have discussions with them. You have missed an opportunity to engage with them and bring the community together. When it comes to the curriculum, read it carefully and ask these questions, would you want your child to learn this information, is it appropriate and will this curriculum help produce a well-rounded Enfield citizen.

Maureen Griffin, Abbe Road – Mrs. Griffin urged the Board to pass the budget as it was presented. Our kids are suffering. The superintendent understands the needs of our kids. The needs of our kids are different. Our schools need supports. Our high needs students are being outplaced. The money needs to be there. We are not in the 1950's anymore. We need a long-term plan. FOIA costs make her unhappy. This comes from our kids being used as political pawns. You are here to serve our children and not use our students. The students need a safe place, and the flags symbolize this. It helps those that need it and to be supported. Our kids need a place to be safe. Don't use our kids.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Acree stated Prudence Crandall Literacy/Numeracy Night that was scheduled for Wednesday, January 25th has been moved to Wednesday, February 1st due to the impending storm. February 1st is also read aloud day. The Crandall Winter Chorus and Instrumental Concert will be held on Thursday, January 26th in the EHS Auditorium at 6:30 PM. Students are completing their iReady winter diagnostic in math and reading. They are seeing amazing growth from the students which is a good thing. Parents can look for reports explaining this. She is looking forward to attending the Prudence Crandall concert.

Madam Chair asked Mr. Drezek if he will address our questions during Item #11 Discussion and Action Regarding the FY2023-24 Budget if we are not prepared to vote on this item now?

Mr. Drezek stated the Board can have a discussion and if you are not prepared to take a vote you can wait. He will address the questions he can answer. You can also send any questions to the Chair and Madam Chair would then send them to me to address. We did this when Mr. Kruzel was Chair, and we went downstairs to our old conference room to address Board member questions.

Madam Chair stated she will just start the discussion tonight about the budget. Mr. Drezek added we placed action if any for just in case the Board was prepared to vote. Madam Chair stated she wanted some clarification regarding the process. Mr. Drezek added, Mr. Longey has just sent each Board members the budget document.

Mr. Unghire stated we have just received that e-mail from Mr. Longey. He would like to request a hard copy of the budget. Mr. Drezek stated he can do that for any Board member that would like a hard copy.

Madam Chair apologized for going off track a bit.

Dr. Calnen thanked Mr. Drezek for the budget presentation. He was heartened to hear your concerns about health and safety. In order for our kids to have a good education, they need to be healthy and learn about being healthy. Health should be an integral part of our curriculum. He is not sure how much of that is dedicated in our curriculum. He would like to discuss this at a Curriculum Committee meeting. He is happy to hear we will continue free lunches for students. This is very important.

Dr. Calnen stated if we ever receive a windfall of funds, since we are discussing our buildings, he would like to see STOWE expanded. There are so many families that cannot afford high quality childcare. The STOWE Early learning center provides such a great opportunity for only a small amount of children. We need to expand our Early Learning Center.

Dr. Calnen stated the 2-Gen Committee met on Thursday, January 19th and we will engage area businesses and communities about the need for affordable high-quality childcare. We will have a breakfast meeting with the Chamber of Commerce in late August/early September. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 2nd.

Mrs. Cushman thanked the audience members that came to tonight's meeting and for your e-

mails. She looks forward to the upcoming Policy committee meeting. We will discuss some of the policies that have been sent back to the committee to look at again. She thanked the audience members for their comments. She appreciated receiving an e-mail from Ms. Marr and Buzz Robotics. Mr. Unghire shared information about their trip to Boston Dynamics. She looks forward to them coming to an upcoming Board meeting. She hopes they will be able to bring their robot with them.

Mr. Hamre stated the JFK report cards will be available on Powerschool on Friday, January 27th. The next PTO meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8th at 6:30 PM virtually. They will start their winter fund raising event on Wednesday, February 1st. Students will be doing acts of kindness for National Kindness Day during the first 2 weeks of February. Additional information can be found on the enfieldpto.com and jfkpto website.

Mr. Hamre added PLA still have openings. The next class will start on Saturday, February 4th. He was a graduate from PLA class #10. They provide meals and childcare at their meetings. This program works. He encourages you to check it out. If you have any questions, you can contact Malissa Griffith at mgriffith.com and you can also apply at enfieldkite.org.

Mr. Hamre is excited for the next Enfield Instrumental Music Association meeting on Tuesday, February 7th. They will be discussing expanding to include chorus, musician, and vocalists to this group.

Mr. Hamre extends his condolences to Mr. Tkacz family. He has been in chambers where he has been here numerous times. He truly cared about our town.

Mr. Hamre also appreciated the Superintendent's Budget presentation and how it focused on our student's needs.

Mr. Hamre stated Enfield Pride and Enfield P-Flag are organization that support LGBTQ community. There is an audience in our community that needs this support. If you are interested in learning more about these organizations, you can find more on FaceBook or social media platforms. Enfield P-Flag will be moving their meetings to Asnuntuck Community college. Enfield P-Flag is for parents and guardians to understand the needs of their child or grandchildren and to help them understand the process.

Mr. LeBlanc thanked Mr. Drezek for his presentation. We need to remember this is for the next generation and we need to consider what they have gone through and how we will adapt so they can be successful after us. The proposal you presented not only takes into account the current student needs and future needs. You addressed our advanced technology. A comment was made after the JFK grand reopening how the technology at JFK was better than what was at Asnuntuck. That is pretty impressive to have someone from ACC make that comment about our school's technology and courses. Our technology is on par or better than some colleges.

Mr. LeBlanc agrees with what Mr. Kruzel said about our roofs. Based on your presentation tonight and how to look at things moving forward and balancing our immediate needs and our long term goals. He agrees we need to troubleshoot some problem areas. Immediate fixes and long-term goals need to be balanced and we will see where we stand.

Mr. Unghire also thanked Mr. Drezek for his budget presentation. He thanked audience members for your comments and good points, and he appreciates that. Mrs. Leith spoke about a court judicial case that supports prayers. He is going to look into this from a legal perspective.

Mr. Unghire stated Hazardville Memorial will have their next PTO meeting virtually on Thursday, February 23rd. He added at our December meeting, he read an article from Readers Digest and Madam Chair challenged the Board to write something good about each other. He has discussed this with his caucus members, and they are working on this.

Mrs. Pickett stated all K-5 families received a survey for conferences. Our teachers are doing an amazing job. She hopes the completed surveys will be used to help create innovative and creative family partnerships. Please complete the surveys.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Drezek for his budget presentation and your thoughtful way with equity and SEL. She would like to know how are we building support, shared leadership and consistency in our district. She would like to hear more about this.

Mrs. Pickett stated Enfield Street is looking at safety for parent drop off and pickups. It can be very scary in the parking lot. They have a safety zone for students to exit vehicles from the passenger side of the car. Please wait for your turn before letting your children out of your vehicle. She thanked leadership for their response to parents concerns about this. ESS will have their Someone Special Dance on Friday, February 10th as well as upcoming assemblies. Please refer to the principal's newsletter and you can also go to ercinc.org to look at all of the programs they offer.

Mrs. Pickett shared her comments regarding the policy addressing the moment of silence and innovation. She thanked Mr. Drezek for putting up our equity statement. We are not doing a great job of being inclusive on our agenda. In the description for each item listed on the agenda, it explains what is expected for each item. Items #2 and 3 are listed as self-explanatory. These items need to be defined. She is a Catholic by faith. When we are in Council Chambers, we need to represent all students. We should not be honoring only one faith. What is that saying to our students. She is not against a moment of silence. A clear explanation defining this is needed.

Mrs. Pickett stated this will also lead to conversations about our school calendar. Mr. Kruzell mentioned this in his comments he made. We did not remove Christmas. We changed the name of the break on the calendar. She would like to see us make additional changes on the calendar to include all holidays and various cultural celebrations. She would also like to see a second conference date added to the calendar.

Madam Chair stated EHS Safe Grad will have an 80's dance on Saturday, March 18th at the American Legion. They will have prizes and games. Wearing attire from the 80's is encouraged. They are looking for games and toys from the 80's. You can reach out to EHS Safe grad at safegrad2023@gmail.com.

Madam Chair stated the Enfield Instrumental Music Association (EIMA) is having a comedy fundraiser event on Saturday, January 28th at the Elks. The show starts at 6:00 PM and the doors open up at 5:00 PM. They will have a dinner buffet and prizes. This is an 18 years or older event. Tickets are \$35 each. They will also be reaching out to Mr. Ryder to put this information on the PTO websites. Also on Saturday, February 4th the EHS Band Orchestra and Chorus students who were selected to play at CMEA Regional Music Festival will be auditioning for the CMEA All-State Music Festival that will be held in March.

Madam Chair stated the JFK dedication ceremony was well attended. It is such a beautiful building. The technology that is available in that building is amazing. EHS and JFK are designed for students in grades 6-12 and the rooms are a bit different at each building. She hopes the students enjoy it. She feels our money was well spent for both renovation projects. She appreciates all of the hard work that went into JFK.

Madam Chair stated a parent reached out to her about the survey for students in the middle school and high school, and she wanted to let both Dr. Calnen and Mrs. Acree know about this since you are involved with the mental health committee. The parent wanted to know if a study is being done about the affect technology is having with our students mental health and issues and other mental health issues they are having. She agrees with this parent and wanted to share this concern with you both.

Madam Chair stated yesterday when she was driving in Enfield, a vehicle cut in front of one of our buses. She thanked our bus drivers for keeping our kids safe.

Madam Chair added she was challenged by a parent to talk about anything we have witnessed and would like to share. It is great that we are talking about events happening at our schools. She helped Safe Grad in 2022. We had a senior at the Eagle Academy. What our staff and administrators did for this student was amazing. The student never received the communications about Safe Grad. They made sure this student could attend the Safe Grad event and also made sure they had a place to stay until transportation could arrive to pick them up since the student lived in another town. This is just one example of what our amazing staff will do for our students. These are things we need to hear more about.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion and Action Regarding the FY2023-24 Budget

Mr. Hamre asked if the issues at the legislature at the State level passed, when would we see those monies? Mr. Drezek stated we would see those funds in the 2024-25 school year. That is one of the many unknowns with the way the bills are written. We have heard some rumblings that this may be included in the current fiscal year. Mr. Hamre added these monies would not give us a cushion now. Mr. Drezek stated he would not anticipate that.

Mr. Hamre stated during your presentation, a phrase was made - transitional aggression. It is amazing to put into context the budget and seeing tangible impact over the last 3 years and the changes our students have gone through. His children went to our aging elementary schools, and it was challenging back then.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Drezek for his presentation and meeting the needs of our students based on the data. She is excited to hear more about long term strategic planning. She has been advocating for this. She supports discussing our elementary model. The long term planning needs to be more than just a redesign of our schools and how to meet our students needs. The special education considerations were very concerning. This is an area that is always very challenging to budget. She also believes we need Tier I universal interventions done a bit differently. Our data that Ms. Middleton presented shows it is not just our high needs students that are struggling. She would like to better understand our Tier I supports. This is the same budget but with an increase for inflation. Is there any changes in programs or services.

Mr. Drezek stated everything is connected. When he mentioned class sizes increasing or decreasing and the net results. It is very clear he does not plan to lose any staff members. How do we better utilize our staff to meet the needs of our kids. We discussed direct targeted interventions for students in the transitional years and then expanding on that. He is not in the prediction business but once this program is running for the six weeks, he knows it will work. When we have the data that shows this worked, we do not have the ability to integrate this into the students current day now. We need to look at how can we do this next year. We have done a very good job of working with what we have. When we created Eagle Academy, we did not get a budget increase, we worked with what we had. We have the same budget amount, and we are not adverse from looking at utilizing our funds and services differently. We also need to have a discussion about reading that is not included in the presentation. Using a new reading program will cost us money that is not included in the budget.

Mrs. Pickett stated we have discussed the reading issue at our Curriculum meetings. Mr. Drezek stated he has applied for an extension, not a waiver. He does not have a problem with us using a new reading program. He does not like how it was delivered to us. The State is

telling us we need to use a program that will cost us. He is not adverse to looking at things differently. This was snuck into a bill. We had Alliance funds until the bill went through. Every teacher in our building has been trained in our current reading and writing program. His issue is the timing of this and the resources that are needed. The average budget increase from superintendents is 4.62%. Some superintendents have included the new reading program in their budget requests that are in double digits. It is expensive and he asked for an extension. We need to look at everything. We are doing very well in the area of science. We made a fundamental shift and maybe we can do this in other subject areas. He has restructured Central Office positions.

Mrs. Pickett added it is obvious that we need to change some of our practices. She does not want to see the budget be a constraint. She would love to see us do things in a more robust way. She understands the restraints we have. She would love for us to keep any additional funding we receive. We need to partner with the Town and work smarter and not harder. We need to streamline our services. We need to expand our equity and student support needs.

Mrs. Pickett stated we just updated our teacher contract, and this is included in this budget. She would also like to know if there are any creative ways to give stipends or incentives to staff that go above and beyond. Mr. Drezek stated that all needs to be collectively bargained for.

Madam Chair stated when our students enter our school system, they can go to 4 or 5 different schools by the time they graduate. We have seen concerns with the transition years, and this concern her. When we did the elementary consolidation, we were at maximum capacity in our buildings. Our rooms are being used for multiple uses. We need to consider our current building structure and the age of the buildings. We need to add more classes at Stowe and Eagle Academy. We need to look at the bigger picture. What are our next steps. Our elementary buildings do not have any space left. What is the long term plan. Our numbers are increasing.

Madam Chair asked if the State is working on a bill where all students receive free lunch. Mr. Drezek stated there are some rumblings and conversations about this. Covid funds are running out. The State has expiring covid funds also. He does not have anything concrete on this issue, but he can see this happening.

Madam Chair stated our budget is to maintain current needs and not cut staffing or programs. She has not seen a budget presentation with more than 2%. All of our budgets are to maintain current needs, not cut staffing or programs. Finding new unique ways to maintain, but she would love to enhance. This is all about being fiscally responsible. We are all living with tight budgets. She appreciates your thoughtful presentation. We will review your presentation and if anyone has any questions, please send them to her and she will forward them all to Mr. Drezek. We will plan to vote on this in February. This will give Board members two weeks to review the budget and send her questions to be addressed by Mr. Drezek.

b. Action if any Regarding Nathan Hale Elementary School

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen that the Enfield Board of Education releases Nathan Hall back to the town of Enfield.

Discussion:

Mr. Unghire stated someone is interested in procuring the building and we would release the building back to the Town. Can we wait to see if the town has a signed purchase agreement in place. Then we could release the building. We have kept the school open for storage purposes and we may want to keep it that way. If we turn it over to the Town to sell and the sale falls apart, is there a risk the Town will then owe money for this building.

Mr. Drezek stated that is possible. The building was renovated and has an amortization

schedule. After 20 years of use and if the building use has changed from when you received the State funding, the amortization schedule lists the money you still need to repay for the renovations. The additions that were done on our elementary schools, will be repaid 2025. He started working at Central Office at Henry Barnard in 2004. The Gym and Library were already being occupied. It is not when you occupied the space it is when the project has been completed and signed over. The end date is 2025. There may be some funding we still need to repay the State based on the amortization schedule for Nathan Hale because we did not stay in this facility for 20 years. This is part of the conversation leadership had. He is not aware of who this suitor is or if we have the right to ask if the Town has a signed agreement. The question that was asked is if we are not using the building, can we give it back to the town and they will try to sell it. Board and Town Council leadership would discuss this further. Do we have a need for this building beyond storage. If it is determined that we will need to make some payback on this building, there is an appeals process with the State of Connecticut. He has had conversations with DAS about this process. There are no guarantees with the waiver. We are very close to the end date but we may still owe the State some money. We are just storing items there. If they have a buyer, we need to relinquish the building and they can pursue selling it.

Mr. Unghire asked if the Town is asking us to relinquish the building. Mr. Drezek stated that is correct.

Mr. Hamre asked if we relinquish the building and the sale falls through, the building will not come back to us. Mr. Drezek stated once the Board relinquishes the building, it is no longer ours and will not come back to us. Mr. Hamre added if the building could be useful for other programs? You discussed our elementary schools in your budget presentation. This building might be useful for other uses. Mr. Drezek stated the building needs some maintenance and has issues before it could be reutilized again.

Mr. Hamre stated the Town should be maintaining this building. Mr. Drezek stated yes and added how much are we willing to put into this building to reuse it or sell it to a potential suitor. It is not our place to tell them what to do.

Mr. Hamre stated he is being cautious because if you have a budget surplus, we need to give it back and you do not get approved for more based on past government contracts. At the end of the year, everyone is trying to get rid of their surplus budget items. He doesn't want to see us give up something we may need later on.

Mr. Drezek understands what you are saying. We used to do things that way with money at the end of the year. Around 6 years ago, we started having conversations and worked together for the betterment of the community as a whole. There are a lot of projects the Town and Board contributed towards over the years because of this agreement like turf repairs. The old way was to hurry up and use it. We are strictly using Nathan Hale for storage. He does not want to inhibit the Town from being able to sell it. We do not have a use for the building beyond storage at this time. In order for us to repurpose that building, that is a bigger conversation we would need to have with the Town. It was requested that the Board relinquish this building and the Town can explore their options for this building. One of the option was if there is no clear debt for the building, it would be factored into the price for selling the property. He has no issue with the Board relinquishing Nathan Hale to the Town. He trust the town manager that she knows what she is doing.

Mrs. Pickett left the meeting at 9:36 PM.

A vote by **roll call – 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum – Madam Chair reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on Monday, January

30th.

Finance – Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee will meet on Monday, February 6th.

Policy – Madam Chair reported the Policy Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 31st. She added the best time to make changes, amendments or a suggestion about policies is at the First Reading. It would also be appropriate to ask any specific questions at the First Reading.

Leadership – Madam Chair reported Board Leadership met January 23rd and our next meeting is on February 13th.

Joint Facility – Madam Chair reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on January 26th at 6:30 PM.

JFK Building Committee – Madam Chair did not have anything new to report regarding the JFK Building Committee.

Joint Security – Madam Chair did not have anything new to report regarding the Joint Security Committee.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup – Dr. Calnen did not have anything new to report regarding the Joint Security Committee.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission – Mr. Hamre reported ECAC is currently working on the poetry contest that will be held at JFK. The Heritage Fair Committee is meeting tomorrow night virtually. The Valley Repertoire will have auditions for their upcoming spring performance on February 7th at Asnuntuck for the production of “Holidazed”. He congratulated the Opera House Players for the awards they received for the Little Mermaid. Next month they will be putting on “Bridges of Madison County” play as well as the “School of Hard Rock”. They will also put on the “Hunchback of Notre Dame” later this year. They have been in Enfield since 2018 and have put on many great productions. It is nice to see them being recognized.

Mr. Hamre asked about the curtains that were removed from the Annex Stage and if they could be put back up. This affects planning for productions.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Unghire moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre that the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2023, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-0** passed unanimously.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS AND PAYROLL None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Acree to adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 24, 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary