

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held at Town Hall in Council Chambers, located at 820 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT on February 13, 2018.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rich Regnier, Ashley Depeau, Chris Rutledge, Charlotte Riley, Tina LeBlanc, Sarah Hernandez, Tim Neville, Scott Ryder and Walter Kruzel

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew B. Longey, Assistant Superintendent; EHS Student Representatives, Sarah Passmore and Jacquelyn Daigneau

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **EHS Community Action Learning Students**

Mr. Allegro thanked the Board for inviting him and some of his Community Action Learning students to attend tonight's Board meeting. This is the pilot year for this course and the first semester students did a tremendous job. The students organized themselves with a president, treasurer and secretary. They made proposal and pitched them. We voted on the most powerful presentation as our project. They decided to raise money for toys for students at CCMC. They raised over \$2,000 dollars in 18 days and collected over \$400 dollars of toys.

Mr. Allegro thanked the Enfield Patch for running their story. He also thanked the administration at Central Office and Mr. Senez for their continued support. We wrote this course over the summer. We won the Red, White and Blue award for our civic engagement last year and are considered as a model high school. This just shows our commitment to offer new courses. These students had a wonderful opportunity and they did extremely well.

Mr. Neville is extremely proud of them. He wished them continued good luck taking risks. You are doing this for our community. This makes it worthwhile being a member on this Board hearing about the important things our students are doing. Thank you.

Mrs. Riley asked how many students are taking this course. Mr. Allegro stated there are 18 students.

Mrs. Riley added that your students are phenomenal. It is hard work putting something together for fundraising. You did this during the pilot year. Please keep up the good work. She is so proud of all of you.

Mrs. Hernandez is thrilled about this program and the work that you did. What an opportunity we are giving to our students. We do not want just your grades to define you. You are gaining soft and hard skills. These courses will help to define you. You are getting such an exceptional experience. This makes you all very interesting. She is proud that you are taking risks. Please keep doing this amazing work. You have all made us very proud.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked both Mr. Allegro and Mr. Senz for this course. We are happy to see programs like these being offered. This is something we were looking for when we combined the high schools. This course helps to develop well rounded students. This is what employers and colleges are looking for. You are touching the lives of others which made an enormous difference for the children at CCMC. Thank you for your time and effort. Thank you for coming tonight.

Mrs. Depeau also thanked them for taking a leap of faith and inspiring others. She asked the students to share one of the lessons they have learned from this course.

The students responded by stating it has helped them with social anxiety and has helped them grow as a person; working with our classmates to accomplish a goal and helping others is great, we did this all together.

Mr. Allegro added this has been done by the students 100%. All the accolades are for the students. He is there to support the students with their project.

Mr. Ryder stated this was last semester's project. He can't wait to see what the next project will be.

Mr. Allegro stated we will have a new set of students next semester. The students are currently learning organizational skills. The students have learned about Robert's Rules of Order. Every semester is a brand-new project. They will research their ideas that will benefit the lives of others. This is what we are all about. You can take this course multiple times. Each time the course will be different.

Mr. Neville stated you have set the bar very high with this group. He can't wait to see what the next semesters group does.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Mr. Allegro and the students. You are all rock stars. Thank you for raising the money and keep up the good work.

Mr. Allegro thanked the Board for inviting them.

b. EFEE

Mrs. Windsor Post was glad to see what the Enfield High students are doing for our community. EFEE might be able to help you out.

Mrs. Elizabeth Windsor Post, (EFEE) Enfield Foundation for Excellence in Education President gave an overview about their program in our community. She discussed the Invention Convention, scholarships, fundraising and community involvement, grants and fall/spring grant cycles, what's new and helping our community.

Mrs. Windsor Post stated we are meeting at the County Diner on March 1st and look forward to you joining them at 6:30 – 8:30 PM for a meet and greet. EFEE is looking for members to join us, donate to our cause, partner with local businesses and participate in our community outreach and fundraising programs. We need people to join EFEE. Enfield knows how important education is. Thank you.

Mr. Rutledge thanked her for EFEE's community involvement. You can go to their website at www.efeeofenfield.org to make a donation. Is the Country Diner a fundraising event? Mrs. Windsor Post stated it is a meet and greet but she will never turn down any donations.

Mr. Rutledge urged her to continue the good work you are doing for our community.

Mr. Neville stated it is extremely important that you come before the Board annually. He has not heard anything about your fundraising efforts. We need to get the word out about what you are doing.

Mrs. Windsor Post stated we have a new liaison Scott Ryder who will help us greatly getting the word out. He is the reason she is here tonight.

Mr. Neville asked if you have a fundraising goal? Mrs. Windsor Post stated the more we can raise, the more we can help. We need people to join our organization. Mr. Neville is willing to help in any way they need him.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated you are looking for people to join EFEE. Mrs. Windsor Post stated everyone has strengths. Some people are great with fund raising efforts. We are looking for people to add depth to our group.

Mrs. LeBlanc asked when does EFEE meet? Mrs. Windsor Post stated we meet the 2nd Monday of the month. We hold special meetings for grants.

Mrs. LeBlanc thanked her for the hard work. It makes us all proud to see what you and our students are doing for our community.

Mrs. Riley asked her to e-mail them when you will meet to review the grant proposals. She asked if EFEE will still hold their Teacher Appreciation event? Mrs. Windsor Post will e-mail them. We will hold our Teacher Appreciation event again.

Mr. Neville would like her to add all of them to your e-mail list. Mrs. Windsor Post will add them all to her lists.

Chairman Kruzal thanked her and we will assist you in any way we can.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- a. Student Representatives – as presented
- b. President's Day & Staff PD – as presented
- c. Heritage Fair – as presented
- d. Snow Days – as presented

Mr. Drezek reviewed the snow days used to date. Our last day of school is June 22nd except for the JFK students. Seniors will graduate on June 21st. In the past, we have waived the 181st day for the seniors. The decision for seniors is not needed tonight.

Mr. Drezek also reviewed the JFK boiler issue and JFK students will need to make up the snow day used for the boiler repair. The Board can waive the 181st day for the JFK students.

Mr. Drezek feels waiving the 181st day for the JFK students would be prudent. This way all students will have the same last day of school regardless if we have any additional snow days. It would be appropriate to give the JFK students, staff and families a heads-up regarding this. The Board can vote on the JFK waiving of the 181st day tonight.

Mr. Neville stated if we vote on JFK, we will need to suspend the rules and add this item to the

agenda.

Chairman Kruzel stated this should be done under new business. Mr. Drezek stated that is correct.

Mr. Neville added that Board members are all nodding their heads in agreement. There is a consensus to vote on this tonight.

Mr. Drezek addressed Mr. Rutledge's e-mail regarding the decision-making process for snow days. He reviewed the process for making any weather-related decisions. We consult with a group starting at 3:45 AM or the previous evening depending on the predicted forecast. We also use a local meteorologist. His predictions are very accurate on timing and road conditions. We also use emergency management information. There are 13 area superintendents he is in contact with. He also talks to Mark Gahr from DPW and Jessie McCrewell from Smyth Bus. Safety is our foremost concern. We need to think about the students that are walking to/from school and to/from bus stops.

e. February Events – as presented

Mr. Drezek stated we were notified from the state that Enfield was awarded a state reimbursement grant for \$313 in cooperation with the Town.

Mr. Drezek distributed the 2018 Legislative Priorities. If this is something the Board would like to discuss, we can at a future meeting. Mr. Rader can address the Board with their CABE legislative team. He recommends doing this since they lobby for local Boards of education.

Chairman Kruzel received a consensus from the Board and would like Mr. Drezek to arrange for them to meet with the Board.

Mr. Neville would like the Board to come up with a list for them to look at. Chairman Kruzel stated we will come up with a list for the CABE legislative team.

Chairman Kruzel thanked staff for applying for the reimbursement grant.

Mr. Drezek will check on some dates with CABE.

8. AUDIENCES

Chairman Kruzel reminded audience members to refrain from any personalities. You will be allowed 3 minutes to address the Board.

Bob Tkacz, Woodgate – Mr. Tkacz is impressed with the members of the School Board and Superintendent Mr. Drezek. Mr. Neville should be in the hall of fame for Board members. He thanked Mr. Kruzel for helping him when he was recovering from an automobile accident. He addressed the declining population and enrollments in our schools. We are closing businesses and prisons in Enfield. He addressed facility concerns at our schools. He addressed budget concerns. We need to separate the needs from the wants and stop spending money. We are going to make Enfield great again.

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. LeBlanc congratulated the EHS Wrestling Team. We will be adding another banner at Enfield High. She also congratulated the dance team.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated Enfield High will hold their program of studies night on February 22nd. This event is very important for all high school students not just incoming students.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated JFK held a PTO meeting last week. They are actively selling their spirit wear.

Mrs. Hernandez stated we are seeing how our students are literally changing the world. She is so proud of what our students are accomplishing.

Mrs. Hernandez stated the Head Start students are moving and grooving. There are a few that are sick with the flu, but the nurse is on top of it. On March 15th they will hold a STEAM Literature fair at the Enfield Head Start. Our students are learning about self-regulation and development skills. The staff give our students such respect. She is very impressed with the staff at Head Start and the family involvement. The next Head Start Policy Committee meeting will be held on March 22nd.

Mr. Neville stated is very important to get behind our legislative priorities and support it. It would be nice if they attend a meeting.

Mr. Neville stated we postponed the last Curriculum meeting. It is important to showcase all the good things that are going on in our schools. He applauded the superintendent for bringing these things to the public.

Mr. Neville would like to bring our Talented and Gifted program to an upcoming meeting to educate the new Board members about this program we have at JFK. He would like to add them to a future meeting as Board guests. He is going to discuss this with Ms. Middleton also.

Mr. Drezek stated the Talented and Gifted program is 100% funded by the Simcovitz Estate. The Board does not fund this program. Mr. Zawodniak can attend a future meeting to showcase the student's projects in the spring. They have an event at JFK where the student's showcase their work.

Mr. Ryder added the JFK spirit wear is also being worn by the students at the intermediate schools. This way the incoming grade 5 students can be part of this.

Mr. Ryder stated PLA will hold the Enfield Town-wide Tag Sale. This can be found on Facebook. It will be held on May 19th and is held rain or shine. It costs \$25 to get on the map. All proceeds go directly to the Enfield Food Shelf.

Mr. Regnier stated the Hazardville Memorial PTO meeting was cancelled due to the weather last week.

Mr. Regnier noticed a typo on the CABE Legislative Priorities. This will need to be corrected.

Mr. Regnier stated he loves the Enfield Public School system, being part of the Board and community. He hates politics. Our elected officials are saying one thing and are doing the complete opposite. He hates hearing they are fighting for us and then they say to cut the education budget. Budget season is coming up. He urged everyone to look at who is voting for the budget. Our superintendent has fought for the necessities we need with the budget we presented to the Town manager. Our teachers have done so much for us. He thanks the members of the Town Council that have fought for us yet again when the Governor tried to make cuts to Enfield. Ask your local representatives what they think about the budget. We asked the state about our ECS funding and are still waiting to receive the formula. We have done our due diligence and are working together with the town. The state needs to stop undercutting us by taking money from Enfield.

Mrs. Depeau did not attend Enfield Street's PTO meeting yesterday. She will find out what she missed. She thanked our guests tonight. She is so pleased to hear about the students in this

new pilot class and how this class is helping them build skills they didn't have. She hopes everyone hears what we are offering our students. They all make her very proud.

Mr. Rutledge thanked Mr. Drezek for addressing the school closing decisions. He had received several calls from parents about this.

Mr. Rutledge thanked Principal Clark at Enfield High for the tour and information about the programs we are offering our students. Our students have many opportunities before them. It is an amazing school. He wished he went to high school here. We have many opportunities for the students.

Mr. Rutledge wished everyone a Happy Valentine's day. He said hello to his godmother who is watching us tonight with his wife.

Mrs. Riley thanked the E-TV staff. She just saw some of our names with e-mail addresses flash on the TV screen. It is a work in progress.

Mrs. Riley stated the First Readers Trivia Night will be held on Saturday, February 24th. It is an adult's only event. The doors open at 6:30 PM and the event starts at 7:00 PM. Bring your own snacks and beverages. Greg Stokes will be the emcee for the event. Spots are filling up fast. Thank you for purchasing tickets or donating prizes.

Mrs. Riley stated she attended the Barnard PTO meeting before tonight's meeting. They will hold a Vendor Fair on March 24th from 10-4 PM. They are looking for craft vendors for this event especially ones for children's crafts.

Mrs. Riley added that ERfC will hold a fundraiser event on February 19th at Red Robin from 5-8 PM.

Mrs. Riley thanked members from the Town council that have been working with us on the budget. It looks like the \$2.3 million cut from ECS funding from last year might not have a direct impact on us. She thanks the Town council for working with us. She hopes to continue having more productive meetings with the Town council members.

Mrs. Riley thanked Mr. Drezek for being proactive with our budget and handling our budget appropriately.

Mrs. Riley stated it looks like we will receive a \$2 million dollar cut from the state for next year's ECS budget. She asked if Mr. Drezek has taken this into consideration with our budget for next year. Mr. Drezek stated we do not include ECS funding in our budget projections. This funding goes directly to the town.

Mrs. Riley agrees with what Mr. Regnier stated. Our teachers are doing a great job.

Chairman Kruzel agreed that Mr. Regnier is right on the money. As a point of information, he sends Governor Malloy an invitation to attend each Board meeting. He would like him to come and tell us why he is cutting Enfield.

Chairman Kruzel attended the EHS athletic signing ceremony that was held during Eagle hour. It is amazing what they are doing at Enfield High. Every room is being used. He agrees with Mr. Rutledge and would love to go back to high school again.

Chairman Kruzel attended the 4 Chaplains mass at St. Patrick's last weekend. It was the 75th anniversary of the USS Dorchester and the 4 Chaplains that went down with the ship. The service was great.

Chairman Kruzel stated BUZZ Robotics will hold a pasta supper on March 1st at 5:00 PM at the St. Bernard's parish hall.

Chairman Kruzel thanked Donna Ellis from Red Robbin. She is the marketing person from Red Robin and great for our school system and town. She will help the schools and any organization hold fundraiser events at Red Robbin.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. BOE Policy #9327.1 Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks – First Reading (tabled on 01-23-18)

Mr. Regnier moved, seconded by Mr. Neville to remove this item from being tabled - BOE Policy #9327.1 Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks.

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

Mr. Regnier moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves BOE Policy #9327.1 Board Member Use of Internet Social Networks as a First Reading.

Discussion:

Mr. Regnier stated this policy came from CABE. The Policy committee has reviewed this policy for a first reading.

Mrs. Hernandez is thrilled with this policy. She asked about #9 on page 3 and this being construed as being objective. She would like clarification and does not want to police staff members. She will report anything that affects students or staff. She does not want to report everything she sees.

Mr. Longey stated this is for Board members only. It is to hold you as a Board member accountable if you see something on social media.

Mr. Regnier stated none of us are using the schools' Facebook account. This pertains to personal Facebook accounts. You cannot make remarks about the school or Board on social media.

Mr. Neville stated we cannot conduct Board business on social media. You cannot make any remarks on social media regarding school, Board or student issues. It does not matter if it is your own personal account or someone's account. Contributing to social media discussions can get you into trouble.

Mr. Regnier stated you can use your own personal accounts but you need to be extremely careful what you say or post on social media.

Mr. Ryder asked about #10 on page 3. What is the district's retention policy?

Mr. Neville believes it is the state's retention policy.

Mr. Drezek stated the state dictates the retention policy.

Chairman Kruzel stated we need to change the word "district" to "state". The changes will be made, and we will approve them at the next meeting for a second reading.

Mrs. Depeau asked for clarification regarding #8 on page 3 and conducting yourself online in a manner that reflects well on the district. What if they are posting information that does not

have anything to do with the schools or Board business.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated anytime she posts something, she is always referred to as a Board member. This applies to anything she posts whether it is about her family or something in her life. As long as she is an elected Board of Education member, that is how she is identified.

Mrs. Depeau stated she wanted to clarify this not only for herself but for the public.

Mrs. LeBlanc added that she is always careful when posting.

Chairman Kruzel further added being a Board member is a hat you cannot take off.

Mrs. Riley stated if you look on page 2 under Social Networking Websites and Code of Ethics, it is explained there about proper decorum for Board members.

Mr. Neville is looking at page 3, #1 and #8 conducting yourself in a manner that reflects well on the Board. He agrees that you can never take your hat off as a Board member and the public views you as a Board member. People perceive us always as a Board member and not as a citizen.

Mr. Neville added there was a case years ago where all e-mails were used. It is very hard to separate e-mails. Every e-mail is FOI related since we are all elected officials.

Mrs. Depeau stated that is a good point to make. Anything that is sent to us is also FOI related. The public will need to think of this when they are sending us e-mails and posts also.

Mr. Rutledge stated this is necessary to say. We are public officials and need to be mindful on social media platforms. We are members of the Board of Education and are public officials and are viewed as such even when we are at a grocery store. Sometimes it might be better if we weren't on social media platforms. Letting the public know we will be held accountable for what is on social media is important.

Mrs. LeBlanc stated we are representing children and families. How are we to project this if we are posting questionable material on social media. We need to watch what we are posting or commenting on.

Mr. Neville stated that he has also been tempted to post comments. We need to choose when it is appropriate to use social media. He prefers to call people. We need standards. The laws have not kept up with technology.

Mr. Ryder added the Policy Committee was asked for a policy on social media. We can make changes to this policy if needed.

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

Mr. Regnier would like this policy to be placed on the website for a second reading.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve FY2018-19 School Calendar

Mrs. LeBlanc moved, seconded by Mrs. Depeau that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2018-19 School Calendar.

Discussion:

Mr. Rutledge asked if the Board approves this, will we need to make any changes to the 181st day. Mr. Drezek stated this is next year's calendar. Chairman Kruzel added that we approve the calendar for the following year in February.

Mrs. Riley asked if we keep Veteran's day as a school day in the future, it has been suggested that if school is in session on this day, that we use it to teach the students about veterans. Mr. Drezek stated if the Board chose to have school on Veteran's Day, state law dictates that we have Veteran related programs for the students on that day.

Chairman Kruzel stated the day before Thanksgiving is a half-a-day. The past two years, the day before Thanksgiving have been no school days. Mr. Drezek added we did that for the move at Enfield high.

Chairman Kruzel just wanted to clarify that for families planning vacations.

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

Suspend the Rules to Add an Item to the Agenda:

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education adds Item #11b. Waive the 181st day of school at JFK to the agenda.

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

b. Waive the 181st Day of School at JFK

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley that the Enfield Board of Education Waives the 181st day of school at JFK.

Discussion:

Chairman Kruzel would like this information placed on the JFK website.

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

Chairman Kruzel stated all schools will now end on the same day.

Mrs. Depeau would like this information posted on the Enfield Public Schools website also.

Mr. Drezek will discuss this with JFK Principal Mr. Sargalski. He will put something together for the parents.

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum Committee

Mr. Neville reported the Curriculum Committee will meet on February 21, 2018.

b. Finance, Budget Committee

Mrs. Riley reported the Finance, Budget Committee met on February 12, 2018 and we will be approving financial reports later on the agenda.

c. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Policy Committee met on February 6, 2018 and finalized reviewing the

1000 series. The 1000 series have been sent to CABE and will be placed on a future agenda for a first reading. Our next meeting will be held on March 6th and we will start reviewing the 2000 series.

d. Leadership Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the Board Leadership Committee met on February 1, 2018.

e. Joint Facilities Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the Joint Facilities Committee will meet on February 15th and will continue discussing JFK and Barnard.

Mr. Rutledge asked when and where the Joint Facilities Committee will meet. Chairman Kruzel stated we will meet at the Enfield Town Hall in the Enfield Room at 6:00 PM.

f. EHS Building Committee

Chairman Kruzel reported the EHS Building Committee will meet on February 22, 2018.

g. Any Other Committees

Mr. Neville reported the Enfield Suicide Prevention Committee will meet on February 14th at 3:00 PM at the JFK library.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mrs. Depeau that the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2018 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 7-0-2** passed unanimously with Mrs. LeBlanc and Mrs. Hernandez abstaining.

14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL

For the Months of January 2018

Mrs. Riley moved seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Enfield Board of Education accepts the superintendent's certification for:

- The month of January 2018, total expenditures amount to \$6,006,279.26, broken down between payroll totaling \$3,842,073.74 and other accounts totaling \$2,164,205.52. 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 documented.

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

Line Item Transfers - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Enfield Board of Education enters Executive Session for Matter(s) Related to Personnel.

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

The Board remained in Council Chambers for the Executive Session. Both Mr. Drezek and Mr. Longey joined the Board in Executive Session.

No Board action occurred while in Executive Session.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Riley to adjourn the Regular Meeting of February 13, 2018.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Tina LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary