

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
November 28, 2017**

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 November 28, 2017.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Walter Kruzel.
2. **INVOCATION OR MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Ashley Depeau
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ashley Depeau
4. **FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Walter Kruzel announced the fire evacuation announcement.
5. **ROLL CALL:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tina LeBlanc

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Christopher J. Drezek, Superintendent; Mr. Andrew P. Longey, Deputy Superintendent; Student Representatives Meghan Connery and Jacquelyn Daigneau

Chairman Kruzel stated that Mrs. LeBlanc will be late to tonight's meeting due to a family commitment.

6. **BOARD GUEST(S)**

a. **Vincent M. Grady**

Chairman Kruzel congratulated Mr. Grady for his ten years of dedicated service on the Board of Education. He added that you have dedicated many years to the school and town.

Chairman Kruzel and Vice Chairman Riley presented Mr. Grady with gifts of appreciation from the administration.

Mr. Grady stated it has been a pleasure serving on the Board of Education. He has worked with many great Board members and Superintendent's over the past 10 years. He appreciates the gifts he has received. Retirement is looking pretty good. Ten years went by rather quickly. The Board has a lot of work ahead of them as they work on the Budget. He wished the Board good luck. Thank you very much.

Mr. Grady received a standing ovation.

b. **Rachel's Challenge & JFK LEGO Partnership**

John F. Kennedy Assistant Principal David Iacobucci and Assistant Principal Sarah Horan thanked the Board for the opportunity to share the good things our middle school students are doing.

Mr. Iacobucci stated the JFK students received a certificate of appreciation from the Connecticut Association of Schools for their donation. They collected \$385 for Hurricane Heroes for relief efforts for Huston, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Mrs. Horan stated JFK students will partner with LEGO for the “Build to Give” program on December 8<sup>th</sup>. All grade 6 students and staff can participate by building ornaments. The ornaments will be donated to CCMC, Bay State and Yale/New Haven Hospitals. The students will make snow-flakes, wreath ornaments or any ornament the chose to create. For every ornament that is created, LEGO will donate a LEGO set to these pediatric hospitals. We will take pictures of the ornaments the students build and will send them to #buildtogive to show our support. Our goal is 400 ornaments. Board members are welcome to participate.

Mr. Iacobucci introduced members from the JFK Student Council, Emily Vandal and Jamie Pereira regarding donations they have collected for the Enfield Food Shelf. He also introduced members from the FOR (Friends of Rachael) Club, Kara Edwards, Alyzza Alicea and Betsy Davis for the donations they have collected for the Enfield Food Shelf.

The JFK Student Council held a food drive. They were able to collect 1,129 pounds of food for the Enfield Food Shelf.

The JFK FOR Club will hold a Pancake Breakfast on December 16<sup>th</sup>. They held a Turkey Trot and Halloween Costume parade. They have raised \$1,001 for the Enfield Food Shelf.

Mr. Neville congratulated the students for your efforts and sense of community pride you display. You make us all very proud.

Mr. Regnier also thanked the students for getting involved in your community. The Rachel’s Challenge Pancake Breakfast is a great event that gets the community involved. Thank you for a job well done and congratulations.

Mrs. Riley also thanked the students for everything you are doing. She asked what time the LEGO Build will take place at JFK on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Iacobucci stated it will be held at JFK all day. Mr. Iacobucci stated the students will donate the money raised from made from the LEGO Build to the Enfield Food Shelf.

Mr. Iacobucci stated the JFK students presented a check to Kathleen Souvigney, Executive Director and Ernie Pitti, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Enfield Food Shelf.

Mrs. Souvigney thanked the students for their gift. Since 2014, JFK has donated 10,016 meals. Your donations have had such a positive impact on the Enfield community. The money you donated can be used to purchase 5,000 pounds of food. What these middle school students are doing is great and can make such a positive impact in our town. Thank you for your efforts and contributions. Please continue to support the Enfield Food Shelf.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- a. Student Representatives – as presented
- b. Torchlight Parade & Carol Sing – as presented
- c. JFK & EHS Conferences – as presented
- d. Tri-M Induction Ceremony – as presented
- e. December Events
- f. Grants Report
- g. Personnel Report

Mr. Drezek presented to the Board and public the new district logo. He explained the reason for the new logo and how proud we are of our new high school. The Eagle visually represents us. All Enfield students will eventually be an Eagle and will cross the stage at Enfield High when they graduate. When you are out in our community, you will recognize the most famous thing in our town “the Eagle”. You will see everyone wearing an Eagle. You will see the sense of pride in this town. The Enfield Community is special.

Mr. Drezek asked staff members the purpose for being here and what drives you? What represents you and tell us why you are here? This is what he asked staff members at our convocation this fall. The administration came up with a saying – we make a difference, every day, every child. He received over 250 responses from staff members and why they are here. This is important to the Enfield community. We make a difference many different ways. There is a reason we are all here. He is happy and proud of this. We have great people that are vested in making a change in our children’s lives every day. There is a reason we are here as well as you as Board members.

Mr. Drezek asked the Board members again why you are here? Remind yourself that being a Board member is thankless job with many long nights. At times you will need to remind yourselves. You do not get paid for this. Stay true to what got you here.

## **8. AUDIENCES**

Chairman Kruzel read the Board’s new policy #9325.2 Order of Business and Meeting Conduct. He limited audience participation comments to 3 minutes.

Vinnie Weseliza, Deer Run – Mr. Weseliza congratulated the Board and Mr. Drezek for your appointments. He addressed the failed JFK referendum. He is not sure if we are looking at the correct building to fix. He does not believe we did our due diligence looking at both buildings. A feasibility study should have been done on both buildings. How are we going to fix JFK. He is looking to the Board for answers. You have a huge task to figure out how we are going to fix JFK. He is hoping the Board can give us direction on how we can tackle this problem. Our middle school students need a better school. Thank you.

Jennifer Ryan, Sheridan Road – Mrs. Ryan thanked the members of the Board of Education for taking this position. She is a concerned Memorial parent. Her child attended Hale last year. Her child no longer enjoys school. He was pushed down on the playground at Memorial by several students. She sent an e-mail to the Board and spoke to the Superintendent’s Office about this. What is going to be done with the constant disruptions in the classrooms at Memorial. She has volunteered to supervise on the playground and lunchroom at Memorial. The behavior of some students is unacceptable. When these children are rewarded for positive behavior it affects the other children. These concerns are occurring daily. We need a long-term plan to address these concerns. She would like to hear back from the Board and can be reached at [jenson@hotmail.com](mailto:jenson@hotmail.com). Thank you.

## **9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Rutledge reminded drivers that winter is upon us and roads can be very slippery. He urged drivers to use caution when driving. Home owners should clean their sidewalks so students do not need to walk in the streets. Thank you.

Mr. Regnier thanked the Enfield Police Department for their thoroughness. His phone got stuck on 911. They came out to check on him even though he told them he was okay.

Mr. Regnier wished our winter athletes good luck with this year’s season. They start practicing

this week. He wished them all good luck.

Mr. Regnier would like the Board to hold quarterly Q&A meetings with the administrators similar to what the Town Council does. He would like to discuss this further with the Board. We can't always talk back to residents regarding their concerns.

Mr. Regnier urged teachers and parents to form partnerships regarding their children. Behaviors are more extreme now with some children. It could be on the bus, in the school, outside or at home. Working together to bring normalcies into the schools and society is very important. We have behavior intervention programs in our schools. He added that we offer many different kinds of special programs in our schools for students. Our kids deserve to be safe at school. Parents need to express their concerns and work in partnership with the staff, Board and administration. It takes a village to raise our kids.

Mrs. Riley stated if there are problem you are facing in the schools, you need to reach out to the appropriate channels like administrators, principals, Superintendent's Office or the Board.

Mrs. Riley stated the JFK building is the Town's building. You can address the building concerns with the Town Council. The Board uses the building. We are responsible for what goes inside of the building.

Mrs. Riley attended the CREC Council meeting with Mrs. Unghire on November 15<sup>th</sup>. They house a relief center at the empty Two Rivers Academy building for our Caribbean friends. This is a humanitarian effort. Between November 1 and November 15<sup>th</sup>, they helped 439 people. They provide clothing, job training, medical assistance, housing information, etc. This is something she would like the Board and Town Council to partnership with. The website is [www.crec.org/reliefcenter](http://www.crec.org/reliefcenter). They are looking for donations and volunteers. Since the hurricanes, Connecticut has received over 800 students that have been placed in our public schools.

Mrs. Riley added CAFE has a task force on School Funding issues and Special Education Funding. She will share these reports with the Board once they have been completed.

Mrs. Hernandez thanked Mr. Wezeliza and Mrs. Ryan for addressing the Board. These are two serious issues. She addressed Mrs. Ryan by stating your child is very important. We need to continue to keep working together to resolve these issues together. Perfection and progress is her goal. She will contact you.

Mrs. Hernandez stated the holiday seasons are upon us. She wished everyone a happy holiday. We all celebrate our holidays differently. The holidays can be a stressful time for some. If you need help or assistance, you can call 211. There are supports out there for you. We have many mental health facilities in Enfield. We are here for you.

Mr. Neville thanked the students and staff at JFK for the work they are doing for our community. It is incredible to see what they are doing and have been doing for years. The Rachel's Challenge program has taken off in many different ways. They are doing so many great things for the Enfield community. Please keep up the good work you are doing.

Mr. Neville congratulated Mr. Drezek for the new log. Reaching out to the staff allows everyone to buy into this. Great way to start off your tenure and for the district.

Mr. Neville addressed Mr. Weseliza concerns. Thank you for bringing this up. This is an unresolved problem that needs to be addressed quickly. The Board and Town Council take this issue seriously. This is something we will be addressing soon. Please stay tuned and stay involved.

Mr. Neville addressed Mrs. Ryan. We recognize this concern and we will come up with a plan to address this. We are not ignoring this. This is something we will deal with. He apologizes for not responding to your e-mail.

Mr. Ryder stated he is looking forward to being part of the Board subcommittees, liaisons and programs so he can report back on some of the positive things going on in our schools. He echoes the comments made tonight. He knows we have some work to accomplish. He looks forward to working with his fellow Board members.

Chairman Kruzel stated the Enfield High football game was well attended. It was cold. They played really hard but unfortunately lost.

Chairman Kruzel added that Prudence Crandall will hold a fundraiser event at Red Rob on November 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-9 PM. There will be a Rachel's Challenge Pancake Breakfast on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM at St. Patrick's Church Hall. These are all great events to support. Last year the, pancake breakfast date was changed due to snow. He doesn't believe that will happen this year.

Chairman Kruzel stated this is the first regular meeting for the 2017-19 Board of Education. He thanked his fellow Board members for their dedication being on the Board. There have been some really nice articles that have been written over the past week. Some of the articles and stories from Hartford are not always correct. Please check your sources and facts before printing them.

Chairman Kruzel congratulated the Enfield High students for making honors and high honors. This information was recently posted. Our students are working very hard and it shows.

## **10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Policy Revisions – Approve the 0000 Series – Second & Final Reading**

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves the second reading of the 0000 Series as presented.

#### **Discussion:**

Mr. Regnier stated the previous Board approved the first reading. The entire new Board received this series prior to the Board meeting to review. Tonight, is the final reading to make the 0000 series official.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Approval of the FRC Location Move to Henry Barnard**

Mr. Rutledge moved, seconded by Mr. Neville that the Enfield Board of Education approves the location change for the Family Resource Center to Henry Barnard.

#### **Discussion:**

Mrs. Morales congratulated Board members for being elected. We would love to have you visit us at Henry Barnard. We have a family resource center at the Stowe Early Learning Center.

The Stowe center is funded primarily by LEGO and other business. The Barnard center is funded by the State as well as the Town of Enfield. We have a great working relationship with the Board of Education and work closely with the department of Social Services in Enfield. We start at age birth to age 5 helping families. We provide parenting classes and workshops. We have a social worker and 3 parent educators along with many other resources available for our parents. We love our new location at Henry Barnard. It is beautiful and we would love to show you our new location.

Mr. Neville congratulated Mrs. Morales for doing a great job with the Family Resource Centers over the past few years. The work you are doing with our families really makes a difference. He encourages Board members to visit her centers. Thank you for all you do.

Chairman Kruzel asked how can Board members visit you? Should we make an appointment or just call you. Mrs. Morales responded that you can call or e-mail her.

Mr. Ryder asked how are you reaching out to new families that move into Enfield? Are you using any realtors? You can send them your business cards. Mrs. Morales responded we use Facebook and send out newsletters. Contacting realtors is a good idea. Thank you.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

**b. 2017-19 BOE Standing Committee Appointments**

Chairman Kruzel stated we have filled most of the positions except for the CREC Council Liaison. He was told that Mrs. Riley would like to fill this open position. Mrs. Riley stated she would like to be the CREC Liaison.

Chairman Kruzel read the committee appointments for Leadership, Finance/Budget, Curriculum and Policy committees.

Mrs. Riley moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Enfield Board of Education approves the 2018 Schedule of Regular Meetings as presented.

A vote by **roll-call 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Chairman Kruzel added that each of the Boards Standing Committee Chairs will setup their committees meeting schedules. Each of Standing Committee agendas will be sent to the entire Board for any Board member to attend. These meetings are very informative.

**c. Action if any, regarding Matter(s) Related to Collective Bargaining**

Chairman Kruzel stated this item will be addressed later on the agenda.

**12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Building Committee**

Mr. Neville reported this committee is winding down. We are basically dealing with bills and resolutions and meet every couple of months. Mr. Kruzel added our next meeting is December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Neville stated we are still working on the stop light. A meeting needs to be held based on the information we have received from our legislators. Mr. Kruzel added a meeting and public hearing need to be held.

Mr. Kruzel stated there was an item on the Town Councils agenda to dissolve this committee. I reminded them that we are not done yet. We are still receiving invoices that need to be closed out. The plaques will be installed next. Stay tuned.

b. Curriculum Committee - None

c. Finance Committee - None

d. Leadership Committee - None

e. Policy Committee

Mr. Regnier reported the Policy Committee met on October 18, 2017 and finalized 0000 Series.

f. Joint Facilities Committee

Mr. Neville would like this committee to be added. Mr. Kruzel stated we will need to wait until Monday to determine what the committee name will be. We will be presenting this information to the Town Council.

Mr. Neville stated this meeting will be a joint committee on our work. He would like this to be added to the Board's December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Kruzel would like this item added to the agenda for December 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mrs. Depeau that the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2017 be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge that the Special Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2017 be approved as amended. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

**14. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYROLL** - None

**15. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS** - None

**16. AUDIENCES** - None

**17. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

A vote by show of hands 0-0-0 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.

The Board returned to open session at 9:16 PM.

**18. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Neville moved, seconded by Mr. Rutledge to adjourn the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2017.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously.

Meeting stood adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Tina LeBlanc  
Secretary  
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary