

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 25, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Enfield Board of Education was held in Council Chambers on April 25, 2023.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan LeBlanc

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

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

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

a. Student Representative Update

Student Representative Morgan DiFronzo stated EHS is celebrating autism spirit this week. We will hold a blood drive on May 3rd. Student Council elections are coming up. Today is bus driver appreciation day. She thanked all drivers for getting us to and from school safely. She also thanked all secretaries in our town for the amazing job you are doing. AP exams will start on May 1st. The Senior Prom tickets will be sold starting on Friday for \$55 each. The Lamplighters production of The Sound of Music will be held on Friday and Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at the door. All seniors will attend a mandatory mentoring block on Friday. She congratulated the Boys Lacrosse team for their win against Windsor. The Girls Softball team also won today. The Girls Lacrosse team is playing against EO Smith and the Boys Baseball team is playing against South Windsor tomorrow. Boys Golf is playing a tournament at Grassmere, Boys Tennis played against Farmington and Girls Tennis is playing against Rocky Hill today. Boys Volleyball is playing against Rocky Hill tonight and Track has a meet today against EO Smith.

b. Early Release Day - as presented

c. FY2023-24 Budget Public Hearing - as presented

d. EPS Update

Mr. Drezek stated he will provide the Board and the community with a quick tutorial about what it means to be an Alliance District. There has been a lot of misinformation about what actually being an Alliance District is and what the implications are for us moving forward. He distributed a handout from CAPSS about Alliance Districts. Currently there are 36 unique, diverse and complex districts.

Mr. Drezek added we are situated in Connecticut communities in need of support as reflected by economic indicators including per capita income; adjusted equalized net grand list per capita; equalized mill rate; per capita aid to children receiving temporary family assistance program benefits and unemployment rate. We are serving 42% of Connecticut's childing; more than 63% of students of color; 65% of low income students; and 76% of English Learner Students (EL).

Mr. Drezek reviewed what we have done over the course of the Alliance Grant, improvement of Alliance Districts has outpaced the improvement of non-Alliance Districts in literacy, numeracy, chronic absence

and graduation rates. These accomplishments of achievement gains were achieved with less resources and financial supports. Alliance Districts educate students with approximately \$900 less per pupil than non-alliance districts. Despite the investment of Alliance dollars, the State of Connecticut spends nearly \$200 million dollars less than on students who attend Alliance Districts than non-Alliance Districts.

Mr. Drezek added in 2012-13 the State of Connecticut ranked through an accountability index which is made up of 12 factors. Economics is a vast majority of this. The top 30 districts in need were designated by the State as an Alliance Network. When you are in this network there are certain resources that are available to Alliance Districts. When this was created, it was done with a 5 year commitment. The initial 30 districts were re-evaluated in 5 years or during 2017-18. This would provide an opportunity for districts to move out and other districts to move into the network and become an Alliance District. In 2017-18 the Alliance Network went up to 33 districts. The re-evaluation process would look again during 2022-23. There are now 36 districts in the Alliance Network.

Mr. Drezek stated one of the miscommunications is this was sudden and happened overnight. That is not true. When this was created in 2012, and if the State chose to take the top 35 districts, we would have been an Alliance district 11 years ago. If this occurred, we would have received over \$20 million in additional aide. We didn't make the cut as it was determined at that time. The data explains our history. This data is all public information and comes from Edsight. He has used this information about our high needs that was presented to the Board previously.

Mr. Drezek added when you look at the accountability index you see who we are. He was able to go back to 2006-07. He started with high needs. What makes up high needs is Free/Reduce Lunch, Special Education, and English Language Learners. Back in 2006-07, 32% of our students were classified as high needs, in 2012-13 43% of our students were classified as high needs and this was the creation of the Alliance Network and Alliance Districts. In 2017-18 when they re-evaluated, we were at 47%, in 2018-19 we were at 53% and in 2022-23 we are at 55%. We have gone from 43% to 55% classified by the State as having high needs students.

Mr. Drezek reviewed the data for Free/Reduced Lunch. In 2006-07 we were at 23%, 2012-13 we were at 35%, in 2017-18 we were at 39%, 2018-19, 46%. During the Covid years 2020-21 we were at 48%. Parents are required to complete forms and meet the eligibility requirements. We have not been charging for lunches due to Covid. The Board graciously approved for us to continue this until the end of this school year. We will go back to paid lunches in 2023-24. We have families complete the Free/Reduced Lunch application in the most humane way possible. We will always provide lunch for students even if there is no money in their accounts. During the last 3 years (2020-21 - 2022-23) there was no accountability required because lunches were free. We know the numbers for 2020-21 - 48%, 2021-22 - 45% and 2022-23 - 46%) are much lower than what they should be. Next year, this number will be around 10% higher.

Mr. Drezek reviewed the data for Special Education. In 2006-07 we were at 12%, 2012-13 we were at 14%, 2017-18 we were at 16% and 2022-23 we are at 19%. These are percentages of students in our district with disabilities. The 2022-23 amount does not include the 22% or 150 students with an increase in SPED referrals. Next year this number will increase. There is a process we must follow legally. We often hear that we have too many administrators and SPED staff. When a student is referred to the first PPT meeting and if student eligibility is determined, we are required by law to spend 21 administrative hours in order to make that determination. This number is coming from our Director of Special Education Julie Carroll. This does not include any instruction time or support service time to determine if a student has special education needs. This 21 hours is required for each of the 150 referrals, or 3,150 administrative hours or 450 days were used to make that determination. This does not include the other current 922 students that are currently deemed eligible for SPED services.

Mr. Drezek added with the upcoming budget hearings, every year we discuss SPED services. Kids with higher needs require additional services. He understands the importance of this. There are a lot of things we are required to do by law.

Mr. Drezek reviewed the data for English Language Learners (ELL). In 2006-07 we were at 1.14%, in 2012-13 we were at 1.84%, in 2017-18 we were at 1.94%, in 2018-19 we were at 2.10% and 2022-23 we

are at 3.15%. During 2021-22 we hired additional staff to work with our non-English speaking students. The number decreased in 2022-23 to 155 students because of our staff. When students start with us and they do not speak any English, the State gives them 1 year for them to become proficient and be able to perform like all the other students that have grown up here in Enfield. We added a new team at JFK and another certified T-Sol teacher in 2021-22. The more services we provide our students and work with these students, the sooner they will be proficient in English. The interventions we have in place are working.

Mr. Drezek reviewed the data about where we are as an Alliance District. The average high needs in 2012-13 is 56%. Some districts are higher than us and some are lower. The average percentage of high needs of Alliance Districts is 87%, the lowest is 40% and we are 43%. We are 3% higher than the lowest district. This is who we are and why we are an Alliance District. We just didn't make the first and second Alliance Network reviews. We should have been there 11 years ago. In 2017-18 the average need was 61%, the highest was 86%, the lowest was 45% and we are at 47%. This did not happen overnight. We have qualified at each step but were not allowed in.

Mr. Drezek reviewed the data for Free/Reduced Lunch for Alliance Districts. In 2012-13 we were 35% and the average was 56%. In 2017-18 we were 39%. He reviewed average Free/Reduced lunch in 2012-13 for Alliance Districts. The highest was 83%, the lowest was 34% and we were 35%. In 2017-18 the average was 56%, the highest was 56%, the lowest was 37% and we were 39%.

Mr. Drezek has spoken to the State about this. It is not unreasonable to think students with higher needs need a higher level of resources. He reviewed the per public expenditures (PPE) for each Alliance District. The average spent per pupil is \$18,682. The State amount is \$19,134 and Enfield's amount is \$16,601. When you compare us to Alliance Districts, we are \$2,081 less. Compared to the State, we are \$2,533 less. We are not being given the appropriate resources to meet the needs of our kids. Our PPE does not align with our peers in other Alliance Districts or our needs.

Mr. Drezek added when you are named as an Alliance District, it is a recognition that your resources aren't lining up to our needs and our performance is not where the State wants it to be. The creation of an Alliance Grant is meant as a State intervention to give us additional resources to match the needs of our kids to increase student performance. The State can replace each Board member, me and Mr. Longey. They cannot replace our staff. They are not doing this. They are saying our needs are here and our performance is there, and the funding is here. This is the recognition of State intervention that we need to increase our resources and if you do not have the funds locally, they will designate them for you.

Mr. Drezek added we are all familiar with ECS (Education Cost Sharing). The State will look at your ECS funding from 2012-13 and 2022-23 and that difference will be your Alliance Grant. The Alliance Grant monies will be separate from your ECS monies that is sent to the Town. We will be sent money directly. The minimum budget requirement cannot change. When you are an Alliance District it is a recognition. This is how the process works.

Mr. Drezek added when the 3 new Alliance Districts were added (Enfield, Plainfield and Stratford) in February 2022. When they shared this information publicly on July 1st it was contingent on Legislation process. There is only one pool of money. Some districts were supposed to graduate out but didn't. The reason they were in a position to graduate was because they received an increase in resources. It is counter productive to take their funding away because once they do, they will be in the same place again. The Alliance Network was expanded to 36 districts. In stead of our look back being 10 years it is only 1 year. ECS funding from 2022-23 was flat funded. With a one year look back there is no funding available in the Alliance Grant.

Mr. Drezek stated it has been said by audience members that we need to come up with a plan. When you are part of the Alliance District and receive an Alliance Grant, part of the accountability requirements is you will need to submit a plan about how we will use the money. This plan also needs to be approved by the State. During the summer we discussed our plan and found out there was no money for the 3 new Alliance Districts. We have a comprehensive plan in place, but we did not receive a grant. All indications are pointing that this will be rectified for the next fiscal year. He added Board members will see the plan. You will not see it first and you will not have input on it. The plan needs to be approved by the

Commissioner of Education. When the plan is finalized, I will share it with the Board. The current plans for the other Alliance Districts are available to view.

Mr. Drezek added he hopes he has clarified any misconceptions about being an Alliance District and the process. He understands that people may not like this or support this. The last thing he will address is how do we get off of being an Alliance District. It will take at least 5 years. Our clock has not started yet until we start to receive an Alliance Grant. Realistically, there are 36 districts in the Alliance Network now, and not one district has graduated out. Even if we are overperforming our plan, we still will not get out. With any luck, we will receive additional resources for being in the Alliance Network.

Madam Chair stated we can discuss this under Board member comments.

8. AUDIENCES - None

9. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mrs. Acree provided an update on Crandall's One Book, Three Schools initiative started. The book they are reading is "A Galaxy of Sea Stars". They will have an author visit on May 30th. Students in grades 3 & 5 will be taking language arts assessments for smarter balanced assessments. Progress reports will be issued on April 28th. Grade 5 students will visit JFK on May 3rd.

Dr. Calnen provided a detailed update about KITE, School Readiness Council, Equity Conversation, Focus Group, Sparkler Program, Family Education Organization, Upcoming Stowe events, Transition Night, Book Buddies, Rocking Chair Readers, Tax credit program for Seniors, 2-Gen, and Child First (860-236-4511). We have a new social worker at Stowe - Angelica Fajardo.

Mrs. Cushman thanked Mr. Drezek for his Alliance presentation. She looks forward to when your plan is approved by the Commissioner of Education. She plans to attend the United Sound Performance on Wednesday. It should be very enjoyable.

Mr. Hamre reminded everyone about the JFK PTO mattress fundraiser event that will be held on Sunday from 10 AM - 5 PM. The JFK staff vs. students basketball game will be held on May 19th. Students can register for this event starting on Friday for \$10. He thanked all of our bus drivers for providing transportation for our students.

Mr. Hamre provided an update regarding the Renters Rebate Program.

Mr. Hamre asked Madam Chair to remove Mrs. Cushman from the Policy Committee for bringing up numerous issues outside that are currently protecting our citizens, our district and mission statement.

Mr. Hamre discussed removing party affiliations from the dais and asked for members of the Town Council to open up the Town Charter to make this change.

Mr. Hamre spoke about the Women's Club Art Festival and the soup bowls he purchased from Abby. He is extremely proud of what our students are doing. He also spoke about the upcoming Lamplighters production of "The Sound of Music". They all work so hard putting on these productions - thank you.

Mr. Hamre thanked Mr. Drezek for his presentation. He is glad to hear we are working with families that qualify for free/reduced lunches in a humane way.

Mr. Unghire attended Buzz Robotics competition at Western New England. There were a lot of people from Enfield wearing their yellow shirts supporting the students. They did very well, and the competition was very exciting.

Mr. Unghire thanked Mr. Drezek for his Alliance presentation. He asked about the threshold of being designated as an Alliance District and additional resources to improve performance. What is that performance.

Mr. Drezek stated it would be to improve standardized test scores. Mr. Unghire added it is for academic performance.

Mr. Drezek added there are other indicators that the accountability index is made up of. It is not just academic performance. There are SEL components. He did not bring all 12 indicators with him tonight. It also includes attendance, chronic absenteeism, and it is not just academic performance.

Mr. Unghire added academics is a metric used. Mr. Drezek added just like graduation requirements is a metric and absenteeism.

Mr. Unghire addressed Madam Chair from his caucus and Mr. Hamre's request to remove Mrs. Cushman from the Policy Committee. She belongs on this committee. She was elected by the voters. Her only motivation is to protect our kids. The members of the policy committee will vote on proposal recommendations. He objects to this suggestion to remove her. Not everyone will see things the same way. She is a fine representative on this committee. She wants to guard and protect our students.

Madam Chair stated she will address this during Policy Committee reports.

Mrs. Pickett thanked everyone for the gifts Board members received at the last meeting for Board Appreciation. She was unable to attend. Mr. Ryder dropped-off her gifts. She loved receiving the Enfield Street sign, staff and students messages - thank you. This reminded her of why she wanted to be on the Board.

Mrs. Pickett also attended the Arts Festival with her family. This was a great event. Seeing all our students work was very inclusive - thank you.

Mrs. Pickett also thanked all of our bus drivers. Driving our buses is a tough job. You are great to our kids every day and you are keeping all of our children safe - thank you.

Mrs. Pickett would like to receive an update on the PK-5 School Modernization Committee and next steps. Madam Chair added this will be done under our committee reports.

Mrs. Pickett stated Enfield Street will hold a literacy night on May 7th. Thank you, PTO members, for everything you do. They will hold a special assembly on Friday and progress reports will also come home on Friday.

Mrs. Pickett stated Chef O and members from his culinary team where at a competition in Florida. She thanked them all for what they are doing.

Mrs. Pickett thanked Mr. Drezek for his presentation. She cannot wait to see our plan. She has said before, she wants a greedy budget. Our funding does not support our needs. Funding impacts our programs and our students directly. She pleaded to our community about the decisions that are made regarding the budget. She is very concerned about our special education numbers and tiered support for students with high needs. She would also like to know what happened in our community during 2017-18 and 2018-19. That was an interesting jump with the data. Thank you, Mr. Drezek, for your informative presentation and cannot wait to see our plans.

Mr. Ryder asked for clarification. We are spending \$16K per student, Alliance Districts are spending \$18K per student. That is a difference of \$2K per student. We were just added to the list that did not come with any immediate benefits. We will still receive our \$28 million and some of it will come directly to us now. That still does not bring us up to \$19K per student. We are still being financially cut short.

Mr. Drezek stated this information is from 2021-22. The letter is from 2022 and highlights the delta between the State per pupil \$19.1K and Alliance District per pupil \$18.6K is the \$900 he spoke about.

Mr. Ryder added we are an Alliance District on paper without any money. This may or may not change in the future. What did the other district receive historically? Did they get at least the \$900 to increase their per pupil expenditure? We need to get from the \$16.6 to \$18.6K. We need at least \$4.5 million more just

to be at the Alliance District average.

Mr. Drezek commented there is a mouse in here.

Mr. Drezek added it was important to mention when we might get off as from being an Alliance District and the 5 year plan. This gap will not be closed overnight. Some of the protections that are built in may come across as a negative because some communities where the Board and Town Council do not see eye to eye or get along. Protections like the minimum budget requirement are there because you cannot spend less on education than you did in the previous year. We have received additional funding from the Town because they received additional funds. There are a lot of proposed changes in the State of Connecticut. ECS and Excess Costs are not currently fully funded at the State level. This can be very confusing. House Bill HB5003 is a plan to start fully funding public education. This could be a game changer for us to increase our funding to where it should be. The other part of this bill takes away local Boards of Education responsibility to pay for magnet tuitions. That would give us an additional \$1 million dollars.

Mr. Drezek stated we all need to start on the same page with the same facts. We are talking about the needs of our kids and resources to meet those needs. We cannot forget our teachers. They are not getting the needs they need to support our kids needs and they are still holding them to the same expectations. It is not fair.

Mr. Drezek added it would be a large sum of money that is needed in order to catch up. There is expectations that come along with receiving funds.

Mr. Ryder also thanked our bus drivers and friends from Smyth Bus. He appreciates everything they are doing for our students. We have been meeting at JFK for the past couple of years seeing the drivers and waving to them. We also stopped by Smyth bus and dropped off balloons thanking them for everything they do for our kids.

Mr. Ryder stated Eli Whitney will be holding a Blood Drive on Wednesday from 1-6 PM in the gym. You can go to www.redcrossblood.com to register. Grade 5 students received their saplings for Arbor day. The Behavior Techs have been creating space for the students to draw, color and create stories. They are calling themselves the art-throbs. They will hold an assembly on Thursday with Berkshire Music. A Bingo Night will be held, and grade 2 Memorial students will join us on Thursday night at 6 PM. Grade 5 students can now purchase JFK spirit wear.

Mr. Ryder stated the art show is one of the many things we do right in Enfield. Every corner of the **café** had something different happening. This was a great event. The EHS Lamplighters will put on their production of the Sound of Music starting on Friday night. Enfield Unplugged is also coming up during the first week of May. He thanked Kite for all of the great ideas.

Mr. Ryder stated the Enfield Town Wide Tag Sale is coming up on May 20th. Registration entry fees will be donated to the Enfield Food Shelf. This will be their 11th year holding this event.

Madam Chair stated she also attended the art show and purchased some bowls from Abby. Our students are amazingly talented. This was such a great community event. She met her previously during the United Sound presentation. She loved seeing the JFK under the sea exhibit. She also attended the Unified Sports Volleyball game. Both the Police Department and Thompsonville Fire Department were there playing alongside the students. Everyone had such a great time, especially the fire fighters. She will attend the United Sound presentation on Wednesday at EHS. She read a memo about this event from Mr. Reppucci. EHS held a bottle and can drive. She also thanked our bus drivers for everything they are doing for our students every day.

Madam Chair stated when we found out that we were becoming an Alliance District, it was based on our prior year of funding that was flat funded. There was talk prior to her becoming a Board member about Alliance Districts. When it comes to our special education and our students that have disabilities, it is not just physical. They are also dealing with students with emotional disabilities. You can't always see a disability. Councilman Santanella did a presentation for the PK-5 Modernization Committee on the per pupil spending. It has only increased over the past 10-12 years around \$3K. We are asking our teachers

to do more with less. It is very frustrating hearing the negative comments. It is not just one thing that made us an Alliance District. This is our community. People are talking negatively about us being an Alliance District. We are a public school system and welcome all students. We are also dealing with families and resources they might need. They make up our community. When it comes to ELL, we are helping the students and the entire family that do not speak English to get resources that are needed. Asking how we are going to fix this is has such a negative effect on our community. We are addressing absenteeism with family outreach programs.

Madam Chair added when you look at our per pupil expenditures, for years we did not increase our taxes in Enfield. We have been robbing Peter to pay Paul. Our contractual obligations, fixed costs and health care costs continued even without the proper funding. This has come to a head, and we are now an Alliance District. We are looking at space and building concerns. Our infrastructure is failing. It is frustrating that this has taken a political and negative tone.

Madam Chair stated CAFE list all the Board chairs and we have been discussing budget increases across the State. Some districts are asking for more money to support their students needs. Comparing schools to when she went to school, times are very different now. Society is a lot different, and our kids are being exposed to a lot more. Some kids do not know where they will be living or if they will have food. These kids are expected to perform the same standards as other kids that have a home, food to eat and family support. Our teachers understand their students living conditions and they are helping them. Our teachers are doing so much with less.

Madam Chair spoke about the EHS Grid Iron Club and family dinners. They would leave to-go boxes for some of the students to take the extra food home with them so their siblings would have something to eat. We need to understand our Enfield community.

Mrs. Pickett added the information that is on the Edsight website is data that comes from us. These are real numbers. She also thanked Madam Chair for sharing about the needs of our district.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS :

a. Policy Revisions - Second Reading

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #4112.5 Security Check/Fingerprinting for a second and final reading.

Discussion :

Mr. Unghire asked why Head Start and Stowe employees are exempt. Mr. Longey explained that we are following Federal guidelines, and this is needed to clarify this in the policy. They are still having background checks conducted.

Mr. Unghire asked if we could include that in that sentence that we are following Federal guidelines for Head Start and Stowe employees?

Mr. Hamre stated he asked the same question at the Policy meeting. This is what Policy committee members agreed on.

Mr. Unghire feels the way it is written can cause confusion and questions. Mr. Longey further explained our policy now matches Manchester. Manchester is our grantee, and we use the same language. It says that in the next paragraph about criminal checks.

Mr. Hamre reviewed his notes from the March Policy Committee meeting with Mr. Unghire.

Mrs. Pickett added there is a text box that explains this in the policy. Mr. Unghire added that is what is confusing.

Mr. Longey added Head Start employees must follow all Federal guidelines and they will still be

fingerprinted. It is a small change to make us consistent with Manchester.

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

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Dr. Calnen, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5123 Promotion/Retention for a second and final reading.

Discussion :

Mr. Ryder added this just clarifies the number of credits that are needed.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS :

a. Approval of School Readiness Continuation Grant

Dr. Calnen moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, that the Enfield Board of Education approves the FY2023-24 School Readiness Continuation Grant as presented.

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

b. Policy Revisions - First Reading

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #5145.54 Civility as a First Reading.

Discussion :

Mrs. Pickett asked for a change in the second paragraph - Enfield School District Board of Directors - changing it to **Enfield Board of Education** . We have a lot of student policies. Why is this policy being proposed and how does it align with what we are already doing.

Mr. Longey stated CABE introduced this policy and other districts, including here, have seen some civil discourse being displayed in many areas. This is not just for students. This is not a mandatory policy. Basically, we would be making a statement that this is not allowed here. We have seen a lot of uncivil behavior at many events. We have a lot of policies in the 5000 series about student behavior. This is more general, and he is looking at this as a statement from the Board.

Mr. Ryder added it is also a catchall to address additional behavior issues. We addressed this at the Policy meeting. This is more behavioral. This gives us something else to point to.

Mrs. Pickett agrees with the concept. It outlines pretty strict guidelines.

Mr. Unghire agrees with Mrs. Pickett. Mr. Longey's explanation clarifies this, and the catchall mentioned by Mr. Ryder makes sense with an uptick in behavior issues.

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

Madam Chair stated we are letting the mouse out of the building.

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Pickett, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #6174 Summer School Policy as a First Reading.

Discussion :

Mrs. Pickett would love to see summer school being mandatory.

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

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #9321 Time, Place and Notification of Meetings as a First Reading.

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

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Hamre, that the Enfield Board of Education approves Policy #9325.2 Order of Business and Meeting Conduct as a First Reading.

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

12. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Curriculum - Mrs. Pickett reported the Curriculum Committee our April meeting was cancelled and we will meet on May 18th. Mr. Dube will present about our new Health Curriculum.

Finance - Dr. Calnen reported the Finance Committee meeting was held on April 3rd. We reviewed financial reports, nutrition reports and Tag investments. Our next meeting will be held on May 1st.

Policy - Madam Chair stated she has the discretion to remove Board members from any committee. She has reviewed the process for committee membership. She hears Mr. Hamre and his frustration and at the same time, she understands how the other member feels. This issue has come up for past Boards. At times, frustration can build just like it does with families. We need to agree to disagree. This makes our democracy. We need to think of the future when it comes to removing Board members from any committee. We need a balance. You are both representing each other appropriately. She will not remove any members from any of our committees. She has seen the frustrations and understands. Our dialogue is good. At times, we are very divided. You are both trying to protect our students.

Mr. Ryder reported the Policy Committee met on April 18th and our next meeting will be held on April 16th.

Madam Chair asked about the Policy minutes that mentioned flags. Mr. Ryder stated an item was brought up under items from the table from Mrs. Cushman about the kinds of flags in our classrooms and on school grounds. This item will be placed on our next agenda for discussion.

Mrs. Cushman added she provided a sample policy to committee members that will be discussed at our next meeting.

Mr. Ryder added this is how our committee works. Madam Chair added she was unable to attend and just had a question about this.

Mr. Hamre wished our committee meetings were aired live. We had an issue last year regarding transgender students using bathrooms that was also handled through the Policy committee. Removing flags from classrooms would directly affect the LGBTQ community.

Mr. Ryder stated this is a procedure we follow on the Policy Committee with items from the table. This item will be placed on our next meeting agenda for discussion.

Leadership - Madam Chair reported Board Leadership did not meet and she would like to meet prior to our next meeting.

Joint Facility - Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Facilities Committee cancelled the April 13th meeting and will now meet on April 27th.

JFK Building Committee - Mr. Ryder reported the JFK Building Committee cancelled their April meeting.

Joint Security Committee - Mr. Ryder reported the Joint Security Committee also canceled their April

meeting.

Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup - Dr. Calnen did not have anything new to report regarding the Enfield Mental Health Wellness & Workgroup.

Enfield Cultural Arts Commission - Mr. Hamre provided the Board with a detailed report regarding the Summer Arts program for students in grades 2-12. He spoke about the EHS Lamplighters production of the Sound of Music and the wonderful arts program that was sponsored by the Enfield Women's Club. He thanked the members of the Women's Club. He would also like to represent our culinary arts program as their liaison. The Town has built a Gazebo. The mural project is underway. The members of Valley Rep Theatre will put on their production of "Holidazed", and the Opera House Players will put on their production of the "Hunch Back of Notre Dame".

Madam Chair stated it is nice to see our culinary arts program so involved. We used to have a program at Fermi called Café Rendezvous. You could go to school early and get a full breakfast. This is where she learned how to make French toast.

PK-5 School Modernization Committee - Mr. Ryder provided a recap of what the PK-5 School Modernization Committee has done up to this point. The Town Council has approved up to \$200K to conduct a feasibility and demographic study. He asked if our request has gone out to bid.

Mr. Drezek added everything is in process before the Town submits their RFP. This is being reviewed by legal, and it should go out any day. The bid process is 30 days from when the bid goes out. He will reach out to you once he hears something.

Mr. Ryder appreciates this information. No date to meet has been set for committee members to meet again. He thanked the 15 volunteers and liaisons for your time, efforts and willingness to serve on this committee.

Madam Chair stated the liaisons are Scott Ryder, Janet Cushman, Gina Cekala, and Ken Nelson. Several other Town Council members and Board members joined us on the building tours. It was very important to look at each elementary school.

Mr. Ryder added the recommendation from the PK-5 Modernization Committee is to return to a K-5 school model vs. our current K-2 and 3-5 model with the studies that will be done.

Mr. Unghire asked if Madam Chair is on this committee. Madam Chair stated no liaisons will be voting members. We felt this committee needed to be led by staff and community members. Only committee members can vote. She is an ex-officio member of this committee. We met at JFK and gave committee members a tour of the building. Committee members decided on 4 topics to discuss at the special meeting with Board and Town Council members.

Mr. Ryder urged community members to watch the special April 5th meeting.

Madam Chair added the topics were space, facility, family and academics. She again thanked committee members and liaisons for dedication. She cannot wait to see what happens next.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2023, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 6-0-2** passed with Mrs. Pickett and Mr. Unghire abstaining.

Mrs. Pickett moved, seconded by Mr. Ryder that the Special Meeting Minutes of April 5, 2023, be approved. A vote by **show-of-hands 8-0-0** 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 March 2023 the total expenditures amount to \$8,929,699.48, broken down between payroll totaling \$7,076,396.98 and other accounts totaling \$1,853,302.50 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 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

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

- The month of March 2023 total Grant and Head Start expenditures amount to \$1,635,624.50 broken down between payroll totaling \$819,920.64 and other accounts totaling \$815,703.86; 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 8-0-0** passed unanimously.

Line Item Transfers if any - None

15. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

Mr. Hamre congratulated both Lindsey Ciechowski and Lilly Ortiz as Enfield's CAS outstanding Performing Arts and Visual Arts recipients.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

17. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hamre moved, seconded by Mrs. Cushman to adjourn the Regular Meeting of April 25, 2023.

All ayes, motion passed unanimously. Meeting stood adjourned at 9:38 PM.

Jonathan LeBlanc
Secretary
Board of Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Zalucki, Recording Secretary