

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
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**Sht. No. 1995
November 14, 2023**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

- Members Present:** Debra Golley, Shana Chudy, William Murphy, Karl Northrup, Jenna O’Connell, Kristen Pearl, Robert Van Wicklin
- Members Absent:** None
- Staff Present:** Robert Miller, Melissa Sawicki, Katie Mendell, Erich Ploetz
- Staff Absent:** Aimee Kilby
- Others Present:** Chris Edwards, Schavon Byroads, Brock Blecha, Betsy Scurr, Ben Payne, Shelby Colburn, Layla Kerns, Brooke Butler

Call to order of meeting
President Golley called the regular meeting of November 14, 2023, of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education to order at 6:00p.m. The Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

Roll Call
All present

Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

- Additions:
16. Personnel
- e. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Randi Metzger to the position of Teacher Assistant effective November 27, 2023, at a pro-rated salary of \$21,678 and pro-rated benefits for the 2023-2024 school year. This position carries a four-year probationary period which will begin on November 27, 2023, and end on November 27, 2027.
 - f. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Michelle Conroy to the position of .6 FTE Long Term Substitute Teacher Assistant effective November 27, 2023, at a rate of \$115 per day, for each day worked, for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.
 - g. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Michelle O’Donnell to the provisional position of keyboard specialist at a rate of \$15.25 per hour, effective November 27, 2023. Ms. O’Donnell will serve a 12-month probationary period beginning on November 27, 2023 and end on November 27, 2024.
 - h. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept the resignation of Shawne Hunt as the 9-12 Musical: Assistant Director (Production) for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Deletions:
17. Policy
- b. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the second reading and changes to policy #7330: Searches and Interrogations of Students.

Approve Agenda
Moved by Van Wicklin, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the November 14, 2023, Board of Education Meeting with additions and deletions.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Public Comment

Betsy Scurra (Farmersville) stated that her son plays on the Franklinville Football Team. She stated that the coaching staff needs to be re-evaluate for next year. She stated that the coaching staff has made comments to the players and that basically the kids on the benches, are punching bags for the starters. Ms. Scurra referenced an incident that happened last season (2022-2023) with a comment being made by a coach to a player, because the player left and went to the emergency room with his brother who was hurt. She said the loss in the last game this year was heartbreaking and that the kids were crying and sad and it was heart breaking.

Brock Blecha (Franklinville) stated that he thought Ms. Scurra's comments about the coaches were false. He stated that players don't trust what the coaches are teaching them and that the coaches have years and years of experience. He stated that the coaching staff gives the players everything they need to be successful players and they don't respect that. Mr. Blecha stated that the kids work their tails off, but some are lazy and don't want to be there and are asking when the practices/games are going to be over. He stated that the coaches are trying to set them up for life and the real world. He added that in the real world if you don't show up, you won't get anywhere. He stated that players are given a 5-page defensive packet and the coaches watch a ton of film. Mr. Blecha stated that when the team is up by 20 points nothing is said, but when they lose it is the coach's fault and when they win it's because of the kids.

President Golley asked Ms. Scurra for clarification if she was talking about all the football coaches or just the Varsity program. Ms. Scurra stated the Varsity program. President Golley thanked Ms. Scurra for taking pictures at the games.

Schavon Byroads (Great Valley) stated that she was speaking regarding the football game. She stated that she did not care what happened on the field, and that parents (some) were embarrassing. She stated that four parents were out of control, screaming and swearing and calling coaches by name because of how the game was going. She stated that there needs to be some accountability for how some fans acted. She stated that if she was a coach, she would have been afraid to walk to her car (because some of the people were so aggressive). Mrs. Byroads said, win or lose it was sad the way people were acting.

Chris Edwards stated that on behalf of the boys' soccer team he would like to thank everyone. President Golley asked him to relay a thank you back to the boys. Mr. Edwards stated that they appreciated seeing some of them (the board and administration) for coming to see them play.

President Golley stated that decisions will be made down the road and that they (the Board) appreciate everyone coming to the meeting.

Presentations & Reports

CA BOCES – Big Picture: Carol Fial and Charlie Gardner (Ellicottville Big Picture – Principal) attended the Board meeting and explained what the Big Picture program is, how it started and the components of the program. Mr. Gardner showed a PowerPoint presentation explaining how the program is run. He stated that there are 50 students in the program at a time. They partner with the CTE Center as well as with the community for partnerships. Restorative Practices are used daily to open the lines of communication. The program started being held at ECS in the 2009-2010 school year. President Golley stated that some people think most of the kids in the program are bad or behavioral problems. She stated that it is not the case. She added that she encourages the administration to visit the program and sit in on some of their presentations.

Class of 2024 Senior Trip – Brooke Butler (Class of 2024 President) stated that the class would like to go to Lake George, NY for their senior trip. The dates of the trip are June 13-16, 2024. They currently have 20 students interested and depending on the final cost of the trip, there may be more. Brooke stated that they just want everyone to have fun and be together. Shelby Colburn introduced herself as the class Vice President and Layla Kerns as the class Treasurer. Erich Ploetz, MS/HS Principal stated that the class is very organized, and he appreciates that. He thanked the officers.

Communications, Commendations

None

Informational Items

None

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Superintendent’s Report – Robert Miller

1. Athletic Field updates: went out again and looked at the football field. We have less to cut than originally thought. We now have to cut ½ ft. by 20 ft. We won’t be able to have playoff soccer games on the field but will be able to play regular season games. Waiting for one more quote, so we can move ahead with the project.
2. A bit of money is left in the capital project. Want to get large rocks (boulders) to put in front of the elementary playground. This will help deter cars from driving through and possibly hurting someone on the playground. We have been removing some of the shrubs that the deer have damaged.
3. Talked with Vicky Williams and we are waiting for our application to be approved for free breakfast and lunch for district students. It was free before, but the District would have had to pick up the cost (for ECS \$65,000-\$100,000). This year the State is picking up the cost. Hoping to be able to start on December 1st if not January 2nd. Not sure if it will still be in place next school year, but we will continue to monitor.

Principals Reports:

Katie Mendell – Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum

1. Climate & Culture: Everyone came together to send the boys soccer team off to States. The elementary got to participate. It was nice to see everyone come together. The elementary students were excited to be in the gym for the pep assembly and on the sidewalks out front when the firetrucks were there with the boy’s bus to send them off to States.
2. Monday Assemblies and Character Traits & Awards: this month concentrated on the meaning of Veteran’s Day.
3. Alex Freer has office hours at ECS. Teachers can meet and obtain curriculum hours, through CA BOCES. This service lets teacher implement how computer-based testing will be. We continue to also work on Curriculum with Anne Mitchell and Mark Carls (from CA BOCES).

Erich Ploetz - MS/HS Principal

1. Academics: last week ended the 1st marking period. Report cards will be printed and mailed this week and available to parents who attend conferences in the middle school/high school. Full slate of in-person and phone conferences for 11/16. Finishing up last rounds of benchmark testing for grades 7-11 core subjects. Big thank you to Karl Gesing, Assistant Principal, for helping to oversee the project.
2. SEL: the week of October 23rd was Red Ribbon Week, highlighted by a guest speaker from Kid’s Escaping Drugs, separate assemblies were held for grades 6-8 and 9-12. December 2nd ECS will administer the CLYDE survey, Community-Level Youth Development Evaluation.
3. Extracurriculars: Congratulations to Coach Finn and the Men’s Soccer Team, as well as all Fall athletes. Congratulations to Crystal Wilder and the cast and crew of the MS Musical.

Consent Items:

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to adopt the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. That the board approve the minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2023
- b. Acknowledgement of the October 24, 2023 & November 7, 2023, Claims Auditor Reports
- c. Approval of the September 2023 Treasurer’s Report

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Committee Reports:

Buildings, Grounds & Transportation: met earlier this evening to work on the Building Condition Survey. Managed to go through about 75% of the survey. Sticker shock on some of the items. We need to have the BCS for Capital Outlays and Capital Projects. In December we hope to have the full survey ready for the Board to view. Then it will be submitted to SEI for review, and they will submit to New York State.

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Discussion Items:
None

Old Business:
None

New Business:
Moved by Van Wicklin, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Debra Golley, President - Board of Education, approval to accept the resignation of Shana Chudy as the Vice President of the Board of Education effective immediately (November 14, 2023).

Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried

Nominations and Election of New Board Officer:

Vice-President
Upon a motion made by Van Wicklin, seconded by O’Connell the following resolution was offered: RESOLVED, that Kristen Pearl be elected Vice President of the Board of Education of this District for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year effective immediately (November 14, 2023). The Oath of Office is to be administered.

Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the Corrective Action Plan letter for the 2022-2023 External Audit and the 2022-2023 Student Activities Audit.

Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried

Moved by Chudy, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the 2023-2024 Capital Outlay Project bids:

Kinley Contractors, LLC	\$68,450	Base Bid
Kinley Contractors, LLC	<u>\$ 3,200</u>	Alternate GC-01 – painting
	\$71,650	

Discussion: Shana Chudy stated that she is glad we got the Capital Outlay Project going. Superintendent Miller stated that we (the District) has to keep it going.

Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the 2023-2024 Tax Collector’s Report.

Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried

Moved by Pearl, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Consultant Contracts with Therese Pierce and Kelly McMahon for educational services effective November 15, 2023 – January 31, 2024.

Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried

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Personnel:

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Ruthann Courtney to the position of Bus Driver effective retroactive to October 27, 2023. This position carries a one-year probationary period which will begin on October 27, 2023 and end on October 27, 2024. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Family Medical Leave (FMLA) request from Sarah Pepper from tentatively 11/27/23 to 3/4/24 for 12 weeks; including paid maternity leave as per ETA CBA.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of an unpaid leave of absence for Sarah Pepper from tentatively March 4 – May 6, 2024.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following advisors for the 2023-2024 school year:

9-12 Musical (Drama Club)

•Director (Stage) Elizabeth Weber

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Randi Metzger to the position of Teacher Assistant effective November 27, 2023, at a pro-rated salary of \$21,678 and pro-rated benefits for the 2023-2024 school year. This position carries a four-year probationary period which will begin on November 27, 2023, and end on November 27, 2027.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Michelle Conroy to the position of .6 FTE Long Term Substitute Teacher Assistant effective November 27, 2023, at a rate of \$115 per day, for each day worked, for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Michelle O’Donnell to the provisional position of keyboard specialist at a rate of \$15.25 per hour, effective November 27, 2023. Ms. O’Donnell will serve a 12-month probationary period beginning on November 27, 2023 and end on November 27, 2024.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept the resignation of Shawne Hunt as the 9-12 Musical: Assistant Director (Production) for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Policy

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the second reading and changes to policy #7221: Participation In Graduation Ceremonies & Activities.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

~~Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the second reading and changes to policy #7330: Searches and Interrogations of Students.~~

CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Moved by Van Wicklin, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Ellicottville Central School District: That the Ellicottville Central School District has reviewed the recommendations of the District’s Committee on Special Education (#900500368, 900500293, 900500808, 900500747, 900500457, 900500289, 900500878, 900501378, 900500961, 900501406, 900501449, 900500404, 900500580, 900501390, 900501228, 900500892, 900500891, 900500908, 900500906, 900500568, 900501599, 900501609 at its meeting on November 14, 2023, and approves all necessary arrangements as the most reasonable and appropriate special service(s) and/or program(s) for the implementation of those recommendations October 10 – November 8, 2023.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Brock Blecha stated that he would like the Board and Administration to know that he has attended every football practice and game this year. President Golley stated that Board members know that and thanked him for attending the meeting.

~~Executive Session~~

~~_____ Moved by _____, seconded by _____, to move into Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. to discuss: Executive Session to discuss:~~

- ~~•The medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation~~
- ~~•collective bargaining pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law~~

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Van Wicklin, seconded by Pearl, to adjourn the regular meeting of November 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

District Clerk

Deputy District Clerk