

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School

Regular Meeting
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Sht. No. 2017
January 14, 2025

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Members Present:

Debra Golley, Karl Northrup, Nathan Dahlman
Tiffany Frentz, David Scotty McGee, Jenna O’Connell

Members Absent:

Carla Kruszynski

Staff Present:

Mark J. Ward, Kristen Pearl, Erich Ploetz, Katie Mendell

Staff Absent:

Aimee Kilby

Others Present:

Melissa Sawicki, Schavon Byroads, Kenzie Mendell, Anna Zeher, Paisley
Ruble, Matthew Myers, Grant Wallace, Quimley LaCroix, Anna Zeher, Eli
Norton

Call to order of meeting

President Golley called the regular meeting of January 14, 2025, of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

Roll Call

Carla Kruszynski - Absent

Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Changes:

16. Personnel

d. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon _____ the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools approval to appoint Sarah Lafferty, as a Long-Term Substitute based on Step 6 (ETA 25-Tier Salary Schedule) plus benefits as outlined in the ETA contract, effective tentatively Monday, January 27, 2025. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

Additions:

7. Communications, Commendations

a. Thank you card from Bob Miller.

16 Personnel:

c.

Approval as cafeteria substitute at \$15.50 per hour.

d.

Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following resolution: The Board hereby approves the terms of the MOA between the Ellicottville Teachers’ Association as presented by the Interim Superintendent, Mark J. Ward related to the District’s hiring of a long term substitute, effective January 29, 2025.

e.

Moved by _____, seconded by _____ upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, Mr. Mark J. Ward, the Board hereby appoints Sarah Lafferty to the non-probationary position of Long-Term Substitute for Special Education effective January 29, 2025. Ms. Lafferty holds a Bachelor’s degree in elementary education and is pursuing New York State teaching certification in special education. Ms. Lafferty shall receive health insurance, leave time, and other financial benefits (including step 6) 25-Step Salary Schedule consistent with the Ellicottville Teachers’ Contract, prorated accordingly. Due to significant needs of the District, during her long-term substitute appointment, the Board also authorizes payment for Ms. Lafferty’s coursework up to the number of credits needed to obtain New York State Special Education Certification (at the SUNY graduate tuition rate) provided the following conditions are met:

The Coursework is taken during the long-term substitute appointment

• The Coursework is approved by the Superintendent.

• The Coursework is part of a course of study leading to New York State Special Education certification.

This appointment is contingent upon successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

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- f. Moved by _____ seconded by _____ upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a letter of resignation from Denise Wiser (Teacher Aide) effective January 17, 2025.
- g. Moved by _____, seconded by _____ upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of Cora Norton to the substitute teacher aide list (non-certified) effective January 15, 2025 at a rate of \$15.50 per hour. This appointment is contingent upon successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.
- h. Moved by _____ seconded by _____ upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent to accept a letter of resignation from Mrs. Jeanne Brown (bus driver) from the Ellicottville Central School District effective June 26, 2025.

Approve Agenda

Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of January 14, 2025 Board of Education Meeting with additions and changes.

Yes -- 6
No -- 0
Carried

Public Comment

- The Public Comment section is a time set aside for the community to speak directly to the Board of Education.
- Please refer to Policy # 3220 – Public Expression at Meetings.
- Any person may make a public comment by placing their name, address, and topic on the sign-in sheet.
- When called, please stand up and state your name and address.
- Please be respectful in your comments and do not divulge any personal or confidential information. The speaker will be stopped if any Board member or district employee is mentioned by name.
- Please demonstrate respect by speaking to the issues, sharing ideas and opinions, but not engaging in personal attacks. At a public Board meeting, no person may orally initiate charges or complaints against individual District employees or Board members.
- Board members, the superintendent and administrators will not answer specific questions or engage in dialogue.
- The information shared will be carefully considered and the appropriate person may contact you.
- Rest assured, we are listening carefully and take seriously what you have to say.
- The Board appreciates your willingness to share your concerns/celebrations.

Public Comment:

None

Presentations & Reports

None

Communications, Commendations

Thank you card- Bob Miller

Informational Items

None

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Interim Superintendent's Report – Mark J. Ward

1. Glad to be back! First priority that I've been working on is the Special Education room and their need for a teacher, which will be approved later in this meeting.
2. New padding for the gym stage is in the works.
3. Lots of new faces amongst staff!
4. NHS induction ceremony will be 1/16/25 at 6pm at the Great Valley Firemen's Clubhouse.
5. NYS Chancellor of Education called regarding holding seat on their board.
6. Ellicottville Memorial Library requesting funds of \$85,000, up from \$75,000 the previous year.
7. Our district was one of several that were a direct "hit" by scammers in a huge cyber breach. We have not been made aware of how significantly we have been impacted. More info forthcoming.
8. Currently searching for (2) full time teacher aides.
9. Looking into digital timesheet apps. Hoping to implement asap so that we can get rid of the paper timesheets.
10. January 24th: service guide meetings at BOCES, January 30 & 31 superintendent retreats, February 5th meeting with principals.

Principals Reports:

Katie Mendell – Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum

CLIMATE & CULTURE

1. Welcome back! Benchmarking underway- PreK-5
2. "Friday Afternoon Meeting," FAM (Jan 17th)
3. Monthly writing contest/awards
4. Visit from 5th grade leadership students (1st & 2nd quarter)

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

1. Planning for expansion of Eureka Math2 to grade 1, fall of 2025
2. Reconvening science curriculum review committee
3. Anticipated reviews of PreK NYS Site Visit Final Report
4. Continued implementations of "Too Good (for Drugs)" prevention programming (K-8). Continued 10-week staggered schedule in partnership with CASA Trinity (Stephanie Kubiak)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Curriculum Guidance document in development. Consultation with Anne Mitchell.
2. Continued exposures to "office hours" with Alex Freer (manages BOCES media resources)
3. LETRS intensive course via BOCES/NYSED, interventionists (x2) – continued coursework & planning for presentation & updates for elementary teachers. Krista Frank & Marie Davis

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

1. Revisiting Title 1 Family Engagement Policy- review at RTI level Round 2 of tri-annual data review teams with all classrooms & interventionists

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2. PreK Specialist- ongoing growth of position. Expanding support and resources for families
3. Childcare-Healthy Kids- Summer Camp planning
4. Attendance matters initiative

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. School Store- MS/HS & 12:1:3:1 in collaboration with 5th grade leaders
2. Ski Club Safety- SRO Amber (FAM) Learning Address & Phone number (early elementary) – SRO Amber
3. Design a Door Contest for bathroom stall decoration.

Erich Ploetz - MS/HS Principal

1. Things are quiet on the home front.
2. Academics: End of Q2: ASVAB administered on 1/14/25, approximately 35 juniors taking the exam. Regents Exams- Ten students will be retaking the exams to improve their grade.
3. Our middle school faculty is in place! Huge Welcome to Sara Caplan (7/8 Science) and Danielle Myer (7/8 ELA). These teachers are already up and running with mentor teachers, collaboration and professional development. Many thanks to Sherry Olrogg & Sydney Mcyntire for instructional services this fall.
3. National Honor Society Induction is this Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 6pm at the Great Valley Fireman's Clubhouse. There are (15) inductees this year! Several board of education parents will be in attendance. Thank you to Melissa Reedy & Vicky Williams for all their hard work to make this event such a huge success.
4. Ten students and helper athletes will have their season starting soon for the ECS inaugural season of unified bowling. Thanks to Chris Mendell and Andrew Kruszka for taking the lead in this sport!
5. Highschool Musical- Guys & Dolls! Rehearsals are underway and performance dates are March 28 and March 29, 2025.

Consent Items:

- Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to adopt the following Consent Agenda items:
- a. That the board approve the minutes of the meetings of December 9, 2024, and December 10, 2024
 - b. Acknowledgement of the December 17, 2024, and January 3, 2024 Claims Auditor Reports
 - c. Approval of the November 2024 Treasurer's Report

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

Committee Reports:

Melissa Sawicki Retirement- Board acknowledged and thanked Melissa for her 30+ years of service as Superintendent's Secretary and District Clerk.

Discussion Items:

None

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Moved by Dahlihan, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Debra Golley, Board President, approval of David (Scotty) McGee to the following board committees: Athletics and Performing Arts, Strategic Planning, and Negotiations.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

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Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Debra Golley, Board President approval to administer the oath of office to Kristen Pearl, as the District Clerk and Mark J. Ward, as the Interim Superintendent, Deputy School Business Executive, and Deputy District Clerk.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by McGee, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of the September through December 2024 fire drills, lock down drills and go home early drill at ECS.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

Moved by Dahlman, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of the Bond Resolution Authorizing a \$4,530,000 “Capital Improvements Project, 2024” (as Approved by the District’s Voters on December 10, 2024), and the Project’s Plan of Financing.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of Madeline Wallace (St. Bonaventure University- History) to complete her student teaching experience at ECS from January 22, 2025-March 14, 2025. Miss Wallace will be supervised by Ms. Jaclyn James and Mr. Erich Ploetz.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

Personnel:

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of Jennifer Schunk to the substitute cafeteria worker list effective January 15, 2025, at a rate of \$15.50 per hour.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by McGee, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, emergency approval of Erica Marshall to the substitute teacher list (non-certified) at a rate of \$130 per day retroactive to December 19, 2024. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

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Moved by Frentz, seconded by O'Connell, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, emergency approval of Justin Ward to the substitute teacher aide list effective retroactive to January 9, 2025 at a rate of \$15.50 per hour and Approval as cafeteria substitute at \$15.50 per hour. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

Moved by O'Connell, seconded by McGee, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent, Mr. Mark J. Ward, the Board hereby appoints Sarah Lafferty to the non-probationary position of Long-Term Substitute for Special Education effective January 29, 2025. Ms. Lafferty holds a Bachelor's degree in elementary education and is pursuing New York State teaching certification in special education. Ms. Lafferty shall receive health insurance, leave time, and other financial benefits (including step 6) 25-Step Salary Schedule consistent with the Ellicottville Teachers' Contract, prorated accordingly. Due to significant needs of the District, during her long-term substitute appointment, the Board also authorizes payment for Ms. Lafferty's coursework up to the number of credits needed to obtain New York State Special Education Certification (at the SUNY graduate tuition rate) provided the following conditions are met:

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Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

Policy

None

CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim 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 (#900501601, 900500437, 900500354, 900500777, 900500887, 900501485, 900501250, 900501412, 900500758, 900500969, 900501349, 900501504, 900500581, 900501150) at its meeting on January 14, 2025, and approves all necessary arrangements as the most reasonable and appropriate special service(s) and/or program(s) for the implementation of those recommendations December 5, 2024 - January 3, 2025.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

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Executive Session

The New York Public Officers Law states a board may enter executive session to discuss:

1. Matters which will imperil public safety if disclosed.
2. Any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer.
3. Information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed.
4. Proposed, pending or current litigation.
5. Collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).
6. 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.
7. The preparation, grading or administration of examinations.
8. The proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value of the property.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

Executive Session

Moved by Frentz, seconded by Dahlman, to move into Executive Session at 6:39 p.m. for the purpose of:

- # 6. 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.

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Dahlman to come out of Executive Session at 8:01 p.m. and return to the regular meeting.

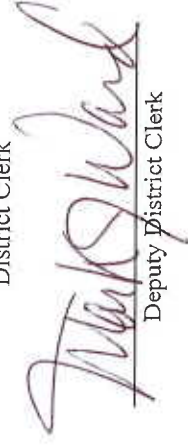
Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Frentz, seconded by O’Connell, to adjourn the regular meeting of January 14, 2025, at 8:03 p.m.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried


District Clerk


Deputy District Clerk