

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
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**Sht. No. 1996
December 12, 2023**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Members Present: Debra Golley, William Murphy, Karl Northrup,
Jenna O'Connell, Kristen Pearl, Robert Van Wicklin

Members Absent: Shana Chudy

Staff Present: Robert Miller, Melissa Sawicki, Aimee Kilby,
Katie Mendell, Erich Ploetz, Karl Gesing

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Karen Romance, Randy Byroads, Schavon Byroads, Tricia Andrews, Andrew
Rozler, Josh Pearl, Andrew Freedman

Call to order of meeting

President Golley called the regular meeting of December 12, 2023, 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

Shana Chudy - Absent

Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

None

Approve Agenda

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of December 12, 2023, Board of Education Meeting.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Public Comment

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.

President Debra Golley read a statement regarding the ongoing investigation at ECS. She stated that she understood how the parents felt, and she would feel the same way that they do. She said that the goal of the Board and Administration is to move forward in the most positive way for the staff, students and community. She stated that they (Board and Administration) are listening. She asked that if someone wanted to address the Board they should state their name, where they live and their concern.

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Schavon Byroads (Great Valley, N.Y.) stated that she understands that things cannot be disclosed and understands the protocols but was upset and concerned that there was no correspondence from the school district to parents, no robo call, no nothing. She said doing nothing is an inappropriate response. She said that she is hearing information from her children and as a parent getting only half the information from her children is upsetting. She stated that the kids are afraid to come to school. She said no one is educating anyone on anything. She said teachers are not qualified to give trauma advice to students. She stated that the right thing needs to be done for everyone. Mrs. Byroads stated that if “we” don’t come down effectively harsh, something can happen. She stated that she prays that none of the victims does self-harm. She ended by saying that “it has to be addressed appropriately”.

Andrew Rozler (Salamanca) – Mr. Rozler stated that he is familiar with how law enforcement works, as he is a retired Cattaraugus County Sheriff’s Deputy. He asked what the district was going to do to protect his daughters and others? He stated that the situation is not going to go away, it is going to follow the girls. He asked what the safety plan is, for when the students return. He stated that knowing there is a fourth suspect in school makes his daughter uncomfortable. Mr. Rozler stated that a safety plan needs to be created and a notification system for parents. He said that parents should be notified that their children will be safe in school.

President Golley stated that they (the Board) appreciates everyone coming to the meeting. She said that she cannot put herself in “your” shoes. She stated that she knows how she would feel with her daughters. She stated that she appreciates everyone coming.

Andrew Rozler stated that he would like to say one more thing: He stated that he was sickened with what happened with the football coaches. Mr. Rozler stated that he 100% supports the football coaches. He said that he thinks our kids kinda gave up, he clarified his statement by saying he did not think our kids gave up but, that the kids thought Wilson would give up. He said that he was disappointed that the Titan fans were verbally attacking Coach Marsh’s wife in the stands. He ended by saying that we have great coaches, and he supports our coaches, Coach Marsh and all our coaches for what they do.

Presentations & Reports

None

Communications, Commendations

None

Informational Items

Superintendent Miller stated that he (and the Board) received a request from Todd Palmatier regarding youth basketball. President Golley reviewed (read) Mr. Palmatier’s letter stating that he is looking for extended gym time on weekends and during the week and permission to hold a tournament. Superintendent Miller stated that youth basketball has the gym on Saturdays from 10 am – 7 pm and Alumni Basketball will be using the gym from 7-9 pm on Saturdays. He stated that last year alumni had the gym from 6-8 pm and are good with the 7-9 pm slot on Saturdays this year. Superintendent Miller stated that youth basketball has the gym(s) during the week as well. He added that “we” will work on more gym time for youth basketball

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Superintendent's Report – Robert Miller

1. Athletic Fields – a local contractor had the lowest bid. Frenzt Excavating laid the landscape fiber, topsoil and seed along the track. The cutting back of the track still needs to take place. They also laid the large rocks in front of the elementary playground. This was done to deter cars from accidentally entering the playground space.
2. Building Condition Survey – there will be a meeting with the Buildings & Grounds Committee the first week in January to wrap up the survey. One thing that needs to be looked at is the lighting in The Ward. It may be cheaper to replace the whole light unit, instead of just the bulb. Will have the final list for the board to review at the January 9, 2024, meeting. The wastewater pumps in the elementary must be replaced. They will cost \$14,000. Replacement will take place on December 27th & 28th.
3. Go Home Drill will be held on Friday, December 22nd. The drill can only be held 15 minutes prior to regular dismissal time. A letter was sent home last Friday to all parents. A robo call will be made and a message will be placed on Facebook.
4. NYS Aid Estimate is that ECS will get a 0 % increase in Foundation Aid for the 2024-2025 school year. Holding out hope, sometimes it changes. If it does not change it will be a huge hit.
5. Going to two meetings this Thursday. One with the Superintendent's and Rick Timbs and the other is an ACASB Meeting with Rick Timbs as the guest speaker. Rick Timbs will address New York State financial information.
6. Lots of questions regarding free breakfast and lunch for students. Prior to a few months ago, the district would have been on the hook for the charges. Just found out that ECS has been approved for Free Breakfast and Lunch for Students beginning January 1st. We will begin on the first day back, January 2nd. Superintendent Miller will make it very clear that any charges owed prior to January 2nd will still have to be paid by the student. We also found out that we will receive four years of State reimbursement.
7. ARP & ESSR Grants: by the January 9th meeting will have a small presentation on how we used the funds (will share link on Facebook in case anyone wants to watch). We have used the funds to provide a lot of staff development, hired support staff, SRO, P/T teacher, we tried to move some of the money over to the budget. Will have a full report on January 9, 2024, Board Meeting.

Principals Reports:

Katie Mendell – Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum

1. Busy time as we approach the holidays. 5th grade Leadership Program – Student's hosted a bus drivers appreciation brunch. Thank you to Mrs. Williams and the cafeteria staff for their help.
2. 2nd graders hosted a gratitude parade showcasing their Coding Skills.
3. Grades 3-6 Holiday Concert on Wednesday, December 13th. Students were showcased at the Senior Citizens luncheon on Tuesday, December 5th.
4. Professional Development – every grade level is working on curriculum maps.
5. Welcoming partnership with Casa Trinity (10-week curriculum).

Erich Ploetz - MS/HS Principal

Mr. Ploetz stated that he too was feeling many of the emotions felt by what is going on in our school.

1. Thank you to the Student Council for hosting the Senior Citizens Luncheon on December 5th. Thank you to NHS for spearheading a Food Drive for our local food pantry.
2. Bank & Chorus Concert last week was amazing!
3. With regard to some of the comments made. We are dealing with an unprecedented situation. The emotions are very high. Please know that Mr. Gesing and I are working to keep your students and the staff safe. We are doing the best that we can.

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School Business Executive – Aimee Kilby

1. WINCAP Updates – still awaiting a date so we can transition to WINCAP 2.0. Key features will be employee self-service (access to paychecks, W2's and year to date info online). All employees except substitutes will be mandated to have direct deposit and access payroll info online or through an app.
2. Tax Collection is complete. Tax collection went very well this year with 93.1% collected.
3. ST-3 and ESSA Transparency reports are complete and have been filed.
4. Work in Progress: Working with Rick Timbs to provide expenditures for the Capital Project Final Cost Report. Completed Gold Certified "filer" for NYS ERS (local Employees Retirement), ACA Reporting, working on W-2's 1099's.

Superintendent Miller stated that the District must now have a violence prevention in the workplace plan. Will keep you posted on the progress.

Consent Items:

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, 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 November 14, 2023
- b. Acknowledgement of the November 21, 2023, and December 5, 2023, Claims Auditor Reports
- c. Approval of the October 2023 Treasurer's Report

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Committee Reports:

None

Discussion Items:

Building Condition Survey – addressed in Superintendent's Report. Will have info to review at the January 9, 2024 meeting.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the transfer (not to exceed) \$6,120,061.23 from the Tax Collector's account to the General Savings account.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the Class of 2024 trip to Lake George, New York, June 13-16, 2024.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Gunnar Nowicki (SUNY Fredonia) to complete 35 hours of practicum work in December 2023. Mr. Nowicki will be supervised by Mrs. Wendy Burch, Mrs. Crystal Wilder and Mr. Erich Ploetz.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

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Moved by Murphy, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of an MOA with ECSRPA regarding the retirement incentive for a particular member. The Board hereby approves the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ellicottville Central School District and the Ellicottville Central School Related Professional Association (“Association”), as presented to the Board which provides for a one-time waiver of the ninety (90) day notice requirement provided for in Article No. 16 of the Association’s Collective Bargaining Agreement for the purposes of allowing a support staff member to retire due to extenuating circumstances and still receive the retirement benefit/incentive also provided for in Article No. 16 of the Association’s Collective Bargaining Agreement, in accordance with this Memorandum of Agreement.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of an MOA with ECSRPA regarding Unpaid Leaves of Absences.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Gregory Jubuils (St. Bonaventure University) to complete his student teaching experience at ECS from January 17 – March 8, 2024. Mr. Jubuils will be supervised by Mr. Chris Mendell and Mrs. Katie Mendell.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Personnel:

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following advisor for the 2023-2024 school year:

9-12 Musical (Drama Club)

•Assistant Director (Production)

•Meghan Emborsky

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Kevin Rowland to the substitute bus driver list at a rate of \$17.40 per hour effective retroactive to November 27, 2023.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Van Wicklin, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Megan Hartsell to the position of substitute teacher (non-certified) at a rate of \$125 per day. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Van Wicklin, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Jessica Wallace to the position of substitute teacher aide at a rate of \$15 per hour. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

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Moved by Pearl, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Linnea Jimerson to the position of substitute teacher (non-certified) at a rate of \$125 per day. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, the Ellicottville Central School District Board of Education does hereby appoint Karen Romance, who holds a Professional Certificate in Students with Disabilities (gr. 1-6), to the position of an Elementary Special Education Teacher effective tentatively January 8, 2024. This position is in the tenure area of Special Education and is for a three-year probationary period commencing on tentatively January 8, 2024, and ending on tentatively January 8, 2027. Ms. Romance will be placed on Step 13 of the ETA Salary schedule (25 step schedule). Eligibility for tenure at the end of the probationary period is dependent on Ms. Romance receiving APPR ratings of Effective or Highly Effective in 3 of 4 preceding years and no Ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Melissa Riehle to the position of part-time teacher aide at a rate of \$15.00 per hour retroactive to December 4, 2023. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State and carries a one-year probationary period which will begin on December 4, 2023, and end on December 4, 2024.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Policy

None

CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Pearl, 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 (#900500433, 900501418, 900500555, 900501178, 900500887, 900500429, 900500421, 900501511, 900501275, 900501412, 900501231, 900501003, 900501369, 900500504, 900500348, 900501561, 900500954, 900501034, 900500555, 900501404) at its meeting on December 12, 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 November 9 - December 1, 2023.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

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~~Executive Session~~

~~_____ Moved by _____, seconded by _____, to move into Executive Session at _____ 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 Murphy, to adjourn the regular meeting of December 12, 2023, at 6:41 p.m.

District Clerk

Deputy District Clerk