

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 1**

**Sht. No. 1943  
December 8, 2020**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Robert Van Wicklin, William Murphy, Shana Chudy, Debra Golley, Karl Northup, Roger Spell, Leonard Zlockie

**Members Absent:** All Present

**Staff Present:** Robert Miller, Melissa Sawicki, Maren Bush, Erich Ploetz

**Staff Absent:** Aimee Kilby

**Others Present:** None

**Call to order of meeting**

President Van Wicklin called the regular meeting of December 8, 2020 of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Roll Call**

All Present

**Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

**Changes:**

- 12a. Should read: November 17, 2020 not November 3, 2020
- 16b. Mrs. Freunds Schuh will be under the supervision of Mrs. Maren Bush (Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum), Mrs. April Donoghue (3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher) and Mrs. Lynette Sexton (6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher).

**Additions:**

- 17e. Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Griffin Chudy to the substitute teacher list (non-certified) at a rate \$85 per day. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.
- 17f. Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Connor Fitzpatrick to the position of full-time cleaner effective tentatively December 14, 2020 at a rate of \$12.80 per hour. This position carries a one-year probationary appointment which will begin on tentatively December 14, 2020 and end on tentatively December 14, 2021. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Approve Agenda**

Moved by Spell, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the December 8, 2020 Board of Education Meeting with additions and changes.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Public Comment**

None

**Presentations & Reports**

None

**Communications, Commendations**

None

**Informational Items**

None

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

Regular Meeting  
Page 2

Sht. No. 1943  
December 8, 2020

**Superintendent's Report:**

1. School Aid Estimates – prepared by NYSCOSS. Transportation will hurt as well as other areas will be down. CARES won't be continued. It will be a tight budget year.
2. Construction Project – approved. Bids will go out at the end of December with a target opening date of February 11<sup>th</sup>. Goal is to start project in April. Will most likely have to move the HS kitchen. It will be easier to end the year without a kitchen, instead of starting a year without a kitchen. Kitchen project will take a couple of months to complete. If we do the field project correctly, we may have to lose the football field for one year.
3. Sports – Section VI has postponed low and moderate risk winter sports to January 4<sup>th</sup>.
4. Safety – Had the first Shelter in Place and Lock Down drill today. It was not perfect. Once we went into Lock Down it was quiet. Will have to have another one very soon. Have to have four by the end of the year.
5. School Calendar – Info from New York State came out on December 1<sup>st</sup>. 9 pages of instructions. Will provide more information at a later date.
6. FEMA – will keep trying for funds. Have to revise answers.
7. COVID Testing – the Red & Orange Zone criteria for testing has changed, but it has not changed in the Yellow Zone. What's closing districts down is not having enough staff because of quarantines. We are going to do everything we can to stay open. In large part we are open because of Maren & Erich. They are doing so much, from covering classes to riding buses and delivering lunches. Spoke with Bobby Kuhn from Cattaraugus County. They stand ready to do testing. The plan is to most likely designate the area by the Girls Locker room as the testing area. Parents of smaller children can enter through the parking lot doors and be there with their children when they are tested.
8. Internet Access – Shawne Hunt is working with T-Mobil to get free Hot Spots. If you don't have good cell phone service, the Hot Spot won't work. We may start with the special education students and see if we can provide them with the Hot Spots. We may also research having parents work directly with T-Mobil to obtain a Hot Spot. This eliminates us as the middle person. We would simply convey the info to the parents. The Hot Spots are simply just for Education Purposes. Last Friday Superintendent Miller attended a meeting with Armstrong. He found out in a round-about way that they were hosting meetings with Town Supervisors and he called Armstrong and asked to attend. He stated that Armstrong is finishing up work in Allegany County and is moving east into Cattaraugus County (currently Portville & Cuba). He stated that they are connecting 400 houses a week. Humphrey will be next on the list and will be hooked up in 2021. A Form letter from NYSSBA has been provided to Board Members. Superintendent Miller tweaked the letter and encouraged Board Members to join the letter writing campaign regarding Internet Connectivity. Superintendent Miller stated that awhile back he sent board members a letter he received from a parent regarding Internet Service. He stated that the District is doing the best it can. He said some of the information in the letter from the parent is heartbreaking. He added that he believes the family is attending 3 days a week by taking advantage of the Flex Wednesday. He stated that Maren and Erich are working with staff to zero in on structure, if the district has to go fully remote at any time. Superintendent Miller stated that everyone is doing the best they can, and that he knows 3 days a week is not ideal.
9. COVID 19 – The Governor has stated that he wants Grades K-8 in school. The Cattaraugus/Allegany Superintendent's meet with Dr. Kevin Watkins (Cattaraugus County DOH) once a month. Last Friday, the superintendent's posed some really good questions. Dr. Watkins stated that the CDC has changed the timeline for quarantine, but New York State has not adopted those guidelines yet.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 3**

**Sht. No. 1943  
December 8, 2020**

**Principals Reports:**

Erich Ploetz: MS/HS Principal

1. Uptick in full remote model – 31 kids in grades 6-12, plus 12 students on quarantine.
2. Just a reminder that teachers in grades 7-12 teach students in hybrid and remote (virtual).
3. Shared info on how he is working on a more structured approach for teachers and students for 100% remote instruction.
4. Beginning phases of “December Project” challenges all teachers and counselors to reach out to all students and parents before break. This will also serve as a mental health check. The goal is to reach them all, we will try our best to reach that goal.
5. Caring Closet – Mr. Ploetz stated that it is one of the most exciting projects since he has been at ECS. Elsa Woodarek came up with the idea to create the Caring Closet as part of her English 11 Class Project (Mr. Steger’s class). The old high school resource room has been turned into a closet and Elsa is accepting donations at school and at St. Paul’s Church in Ellicottville. All items are laundered and there will be racks and racks of items. Students in need, can fill out an order form or come to the closet and shop. Mr. Ploetz stated that he has rarely worked with a student who is so excited about a project. He stated that Elsa is recruiting other students to help with the Closet. Mr. Ploetz stated that he is very proud of Elsa and the entire school. He stated that it is a tremendous effort.
6. Extra-Curricular – Quiz Bowl teams (both MS and HS) won their virtual competition a few weeks ago. Trophies are in the HS Office.

Maren Bush: Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum

1. Holiday Happenings – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in Mrs. Moore’s class made holiday cards and they were delivered to area nursing homes.
2. In lieu of Family Fun Night – PTO is sponsoring a Letters to Santa activity. There is a large Mailbox in the Elementary for letters to be placed. Santa will answer all letters. Superintendent Miller stated that he heard Santa may do a virtual reading for all elementary students. Stay tuned.
3. 29 students are on remote learning.
4. Pick Up Patrol – Dismissal and Health Program: all but 17 students are registered in the Elementary and 37 in the MS/HS.
5. Erin’s Law – working with our counselors to meet NYS Mandates. The curriculum is required for grades K-8<sup>th</sup>.

**School Business Executive Report:** Absent – No Report

**Consent Items:**

Moved by Golley, 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 17, 2020
- b. Acknowledgement of the November 24, 2020 Claims Auditor Report
- c. Approval of the August 2020 Treasurer’s Report

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Committee Reports:**

- a. Buildings & Grounds – Capital Project: Pretty much covered in Superintendent’s Report. Gearing up for snow. There were three backed up sewage lines. In the future if there is another sewage backup, the District may purchase its own high-powered snake. The cost of hiring someone to clear the lines is more than the snake would cost. Marc Waters replaced two old trough style sinks in the elementary with pedestal sinks.
- b. Budget – starting the process. Staff have been advised to fill out requisitions using last year’s numbers. We are at a freeze right now. Don’t know where we are headed. The Budget Committee met and looked at a long-range plan. Aimee continues to meet with Rick Timbs regarding Reserves.

**Discussion Items:**

None

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting**  
**Page 4**  
**Old Business:**  
None

**Sht. No. 1943**  
**December 8, 2020**

**New Business:**

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the transfer of \$5,626,567.56 from the Tax Collector's account to the General Savings account.

**Yes – 7**  
**No – 0**  
**Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Spell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of LaDonna Freundsuh (St. Bonaventure University) to be a student teacher in Ellicottville Central School from January 28 – May 7, 2021. Mrs. Freundsuh will be under the supervision of Mrs. Maren Bush (Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum), Mrs. April Donoghue (3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher) and Mrs. Lynette Sexton (6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher).

**Yes – 7**  
**No – 0**  
**Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Jenna Hicks (University of Pittsburgh Bradford) to be a student teacher in Ellicottville Central School from March 8 – May 5, 2021. Ms. Hicks will be under the supervision of Mrs. Maren Bush (Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum) and Ms. Diana Olson (Elementary Teacher).

**Yes – 7**  
**No – 0**  
**Carried**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Chudy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a donation from the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 to be used to purchase iPads for elementary students in the Ellicottville Central School District to assist with remote learning.

**Yes – 7**  
**No – 0**  
**Carried**

**Personnel:**

Moved by Spell, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Family Medical Leave (FMLA) request from Meghan Emborsky from tentatively January 16, 2021 for 12 weeks; including paid maternity leave as per ETA CBA.

**Yes – 7**  
**No – 0**  
**Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of an unpaid leave of absence for Meghan Emborsky from tentatively April 23, 2021 - June 25, 2021.

**Yes – 7**  
**No – 0**  
**Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent, approval of Rebecca Ortiz to the position of full-time teacher assistant effective retroactive to December 1, 2020. This position carries a four-year probationary period effective December 1, 2020 and ending on December 1, 2024. Ms. Ortiz shall receive a salary of \$13,982 plus benefits for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year.

**Yes – 7**  
**No – 0**  
**Carried**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 5**

**Sht. No. 1943  
December 8, 2020**

Moved by Spell, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a letter of resignation from Nicholas Delity (F/T Cleaner) effective November 18, 2020.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Spell, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Griffin Chudy to the substitute teacher list (non-certified) at a rate \$85 per day. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Chudy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Connor Fitzpatrick to the position of full-time cleaner effective tentatively December 14, 2020 at a rate of \$12.80 per hour. This position carries a one-year probationary appointment which will begin on tentatively December 14, 2020 and end on tentatively December 14, 2021. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Policy:**

None

**CSE/CPSE Recommendations:**

Moved by Spell, seconded by Golley, 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 (#900500747, 900501378, 900501376, 900501386, 900500906, 900500892, 900500891, 900500436, 900501131, 900501205, 900500110, 900500404, 900501404) at its meeting on December 8, 2020 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 13 – December 2, 2020).

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 6**

**Sht. No. 1943  
December 8, 2020**

**Executive Session**

Moved by Spell, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to enter into executive session at 6:51 pm to discuss one contractual item (ETA) and one specific personnel item (ECSRPA).

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Spell, seconded by Chudy, to come out of executive session at 7:41 pm and return to the regular meeting.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, to adjourn the regular meeting of December 8, 2020 at 7:42 p.m.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

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District Clerk

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Deputy District Clerk