

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
Page 1**

**Sht. No. 1981
February 14, 2023**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Members Present: William Murphy, Debra Golley, Shana Chudy, Erin Cornelius, Karl Northrup, Kristen Pearl, Robert Van Wicklin

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Robert Miller, Melissa Sawicki, Aimee Kilby, Katie Mendell, Erich Ploetz, Christopher Keenan, Jamie Edwards, Elizabeth Weber, Meghan Emborsky, Tammy Peters, Chris Edwards, Dave McCann

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Schavon Byroads, Cale Benjamin, Jackson Kruszynski, Dan Kruszynski, Cayda Kruszynski, Carla Kruszynski, Molly Tomsick, Al Tomsick, Carolyn Bauer, Dave Bauer, Sam Edwards, Adelaide Weber, Maureen Reuther, Lauryn & Lindsay, Kent Joesel, Jenna O’Connell, Marek Peters, Christopher Edwards, Ed Doherty, Owen Doherty, Kyle Robinson, Toby Coburn, Colton Taylor, Ben Edwards, Jayce Pearl, Ed Doherty, Deanna Doherty, E. Nazareth, M. Johnson, K. Johnson, Krista Carney, Katie Benatovich, Aiden Harrington, William Benatovich, Amanda Bishop Nazareth

Call to order of meeting

President Murphy called the regular meeting of February 14, 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

All Present

Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Changes:

11 c. Should read: December 2022 Treasurer’s Report
16 i. Should read: at a rate of \$180 per day.

Additions:

15. New Business

g. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a contract between the Ellicottville Central School District and Lisa M. Macaluso to provide Special Education Services (BCBA) for the 2022-2023 school year.

Approve Agenda

Moved by Golley, seconded by Cornelius, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the February 14, 2023, Board of Education Meeting with additions and changes.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
Page 2**

**Sht. No. 1981
February 14, 2023**

Public Comment

Mr. Cale Benjamin addressed the Board regarding an incident that took place at a home basketball game. Mr. Benjamin stated that things got a bit heated between home and visiting spectators. He suggested that the ECS school resource officer be present at games to handle these situations. He added that at other schools' administrators are at the school for the whole game(s).

Maureen Ruether addressed the board regarding the possibility of ECS merging with Franklinville for several sports. She introduced herself as the Allegany-Limestone swim coach and stated that she would like to see ECS stay with Allegany-Limestone for at least the next two years. Adelaide Weber addressed the Board asking them if they received the letter that she sent them, regarding the merging of swimming with Franklinville. Sam Edwards, Carolyn Bauer, Ed Doherty, Owen Doherty, Carla Kruszynski, William Benatovich, Benjamin Edwards, Kate Benatovich, Kada Kruszynski, Kent Joesel, Jamie Edwards all addressed the Board with their concerns over the possibility of merging boys' soccer with Franklinville. Colton Taylor addressed the board regarding the possible merger of some sports with Franklinville and asked if it would have an impact on the current Titans Football Team. Amanda Bishop-Nazareth addressed the Board regarding her concerns with the possibility of ECS merging with Franklinville for girls' volleyball. Mrs. Bishop-Nazareth also addressed the Board about the Earth Science Teacher situation. She thanked Mr. Ploetz for what he is doing (teaching classes). Krista Carney addressed the Board regarding the possibility of ECS merging with Franklinville for girls swimming.

Presentations & Reports

Bringing the NYS Seal of Biliteracy to ECS – Jamie Edwards and Meghan Emborsky: Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Emborsky gave a brief outline of what the NYS Seal of Biliteracy is. She state that the NYSSB is an award given to a student who has demonstrated a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. Mrs. Edwards stated that students may have a bit more work to do, but by next May there may be a few students who would qualify for a new sticker on their diploma (at graduation). She added that they would also receive a medallion from New York State. She stated that the teachers need Board of Education approval to move ahead with the option. She also stated that they already have staff members on the team and would need an administrator. Mrs. Edwards stated that the Board would need to appoint both Mrs. Emborsky and herself as co-coordinators. Mrs. Emborsky stated that this program would primarily be for students who complete extra work, but their may be some students who would qualify for speaking a second language at home (if they can prove it).

Communications, Commendations

None

Informational Items

CA BOCES – Call for Nominations

Superintendent's Report – Robert Miller

1. Superintendent Miller stated that no one is more frustrated than the administration regarding the lack of a science teacher. He shared that the position has been posted since last September, he has reached out to 14 colleges from Pennsylvania to the other side of NY State. He added that he has reached out to 10 retired science teachers, and they have all turned him down. He has cold called people. He stated that he will continue to work on the problem and would like to commend Mr. Ploetz for stepping up. He added that Mr. Schwartz (teaching Biology) and Mrs. Reedy (teaching Ecology Class) are also helping. Superintendent Miller stated that they will continue working on finding a teacher. He stated that they have looked at on-line programs and that it did not work that well during the pandemic. He stated that the kids did not like the on-line learning. Superintendent Miller stated that the administration has the best interest of the students in mind. He stated that we have to encourage people to become teachers and that there is a real shortage. He stated that he has a few leads on May 2023 graduates.
2. Budget – This will be discussed later in the meeting. He stated that a transparence report is due to the stated by March 15th. This report entails outlining how government funds are being used.
3. APPR – SED has approved the hardship waiver. The next deadline is March 1st. Superintendent Miller will be writing the SLO's for Elementary, Middle School and High School.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
Page 3**

**Sht. No. 1981
February 14, 2023**

4. Capital Project Phase 2 – a meeting was held today. Phase 2 will include a canopy over the current loading dock (outside the kitchen). Work is scheduled to begin before the end of the current school year. Fuel Tanks – our insurers refused to cover our fuel tanks unless we paid an incredibly high premium. The tanks will be replaced with brand new tanks this summer. Elementary lower-level exterior doors. These will be replaced soon. There is an eight-week delay in getting them.
5. Continuing Teacher Education – have to put in teacher’s contract. We are working on a five-year plan. Because we have a PDP Committee we can tweak as we go along.
6. Tables in HS Cafeteria – no we are not the Tigers. We are still the Eagles. We were able to obtain 10-12 tables for about \$2,000. The tables brand new are around \$2,000-\$3,000 each. Some needed a bit of work, but we were able to fix them. BOCES is going to put a wrap on one table to see if it will work. We need students to not pick at the wrap. If it works out, the 10-12 tables will be covered with the wrap, which will have a nice eagle on them. If the wrap does not work, we will have to go with painting them. BOCES will be at ECS on March 2nd for the install.

Deb Golley asked Superintendent Miller if he would address the Caring Closet. Superintendent Miller stated that the “Closet” was housed where the current SRO office is. He stated that the room was needed and the items in the “Closet” were taken to St. Paul’s Church. St. Paul’s was going to partner with ECS. Superintendent Miller stated that there was some confusion, and the clothing items were taken to St. Paul’s but put in the collection box outside, instead of taken inside of the church. Nurse Hager has the personal care items and a few of the clothes in her office. The money (account) is still intact. Superintendent Miller stated that we want to continue the caring closet and get it back and running. Katie Mendell stated that help has been given to people who need it through the nurse’s office and staff members also help out if it is needed. Deb Golley stated that a business in town donated \$1,000 and the Fire Department \$500. She stated that officers were elected and there were two volunteer advisors. Superintendent Miller stated that he and Mr. Ploetz will work on it.

Principals Reports:

Erich Ploetz: MS/HS Principal

1. Mr. Ploetz stated that it was nice to see great representation from the community at the meeting this evening.
2. Science - Mr. Ploetz stated that it is great to be in the classroom and the students are awesome. It added that he does not think it is a great long-range plan, but he thinks they are doing a great job. He thanked the students for welcoming him into the classroom.
3. Seniors – were given a Revised Guidelines/Procedures for ECS Senior Privileges form that they could fill out, pick one option for Senior Privileges, have it notarized and return to the HS Office. He stated that 10 have been turned in so far. He added that the campus had been opened up during the pandemic and it was time to change some of the procedures. He stated that Pick-Up Patrol has been overused with students signing in and out. Mr. Ploetz stated that the seniors seemed pretty happy with being able to pick one opportunity to arrive late, sign out for lunch or leave early. Seniors must be academically eligible to pick one of these options.

Katie Mendell – Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum

1. Climate & Culture: Elementary Reading Celebration, New technology/display in front of the Elementary Office, Winter Carnival for Special Ed Students at Holiday Valley, 100 Days of School.
2. Curriculum & Instruction: Erin’s Law, continued assessment and adjustments of RTI model, Mapping/assessing tech integration work in the elementary, NYS PreK expansion grant (due 2/17/2023).
3. Professional Development: March PD offerings for 3/17 Staff Development Day, The Writing Revolution, Ongoing assessment of needs.
4. Parent & Family Engagement: Collaborative projects to include and encourage family engagement, ongoing positive phone calls to families, Developing communication goals regarding tech intervention/enrichment tools.
5. Upcoming Events: Book dedication, ECS alumni and author Amy (Alexander) Bedell will be a guest reader “She Will” that focuses on ability/disability, acceptance and kindness in honor of Julie Mendell, Mid-Winter Break, Teacher observations scheduled weekly.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
Page 4**

**Sht. No. 1981
February 14, 2023**

Consent Items:

Moved by Van Wicklin, seconded by Golley, 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 January 17, 2023
- b. Acknowledgement of the January 17, 2023 & January 31, 2023 Claims Auditor Reports
- c. Approval of the December 2022 Treasurers Reports

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Committee Reports:

None

Discussion Items:

2023-2024 Budget – Superintendent Miller stated that he (and Mrs. Kilby) are a bit behind with the budget this year. He stated that this is the latest (since he has been superintendent) that they have received the projected numbers from New York State. He added that right now ECS should receive a 3% increase in State Aid. He stated that people may see other districts receiving more, but this is because they have not been fully funded. Board members were provided with an Increases/Decreases sheet for 2023-2024 budget estimates. Aimee Kilby stated that she will be busy getting numbers together for the March 14, 2023 Budget Worksession. She stated that there will be three propositions on the ballot. Propositions will include the basic budget, transportation (2 bus leases) and the Ellicottville Memorial Library. The library is asking for an increase this year which will take them from \$65,000 to \$75,000. She added that the library does not have to adhere to the tax cap, when asking for an increase. Superintendent Miller stated the district will need to start working on a plan this summer for electric buses. He stated that beginning in 2027 district's will no longer be able to purchase gas- or diesel-powered buses and vehicles. He stated that there are a lot of unanswered questions. He stated that all schools must have electric buses by 2035. The cost is almost double in price of a gas or diesel bus.

Sports with Franklinville – Superintendent Miller thanked the audience for being patient and waiting for this part of the meeting. He stated that he would like to share some of the info from the survey. Superintendent Miller stated that there is no vote this evening, it's a discussion to get the feelings and thoughts of the Board Members. Superintendent Miller reviewed the survey and outlined the questions and number of responses. He stated that we can look at the current numbers in the elementary and project a downward trend. He stated that we project smaller numbers at the modified level next year. Shana Chudy stated that she was not at the last board meeting when the sports merger was brought up. She stated that ECS has had a healthy relationship with Franklinville as the Titans and she does not believe that will change. She stated that ECS shares track with them and ECS cannot offer that. She stated that she thinks football is a healthy program. Mrs. Chudy stated that Section VI has placed ECS in Class C a few times over the years because we were too successful. She stated that she does not want to see us as a Class C. Mrs. Chudy added that at some point in the future she thinks ECS needs to combine for all sports, stating that maybe next year it could begin at the modified level. She stated that she agreed with the seniors that they need to have their senior season (as ECS soccer). Deb Golley stated that when you look at the survey it is about ½ opposed. She stated that the thing that came across to her is that we (ECS) is going too fast. She stated that she thinks ECS should do nothing next year and get a committee together. She stated that their (Board) responsibility is to our school, community and the kids. She stated again that her personal opinion is that we say nothing for this year, we are going too fast. Erin Cornelius stated that she agreed with Deb Golley that we (ECS) needs to slow down. She added that their (Franklinville's) sense of urgency is not ours (ECS). Karl Northrup stated that he thinks we (ECS) need to keep open lines of communication with Franklinville. He stated that maybe a plan should be developed for year 2, 3, and 4, so a survey does not have to be done every year. Shana Chudy asked if Superintendent Miller could squish the rumor that an ultimatum was given to ECS by Franklinville regarding football and track. Deb Golley stated that one Franklinville board member stated that at their meeting and the other board members squashed it. Superintendent Miller stated that he called and spoke with the Franklinville Superintendent, and he stated that it is not true.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
Page 5**

**Sht. No. 1981
February 14, 2023**

Kristen Pearl stated that she liked the idea of a long-term plan. She said she liked Karl's idea of keeping communication lines open with Franklinville. Mrs. Pearl added that she likes the idea of long term and options down the road and looking at the options with a plan in mind. Superintendent Miller asked the board if he was hearing correctly that he should reach out to Franklinville? President Murphy asked members if he is hearing that they do not want to merge next year and will keep the door open and that ECS needs time to discuss, plan and research the correct information and the decision has to be in the best interest of all sports. President Murphy stated that the district (ECS) has to be careful and has to look at what is in the best interest of all sports. Deb Golley stated to keep the door open, but that it is too rushed for next year and they have to do what is best for the ECS Community. Superintendent Miller and President Murphy will draft a letter to send to Franklinville.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of an 8th grade trip to Washington, DC. June 19-21, 2023.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Hannah Aiello (St. Bonaventure University) as a student teacher at ECS from tentatively January 23, 2023 – March 3, 2023. Miss Aiello will be supervised by Miss Diana Olson.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Harley Ficek (University of Pittsburgh @ Bradford) Early Level Education placement at ECS from tentatively January 9, 2023 – April 21, 2023 (for 20 hours). Miss Ficek will be supervised by Mrs. Kim Woodarek.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the (CAP) corrective action plan letters for the 2021-2022 External Audit and the 2021-2022 Student Activities Audit.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Motion by Chudy, seconded by Northrup, that the Ellicottville Central School District approves the proposed basis of service charges of the Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming BOCES for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a donation from the Frank Pitillo Memorial Lighting Fund for the services, supplies, materials, equipment, etc. needed to remove the current athletic field lights, and install new lights at the athletic field.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a contract between the Ellicottville Central School District and Lisa M. Macaluso to provide Special Education Services (BCBA) for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
Page 6**

**Sht. No. 1981
February 14, 2023**

Personnel:

Moved by Golley, seconded by Chudy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to rescind the appointment of Katie Taylor as an advisor of the Class of 2025 effective retroactive to January 27, 2023.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to approve Kristin Rocco as an advisor for the Class of 2025 from retroactive to January 28 – June 2023.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following Spring Sports Coaches for the 2022-2023 school year. These appointments are contingent upon sufficient student numbers in each sport.

Varsity Baseball	Chris Mendell
Assistant Varsity Baseball	Robert Sawicki Sr.
Modified Baseball	Rick DeKay
Varsity Softball	Matt Finn
Assistant Varsity Softball	Chris Keenan
JV Softball (numbers permitting)	Tracie Myers
Modified Softball	TBD
Track and Field	Gwen Bush
Golf	Dan LaCroix

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval (retroactive) of Sandra Tomblin to the position of a long-term substitute in the elementary from January 17 – February 10, 2023 at a rate of \$250 per day.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Cornelius, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Nakida Redeye to the substitute teacher aid list retroactive to January 11, 2023 @ a rate of \$15.00 per hour.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following Fitness Room Supervisors for the 2022-2023 school year: Sabrina Gilman, Joe Prior.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a letter of intent to retire from Christopher Keenan effective July 1, 2023, with his last day of employment in the district being June 30, 2023.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
Page 7**

**Sht. No. 1981
February 14, 2023**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a letter of intent to retire from Blair Wood effective July 1, 2023, with his last day of employment in the district being June 30, 2023.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Cornelius, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval (retroactive) of Patricia Waldron to the position of a long-term substitute for 6th grade from January 30 – February 17, 2023 at a rate of \$180 per day.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Laurie Caldwell as a homework club advisor for the 2022-2023 school year.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of two MOA's with the ECSRPA pertaining to substitute calling and receiving clerk.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following volunteers for baseball for the 2022-2023 school year: Jason Marsh, Bryce Sherrard (pending SAVE completion), Cale Benjamin, Robert Sawicki Jr. (pending SAVE completion) and Andrew Kruszka for softball.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following scorekeepers for baseball for the 2022-2023 school year: Bryce Sherrard, Robert Sawicki, Jr., and Dave McCann.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following scorekeepers for softball for the 2022-2023 school year: Jason Marsh, Andrew Kruszka and Dave McCann.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Robert Sawicki Jr. as the pitch count keeper for baseball for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of \$37.00 per game.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
Page 8**

**Sht. No. 1981
February 14, 2023**

Policy

None

CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Moved by Golley, 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 (#900500437, 900501026, 900501147, 900500941, 900501391, 900500889, 900500886, 900423395, 900500578, 900500579, 900500758, 900501150, 900501349, 900501149, 900500859, 900501301) at its meeting on February 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 January 11 – February 7, 2023.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Executive Session

Moved by Golley, seconded by Cornelius, to move into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. 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.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Van Wicklin, seconded by Golley, to come out of Executive Session at 10:02 p.m. and return to the regular meeting.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Pearl, to adjourn the regular meeting of February 14, 2023, at 10:02 p.m.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

District Clerk

Deputy District Clerk