

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 1**

**Sht. No. 1955  
June 22, 2021**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Robert Van Wicklin, William Murphy, Shana Chudy, Erin Schweers Cornelius, Debra Golley, Karl Northup, Leonard Zlockie

**Members Absent:** All Present

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

**Staff Absent:** Aimee Kilby

**Others Present:** Schavon Byroads, Dan Kruszynski, B. Labelle, M. Rust, Shawna Miller, Katie Mendell, Chad Neal, Kristen Sciara, Alison Neal, Kristin Button, Carla Kruszynski, Alicia Brennan, Elizabeth Weber, Nicole Rust, Brittany Baker, Gary Abraham, Michael Weber, Molly Tomsick

**Call to order of meeting**

President Van Wicklin called the regular meeting of June 22, 2021, 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**

**Additions:**

17. Personnel
- a. **Add:** John Ireland – summer cleaner in the bus garage from July 6 – August 27, 2021 @ a rate of \$12.50 per hour.
  - c. Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Jaimee Olson to the position of full-time cleaner effective tentatively June 28, 2021, at a rate of \$13.50 per hour and is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State. This position carries a one-year probationary period which will begin on tentatively June 28, 2021 and end on tentatively June 28, 2022.

**Approve Agenda**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the June 22, 2021, Board of Education Meeting with additions.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 2**

**Sht. No. 1955  
June 22, 2021**

**Public Comment**

Dan Kruszynski addressed the Board and administration and thanked them for all that they and the staff do for the students of ECS. He stated that there are large concerns with going from 3 to 2 sections of 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year. He added that nowhere in the past 10 year (previously stated 10 years of data in letter to parents) has there been a year with Covid. He added that he felt with the pandemic, keeping 3 sections is in the best interest of the students at this time. Elizabeth Weber addressed the board and referenced a letter that she previously sent to Superintendent Miller. Mrs. Weber stated that she has requested extra help for students transitioning from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to middle school. She asked that 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year be held at 3 sections and not lowered to 2 sections. Mrs. Weber stated that once the students reach middle school, they need extra help. Mrs. Weber asked that stimulus funds be used to hire a middle school intervention specialist. Mrs. Weber handed out a copy of the letter she sent Superintendent Miller to board members. Carla Kruszynski stated that as a parent of a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student and as an educator she does not think this is the time to go from 3 sections to 2 for next year's sixth graders. Mrs. Kruszynski asked that the district look at the stimulus funds for all students across the board from grades Prek-12<sup>th</sup>. She thanked all the teachers, staff and stated that they have all done a great job. Katie Mendell echoed the sentiments of other people in attendance. Mrs. Mendell stated that she would like to thank everyone who has supported the students over the past 15 months. She stated that she is very concerned about all the students and the potential damage the last 15 months has caused. Alicia Brennan handed out data regarding "Class Size Matters". Gary Abraham stated that he has grandchildren in the district and would like to see 3 sections next year for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Michael Weber stated that he has watched his children and they are good students and now they are struggling. He added that he felt the additional attention will help with the extra section of 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year. Nicole Rust stated that she would like to support everything that everyone else had addressed this evening. She stated that she has watched students struggle over the past year while working at ECS. She stated that 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade is the most critical age, and it is in the best interest of the students to have a third section of sixth grade next year and we need to support them. John Kaleta stated that clearly class size is a big factor. He asked that the District please consider keeping 3 sections of sixth grade for next year. He thanked everyone and stated to keep up the good work.

President Van Wicklin thanked everyone for their comments.

**Presentations & Reports**

None

**Communications, Commendations**

None

**Informational Items**

None

**Superintendent's Report – Robert Miller**

1. 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Superintendent Miller stated that he and the administrators will start working on this situation right away. He stated that 2 different plans have been created and will be discussed in more detail at the Public Forum tomorrow evening. He stated that the district has been looking at 10 years of data. He added that staff has been added to fill the gaps where teachers have not been replaced. Superintendent Miller stated that the Board and Administration are listening and will meet and review the information. He stated that the administration needs to get through graduation. He stated that they (the administration) will continue to look at 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He stated that it is not just bottom line the budget, but other items, room availability, etc. He stated that they are going to look at everything and make the best decision. He stated that they will look at the info again and the main reason is that we are in a pandemic.
2. Stimulus Plan: Superintendent Miller stated that he is looking at Live Streaming the Public Forum tomorrow evening. He stated that there is a Plan A and Plan B. Plan B has an extra 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. He stated that the plans are flexible. He stated that next year 6<sup>th</sup> graders will get laptops. The district is also trying to recoup some of the \$183,000 it spent on PPE in the last 15 months. Superintendent Miller reviewed Plans A&B in detail. He stated that ECS is not getting a lot of money compared to neighboring districts. He added that New York State is ahead on re-opening plans and that he may add a disclaimer to the current plan.
3. Lead & Cooper Testing in Water: Superintendent Miller stated that ECS has met all its obligations and is in good shape. He stated that the county needs to test the water again before the end of June. There is a movement in the state to up testing and reduce the thresh hold on parts per million.
4. Plans for Next Year: He stated that districts just don't know. Superintendent Miller stated that he talked with Hodgson and Russ and that superintendents across the state are waiting for news on the start of school in September 2021. He added that districts would like to get the news sooner than later. Erin Cornelius stated that there will most likely be more restrictions in lower grades because they will not be vaccinated.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 3**

**Sht. No. 1955  
June 22, 2021**

5. Graduation: If inclement weather inside will be capped at 250 in “The Ward” with overflow in the Café and Elementary Gym. Outside will be around 500 with 8 tickets per graduate allowed.

**Principals Reports:**

Erich Ploetz: MS/HS Principal

1. ECS has had students in session Prek-12 for weeks now. It’s unheard-of having kids in school until the end of June. Mr. Ploetz stated that he would like to thank all individuals involved to make this year work. He stated that we go through this year because we did what we had to, to get kids through. Thank you to all the Unsung Hero’s – everyone who works at ECS. We had many decisions to make along the way and I speak for Maren and myself and thank the Board for your support.
2. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders fieldtrip to Sky High Adventure Park. 7<sup>th</sup> graders went today, 8<sup>th</sup> graders tomorrow.
3. Cap and Gown walk through for seniors was on Monday. Almost all seniors attended. Almost all seniors will graduate. There are a few who will not make it.
4. Big Thank You to the teaching faculty for helping kids get through this year. Mr. Ploetz stated that there are some retentions, but the goal of credit recovery was to get us to where we would be in any other school year. Mr. Ploetz stated that he stands by his decision to cancel final exams.
5. Big Events: Academic Banquet held in The Ward with 39 students and 2 guest each. Athletic Banquet held in The Ward with 70 families. A big thank you to Mr. McCann and the coaches. Juniors who are to be inducted into National Honor Society this year. Induction Ceremony was canceled due to flooding in the building. Juniors will be inducted in the Fall of 2021.
6. Successful baseball and softball seasons with the teams finishing in the top 8 and making playoffs. Both teams lost on Monday night to end their seasons. Golf was able to complete a full season with many new members. Track won the Team Sectional Title and will compete in the individuals tomorrow.
7. Graduation will be held at 6:15 pm on Friday, June 25, 2021. Seniors are to report at 5:30 pm to line up. Baccalaureate Breakfast will be held at St. Paul’s on Friday, June 25, 2021 @ 10:00 am. Weather is looking promising for an outside ceremony for graduation. Inside will be set up as a backup plan in case of inclement weather. Ceremony will have a small part with no presenters. The rest of the ceremony will be mostly traditional. 57 students are graduating. Still looking at a parade on Saturday at 10 am. Waiting on word from police and then will contact fire departments. If parade takes place will be the same route as last year. Shana Chudy stated that she wasn’t aware of the parade and wasn’t really planning on it. She asked if info would be shared with the seniors. Mr. Ploetz stated that a three-page letter is going out tomorrow to Seniors with times and events.

Maren Bush: Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum - **ABSENT**

**School Business Executive Report: Aimee Kilby - ABSENT**

**Consent Items:**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Zlockie, 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 June 8, 2021
- b. Acknowledgement of the June 8, 2021 Claims Auditor Report

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Committee Reports:**

Superintendent Miller stated that the week after graduation all kinds of projects will begin to take place in regards to the capital project. He stated that everything will kick into high gear.

**Discussion Items:**

DRAFT – Board Meeting Dates 2021-2022 school year – dates will be approved at the July 13, 2021, Reorganizational Meeting.

CRSSA and ARPA Stimulus Funds – discussed during Superintendent Miller’s report.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 4**

**Sht. No. 1955  
June 22, 2021**

**Old Business:**  
None

**New Business:**

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Erich Ploetz to supervise Joe Steger (St. Bonaventure University – Educational Leadership – School Building Leader Certificate) for 200 hours of administrative practicum/internship during the 2021-2022 school year.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following student teachers at ECS for the 2021-2022 school year. These students are from St. Bonaventure University.

Andrew Kruszka	Cooperating Teacher: Jaelyn James	Grades 7 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup>	9/7/2021 – 10/22/2021
James Villanueva	Cooperating Teacher: Elizabeth Weber	Grades 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup>	9/7/2021 – 10/22/2021

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the transfer of funds in the amount of \$5,192.13 (plus June interest) from the Virginia Hughey Memorial Scholarship to the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation. The Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation will begin administering the scholarship beginning with the Class of 2022.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Murphy, that the Ellicottville Central School District and the Town of Ellicottville (Ellicottville Parks Commission), agree to work together to fix/maintain the Town of Ellicottville Soccer Fields for the upcoming soccer seasons to provide space for practice/games due to limitations at the school because of on-going work on the fields related to the Capital Project. This work may include but is not limited to the use of school equipment, help from school employees, and the purchase of certain items (i.e. grass seed, etc.).

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Personnel:**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following temporary summer cleaners, from July 6 – August 27, 2021, at a rate of \$12.50 per hour: Jennifer Hasper, Karen Morton and John Ireland.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Regina Vandenburg as a bus monitor for summer school, July-August 2021 at \$12.50 per hour.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Policy**

None

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 5**

**Sht. No. 1955  
June 22, 2021**

**CSE/CPSE Recommendations:**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Cornelius, 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 (#900501132, 900501454) at its meeting on June 22, 2021, and approves all necessary arrangements as the most reasonable and appropriate special service(s) and/or program(s) for the implementation of those recommendations June 3 - 18, 2021.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Executive Session**

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Murphy, to move into Executive Session at 7:14 pm to discuss one personnel matter.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Cornelius, to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular meeting at 7:48 pm.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Golley, to adjourn the regular meeting of June 22, 2021, at 7:49 p.m.

**Yes – 7  
No – 0  
Carried**

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District Clerk

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Deputy District Clerk