

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 1**

**Sht. No. 1994  
October 17, 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,  
Todd Lovell

**Staff Absent:** None

**Others Present:** None

**Call to order of meeting**

President Golley called the regular meeting of October 17, 2023, of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education to order at 6:20 p.m. The Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

**Roll Call**

Shana Chudy – Absent  
Karl Northrup arrived 6:27 pm and left at 6:50 pm

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

None

**Approve Agenda**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the October 17, 2023, Board of Education Meeting.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Public Comment**

None

**Presentations & Reports**

Superintendent Miller presented Board Members with certificates of appreciation for Board Member Appreciation Week. He stated on behalf of the Administration, Staff, Students and the Community he would like to thank them for their dedication to ECS and for all that they do for the District.

**Communications, Commendations**

None

**Informational Items**

None

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 2**

**Sht. No. 1994  
October 17, 2023**

**Superintendent's Report – Robert Miller**

1. 2 Contractors have been to the school to look at the track. Seven feet needs to be cut back from the current track. Waiting on one more contractor. If the quotes come in too high, the work will be done in house by the maintenance department. The goal is to have it done in November and have the seed in so it can germinate over the winter.
2. BOCES Big Picture will present at the November 14, 2023 Board Meeting.
3. Tops in Ellicottville would like to sell ECS merchandise. Think it is a good idea. They sell merchandise for neighboring districts in their other stores. Administration will work with them.
4. October 6<sup>th</sup> – Krista & Brad Frank presented Bob & Katie with certificates acknowledging that ECS “Supports Military Families”. Superintendent Miller stated that military families give up a lot so we can be protected. An article will appear in the December district newsletter.
5. Story about AP Exams. 19 years ago, ECS broke away from AP and went to dual credit. Reached out to Senator Borrello’s office as well as spoke with JCC. ECS does great with the dual credit. Want more information on free AP exams and challenging the grades.
6. Building Condition Survey – 5 year process. Will set up meeting with the buildings and grounds committee to review the report.
7. Capital Project bid reopening. Bidders (2 out of 3) came in lower. The bids do not include the architect fees or fees for Rick Timbs (Financial Advisor). All has to be in by Early December and into State Ed by the end of December.
8. Superintendent Miller appeared on WKBW news article regarding Teacher Shortage.
9. Approached yesterday regarding Unified Bowling. Not enough time before board meeting to get all the particulars. Think it is an awesome opportunity, but have a lot of loose ends that need to be addressed (nurse, bus, work with ETA regarding stipends, etc.). We need to let them know by Monday. Will update the Board on Friday if it looks like everything could fall in place by next Monday. If we can’t get it all together for this year, we will look into for next year.

**Principals Reports:**

**Katie Mendell – Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum**

1. Climate & Culture: Childhood Cancer Awareness & Stronger Together Schoolwide Community Building: Assembly & survivor story/ ‘Beads of Courage’, Ribbons, ‘PJammin Day’ & Staff Luncheon to raise money.  
-Monday Monthly Assembly (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month) to celebrate, learn, and build community.  
-Student Positive Behavior Nominations & Staff Recognition  
- Open House & Resource Showcase (Sherriff’s Dept. & child safety cards, County DSS/Foster Care, Girl Scouts & Gundlah Dental Clinic  
- Inclusion of 12:1:1, !2:1:3:1 & Full day PreK  
-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Trip to Arboretum
2. Curriculum & Instruction: Learning Lab: Let’s take a look! (Multipurpose room utilized and organized as professional lending library and learning space. Houses BOCES support/office hours, elementary staff meetings, instructional materials.- --Benchmarking assessments complete -utilizing the new Aims Web Plus  
Homework Club (Intervention model)  
- Tech integration, Media Specialist & Curriculum Specialist (BOCES) utilized monthly  
- Eureka2 Math (4<sup>th</sup> grade pilot) Science Investigations (gr. 5) scheduled
3. Professional Development:  
-Regional trainings: Computer Science Digital Fluency, Educator “Play Day,” Restorative Practices) ON-demand/in district trainings: mandatory safety trainings (online), Restorative Practices, WozEd, Enrichment & Technology, Science Curricular alignment  
-Early Elementary focus group  
TEAMS & Wakelet for Elementary team  
- Monthly articles (aim for 2 staff members, teams or grade levels) to report elementary news
4. Parent & Family Engagement:  
-Principal’s Corner Newsletter  
-Ongoing positive phone calls to families to ensure 80% of calls home are proactive, vs. responsive  
- Digital communication & announcements, increase ECS Newsletter (elementary) Articles

Upcoming Events:

- Fire Safety Week culminating activity w/ local firemen/women
- Halloween Parade
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Leadership Academy

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 3**

**Sht. No. 1994  
October 17, 2023**

5. 3-6 ELA & Math Results (an overview).
6. Video highlighting STEM Center in Elementary.

**Erich Ploetz - MS/HS Principal**

1. Full speed ahead with bench marking program (Right Reason Technology). Hope to wrap up in early November.
2. World Language Teachers & Seal of Biliteracy for student's diplomas. (Meghan Emborsky & Jamie Edwards)
3. Professional Development at faculty meeting tomorrow. Mental Health First Aid for Educators (presentation tomorrow and maybe a presentation at staff development day in March).
4. November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Middle School Play "Broadview Review"
5. Thank you to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade advisors (Sarah Peffer and Clara Kosinski) for a nice MS Dance on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Kristen Pearl stepped out at 6:45 pm

**Consent Items:**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by O'Connell, 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 September 26, 2023
- b. Acknowledgement of the August 31, 2023 & September 12, 2023, Claims Auditor Reports
- c. Approval of the August 2023 Treasurer's Report

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Karl Northrup left the meeting at 6:50 pm

Kristen Pearl returned to the meeting at 6:50 pm

**Committee Reports:**

None

**Discussion Items:**

Possible consolidation of bus runs: Superintendent Miller stated that he invited Transportation Supervisor, Todd Lovell, to the board meeting to discuss the possibility of bus run consolidation. Superintendent Miller stated that many districts are struggling to get bus drivers and have gone to staggered start times. He added that he is not looking at staggered times, but rather combining a few routes. He addressed the board and stated if they are not on board with it, they will not pursue it any further. Board Members asked what the increase in time would be. Todd Lovell stated between 20-35 minutes. Several Board Members stated that they do not want to see the time go over a one-hour bus ride. Superintendent Miller stated that no one would lose a job if routes were consolidated. He added that ideally the consolidation would happen over a break, so it could be advertised in the newsletter and parents could have time to plan. Also, drivers would perform "canned" runs to clock the amount of time each run would take. Bill Murphy asked if this took into consideration out of district drops. Superintendent Miller stated that by combining a few runs it would be a significant savings to the taxpayers of around \$76,000 (\$36,000 for a bus lease and around \$40,000 for a driver). Superintendent Miller stated that they will look at it again in the January budget cycle. President Golley stated that as a board and a district they need to say what an acceptable time on a bus would be and she stated that she thinks it should be a one-hour time limit. Superintendent Miller stated that what he was hearing is that they will keep it in their back pocket and continue to work on it. President Golley stated that the drivers should help work on the routes.

**Old Business:**

None

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 4**

**Sht. No. 1994  
October 17, 2023**

**New Business:**

Moved by Van Wicklin, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of an MOA with the ETA regarding Seal of Bi-Literacy Coordinators.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of an MOA with the ETA regarding clarification of retirement payouts.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Holly Richardson and Lynette Sexton as Mentors for first year teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Personnel:**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Barbara Putzig to the permanent position of teacher aide effective October 26, 2023 after successfully completing one year of probation.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Melissa Riehle to the substitute teacher list (non-certified) at a rate of \$115 per day. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following Winter 2023-2024 Sports Coaches:

Boys Varsity Basketball	Dave McCann
Boys Junior Varsity Basketball	Zach Gelen
Boys Modified Basketball	Griffin Chudy
Girls Varsity Basketball	Tracy Rozler
Girls Junior Varsity Basketball	Matt Finn
Girls Modified Basketball	Tammy Eddy
Bowling	Diana Olson
Boy & Girls Varsity Alpine Skiing	Kent Joesel

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following Winter 2023-2024 Advisors:

Varsity Sideline Cheerleading	Randi Metzger
-------------------------------	---------------

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 5**

**Sht. No. 1994  
October 17, 2023**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Julia Dunn to the substitute teacher list (non-certified) at a rate of \$115 per day retroactive to October 3, 2023. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Denise Wisner to the substitute teacher list (non-certified) at a rate of \$125 per day and the substitute nurse list (LPN) at a rate of \$30 per hour, retroactive to October 11, 2023. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Van Wicklin, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Dennis Hintz to the position of a part-time CDL-C Driver effective October 18, 2023 at a rate of \$18.25 per hour. This position carries a one-year probationary period which will begin on October 18, 2023 and end on October 18, 2024.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of an intermittent FMLA leave for Jennifer Schunk starting 10/2/2023.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of an intermittent FMLA leave for Jody Maynard starting 9/27/2023.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Policy**

•First reading and discussion of changes to policy #7221: Participation In Graduation Ceremonies & Activities

**Discussion:** Superintendent Miller stated that the change in the policy is the following paragraph: The District permits any student to participate in the graduation ceremony and all related graduation activities of his or her high school graduating class, if the student has successfully completed all requirements to obtain a High School Equivalency Diploma provided the student attended a District approved all-day program that met 5 days per week throughout the year immediately preceding graduation. The all-day program may include a combination of instruction for the GED and a BOCES CTE class. Students and parents selecting this option realize that at graduation when diploma types are read for students, “High School Equivalency Diploma” will be read. Students obtaining High School Equivalency Diplomas via other methods (i.e. evening classes, “Adult” GED programs, etc.) or programs not approved by the District will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies and activities.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
Page 6**

**Sht. No. 1994  
October 17, 2023**

- First reading and discussion of changes to policy #7330: Searches and Interrogations of Students

**Discussion:** Superintendent Miller stated that the main changes in this policy would give administration the authority to use a wand on a student if a vape detector goes off and a suspected student does not hand over a device. SRO Amber will be present but not doing the searching. Questions were brought up regarding the legitimacy of insubordination and other reasons why a wand (detector) could go off. Superintendent Miller stated that he will research the policy more.

Changes: The possession and use of vaping devices at school by students under the age of 21 is prohibited by law (Article 13-F Section 1399-CC of Public Health Law). When Administration has reasonable cause to believe that a student and/or students are in possession of such devices and/or when there has been a pattern of a student/students being present when vape detectors are triggered, the Administration is authorized to use stationary or mobile metal detectors. In the event a student refuses to the use of a metal detector and/or refuses to produce the item/items that may set off a detector, it will be considered insubordination and the student may face subsequent disciplinary measures. In such cases, Administration may also reasonably ascertain that the item setting off the metal detector is a vaping device.

**CSE/CPSE Recommendations**

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Van Wicklin, 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 (#900500290, 900501575, 900501578, 900500430, 900501365, 900500807, 900500236, 900500812, 900501064, 900501140, 900501617, 900501132, 900501599, 900501469) at its meeting on October 17, 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 September 21 – October 9, 2023.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Executive Session**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Murphy, to move into Executive Session at 7:36 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

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by O'Connell, to come out of Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. and return to the regular meeting.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Moved by Van Wicklin, seconded by Murphy, to adjourn the regular meeting of October 17, 2023, at 7:46 p.m.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

---

District Clerk

---

Deputy District Clerk