

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
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**Sht. No. 1931
May 19, 2020**

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

The meeting was being held by zoom video conferencing format because of Covid-19 Pandemic

- Members Present:** Via Zoom: Robert Van Wicklin, William Murphy, Carl Calarco, Shana Chudy, Debra Golley, Connie Hellwig, Leonard Zlockie.
- Members Absent:** All present
- Staff Present:** Robert Miller, Melissa Sawicki, Aimee Kilby, Maren Bush, Erich Ploetz
- Staff Absent:** None
- Others Present:** Dona Fredrickson (joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:13 pm)

Call to order of meeting

President Van Wicklin called the regular meeting of May 19, 2020 of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

All present

Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

ADDITIONS:

14. New Business:
- b. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Brionna Howard (St. Bonaventure University) as a student teacher from October 26, 2020 - December 7, 2020. Brionna Howard will be under the supervision of Mr. Dave McCann (Social Studies) and Mr. Erich Ploetz (MS/HS Principal).
 - c. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Alison Garlock (St. Bonaventure University) as a student teacher from March 15, 2020 – May 7, 2020. Alison Garlock will be under the supervision of Mrs. Melissa Reedy (Math) and Mr. Erich Ploetz (MS/HS Principal).
 - d. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a donation of a tree honoring the Class of 2020, from Howard Hanna Real Estate.

Approve Agenda

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the May 19, 2020 Board of Education Meeting with additions and deletions.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Presentations & Reports

None

Communications, Commendations

None

Informational Items

Covid – 19:

1. ECS will meet 180-day student requirement on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. Anticipate sending out an information letter with report cards on Friday of this week or next Tuesday.
2. Still many unknowns. Superintendent's stopped asking, and are moving forward with guidance from attorneys.
3. NYSED campus opening back up. They will start to review construction projects. ECS is doing well with schedule.
4. Sr. Class trip officially canceled. Aimee Kilby and Cathie Nason have worked hard to get the funds back. Students will be fully refunded the money they paid towards the trip. The advisors will be given guidance on how to use the class funds. Still holding out hope for some type of prom.

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5. Superintendent's had a video conference with Health Department (Tuesday, May 19, 2020). They stressed that schools are closed to staff & students and gatherings of over 10 people. Once the school year is ended, we can start summer cleaning after June 16, 2020. Talked to Health Department about graduation. The Health Department stressed we cannot have a traditional ceremony and campuses are closed and there are no gatherings over 10 people allowed. The District Superintendent is going to work for the districts to explore what options other than virtual are allowable.
6. Have to start working on re-opening plans.
7. Will provide student meal deliveries until June 26, 2020.
8. Erich, Maren and night cleaners are cleaning out the rest of the lockers and cubbies for delivery.

Superintendent's Report:

Robert Miller

1. Working with Joe & Shawne regarding student laptops for summer use. Will try using a rotational system to reimage and redistribute them to students to use over the summer.

Dona Fredrickson (guest) joined the meeting @ 6:13 pm.

2. Zoom and pitfalls. Sr. Class meeting was Zoom bombed.

Principals Reports:

Erich Ploetz: MS/HS Principal

1. Daily activities: sorting and tagging homework & USB drives from last week.
2. Meeting with Mr. Miller about graduation and banquets. Not dates yet.
3. Working on exciting things for the Sr. Class. Cathie Nason sent a note to All Staff and Ellicottville Chamber of Commerce.
4. 5th round of curriculum gatherings and delivery days away. We are hitting our stride. Took us a bit, but we are now a well-oiled machine.

Maren Bush: Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum

1. Compiling and organizing homework returns.
2. Going through cubbies and returning student items.
3. Teachers are coming in on Wednesday to pick-up homework packets students have completed.
4. 3rd Quarter report cards are ready to be mailed.
5. Internet/Cell Phone Connectivity Survey
286 families reporting
78% have reliable cell service, 22% do not have reliable cell service
67% have reliable internet service, 33% do not have reliable internet service

School Business Executive Report:

Aimee Kilby

1. Normal work in the Business Office. Working on Flex Plans and Health Insurance.
2. Working with Buffamante, Whipple (internal auditors) all virtual.
3. Plugging away on year-end process.

Consent Items:

Moved by Golley, seconded by Chudy, 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 May 12, 2020
- b. Acknowledgement of the May 13, 2020 Claims Auditor Report

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Committee Reports:

None

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Discussion Items:

World Languages: Superintendent Miller stated that the Board and Administration had a conversation a few years ago regarding ECS carrying 2 languages. He stated that as a District we are currently on the edge again regarding 2 languages. The numbers are unbalanced. He added that Mr. Ploetz, MS/HS Principal has compiled information and given it to Board Members. Mr. Ploetz stated that there are currently 4 different options. Mrs. Hellwig thanked Mr. Ploetz for his very thorough report. She asked if there was another option if French was phased out. She stated that perhaps another college option could be added, stating that most colleges do not require a foreign language. Carl Calarco stated that Mr. Ploetz put a lot of time and thought into the process and asked Mr. Ploetz for his thoughts. Mr. Ploetz stated that he spoke with the teachers and it's a heartbreaking conversation to have to have. Mr. Ploetz stated that his recommendation would be for ECS to phase out French. Debra Golley stated that it seems like the Board has the conversation over & over again, adding that she thinks the Board wants to keep both languages. President Van Wicklin asked Superintendent Miller if the Board need to vote to keep French and asked what is the Board's role. Superintendent Miller stated that the board went down the road a few years ago and there were a lot of comments from the Board. He stated that President Van Wicklin was correct in stating that it is Superintendent Miller's decision, but he wanted to hear comments from the Board. He stated that if President Van Wicklin was asking him, Yes, he would phase out French. President Van Wicklin asked again if Superintendent Miller was looking for the Board to vote. He stated that the Board has mixed view and it is clearly Superintendent Miller's decision. Superintendent Miller stated that it pains him to say, but it is time to phase out French.

2020/2021 School Year Budget: Superintendent Miller stated that there is a lot in the news about budget numbers. Superintendent Miller stated that he is working on the Budget Newsletter information. There will be a budget presentation on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. He stated that right now there are so many unknowns. Will aid be cut? What will the aid look like next year? With so many unknowns, Superintendent Miller is suggesting the board stick with the budget they approved to be presented to voters. He stated that the district should not be looking to challenge the tax cap. He stated that the District needs to work with what is already put together. He stated that the team worked hard and it is a solid budget for next year. Aimee will have to constantly analyze the cash flow, starting now. She needs to look and see if there are areas to trim. If aid goes down, the district may need to cut to lower the gap. The District can look at borrowing to cover the gap, which would be a last resort. If cuts are really severe, would have to look at cuts and borrowing. In the end, the district wants to avoid cutting staff. Before cuts and borrowing, can the District look at items in the budget that are not necessary this year. New York State has three fiscal cycles when they can pull money from the districts. Aid can still be cut in December. Len Zlockie stated that the District has to go with what it knows.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Hellwig, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the 2020-2021 School District Budget Notice.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Brionna Howard (St. Bonaventure University) as a student teacher from October 26, 2020 - December 7, 2020. Brionna Howard will be under the supervision of Mr. Dave McCann (Social Studies) and Mr. Erich Ploetz (MS/HS Principal).

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Hellwig, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Alison Garlock (St. Bonaventure University) as a student teacher from March 15, 2020 – May 7, 2020. Alison Garlock will be under the supervision of Mrs. Melissa Reedy (Math) and Mr. Erich Ploetz (MS/HS Principal).

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Moved by Calarco, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a donation of a tree honoring the Class of 2020, from Howard Hanna Real Estate.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Personnel:

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Ann Marie Fitzpatrick, Sandra Reed and Reann Ehman as inspectors for the June 9, 2020 Budget Vote & Board Member Election. Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Reed and Ms. Ehman will each receive \$125 as inspectors.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Sandra Reed as Chairperson for the June 9, 2020 Budget Vote & Board Member Election.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Policy

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, 2nd reading and approval of Policy #7220 Graduation Requirements/Early Graduation/Accelerated Programs.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

CSE/CPSE Recommendations:

Moved by Golley, seconded by Zlockie, 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 (#900501358, 900501317, 900501358, 900500324) at its meeting on May 19, 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 (May 7 - 14, 2020).

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Executive Session

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Calarco, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to enter into executive session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss 2 contractual items.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Calarco, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to come out of executive session at 7:24 p.m. and return to the regular meeting.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Golley, seconded by Murphy, to adjourn the regular meeting of May 12, 2020 at 7:25 p.m.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

District Clerk

Deputy District Clerk