

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School

Regular Meeting
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Sht. No. 2021
April 22, 2025

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Members Present: Debra Golley, Karl Northrup, Nate Dahlman, Carla Kruszynski
Tiffany Frentz, David Scotty McGee, Jenna O'Connell

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mark J. Ward, Kristen Pearl, Erich Ploetz, Katie Mendell, Aimee Kilby

Staff Absent:

Others Present: Michael Weber, Kim Woodarek, Schavon Byroads, Leo Fial, Carol Fial

Call to order of meeting

President Golley called the regular meeting of April 22, 2025, 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

None

Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Changes:

Additions:

11. **Consent Items**
Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to adopt the following Consent Agenda items:
c. Approval of the March 2025 Treasurer's Report
15. **Personnel**
g. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Cale Benjamin to the baseball score keeper for the 2024-2025 Season, rate of pay based on the ETA contract.
- h. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Steve Grabowski to the pitch count keeper at a rate of \$38 per game.
- i. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept an MOA between the District and ETA for ENL services.
- j. Moved by Kruszynski, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to enter into a contractual agreement with Michelle Schram for assistance as a language consultant.

Approve Agenda

Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of April 22, 2025 Board of Education Meeting with additions and changes.

Yes - 6
No - 0
Carried

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Public Comment

- The Public Comment section is a time set aside for the community to speak directly to the Board of Education.
- Please refer to Policy # 3220 – Public Expression at Meetings.
- Any person may make a public comment by placing their name, address, and topic on the sign-in sheet.
- When called, please stand up and state your name and address.
- Please be respectful in your comments and do not divulge any personal or confidential information. The speaker will be stopped if any Board member or district employee is mentioned by name.
- Please demonstrate respect by speaking to the issues, sharing ideas and opinions, but not engaging in personal attacks. At a public Board meeting, no person may orally initiate charges or complaints against individual District employees or Board members.
- Board members, the superintendent and administrators will not answer specific questions or engage in dialogue.
- The information shared will be carefully considered and the appropriate person may contact you.
- Rest assured, we are listening carefully and take seriously what you have to say.
- The Board appreciates your willingness to share your concerns/celebrations.

Public Comment:

Mr. Michael Weber introduced himself and stated his address, and the reason Mr. Weber was attending the Board Meeting was to state his opposition of the incoming Superintendent. Mr. Weber was stopped from commenting further as he was not allowed to discuss a specific person by name.

Presentations & Reports

None

Communications, Commendations

Informational Items

None

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Interim Superintendent's Report – Mark J. Ward

1. Capital Project Banners are up!
2. One of the important issues to be handled is adding Handicap-ADA bathrooms in the elementary.
3. The library will have a glass enclosed meeting room.
4. This entire project is at no tax increase.
5. Mr. Ward made everyone aware that the tax base for Ellicottville School District is \$1.5 Billion
6. Mr. Ward has completed the lead evaluator training and is able to evaluate any/all teachers.
7. We have entered into a contractual agreement with Michelle Schram who will teach Arabic to some of our new students, as well as Meghan Emborsky who is also helping students with ESL.

Principals Reports:
Katie Mendell – Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum

1. There is lots going on right now! Field trips! State testing! Dime Carnival 4/25/25
2. We will be having our annual Arbor Day celebration on May 2nd.
3. Congratulations to the Pre-K Classroom for securing the Wolfinger Grant! This grant made it possible for Mrs. Keller to receive a water table to use within their play-based learning.
4. Erin's Law- all students in ECS Elementary will receive age appropriate instruction on Erin's Law from May 22-24, through our partners at the Cattaraugus County Health Department. Erin's Law requires that all public schools in NYS provide instruction on child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention.
5. Reminder: The STEM Showcase will be held on May 20th from 5:30-6:30 in the Elementary Gym.

Erich Ploetz - MS/HS Principal

1. The fourth quarter has begun!
2. Congratulations to all that were involved in the High School Musical! You put on a fantastic show!
3. April 10th- FBI and Homeland Security met with all MS/HS grade levels.
4. We will be working on providing a parent night, also utilizing the FBI & Homeland Security.

Consent Items:

- Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to adopt the following Consent Agenda items:
- a. That the board approves the minutes of the meeting for March 25, 2025
 - b. Acknowledgement of the March 25 and April 8th, 2025 Claims Auditor Reports

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

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Committee Reports:
None

Discussion Items:

Old Business:
None

New Business:

- a. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Northrup upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent, acceptance of the Wolfinger funding in the amount of \$500.00 for the Lift Off in STEM project submitted by Leah Farnum and \$500 for the Pre-K Water Play project submitted by Caitlin Keller.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

- b. Motion by Kruszynski, second by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent to adopt the 2025-26 Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming BOCES' Administrative Budget.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

- c. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent approval of the following resolution: The Ellicottville Central School District Board of Education casts its vote or votes in the annual election of members of the Board of Cooperative Education Services for the following persons indicated below:

Area 1 – Vacancy – 1-year term

Brian Perkins
24 Rochambeau Avenue
Andover, NY 14806

☐

Area 3 Vacancy – 3-year term

Dr. Ralph Kerr
7766 Centerville Road
Fillmore, NY 14735

☐

Area 7 Vacancy – 3-year term

Charles Davis, III
5635 Ashford Hollow Road
West Valley, NY 14171

☐

Area 8 Vacancy – 3-year term

Dale Colton
8402 West Bucktooth Run
Little Valley, NY 14755

☐

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

- d. Moved by Dahlman, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent, approval to terminate agreement with Healthworks Western NY for services related to bus driver 19A physicals.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

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- e. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent, approval to use Wellnow for services related to 19A bus driver physicals.
- Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried
- f. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Dahlman, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent, approval of the 2025-2026 School Calendar.
- Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried
- g. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of Ann Marie Fitzpatrick, Annie Fitzpatrick, Dlo Bickell, and Eileen Hostuttler as inspectors for the May 20, 2025, Budget Vote & Board Member Election. Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Bickell, and Ms. Hostuttler will each receive \$145 to serve as an inspector.
- Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried
- h. Moved by Kruszynski, seconded by O'Connell, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of Eileen Hostuttler as Chairperson for the May 20, 2025, Budget Vote & Board Member Election.
- Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried
- i. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of non-public school transportation requests to New Life Christian School (Olean, NY) (received on March 20, 2025) for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried
- j. Moved by Frentz, seconded by O'Connell, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of the Property Tax Report Card.
- Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried
- k. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following propositions to be put before District Voters on Tuesday, May 20, 2025:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – BASIC BUDGET

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the Ellicottville Central School District in the County of Cattaraugus, State of New York, BE AND IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXPEND THE SUM OF \$16,311,698 for the 2025-2026 school year budget. The Basic Budget will provide funds for all of the educationally related services and the maintenance of our school building

PROPOSITION NO. 2 – SCHOOL BUS LEASE

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Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Ellicottville Central School District in the County of Cattaraugus, State of New York, is authorized to levy an additional (not to exceed) \$115,000 to lease two (2) 66 passenger IC Bus CE school buses and one (1) Wheelchair passenger school bus for each of the next five years (five annual payments) commencing with the 2025-2026 school year.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 – ELLICOTTVILLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit: Resolved: Shall the proposition be approved authorizing the Board of Education of the Ellicottville Central School District to levy taxes annually in the amount of \$85,000 and to pay over such monies to the Ellicottville Memorial Library.

PROPOSITION NO. 4 - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: PHASE 3- HEALTH, SAFETY, & BUILDING INTEGRITY ENHANCEMENTS

RESOLVED that (a) the Board of Education (the "Board") of the Ellicottville Central School District, Cattaraugus County, New York (the "District") is hereby authorized to undertake a proposed Capital Improvements Project, 2025 (the "Project") consisting of the partial reconstruction, renovation and the construction of improvements and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities and the sites thereof, to implement various health, safety, accessibility and Code compliance measures and various other measures that are included and generally described in (but are not to be limited by) the Project Plan that was referred to in the public notice of the vote on this Proposition, and to expend therefor an amount not to exceed \$2,375,000; (b) a tax is hereby voted in an amount not to exceed \$2,375,000 to finance the estimated maximum cost of the Project, such tax to be levied and collected in installments in such years and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Board; (c) in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District are hereby authorized to be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$2,375,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on such obligations as the same shall become due and payable; and (d) New York State Building Aid funds expected to be received by the District in connection with the Project are anticipated to offset a substantial part of such costs, and such funds, to the extent received, shall be applied to offset and reduce the amount of taxes herein authorized to be levied.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

16. Personnel

- a. Moved by Frentz, seconded by O'Connell, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Jaida Mendell to the substitute aide list, retroactive to 3/27/25 at a rate of \$15.50 per hour.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

- b. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of Laura Whitmer to the permanent position of cafeteria worker effective April 17, 2025 after successfully completing one year of probation.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

- c. Moved by Dahlman, seconded by Kruszynski, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept the updated resignation date for Dana Story to April 1, 2025.

Yes – 6

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No -0
Carried

- d. Moved by O'Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a letter of resignation from Amanda Lawrence effective April 8, 2025.
- e. Moved by Frentz, seconded by O'Connell, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Michelle Schram to the substitute list effective April 23, 2025.
- f. Moved by *ROLL CALL*, seconded by *ROLL CALL*, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools: **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hereby appoints and employs Mr. Leo Fial as Superintendent of Schools, for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028 and further approves the Employment Agreement dated April 22, 2025 setting forth the terms and conditions of such appointment and employment and authorizes the Board President to execute the Employment Agreement on behalf of the Board.

Yes - 6
No -0
Carried

Yes - 6
No -0
Carried

Roll Call:

O'Connell- Yes
Kruszynski- Yes
Frentz- Yes
Dahlman- No
McGee- No
Northrup- No
Golley- Yes
Yes - 4
No -3
Carried

Board member McGee requested an executive session to discuss this vote and he was denied. Board member McGee also suggested that the Board of Education not move forward, and start a new search while we still have an Interim Superintendent and he was denied.

17. POLICY

18. CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Moved by Kruszynski, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim 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 (#900501557, 900500859, 900501608, 900500276, 900501570, 900501645, 900501517, 900501231, 900501003, 900501378, 900501379, 900501153, 900501510, 900501536, 900501406, 900501140, 900501448, 900501641, 900501429, 900501398) at its meeting on April 22, 2025, and approves all necessary arrangements as the most reasonable and appropriate special service(s) and/or program(s) for the implementation of those recommendations March 24, 2025 thru April 9, 2025, approves all necessary arrangements as the most reasonable and appropriate special service(s) and/or program(s) for the implementation of those recommendations February 4, 2025 thru March 21, 2025.

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Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Frentz, seconded by O'Connell, to adjourn the regular meeting of March 25, 2025, at 7:32 p.m.

Yes - 6
No - 0
Carried


District Clerk


Deputy District Clerk