

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
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**Sht. No. 1964
January 25, 2022**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Members Present:	Robert Van Wicklin, Leonard Zlockie, Shana Chudy, Erin Cornelius, Debra Golley, William Murphy, Karl Northup
Members Absent:	None
Staff Present:	Robert Miller, Melissa Sawicki, Aimee Kilby, Erich Ploetz
Staff Absent:	Maren Bush
Others Present:	Schavon Byroads, Krista Rzucek, Jennifer Northrup, Sidney Earley, Tyler Earley

Call to order of meeting

President Van Wicklin called the regular meeting of January 25, 2022, 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

Erin Cornelius arrived at 6:05 pm

Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Additions:

- 14. Discussion Items
- b. Mask Mandates

Approve Agenda

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the January 25, 2022, Board of Education Meeting with an addition.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Public Comment

None

Presentations & Reports

None

Communications, Commendations

None

Informational Items

Call for nominations CA BOCES election: President Van Wicklin stated that he was approached by Ralph Kerr about running for the CA BOCES Board. President Van Wicklin stated that Steve Crowley the current area 8 representative is not seeking re-election. He stated that he checked and there is no conflict with him serving on both the Ellicottville CS Board and the CA BOCES Board.

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Northrup, approval to nominate Robert Van Wicklin as a candidate for the CA BOCES Board (Area 8) for a three (3) year term to expire on June 30, 2025. The CA BOCES election will take place on April 19, 2022.

Erin Cornelius arrived at 6:05 pm

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Superintendent's Report – Robert Miller

1. Capital Project – will discuss later in the agenda.
2. Fuel Tanks – will discuss later in the agenda.
3. Drinking Fountains – replaced 7 under the CRRSA grants. We have cups at each fountain and the kids have been great about using them and placing them in the waste baskets. We still have 1 fountain to install in the lower-level high school. This will be a new placement, so work needs to be done regarding plumbing and wiring. Installation will take place over February break.
4. Vape Detectors – Used money under the clean air act to purchase vape detectors. Have to commend Mr. Ploetz for staying on top of the vaping situation. Some students are afraid to use the rest rooms because vaping is going on. The new detectors will alert the principal and he can watch the cameras in the hallways to see who is coming and going from the rooms. There are and will be no cameras in the rest rooms.
5. Vaccination Clinic held today– 2nd dose for students 5-11 who received the first dose on January 4th. Also, boosters given to students and staff. Today we had 20 students receive vaccines and some staff. Many community members also received vaccinations today. Quite successful.
6. State Aid Runs – will discuss under budget later in the agenda.
7. Youth Basketball – Joe Myers is heading up the program this year. He has a plan, and we have a few rules regarding number of attendees and social distancing. The nice thing is we can live stream the games for the public. As long as the divider is not up in the gym, they can be live streamed. There is no audio but there is video. District is looking at getting some of the cameras for football and soccer. Right now, no capability for baseball. Athletic Director or coach can turn the live streaming on from their phone. Shana Chudy asked why the pledge isn't being said at basketball games and there are no announcements? Aimee Kilby and Erich Ploetz responded that the sound system is currently not working, and parts have been ordered. Superintendent Miller stated that he will speak with the Athletic Director about saying the Pledge to the Flag.
8. Concerts, Musicals and Plays – We have a MS/HS concert planned for March 9th. The District would like to move forward. The band and chorus students have been practicing in the HS Café, which affords them more room to spread out. The HS students would like to have a musical this spring, we will appoint Jon Wilder later in the meeting as the director. Mr. Ploetz and Superintendent Miller are working on logistics. The tricky part is the stage is used 8 periods a day for lunch and study halls. Will try and fit more students in the hs library or café.
9. COVID #'s – haven't had a chance to post this week's numbers. Last week 10 students and 7 staff. January 18-25, 2022: 21 students, 0 staff.
10. On Jan 9th and 10th a lot of changes out from the County and State. The State & County told us we no longer have to contact trace. We're trying to work through all the changes and get notifications out. We are no longer watching videos. We are making robo-calls. Superintendent Miller stated that he knows this is not perfect, but they are still working on it. Still working on extracurricular activities and trying to get hands around those rules. He stated that we will keep tweaking and want to get back to normal. Deb Golley asked why ECS is still contact tracing? She said that it is making a lot of work for the administrative team. She stated that the County (Cattaraugus) said you don't have to contact trace. Shana Chudy stated that we (the school district) are violating student rights and it has to stop now. She then stated that she wanted a motion on whether the District can still contact trace. President Van Wicklin asked Mrs. Chudy for the motion.....the following resolution was offered:

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Northrup, that effective immediately, ECS will no longer contract trace.

Discussion: Superintendent Miller stated that he is going to do what the Board asks, but he has been doing this for 29 years and is not going to jeopardize his career. He stated that he is going to check with Legal. He added that the documentation from the NYS DOH states you have to notify people for extracurricular activities. Erin Cornelius stated that as Board Members they took an oath to follow the rules. Deb Golley stated that there was nothing in her Oath that said she had to follow New York State DOH rules. Karl Northrup stated that he did not want Superintendent Miller to think that the Board Members were against him. He added that they did not want this on him, and that they are trying to take it off of him. President Van Wicklin stated that he would not support the wording of the motion. Superintendent Miller stated that it is very hard to do one thing and support another. He stated that he sent a 3-page letter to Dr. Watkins (Cattaraugus County) and they said no more tracing. Superintendent Miller stated that he doesn't agree with it either, and his principals simply cannot give anymore (time). He added that he is not saying that he agrees with (the rules) but he has to follow them. Bill Murphy asked for clarification from Superintendent Miller that he does have guidance? Superintendent Miller stated that he does from the DOH, but he has not contacted Legal (yet).

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Chudy	Yes
Northrup	Yes
Murphy	No
Zlockie	No
Cornelius	No
Golley	Yes
Van Wicklin	No

**Yes – 3
No – 4
Motion Failed**

Principals Reports:

- Erich Ploetz: MS/HS Principal
1. End of 2nd Quarter – reminder Friday (January 28th) is Rating Day. No school for students.
 2. Piloting a New Pass System in grades 7-12
 3. Mr. Steger’s Science Fiction/Fantasy English Course Curriculum Fair: Wendesday and Thursday student presentations. Thursday night family celebration and movie.
 4. Upcoming events: Middle/High School Band & Chorus Concert – March 9th. First concert since December 2019. Ms. Regan fitting in nicely. Will have a chorus concert after only being at ECS 2 months.
 5. Section VI of New York State Public High School Athletic Association awards All-Western New York Scholar Athlete Awards across WNY, regardless of class or school size. This year ECS has three honorable mentions in Jocely Wyatt, Maddox Bush, and Ignacio de Orbe, and an overall winner in Elsa Woodarek.
- Maren Bush: Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum
1. BOCES Early Childhood program interns to begin their field experiences at the primary level.
 2. Ski Club is up and running since the first week of January 26, 2022, Agriculture Literacy Week/Embryology & Incubation Program
 3. Hess Stem Kit awarded to Leah Farnum
 4. Partnership with SUNY Fredonia to support literacy for 3rd grade students. Will work with Dr. Marie Davis.

School Business Executive Report: Aimee Kilby

1. Work has begun with Superintendent Miller regarding 2022-2023 budget.
2. Business Office staff is working on requisitions.
3. Working on a couple of big reports.
4. Bill Murphy gave a report to fix a typo on Treasurer’s Report as well as to review July & August bank balances.

Consent Items:

- Moved by Cornelius, 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 December 14, 2021
 - b. Acknowledgement of the December 21, 2021; January 4, 2022, and January 18, 2022 Claims Auditor Reports
 - c. Approval of the September 2021, October 2021 and November 2021 Treasurer’s Reports

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Committee Reports:

Buildings, Grounds & Transportation – Capital Project Update (Superintendent Miller): a meeting was held on January 11th. The cooler and freezer are on their way but, are not here yet. They will be installed as soon as they arrive. Originally the company said they would install over February break, but that was unacceptable as we pay \$4,500 a month to rent the current units. Fobs on doors and PA system have been installed as well as message boards. The boards have not been all synced yet. Generator work is being finalized and it is up and running. The new unit will power the entire building. The exterior lights are working on schedule, and we are using 8 different zones. Terrazzo in the high school will take place in February. We are now beginning to plan for phase 2, which will include flooring in the elementary, a new playground surface and a roof over the loading dock. Football field lights – Nick Pitillo presented, and Superintendent Miller and President Van Wicklin met with Nick and Mark Ward. Superintendent Miller signed a quote to generate a PO to inspect the current light poles on the field. The company is out of State College, Pennsylvania and will use drone technology to inspect the poles. Superintendent Miller stated that originally, we thought we needed 50 ft candles but then it was determined that 30 ft candles would work. But it may be tweaked because we don't want the ends of the fields to be darker than needed. Info has been forwarded to the district engineers and an architect needs to work with New York State to submit the plan. Mr. Pitillo knows that the lights may not be installed before the 2022 football season, and that we want to do it right. We don't know that we will have any money to contribute, but we are getting good advice from our architects and financial advisors.

Discussion Items:

2022-2023 Budget – Superintendent Miller stated that he and Mrs. Kilby are really starting to get into the nitty gritty of the budget. He stated that they really have to watch the State and they are trying to find out more about "safe harmless". He stated that ECS is expected to get an \$89,000 increase in Foundation Aid, but it is overstated. They do know that a 2% tax levy increase = \$124,000. Superintendent Miller stated that every category is going up from Health Insurance (7%), BOCES CTE (3-5%). CA BOCES has not had an increase in many years. Deb Golley stated that the increase is in part due to the fact that they do not get any COVID money and had to pay for all COVID supplies. Erie I BOCES up (\$8,000), TRS (Teachers Retirement System) up \$3,500, ERS (Employees Retirement System) up \$6,000. Superintendent Miller stated that he and Mrs. Kilby will know by the February 15th board meeting if the District needs to go over the Tax Cap. He stated that Mark Ward, retired ECS Superintendent, used to say that it is unrealistic to think that a District can always stay below the Tax Cap.

Mask Mandates – Superintendent Miller stated that there has been a lot of conversation today and it has been a very stressful day. Info has been coming in throughout the day. There is a STAY on Masks that came in around 4:47 pm today. The case now goes to the Appellate Court which will begin hearings on Friday, January 28th in the am, so for now the Mask Mandate remains in effect. Superintendent Miller stated that he hopes the State (NY) will get it right and make the decision clear and not pit people against each other. He stated that schools need clarity. He stated that he hates the masks, and he would throw it out if he could. But by his Oath he has to wear it. Shana Chudy stated that we (the District) needs to look at the legality of what we are doing. She stated that she does not want (the District) to be sued. She stated that she wants us (the District) to follow the Constitution. Shana Chudy stated that you are going to see things change in the next election. She stated that she contacted her lawyer today and he said there was no STAY. Deb Golley stated that they expected a STAY and the District is dumb if they change and then there is a STAY. She stated that the District is not doing anything illegal. Shana Chudy stated that the lawyer she is working with said that at some point something is going to change. She again stated that she does not want ECS to be sued. Deb Golley stated that there is a STAY right now and she thinks that is where we (the District) is at. Superintendent Miller stated that he worked with Legal this pm and he agrees with Deb Golley, in this is where we are at – a STAY. He added that at 6 am today there were questions about if we would change, but we needed more clarity. He added that if we (ECS) was in Nassau County we might handle things differently. He added that he hopes information is not released at 11 pm on Friday so districts have to work all weekend to figure things out. Karl Northrup stated that we want NYSED and the State to agree. Erin Cornelius stated that at the end of the day there is a STAY in effect, and hopefully a change will come and ECS will do what is best for the kids.

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Old Business:

Gas Storage Tanks – Superintendent Miller stated that there is no race right now to replace the tanks. He stated that at the last meeting, the Board discussed a capital outlay over \$100,000. The Evans Agency came through at the last minute and the deductible went down \$45,000 to \$5,000 and the annual premium went up \$63. He stated that we want to see other options and make a good decision. He stated that maybe in the future a capital outlay would be a good option, but we have to wrap something inside the building into it (educational). We need to get to that point. He stated that Shana Chudy is right, she has been bringing up a capital outlay for years.

New Business:

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Cornelius upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the 2022-2023 Budget Preparation Calendar.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the September thru December 2021 fire drills and lock down drills at ECS.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Cornelius, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a SAT Prep Course from January 18-March 2022 from 7:15-8:00 am.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the Corrective Action Plan for the 2020-2021 External Audit.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Lacey Johnson (JCC – EDU 2021 – Field Placement Course) to have an internship at ECS for 135 hours from January 26 – May 11, 2022. Ms. Johnson will be supervised by Dr. Marie Davis.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of ECS combining with Allegany-Limestone for Alpine Skiing retroactive to January 13, 2022.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to form a relationship with SUNY at Fredonia that would allow ECS (under the supervision of Dr. Marie Davis) to offer remote (Zoom) field experiences for graduate students with ECS students that would take place during Title I reading pull-out time and would focus on the areas identified where the students need instruction.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Murphy, approval for Superintendent Robert Miller to attend the Allegany Cattaraugus Superintendents’ Association (ACSA) Winter Retreat/Conference at Beaver Hollow on Thursday, January 27, 2022 – Friday, January 28, 2022. There is no cost to the district for this event.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Personnel:

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Family Medical Leave (FMLA) request from Ashley Hellwig from tentatively 2/11/22 to 5/9/22 for 12 weeks; including paid maternity leave as per ETA CBA.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Cornelius, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of an unpaid leave of absence for Ashley Hellwig from tentatively May 10 - June 24, 2022.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Holly Richardson and Ann Chamberlain to teach an SAT Prep Class retroactive from January 18 – March 2022 at a stipend of \$1,000 per teacher. Mrs. Chamberlain and Ms. Richardson will alternate teaching days (English and Math).

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Hunter Bishop to the permanent position of cleaner effective retroactive to January 21, 2022 after successfully completing 52 weeks of probation.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Kevin Rowland to the permanent position of bus driver effective to January 28, 2022 and upon successfully completing 52 weeks of probation.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Cornelius, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Beth Swan to the substitute teacher aide list at a rate of \$13.20 per hour effective retroactive to January 5, 2022. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Robert Poole to the position of Trap Advisor for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of John Wilder to the position of Drama Club Director (Stage) for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Andrew Kruszka to the substitute teacher list (non-certified) at a rate of \$95.00 per day effective retroactive to January 12, 2022. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Deborah McGowan as the Art Club Advisor for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Policy
None

CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Murphy, 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 (#900500276, 900501418, 900500808, 900501483, 900501481, 900501508, 900501511, 900501510, 900501512, 900501515, 900501513, 900501406, 900500256, 900500809, 900501232, 900500954, 900500080, 900501038, 900500421, 900501257, 900501391, 900500504, 900500348, 900500969, 900500758, 900501449, 900501456, 900501374, 900500777) at its meeting on January 25, 2022 and approves all necessary arrangements as the most reasonable and appropriate special service(s) and/or program(s) for the implementation of those recommendations December 3, 2021 – January 20, 2022.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Executive Session

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, to move into Executive Session at 7:39 pm to discuss collective bargaining pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law and discussion regarding school emergency planning and safety.

Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried

Moved by Cornelius, seconded by Murphy, to come out of Executive Session at 8:10 pm and return to the regular meeting.

Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Golley, seconded by Cornelius, to adjourn the regular meeting January 25, 2022, at 8:11 p.m.

Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried

District Clerk

Deputy District Clerk