

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School

Regular Meeting
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Sht. No. 2023
May 20, 2025

OFFICIAL MINUTES

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

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mark J. Ward, Kristen Pearl, Katie Mendell, Erich Ploetz, Dave McCann

Staff Absent: Aimee Kilby

Others Present: Schavon Byroads, Travis Widger

Call to order of Budget Hearing
President Golley called the Budget Hearing of May 13, 2025, of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education to order at 8:05 p.m. The Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America was recited.

3. Changes to the Agenda

Changes:

16 D. CHANGE to non-certified (\$130 per day)

16 E. @ \$140 per day for first 10 consecutive days (May 15- May 30, 2025). After the 10 days, the pay rate per day is \$180.

16 N. @ \$30 per hour

Additions:

16. Personnel

O. Moved by Dahlman, seconded by McGee, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Finnegan Murphy to the substitute teacher aide list effective 5/20/25 at a rate of \$15.50 per hour.

P. Moved by Kruszynski, seconded by Dahlman, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following student teachers at ECS for the 2025-2026 school year. These students are from St. Bonaventure University.

Ella Ballowe	Cooperating Teacher:	Danielle Norton	Grade 1
9/2/2025 – 10/17/2025			
Grace Hollenbeck	Cooperating Teacher:	Chris Mendell	Grades K-6
9/2/2025 – 10/17/2025			
Molly Edington	Cooperating Teacher:	Nick Smith	Grade 5
10/20/2025-12/12/2025			

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Q. Moved by Northrup, seconded by McGee, upon the Recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Scott Johnson to the position of substitute teacher, non certified effective 5/20/25. This appointment is Contingent upon successful fingerprint clearance from NYS.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

R. Moved by Kruszynski, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Logan Fuller to the position of substitute cleaner, effective 5/20/2025. This appointment is contingent upon successful fingerprint clearance from NYS.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

S. Moved by Northrup, seconded by McGee, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Samuel Schwartz to the substitute teacher aide list at a rate of \$120 per day. This appointment is contingent upon successful fingerprint clearance from NYS.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

4. Approve Agenda

Moved by McGee, seconded by Dahlman, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the May 20, 2025, Board of Education Meeting.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

5. Public Comment

6. Presentations & Reports

Dave McCann spoke to the Board of Education regarding sport class classifications

7. Communications, Commendations

8. Informational Items

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9. Superintendent’s Report

a. Mark J. Ward: Interim Superintendent

Mr. Ward spoke in length about a new graduation award, the “No Limits Award”. This award is being offered by the Hensel Family and is meant to be awarded to a student that may not have received any kind of recognition/award at commencement. Mr. Ward went on to discuss our concerts and musicals, stating that department receives the least amount of funding. Mr. Ward continued by stating we need to budget for upgrades. In (hopefully) less than two weeks we will have working, flashing lights out on 219 alerting people of the school zone. The flowers for outside are underway. The lockdown drill went very well.

10. Principals Report

a. Katie Mendell: Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum

CLIMATE & CULTURE

1.	STEM Showcase
2.	Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony
3.	K-Screening Complete
4.	PreK Musical
5.	Immigration Simulation

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

1.	Spring Benchmarking underway, NYS Assessments 3-8 complete
2.	2 nd Step SEL Curriculum Review
3.	NYSED PK-3 Literacy Best Practices Guidance (re: NYS Attestation process: This guide also functions as a practical tool to ensure that literacy instruction aligns with the mandates of Education Law §818(link is external) and serves as a verification tool when submitting the required attestation by September 1, 2025).
4.	CCHD Healthy Relationships (Gr. 5/SEL)

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

1	STEM Showcase & AG Day
2	Spring PTO Bookfair
3	Field Trips
4	PREK Parent Survey (24/25 complete)

UPCOMING EVENTS

1.	Science on Wheels (Friday)
2.	3-6 Spring Concert (5/28), K-2 (5/30)
3.	PK Screening (28, 5 NON-RES)

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b. Erich Ploetz: MS/HS Principal

Four weeks left! Only four weeks left of school. We are rolling right into review and finals. State testing is completed- HUGE thank you to Tammy Auge and Beth Beaver for all of their hard work to make this happen as smooth as possible. BOE President Golley stated it was reported to her by more than a few that day two of assessments were quite chaotic and part of the issue may have been due to having substitutes in as proctors instead of all teaching staff. Dr. Ploetz states they use both teachers and substitutes to proctor and the chaos may have been during the few minutes before students were dismissed. Congratulations to our Quiz Bowl team on their advancement to Nationals June 7 & 8! Last day for students grades 7-12 is June 16 with middle school testing being administered June 12, 13, and 16. Commencement is June 27th. Prom is June 7th at Tannenbaum Lodge at Holiday Valley. Lastly, thank you to all who helped in the success of AG Day. It was a hit!

11. Consent Items

Moved by McGee, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to adopt the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. That the board approve the minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2025 & May 13, 2025
- b. Acknowledgement of the April 8, 2025, April 22, 2025, and May 6th Claims Auditor Reports
- c. Approval of the April 2025 Treasurer's Report

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

**12. Committee Reports
None**

13. Discussion Items

a. Review of the following policies: 1510, 1520, 1730, 3220, 3230. During the review of the aforementioned policies, board member McGee stated that we have to do better as a collective group. Board member McGee requested a motion to have the district attorney at our next board of education meeting. The motion was made by member McGee and seconded by board member Dahlman. Board member McGee states that there is no accountability for things as anything of any importance seems to be handled in executive session, so there is no official record. Board member McGee spoke in length about the superintendent search and what he believes are the proper procedures for handling such. Board member McGee states he would like Mark Ward involved in the superintendent search. There was a lot of discussion regarding how to move forward with a search. The group, as a whole, decided to have a couple new consultants that will interview/present for the position at the June 2025 board of education meeting. Board president Golley suggested a Board Retreat, however, board member McGee states that he doesn't want a retreat, he wants a public session. It was discussed having a handout of policy 3220 and 3230 for members of the public that attend meetings. District Clerk Mrs. Pearl will make copies of the policies to have available at future meetings.

b. Superintendent Search- the Superintendent search was discussed in length by all board members. Board member Dahlman stated he would like to interview several consultants to see what they offer. It was discussed if we need a special meeting. No special meeting at this time, we will start the process at the next board meeting on June 17th, 2025. President Golley stated that she sent everyone what our consultant (Christmann) offered moving forward which is to pull more applicants, pull from our last group of applicants, or run our own search which President Golley suggested we do not use. President Golley stated we are no longer bound by contract to

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our previous consultant. Member O’Connell asked about cost for starting over. Member Kruszynski and Vice President Northrup will reach out to their potential consultants to schedule them for June 17th presentations.

14. Old Business
None

15. New Business
a. Moved by Northrup, seconded by Dahlman, 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 April 1, 2025) for the 2025-2026 school year.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

b. Moved by Northrup, seconded by Dahlman, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept the results of the May 20, 2025, Budget Vote & Board Member Election results:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – BASIC BUDGET

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

YES_174_ NO_14_

PROPOSITION NO. 2 – SCHOOL BUS LEASE

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

YES_175_ NO_12_

PROPOSITION NO. 3-Ellicottville Memorial Library Tax

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.

YES_161_ NO_26_

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 Improvement Project, Phase 3 Health, Safety, &

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Building Integrity Enhancements-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_170_NO_15_

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER ELECTION

The candidate with the highest number of votes will be assigned a five-year term seat beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030 (this seat is currently held by Karl Northrup). The candidate with the second highest number of votes will be assigned an unexpired term seat immediately following the election on May 20, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2027 (this seat is currently held by David Scott McGee).

Vote for TWO (2) (Please check ✓ or X):

David Scott (Scotty) McGee

117

Karl Northrup

166

Patti Snyder- Write in Candidate

4

Yes - 6
No - 0
Carried

16. Personnel

a. Moved by McGee, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a letter from Leo Fial to rescind his acceptance of the position of Superintendent.

Yes - 6
No - 0
Carried

b. Moved by Northrup, seconded by McGee, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and Ellicottville Teachers' Association regarding the resignation and benefits due to an Association Member.

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 appoint Cassandra Wilson to the (4 hour per day) cafeteria worker position retroactive to April 25, 2025 at a rate of \$15.50 per hour. This position holds a one year probationary period that will begin April 25, 2025 and end on April 25, 2026.

Yes - 6

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No –0
Carried

d. Moved by Northrup, seconded by McGee, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Jeff Wayland to the certified substitute teacher list at a rate of \$130 per day. This appointment is contingent upon NYS fingerprint clearance.

Yes – 6
No –0
Carried

e. Moved by Frentz, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Courtney Sexton as a long term substitute teacher retroactive to May 16th, 2025 through June 27, 2025.

Yes – 6
No –0
Carried

f. Moved by Frentz, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, the Ellicottville Central School District Board of Education does hereby appoint Griffin Chudy, to the position of K-6 Elementary Teacher Probationary Appointment effective September 1, 2025. This position is in the tenure area of Elementary Education and is for a four-year probationary period commencing on September 1, 2025 and ending on September 1, 2029. This appointment is contingent upon completion of NYS teaching certification.

Yes – 6
No –0
Carried

g. Moved by Frentz, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Melissa Reedy to the Detention Monitor list retroactive to April 29th.

Yes – 6
No –0
Carried

h. Moved by McGee, seconded by Dahlman, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept the resignation letter from Ellen Story effective 5/21/25.

Yes – 6
No –0
Carried

i. Moved by Dahlman, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to extend the contractual agreement with Michelle Schram through June 26, 2025.

Yes – 6
No –0
Carried

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j. Moved by Kruszynski, seconded by Dahlman, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Owen Casey to the non-certified substitute teacher list at a rate of \$130 per day.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

k. Moved by Kruszynski, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Jodie Hooker to the position of certified substitute teacher at a rate of \$145 per day.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

l. Moved by Northrup, seconded by Kruszynski, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Randy Wisner to the position of maintenance worker with a starting hourly pay of \$27.89 and start date of July 1, 2025. This position holds a one year probationary period that will run July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

m. Moved by McGee, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and Ellicottville Central School Related Professionals Association regarding the appointment and supervision requirements of incoming maintenance worker.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

n. Moved by Dahlman, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Interim Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Kali Seitz to the position of LPN and teacher aide effective June 11th, 2025. This position carries a one year probationary period that will run June 11, 2025 through June 11, 2026. This appointment is contingent upon successful fingerprint clearance from NYS.

Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried

17. Policy

18. CSE/CPSE Recommendations

a. Moved by Kruszynski, seconded by O’Connell, 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 (#900500895, 900501645, 900500585, 900501275, 900501386, 900501011, 900501638, 900501556, 900500812, 900501314, 900501407, 900501540, 900500452, 900501631, 900501643) at its meeting on May 20, 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 April 10, 2025 thru May 14, 2025.

Yes – 6

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Carried

Executive Session

The New York Public Officers Law states a board may enter into executive session to discuss:

1. Matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed.
 2. Any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agent or informer.
 3. Information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed.
 4. Proposed, pending or current litigation.
 5. Collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law).
 6. 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.
 7. The preparation, grading or administration of examinations.
 8. The proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value of the property.
- Adjournment of meeting

Yes - 6
No - 0
Carried

Executive Session

Moved by Dahlgren, seconded by Northrup, to move into Executive Session at 10 p.m. for the purpose of:
6. 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.

Moved by O'Connell seconded by Frenz to come out of Executive Session at 10:30 p.m. and return to the regular meeting.

Yes - 6
No - 0
Carried

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Frenz, seconded by O'Connell, to adjourn the regular meeting of May 20, 2025, at 10:32 p.m.

Yes - 6
No - 0
Carried


District Clerk

Deputy District Clerk