

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
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**Sht. No. 1947
February 23, 2021**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Members Present: Robert Van Wicklin, William Murphy, Shana Chudy, Debra Golley, Karl Northup, Roger Spell, Leonard Zlockie

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Robert Miller, Melissa Sawicki, Aimee Kilby, Maren Bush, Erich Ploetz

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Jill Dunn, Kathryn Andrews

Call to order of meeting

President Van Wicklin called the regular meeting of February 23, 2021 of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education to order at 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call

All Present

Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Additions:

- 17h. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Jenna Ball as a long-term substitute for Jennifer Gesing beginning retroactive to February 23, 2021 and lasting for 10 weeks. Ms. Ball shall receive \$95 a day for this assignment.
- 17i. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a letter of resignation from Kyle Mendell, Grounds & Mechanics Helper, effective February 13, 2021.
- 17j. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to terminate the employment of Austin Lewis, Cleaner, effective February 23, 2021.

Deletions:

- 17d. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a MOA with the ETA for "ECS Pandemic Days".
- 17e. Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a MOA with the ECSRPA for "ECS Pandemic Days".

Changes:

Re-number 17 (Personnel)

Approve Agenda

Moved by Golley, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the February 23, 2021 Board of Education Meeting with additions, deletions and changes.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Public Comment

Mrs. Kathryn Andrews and Ms. Jill Dunn addressed the Board regarding their interest in transitioning back to fulltime face-to-face instruction for students. A letter was distributed to Board Members and Administration prior to the meeting. Mrs. Andrews and Ms. Dunn stated that they believe every administrator, staff member and teacher at ECS has the best interest of the children in mind. In their letter they stated they can no longer ignore the inconsistent application of COVID protocols to groups of people across districts, the state, and the nation. Our current situation is nothing short of a mental health disaster for our students. The Board thanked Mrs. Andrews and Ms. Dunn.

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Presentations & Reports

None

Communications, Commendations

None

Informational Items

None

Superintendent's Report:

1. Last 24 hours have been something. Have not seen this much info (partial info) in quite some time. Superintendent Miller stated that he thinks there will be promising news in the midst.
2. Section VI is letting schools begin to have spectators on February 24, 2021 with restrictions. Dave McCann is working on this and is sending a message home with students today. We're getting parents in, and know it won't be perfect at first, but we will continue to work on it.
3. Continue to work with Franklinville on football. Next year all games will be at Franklinville while we complete work on the football field. Forestville has no gym this winter so one of the basketball games at ECS will be their home game and we will allow their parents to come to the game to see their children.
4. Travel guidelines are changing. Allegany County has adopted the CDC guidelines that if you have both Covid vaccines you do not have to quarantine. This starts 2 weeks after your second shot and will last for 90 days. It will be reviewed again by the CDC to see if it can be extended past the 90 days. C/A BOCES Superintendent's will collectively push for Cattaraugus County to adopt the CDC guidelines as well. Superintendent Miller stated that before February break he sent a reminder out to all staff with the current NYS and Cattaraugus County Travel Guidelines. He also posted a reminder message to parents on the district Facebook page. Superintendent Miller stated to stay tuned and that he predicts that we will see travel guidelines open up more and more.
5. More Good News – you do not have to quarantine 2 weeks after your second shot and for 90 days after that.
6. Building Project Update – Bids were opened on February 18, 2021. The great news is there were a lot of bids which will make it more competitive. Campus Construction is reviewing bids and numbers. The Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet on Thursday, February 25th to review the numbers. We will need a special board meeting on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:00 pm to approve the bids. Superintendent Miller stated that things need to keep moving forward with cafeteria work starting on April 1st. The cafeteria kitchen will be moved to the Great Valley Fireman's Clubhouse and meals will be prepared there and transported back to ECS for distribution. Thank you to the Great Valley Fire Department for letting us use the kitchen.
7. Communicable Disease Pandemic Plan Update: about 6 pages to go. Suppose to have ready to go on April 1st. There will be a public hearing on March 9th before the Budget Worksession.

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8. Reopening: Superintendent Miller stated that he would like to assure everyone that it is the Boards and administrations goal to have students back in school five days a week. He stated that he thinks the teachers would agree. He stated that everyone would like to get them back as quickly as possible as long as it is safe. Things are coming in fast and furious. He stated that he thinks things are going in the direction everyone wants. Some of the obstacles are transportation (leasing of buses and mileage overage, drivers, extra cost of gasoline and the limited number of students on each bus). Superintendent Miller stated that some rooms at ECS only have 944 sq. feet and can only fit 15 per room with current regulation while others are smaller and can only fit 12 students per room. He stated that everyone is working hard to keep the building clean with support staff staying and working in the evenings to help keep the building clean. Superintendent Miller stated that there are big obstacles working with the executive orders and the district cannot violate them. He stated that staff is being vaccinated and the vaccines disappear as quick as they come out. He sends emails to staff as soon as he hears of an open clinic. Superintendent Miller stated that he sent an email to Dr. Watkins stating that ECS would be happy to host a pop- up clinic if the county is looking for a vaccination site. Superintendent Miller stated that the County needs to relax the 6-foot rule in classrooms as well as on buses. Superintendent Miller stated that the District looked at outside facilities last summer, but it was a nightmare. He stated that off-site buildings have to have an alarm system, PA system, asbestos plan, etc. Erich Ploetz stated that his numbers have actually gone up a bit for remote instruction.
9. The Federal Government declined the waiver allowing schools not to test this year. NYSSBA, NYSCOSS and State Ed have sent a statement.
10. Governor is mandating tracking of teachers and vaccines starting tomorrow and then every Friday thereafter.
11. Superintendent Miller stated that he sits on the NYSCOSS legislative committee and they are meeting virtually next week.
12. Superintendent Miller stated that sometimes we don't agree with what the elected officials do or say, but if we (the administration, superintendent and Board) knowingly violate an executive order we can lose our certification and Board Members can be removed from the Board. Bottom line is we have to follow the rules.

Principals Reports:

Erich Ploetz: MS/HS Principal -

1. Student Isolation – from a student's perspective Thank You to Vicky Williams, Custodial Staff and Senior Class Advisors for a great Senior Class Day. A fun day for all of the kids.
2. Shout out to the custodial staff for hanging the Senior banners in the main foyer. Todd Palmatier and the senior class advisors ordered the banners. PTO & ETA pitched in to pay for some of the banners.
3. NHS Inductions: We have some ideas to bring in students & parents and live stream the ceremony. Now that the gym is open, we may be able to open up to parents and send a meal home. More to come. Stay tuned.
4. Superintendent Miller stated that Mr. Ploetz has applied for ECS to participate in a Mental Health Awareness Training Grant through Horizon Health Services. The grant includes training for staff members in Mental Health First Aid. Mr. Ploetz stated that more info will be coming in the future.

Maren Bush: Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum –

1. Celebrated 100th day of school yesterday.
2. 32 students still have to register for PUP Patrol.
3. 92 iPads have been distributed to elementary students. Thank you to all of the donors.
4. Working on Kindergarten Screening
5. Joe Prior is starting the Mentoring Program back up on March 2nd. There will be one am session and one pm session. This program helps struggling students and helps with the drop-out rate. It is a free program and meets one hour per week.

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School Business Executive Report: Aimee Kilby

Busy working on the budget and budget worksession meetings coming up in March.

Consent Items:

Moved by Golley, seconded by Murphy, 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 February 9, 2021
- b. Acknowledgement of the February 16, 2021 Claims Auditor Reports

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Committee Reports:

- a. Buildings & Grounds: Capital Project – Discussed in the Superintendent’s report.

Discussion Items:

Shana Chudy stated that she would like to talk about re-opening and phasing in students. Mrs. Chudy stated that she will continue to bring this up at every meeting. Mrs. Chudy thanked Mrs. Andrews and Ms. Dunn for speaking. She thanked Superintendent Miller, and Mrs. Bush & Mr. Ploetz for everything they are doing. Mrs. Chudy stated that it is beyond hard for these kids. She added that as a board member, a teacher and a parent she desperately wants kids back in school. She stated that she knows Superintendent Miller can’t break the rules, but maybe as a Board they can. She stated that other schools post pictures on-line and aren’t following the guidelines and they aren’t getting in trouble. She stated that she feels it is critical for the student’s safety to get them back in school. Mrs. Chudy stated that “we” can’t change the rules, but perhaps can-do stuff to get the kids back in the building. She thanked the school for hanging the banners in the foyer. Mrs. Chudy stated that she messaged all of the Cattaraugus County Legislators and asked them to change the 6-foot rule. She said 5 immediately reached out to her and said to make some noise, get yourself in the papers. The Legislators stated that they are not hearing from people. Mrs. Chudy said no matter what has to be done, “we” need to find a way to get kids back in school five days a week.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a donation of \$500 from the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation: Wolfinger Family Fund. This donation will be used to fund the purchase of iPads that were purchased for ECS students.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Megan Stuve (a student at JCC in the Education Program) as an intern at ECS for 40 hours in the Spring 2021 semester.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Spell, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the 2021-2022 Cooperative Purchasing Annual Resolution with CA BOCES.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Personnel:

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a MOA with the ETA (Ellicottville Teacher's Association) regarding a teacher's (Ann Chamberlain) employment and benefits for the 2021/2022 school year.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Spell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Larry Zimbardi to the substitute bus driver list at a rate of \$16.70 per hour. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance and abstract from New York State.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Chudy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a MOA with the ETA for substitute coaches.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a MOA with the ETA for "ECS Pandemic Days".

Moved by _____, seconded by _____, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a MOA with the ECSRPA for "ECS Pandemic Days".

Moved by Golley, seconded by Spell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to amend the terms and conditions of employment for the District's confidential management employees effective retroactive to January 1, 2021 (in regards to Pandemic Leave Days).

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Spell, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to amend the terms and conditions of employment for the District's administrators and superintendent effective retroactive to January 1, 2021 (in regards to Pandemic Leave Days).

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Jenna Ball as a long-term substitute for Jennifer Gesing beginning retroactive to February 23, 2021 and lasting for 10 weeks. Ms. Ball shall receive \$95 a day for this assignment.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Spell, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a letter of resignation from Kyle Mendell, Grounds & Mechanics Helper, effective February 13, 2021.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to terminate the employment of Austin Lewis, Cleaner, effective February 23, 2021.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

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Policy:

Discussion: # 7131 - Admission of Non-Resident Students

Discussion: Superintendent Miller stated that he hasn't been able to do a lot with the policy, because of other matters. He stated that the district usually does a 3% increase (around \$20) each year. He stated that he thinks the non-resident student packet has served the district well. He doesn't think a lot needs to be tweaked. Superintendent Miller stated that he feels strongly that until the District knows how it will be in September it cannot accept any new non-resident students. He added that staff cannot be added. Part of the response for decisions will be the applications will not be reviewed until after June or so. Some levels of the elementary are maxed out. Roger Spell stated that maybe the District should go with the \$20 & \$10 increases. Superintendent Miller asked Board Members to think about it and send him an email if they have any other thoughts. If not, the 1st Reading of the proposed increases will be reviewed at the March 30, 2021 Board Meeting.

CSE/CPSE Recommendations:

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, 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 (#900500430, 900500504, 900501038, 900500578, 900500579, 900501177, 900500886) at its meeting on February 23, 2021 and 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 - 17, 2021).

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Executive Session

Moved by Spell, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to enter into executive session at 7:25 pm to discuss one contractual item (ETA) and two specific personnel items (ECSRPA).

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Spell, to come out of executive session at 8:22 pm and return to the regular meeting.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, to adjourn the regular meeting of February 23, 2021 at 8:22 p.m.

**Yes – 7
No – 0
Carried**

District Clerk

Deputy District Clerk