

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting
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**Sht. No. 1946
February 9, 2021**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

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

Members Absent: Roger Spell

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

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Schavon Byroads

Call to order of meeting
President Van Wicklin called the regular meeting of February 9, 2021 of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call
Roger Spell – absent
Shana Chudy – arrived at 6:08 pm

Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda
None

Approve Agenda
Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the February 9, 2021 Board of Education Meeting.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Public Comment
Mrs. Schavon Byroads provided treats for the Board and Administration. The Board and Administration thanked Mrs. Byroads.

Presentations & Reports
None

Communications, Commendations
None

Informational Items
CA BOCES - nominations

Superintendent’s Report:

1. Erich will talk about an event he has planned for seniors tomorrow (2/10/2021).
2. Over 35 people attended the Capital Project bid walkthrough.
3. Buildings & Grounds Committee will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, February 22, 2021 to review the bids. The hope is to have the bids approved at the 2/23/2021 board meeting, if they are favorable. If they are not, we will have to go back to the drawing board.

Shana Chudy arrived

4. Travel – reminder letters sent to staff. A reminder to parents will be posted on the district Facebook page.
5. Info regarding STAR update – Will watch video again and provide information at a later meeting.
6. New Coronavirus funding has to be applied for.
7. LEA forms will not be approved until after the New York State 2021-2022 budget is approved.

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Principals Reports:

Erich Ploetz: MS/HS Principal -

1. HS gym has been used for students for BASH study hall this year. We had to move it so we could utilize the gym for basketball. Students have been moved to the stage and HS library. This actually worked out well as now physical education classes can utilize the entire gym for classes.
2. Before the Christmas break meetings were held with the Senior Class. They are losing a lot of milestones, connections with classmates. In response – there will be a Winter Fun Day for seniors tomorrow (2/10/2021). There will be snow activities and hotdogs & hot chocolate at the concession stand. Seniors are also given Sr. privileges of an open campus. They are only marked for attendance in core classes.
3. Drivers Education is going well. 12 students are participating right now. Some are remote and others are in class. Chris Mendell is doing a fantastic job. The students have to complete 24 hours of classroom time and then the parents have to sign off on road time. 11 of the 16 classes have been completed as of today.
4. 13 students are in the SAT Prep Course. The SAT's will be offered to ECS students at ECS on March 24th. 23 juniors have signed up to take the test. That is a great number.....there are 38 students in the junior class.
5. 120 names currently on Flex Wednesday list. Calls go out on Monday's. Last Wednesday we expected around 30-40 students since it was the first Flex Wednesday of the new quarter and 71 showed up. Very pleased with the numbers. Many students sign themselves up. They want the extra help.

Maren Bush: Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum –

1. Student Teachers – LaDonna Freundsuh (St. Bonaventure) is working with April Donoghue. Jenn Hicks (Pitt Bradford) is working with Diana Olson.
2. Response to Intervention will be meeting after February break.
3. Remote attendance and homework letter will be going home to parents. Elementary will be tweaking the homework policy. 22 elementary students are currently on remote learning.
4. Pick-Up Patrol is almost complete. 41 students still lacking.
5. 100th Day of School will be on February 22nd.

School Business Executive Report: Aimee Kilby

1. Working with Rick Timbs: Long range planning, budget committee
2. FEMA Grant submitted
3. Continue work on FMLA/COVID time off and tracking
4. Budget preparation and staff requisitions

Mrs. Kilby stated that she has been working with Rick Timbs since November on the long-range planning. She stated that he advised her that in a short distance (5-6 years), if the District does not cut back it will be in trouble. She stated that his advice is to decrease expenditures and increase revenues. Mrs. Kilby stated that he said in a 5–6-year period reserves and the unassigned fund balance will be depleted if the District does not start looking at expenses. Superintendent Miller stated that the District needs to look at compounding costs. The only real way to increase resources is to increase taxes. He added that if you keep touching the unappropriated fund balance it will run out if you keep using it to offset taxes. The District will need to start talking about when it needs to exceed the tax cap. Mrs. Kilby stated that the spreadsheet Rick Timbs uses really makes you understand the finances.

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 meetings of January 12, 2021 & January 26, 2021
- b. Acknowledgement of the January 19, 2021 & February 2, 2021 Claims Auditor Reports
- c. Approval of the December 2020 Treasurer's Report

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Committee Reports:

- a. Buildings & Grounds – Discussed in the Superintendent's report.

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Discussion Items:

Shana Chudy stated that she would like to talk about re-opening and phasing in students. She said that she would like to bring more students back into the building. She stated that on TV you see that the Covid virus is not being spread in schools. She added kudos to everyone, for doing such a great job. Mrs. Chudy stated that she is so happy the elementary students are in the building five days a week. Mrs. Chudy stated that many students have given up. She stated that her senior has no connection to his community, his friends and the school. She stated that on TV (CNN) you see suicide reports. She stated that it has not happened yet here, but it's coming. Mrs. Chudy stated that basketball is back and is helping. She stated that tons of parents are asking when ECS can do this. She would like to see kids back in the building five days a week. Superintendent Miller stated that he would have students back in the building five days a week if it was possible. He stated that he is not aware of any transmission (Covid) happening at ECS. He stated that everyone works very hard. The obstacle of having all students back in the building is the social distancing. Superintendent Miller stated that Mr. Ploetz is always working on ways to get more students back in the building. Superintendent Miller stated that it breaks his heart and Mrs. Chudy has his word that he and the administration will keep looking at ways to get the students back in the building. Cattaraugus County has been very precautionary regarding COVID and every county has different rules. Shana Chudy asked if the District could look at a confidential survey for students regarding their mental health. Deb Golley stated that she agrees she wants to see all students back in the building, but she doesn't think it can happen before September with all of the things Districts have to do to make that happen. Superintendent Miller stated that he prays for the days when district's return to "normal".

Superintendent Miller stated that sports and spectators have generated a lot of discussion in the community. He stated that ECS is lucky because we have our own tricaster. Chris Edwards was in "The Ward" yesterday looking things over. Superintendent Miller stated that he is hoping the Section (VI) gives guidance that eventually spectators will be allowed at basketball games. He stated that right now anything we can do to get things up and running is good. Superintendent Miller stated that schools were given a survey and ECS picked option 2 & 3 which would allow spectators in some capacity. He stated that he thinks ECS can do spectators in some form and that hopefully Section VI will relax as things get going and allow for some spectators.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the proposed basis of service charges of the Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming BOCES for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Chudy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a donation of \$100 from the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation (Elisa B. Hughey Fund for the Arts) to be used to paint a mural to advertise and commemorate the newly established ECS Caring Closet.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Personnel:

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Ashley Mumm to the permanent position of Teacher Aide after successfully completing one year of probation. This permanent appointment is effective February 10, 2021.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

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Moved by Chudy, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval retroactive (to February 1, 2021) of the following winter sports coaches for the 2020-2021 school year (contingent upon number of students in each sport and clearance from the NYSPHSAA / New York State to allow winter sports):

•Boys Varsity Basketball	Dave McCann
•Boys JV Basketball	Zach Gelen
•Boys Modified Basketball	Chris Keenan
•Girls Varsity Basketball	Chelsea Cole
•Girls JV Basketball	Tracy Stokes
•Girls Modified Basketball	Tammy Eddy

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Sandra Tomblin as a long-term substitute for Jennifer Gesing beginning tentatively February 10, 2021 and lasting for 12 weeks. Mrs. Tomblin shall receive \$140 a day for this assignment.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a letter of resignation for retirement purposes from Kelly McMahon, Academic Intervention/Special Education Teacher effective June 30, 2021.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Crystal Wilder as a mentor for Anna Fortais. Mrs. Wilder will receive a stipend of \$1,200 for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Patty Furlong-Crowe to the substitute cafeteria worker list retroactive to January 25, 2021. Mrs. Furlong-Crowe will receive \$12.50 per hour for this appointment.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Policy:

Discussion: # 7131 - Admission of Non-Resident Students

Discussion: Superintendent Miller stated that the board members should review the policy for further discussion at the February 23, 2021 board meeting. He stated that requests are already coming in. He stated that the main item in the current policy is the tuition rate. The current rate expires in June 2021. He stated that if you are on a current list you will need to call and ask for your application from the current year to be pulled and submitted for the next school year. Shana Chudy asked if the district has space for new non-resident students? Superintendent Miller stated that in some grade levels there may be, but in others there is not, without adding more staff. Superintendent Miller stated that the administrators will keep an eye on grade levels.

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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 (#900501043, 900501314, 900501391, 900501232, 900500080, 900500969, 900500421, 900500758, 900447003, 900500032, 900501257, 900500859, 900440377, 900501449, 900500376, 900501098) at its meeting on February 9, 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 (January 7 – February 3, 2021).

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Executive Session

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to enter into executive session at 7:03 pm to discuss one contractual item (ETA) and one specific personnel item (ECSRPA).

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Golley, to come out of executive session at 8:06 pm and return to the regular meeting.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Northrup, to adjourn the regular meeting of February 9, 2021 at 8:06 p.m.

**Yes – 6
No – 0
Carried**

District Clerk

Deputy District Clerk