

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
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**Sht. No. 1936  
July 28, 2020**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

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

**Members Absent:** Karl Northup

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

**Staff Absent:** Aimee Kilby

**Others Present:** Schavon Byroads

**Call to order of meeting**

President Van Wicklin called the regular meeting of July 28, 2020 of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education to order at 6:04 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Karl Northrup (absent), Shana Chudy arrived at 6:06 pm.

**Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

None

**Approve Agenda**

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of the July 28, 2020 Board of Education Meeting.

**Yes – 4  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Schavon Byroads read a letter to the board and administration regarding the situation everyone is in today. Mrs. Byroads stated that she appreciates the Board's time. She stated that some of her concerns are the lack of internet, the variety of households in the district and the fact that parents are working either out of the house or from home.

Shana Chudy arrived at 6:06 pm

Mrs. Byroads stated that she personally had issues with internet service at her home. She stated that it was great to see the school come together while students were at home. She added that the grading policy was reasonable based on the circumstances. The drop off and pick-up with the busses was great and it was nice seeing everyone pitch in. She stated that everyone did a great job, although it was not ideal. Mrs. Byroads stated that she really believes children need to be back in school if possible. They need normalcy, added Mrs. Byroads. She stated that education is created by a well-rounded environment (academically and socially). Mrs. Byroads also expressed concerns regarding screen time moving forward. She stated that the most essential thing is education. She stated that teachers are definitely essential and that her admiration for teachers has multiplied immensely. Mrs. Byroads stated that allowing families to have a virtual option if it works for them and in school if it works for others is a good choice. Mrs. Byroads thanked the Board and Administration for their time. President Van Wicklin thanked Mrs. Byroads for her comments.

**Presentations & Reports**

None

**Communications, Commendations**

None

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**Informational Items**

•NYSED Application for Examination and Approval of Final Plans and Specifications – Superintendent Miller stated that the District is at a point to sign the forms, for the capital project, which will be returned to the architects and then forwarded to New York State. He stated that construction meetings have been taking place right along with SEI.

•President Van Wicklin stated that on July 29, 2020 he will be on a Zoom meeting with Senator Schumer regarding the lack of Broadband access in the Ellicottville Central School District.

•President Van Wicklin will be writing a letter/article for new School Board Members, at the request of NYSSBA.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Robert Miller – Superintendent Miller stated that he, Mr. Ploetz and Mrs. Bush will be reporting together on the re-opening plan later in the meeting.

**Principals Reports:**

Erich Ploetz: MS/HS Principal

Maren Bush: Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum

**School Business Executive Report:**

Aimee Kilby - Absent

**Consent Items:**

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Golley, 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 July 14, 2020
- b. Acknowledgement of the July 21, 2020 Claims Auditor Report
- c. Approval of the June 2020 Treasurer's Report

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Committee Reports:**

None

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**Discussion Items:**

**2020/2021 School Re-Opening Plan** – Superintendent Miller stated that the administrative team is plugging away at the plan and will have it done and ready to submit on Friday (July 31<sup>st</sup>). He stated that ECS is a bit behind as we are doing things differently than other districts. He stated that ECS has conducted a parent survey, a staff survey and has also met with staff teams (on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>). The staff requested to meet and discuss the plan and surveys. An elementary team and a MS/HS team each met on Monday. Superintendent Miller stated that districts are still waiting for answers from some groups (New York State, and the Cattaraugus County Health Department). He stated that he is also waiting for a response from a lawyer at NYSSBA. There are still questions regarding masks/6ft and barriers/masks. Superintendent Miller stated that 70 staff members completed the staff survey and 229 community members completed the community survey. He stated that ECS cannot get everyone back with the social distancing guidelines. He stated that the district is looking at a hybrid model and that the younger students need the face to face. Mr. Ploetz is looking to get more middle school students back in the building. He reviewed the survey stating that most parents and staff felt the amount of work sent home matched up. Most agreed it was okay. Superintendent Miller stated that if the district has to go to all on-line the teachers need to present more video. Parents would like to see more face to face (Zoom, videos, etc.). Currently, the district is making maps and testing Hot Spots throughout the District. Superintendent Miller stated that he has sent emails to Assemblyman Joseph Giglio and Senator George Borrello regarding the lack of internet service and reliable internet service in the Ellicottville Central School District. Another item to come out of the survey was contact with teachers. Some parents said they could not get ahold of teachers, while others said they would like less contact from teachers. Superintendent Miller displayed the re-opening plan and stated that it is a living document and will change over time. He stated that the Board does not need to approve the document/plan. Superintendent Miller stated that last Thursday a meeting was held with Shannon Tahoe and the District Superintendents. She repeatedly stated that she/they are waiting for information from the Governor. He added that a lot of the responses to questions were we are “Waiting for the Governor”. Superintendent Miller stated that the document will not be done until late Thursday night or early Friday morning. Superintendent Miller reviewed some of the highlights of the plan. He stated that a public meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Superintendent Miller stated that transportation will be different this year with students only being allowed one pick-up and one drop off point. He stated that there is not enough room on the busses for alternate locations. Maren Bush stated that the hope is to have all students Prek-6 in the building every day. She stated that there will be staggered start times (because of bussing and social distancing). She stated that a virtual option will be provided for the vulnerable population. The hope is to have two teachers work remotely, Prek-2 and 3-6. Erich Ploetz stated that he is currently looking at the grading policy for grades 6-12. He stated at this point there is no such thing as 5 day in person instruction for grades 6-12. He stated that he runs out of locations around 10<sup>th</sup> grade and there is no room for the juniors and seniors. He stated that the district will be switching to a different bell schedule with a 45- minute advisory period at either the beginning of the day or the end of the day. This will give students time to ask questions, get assignments and organize their work. Superintendent Miller stated that the medically vulnerable will probably be provided with a couple of staff members conducting virtual learning parallel to the classroom learning with grades and attendance being recorded. Shana Chudy stated that she is so happy the little ones will be in the classroom everyday if possible. She added as a 7-12 parent she is very sad, adding that she doesn't know how to tell her children they will not be in school every day. Superintendent Miller stated that if the district does have to go to all remote learning, he would like the teachers to come in and work remotely from their classroom if they want. He stated that all of their resources are in their classroom. He added that the district is looking at how they can provide daycare for teachers if the district has to go all virtual. He stated that most districts are saying no to extra-curricular activities and that ECS will most likely follow suit, at least until the end of September, at which time it will be looked at again. Superintendent Miller stated that the Community Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. He stated that the plan will still not be complete, but it will be more than it was tonight.

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**Board Meeting format during Covid -19 Pandemic** – President Van Wicklin asked if any of the board members thought the board should do something different with the meetings. He stated that right now they are held in person, with board members, school personnel and attendees 6 feet apart. He stated that when people are not 6 feet apart, they must wear a mask. Hand sanitizer is available and the facility is sanitized before and after the meetings. President Van Wicklin stated that there had been one request from a community member asking for an alternate to meeting in person. Superintendent Miller stated that Chris Edwards could look into the option if the board would like. He also stated that he reached out to legal counsel to make sure the district is not missing anything and is waiting for word back. President Van Wicklin stated that if the district gets told by the State to change back the district will comply adding that they are not trying to exclude anyone. The meetings are now back to the way they were before Covid – 19, in person. He stated that given events in the past the meetings would have to be policed by someone from the tech department. The consensus of board members is that they would like to keep meetings in person, unless told differently.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Moved by Golley, seconded by Zlockie, to accept a letter of resignation from Carl Calarco, as a member of the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education effective July 21, 2020.

**Discussion:** President Van Wicklin stated that he would like to see how board members would like to proceed with the vacant board seat. He reminded members not to use specific names, that this was only a discussion about the options. Deb Golley stated that during the board retreat members discussed more transparency. She stated that she thought the board should let the community know there is a vacancy and have potential candidates write letters of interest and have the current board interview them. President Van Wicklin stated that there are three options for filling the board seat: 1) Hold an election within 90 days which if it has to be held by mail could cost the district between \$5,000-\$8,000. 2) Appoint a new member by majority vote of the board members (majority vote is 4 members) until the seat term is up on June 30, 2021. 3) Keep the seat vacant – which at any time the commissioner or other could possibly appoint someone. Shana Chudy stated that she would like to meet some candidates. They could say their peace and have a voice.

President Van Wicklin stated that he would like to Thank Carl Calarco for his service to the district while serving on the Board. He stated that he did many great things for the district as well as serving as president for 2 years.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Murphy, seconded by Zlockie, upon the recommendation of Robert Van Wicklin, Board President, approval of the following committees and members for the 2020-2021 school year:

**DISTRICT COMMITTEES:**

Athletics & Performing Arts: Deb Golley, Karl Northrup  
Health & Safety: Shana Chudy  
Technology: Bill Murphy  
Strategic Planning: Karl Northrup

**BOARD COMMITTEES:**

Audit: Bill Murphy, Shana Chudy  
Buildings, Grounds & Transportation(BG&T): Len Zlockie, Karl Northrup  
Negotiations: Len Zlockie, Bill Murphy  
Budget: Deb Golley, Karl Northrup  
NYSSBA: Bob Van Wicklin - Delegate      Bill Murphy - Alternate  
ACASB: Bob Van Wicklin – Delegate      TBD – Alternate

**Discussion:** President Van Wicklin stated that he left some spaces open for when/if the board seat is filled . He added that the president is supposed to be on all committees and he will do his best to attend as many as possible.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

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**Personnel:**

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Golley, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Janet O'Rourke to the position of LPN effective September 1, 2020. Mrs. O'Rourke will be paid \$23.00 an hour for this position for the 2020-2021 school year. This position carries a 12-month probationary period beginning on September 1, 2020 and ends on September 1, 2021. This position is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Chudy, seconded by Murphy, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Janet O'Rourke to the substitute school nurse list at a rate of \$20.00 per hour. This position is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Policy**

None

**Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Moved by Zlockie, seconded by Golley, to adjourn the regular meeting of July 28, 2020 at 8:09 p.m.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

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District Clerk

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Deputy District Clerk