

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Ellicottville Central School**

**Regular Meeting  
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**Sht. No. 2013  
November 12, 2024**

**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Debra Golley, Karl Northrup, Kristen Pearl,  
Tiffany Frentz, Carla Kruszynski (arrived at 6:35 pm), Jenna O’Connell

**Members Absent:** Nathan Dahlman

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

**Staff Absent:** Katie Mendell

**Others Present:** Schavon Byroads

**Call to order of meeting**

President Golley called the regular meeting of November 12, 2024, 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**

Absent – Nathan Dahlman  
Arrived at 6:35 pm – Carla Kruszynski

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

**Additions:**

17. Personnel
- n. Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Maria Wright to the Substitute Teacher list (non-certified @ a rate of \$130 per day). This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Approve Agenda**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the agenda of November 12, 2024, Board of Education Meeting with additions.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Public Comment**

- The Public Comment section is a time set aside for the community to speak directly to the Board of Education.
- Please refer to Policy # 3220 – Public Expression at Meetings.
- Any person may make a public comment by placing their name, address, and topic on the sign-in sheet.
- When called, please stand up and state your name and address.
- Please be respectful in your comments and do not divulge any personal or confidential information. The speaker will be stopped if any Board member or district employee is mentioned by name.
- Please demonstrate respect by speaking to the issues, sharing ideas and opinions, but not engaging in personal attacks. At a public Board meeting, no person may orally initiate charges or complaints against individual District employees or Board members.
- Board members, the superintendent and administrators will not answer specific questions or engage in dialogue.
- The information shared will be carefully considered and the appropriate person may contact you.
- Rest assured, we are listening carefully and take seriously what you have to say.
- The Board appreciates your willingness to share your concerns/celebrations.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Presentations & Reports**

None

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**Communications, Commendations**  
None

**Informational Items**

Public Hearing for Capital Improvements Project 2024

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

**Superintendent's Report – Robert Miller**

1. Capital Improvements Project continues to progress. Information will be in the December district newsletter. The newsletter will be in the mail prior to the December 4, 2024 Public Hearing. The Vote is scheduled for 1-8 pm on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.
2. Capital Outlay – lights in the High School gym will be replaced over Christmas break. Sports teams will be able to utilize the elementary gym during this time. Ahlstrom Schaffer Electric is working on a price to replace the lights in the Elementary Gym as well. We will also look at lights outside of the building or lighting in the lower-level elementary hallway if any money remains after the gym lights.
3. Regionalization Initiative – good data there. Give us an idea of where we stand next to the State levels. Report due December 6<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Miller will give a report at the December 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting.
4. APPR/Observations – whole new system. The new system would rate/score teachers on the seven standards. We are going to stay the course with what we are using right now. We can use it through 2032. Met with Kim Woodarek, ETA president and suggested we stay with what we have and negotiate with the union next year.
5. Leah Farnum has been chosen for the Master Teacher Program. We have not received formal information yet. Very prestigious, rigorous program. Last year we received official notice for Matt Finn on November 16<sup>th</sup>. We expect to get the official notice for Leah in the next few days. Leah is the fourth teacher from ECS accepted into the program.
6. Still looking for a transportation supervisor. Dave will stay with us until we find someone.
7. Working hard to find a Special Education Teacher. Emailed 24 colleges. Nothing yet. We have two great subs in the classroom. Therese Pierce for the first month and now Shayne Downey will take over.
8. Hunting on school grounds. Received a message. Spoke with the gentleman. He will remove his tree stand. Nice gentleman.....it was an honest mistake regarding the property lines. We cannot allow hunting on school property. No hunting is allowed on school property.
9. Go Titans.....Go Eagles!!!! ½ day on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> to allow students, staff and families to attend the football game at 3pm at High Mark Stadium. Volleyball plays on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon.

**Principals Reports:**

**Katie Mendell – Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum - Absent**

**Erich Ploetz - MS/HS Principal**

1. Lots to Celebrate!
  - Jr. High Area All-State Musicians: Alison Antholzner (Trombone) & Kelsey Feldbauer (Voice)
  - Sr. High Area All-State Vocalists: Grace Privitera & Adelaide Weber
  - MS Musical – James & the Giant Peach: Thursday and Friday
  - Athletics: Congrats to Cross-Country Runners Colin Weber, Skye Wood & Ben Wedvik at Sectional Competition.
  - Congratulations to Men's and Women's Soccer on Sectional Titles
  - Best of Luck to Women's Volleyball & Titans Football still in the playoff hunt!
2. Academics: End of Q1: Teachers finalizing grades this week and report cards mailed next week. Eagle Pride Awards for high honor roll, high character and/or notable diligence in coursework, students will earn a free ice cream in the cafeteria for Q1.
3. Hang Up & Drive Assembly last Thursday was informative & heartfelt, Steve Johnson and Jacy Good on campus to share their story, with half an hour of Q&A afterwards, and the realization that this information is not emphasized anywhere else.
4. Advisory Thanksgiving Celebrations on November 26 – looking forward to those.

Superintendent Miller stated that Mr. Ploetz and Mrs. Beaver will be putting together a ½ day (PM) program to train new substitutes and as a refresher for existing substitutes. They will be invited in and paid for the ½ day.

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**Consent Items:**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, 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 October 15, 2024 and October 23, 2024
- b. Acknowledgement of the October 22, 2024 & November 5, 2024 Claims Auditor Reports
- c. Approval of the September 2024 Treasurer's Report

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Committee Reports:**

None

**Discussion Items:**

**Transcripts & High School Grading Procedures** – an email was received from a parent regarding the procedures. Superintendent Miller stated that he and Mr. Ploetz spoke with Mrs. Eddy, and we do not need to include SAT and ACT Scores on transcripts. We do it as a courtesy. If students want it later, they will need to pay a company \$15 to provide that information to colleges. He stated that if someone requests it on a transcript it can be provided. Regarding including Regents Exam grades in final averages, he stated that this was amended during Covid because some exams were taken, and students were never given another opportunity to retake them. Superintendent Miller stated that it can be taken out, but he does not think it should be done mid-stream. If it is considered it should be done starting with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated class and then moving forward. He added this would make it consistent. Superintendent Miller stated that Mr. Ploetz brought up a great point, if students are taking a Regents exam, do we want them to take a local test as well. President Golley stated that she would like to know how the teachers feel about it. Mr. Ploetz stated that some of the Regent's exams are required for graduation. He stated that he likes the accountability of the Regents exams. He added that the last time it was brought up to the teachers, they also liked the accountability of the Regents exams. Superintendent Miller stated that the district should wait and see what direction the Blue-Ribbon Commission goes in. President Golley stated that it not a good time to look at it until we hear from the Commission.

**December 10, 2024 Board Meeting** – change start time to 7:00 pm instead of 6:00 pm. Capital Improvements Project Vote is from 1-8 pm.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by O'Connell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to create the position of PreK Family Support Specialist effective November 6, 2024.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a home school student (8<sup>th</sup> grade) for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to combine with Franklinville CS for the following sports for the 2025-2026 school year: Football, Cross Country, Boys Soccer, Swimming and Cheerleading.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

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Moved by Pearl, seconded by Frenz, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Ann Marie Fitzpatrick, Annie Fitzpatrick, Dlo Bickell and Eileen Hostuttler as inspectors for the December 10, 2024, Capital Improvements Project 2024 vote. Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Bickell and Ms. Hostuttler will each receive \$145 to serve as an inspector.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Eileen Hostuttler as Chairperson for the December 10, 2024, Capital Improvements Project 2024 vote.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the 2025/2026 Budget Preparation Calendar.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the 2024-2025 School Tax Collector’s Report.

**Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Carried**

Carla Kruszynski arrived at 6:35 pm

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Frenz, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the Cooperative Bid for electric to Energy Cooperative of America, Inc. The monthly price will be the average Day Ahead Market commodity price plus adders for each appropriate service class (as outlined in documentation from Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES dated November 4, 2024). The term of the bid approval is from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, with the option to extend for one-year or less.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Frenz, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of a recommendation to authorize Shawne Hunt to enter into data privacy agreements between the Ellicottville Central School District and outside vendors for goods and services consistent with administrative regulations and within budgetary constraints (as it relates to the Data Protection Officer position).

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Personnel:**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, the Ellicottville Central School District Board of Education does hereby retroactively appoint Maria Wright, to the position of part-time PreK Family Support Specialist effective November 6, 2024, at a salary of \$30,000 for the 2024-2025 school year (pro-rated). This position carries a one-year probationary period which will begin on November 6, 2024 and end on November 6, 2025. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

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Moved by Pearl, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of the following Winter 2024-2025 Sports Coaches:

-Alpine Skiing	Kent Joesel
-Unified Bowling Coach	Chris Mendell
-Unified Bowling Assistant Coach	Andrew Kruszka

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to accept a letter of retirement from Melissa Sawicki (Superintendent’s Secretary/District Clerk) effective December 26, 2024 (at the end of the day on December 25, 2024).

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Melissa Sawicki as a substitute secretary (for training purposes) in the Superintendent’s Office at a rate of \$35.00 per hour effective January 2, 2025.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Melissa Sawicki to the substitute clerical list at a rate of \$28.96 per hour.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Debra Golley, President - Board of Education, approval to appoint Mr. Mark J. Ward, as Interim Superintendent of Schools, effective January 2, 2025, pursuant to the Employment Agreement between the Ellicottville Central School Board of Education and Mark J. Ward, and authorize the Board President to execute the Employment Agreement on behalf of the Board.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Debra Golley, President - Board of Education, approval to appoint Mr. Mark J. Ward, as a per diem substitute in the Superintendent’s Office at the same rate per day as outlined in his Interim Superintendent Employment Agreement effective December 1, 2024.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval to appoint Jennifer Sullivan to the substitute bus driver list at a rate of \$20.40 per hour. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of FMLA leave for Michaela Pierce effective December 10, 2024 – January 21, 2025.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

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Moved by Frentz, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Makenna Smith to the substitute teacher list (non-certified) at a rate of \$130 per day. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Frentz, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Ana Stahlman to the substitute teacher list (non-certified) at a rate of \$130 per day. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by O’Connell, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Todd Palmatier as a scorekeeper for boys’ and girls’ basketball for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Northrup, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools approval to appoint Danielle Myers, as a Long-Term Substitute English Teacher based on Step 1 (ETA 25 Tier Salary Schedule), plus credit for a master’s degree and credit hours, effective tentatively December 16, 2024. This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by O’Connell, seconded by Pearl, upon the recommendation of Robert Miller, Superintendent of Schools, approval of Maria Wright to the Substitute Teacher list (non-certified @ a rate of \$130 per day). This appointment is contingent upon a successful fingerprint clearance from New York State.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Policy**

First Reading of the following new policies:

3520	Extraordinary Circumstances
5413	Procurement: Uniform Grant Guidance for Federal Awards
5551	Allocation of Title I, Part A Funds in the District

First Reading of the following policy updates:

6570	Remote Working
7133	Education of Students in Foster Care

**CSE/CPSE Recommendations**

Moved by Pearl, seconded by Frentz, 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 (#900500429, 900500568, 900501645, 900501006, 90501173, 900501365, 900501065, 900500908, 900500906, 900501390, 900501228, 900500767, 900501406, 900501449, 900500404, 900500891, 900500580) at its meeting on November 12, 2024, and approves all necessary arrangements as the most reasonable and appropriate special service(s) and/or program(s) for the implementation of those recommendations October 8 – November 1, 2024.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

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**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.

**Executive Session**

Moved by Kruszynski, seconded by Frentz, to move into Executive Session at 6:56 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.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

Moved by Northrup, seconded by Kruszynski, to come out of Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. and return to the regular meeting.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Moved by Frentz, seconded by O'Connell, to adjourn the regular meeting of November 12, 2024, at 7:22 p.m.

**Yes – 6  
No – 0  
Carried**

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District Clerk

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Deputy District Clerk