

Board of Education Ellington, Connecticut

June 11, 2014

A regular meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, in the School Administration Building.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Keune, Chairperson.

Present were: Messrs. Blanchette, Keune, Purcaro, Roberson, and McNamar; Mesdames Kiff-Judson, Hayes and Picard-Wambolt; Mr. Stephen Cullinan, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services; Dr. Erin McGurk, Director of Educational Services; Mrs. Margaret Devlin, Director of Business Services; Student Representative Alissa DelPiano. Messrs. Friedman and Young were absent.

Also present was Mr. Neil Rinaldi, Principal, Ellington High School.

Presentation of CABE Student Leadership Award

Mr. Rinaldi introduced Winston Chow, an Ellington High School student, as a CABE award recipient. Mr. Rinaldi cited Winston's outstanding academic achievements, including being an honor roll student for all sixteen quarters of his four years in high school. As the captain of the varsity baseball team, Winston exemplified true leadership skills, which also qualified him for the scholar/athlete award. Winston has consistently met the criteria for the CABE award by taking on challenges, practicing diplomacy, and volunteering in the community.

Mr. Keune and Mrs. Kiff-Judson presented the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Award to Winston, and they recognized his leadership role and academic excellence while at Ellington High School. Winston plans to attend Boston University in the fall.

Recognition of Student Representative to Board of Education

Mr. Keune recognized Student Representative Alissa DelPiano as the first student representative selected, and he thanked her for her commitment and inspiration as a Board Liaison for Ellington High School.

CITIZENS AND STAFF FORUM

Attorney Wayne Gerlt of Ellington, who practices law in South Windsor, represented Tina and Edward Bartell of 35 Wappingwood Road, Ellington, CT. Attorney Gerlt discussed the issue of the Bartell's child being barred from graduation from Ellington

High School for the current school year. He also expressed his and the family's disappointment at the way the issue has been handled by the Board of Education. He requested the Board reconsider and grant the Bartell family a hearing to discuss the issue. Tina and Edward Bartell then addressed the Board, stressing their concern over the issue of their child's suspension and impending exclusion from graduation exercises. They also reiterated the request that the Board reconsider and grant a hearing to discuss the issue. Mr. Keune stated that the policies and statutes pertaining to this issue would be discussed in Executive Session after the regular board meeting this evening.

Taryn and Quinne Murphy, of 3 Patriot Circle, Ellington, CT, addressed the Board. They are graduating seniors at Rockville High School, and they each thanked the Board for allowing and supporting their attendance over the past four years in the Agricultural Education Program at Rockville High School. The courses provided in the program have allowed each student to develop their skills to go into veterinary and marine biology fields in college.

Mrs. Amanda Lipman, of 18 Kibbe Road, Ellington, CT, addressed the Board regarding the Standards Based Report Cards at Windermere Intermediate School. She stated her concern over the gap in numerical grades for students earning an "M". Mr. Keune stated that the appropriate committees present have taken note of this issue.

Attorney Dale Roberson, Board of Education member, addressed the Board, making a comment regarding the parents of the child under suspension. Atty. Roberson stated that the Board, as elected officials, needs to resolve the issue, not simply discuss the issue, before graduation on Friday, June 13, 2014. Mr. Keune stated that the issue would be discussed in Executive Session this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Keune asked if anyone wished to remove any item from the consent agenda. As there were no objections, Consent agenda items 1 through 4 were adopted.

1. Approval of Minutes of the May 21, 2014 Regular Board Meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes of the June 3, 2014 Special Board Meeting.
3. Approval of the Ellington High School Boys' Varsity Soccer Team trip to Cape Cod, MA, September 5-7, 2014, subject to the conditions as outlined in board policy #5138.
4. Personnel – Resignations

- a. Acceptance of the resignation of Elaine Traska, part-time preschool aide at Center School, effective June 13, 2014.
- b. Acceptance of the resignation of Emily Quimby, part-time special education aide at Center School, effective June 13, 2014.

REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Special Reports

Regular Board Committee Reports

Policy Committee

Mrs. Picard-Wambolt stated that the Policy Committee met on Monday, June 9, 2014. The review of the 2000 series policies – Administration - was completed. Regarding Policy 2000.1-Board/Superintendent Relations, they decided to retain as responsibilities, “To conduct an annual self-evaluation of its own leadership, governance and teamwork,” and recommend to the Board that this be implemented. Mrs. Picard-Wambolt also noted that they moved an Appendix titled “Leadership Team Self-Assessment Worksheet” from sample Policy 2400.1 to Policy 2000.1, and they removed the Policy 2000.1 Appendix titled, “School Governance Position Statement,” as it was not in keeping with the soon to be adopted Policies 9000 and 9370. The committee requested that Superintendent Cullinan draft regulations for these two 9000 series policies. The committee also requested that Superintendent Cullinan develop for inclusion an organizational chart representative of our district.

Mrs. Picard-Wambolt stated that there are seventeen policies, which are inherently job descriptions, that should be removed from the policy manual and be placed in a separate job description manual. Regarding Policy 2400.1, Evaluation of the Superintendent, the committee felt the policy did not adequately reflect current practice and asked Superintendent Cullinan to provide information related to current practice. This policy can be added at a later date and need not hold up the process of sending this series of policies back to CAGE to then be presented as a draft of Policy 2400.1 to the full Board for adoption. Mrs. Picard-Wambolt stated that the next Policy Committee meeting will be July 7, 2014.

Curriculum Committee

Mr. Blanchette stated that the Curriculum Committee met on May 23, 2014.

Dr. McGurk introduced the high school teachers present and described the reasons leading to the need for new textbook adoptions. The textbooks requested include: AP

Economics, AP Biology, AP U.S. History, Spanish I and II, and Algebra II. Each text recommended has been reviewed by a committee of high school teachers from the department and, where available, the texts recommended for adoption will be purchased with digital editions and access to on-line resources. Dr. McGurk stated that board members could see attachments for textbook adoption forms online. The next meeting of the Curriculum Committee will be on October 17, 2014.

Special Board Committee Reports

Communications Committee

Mrs. Kiff-Judson stated that the Communications Committee met on Tuesday, June 3, 2014. Items discussed included a wrap-up of activities related to the budget process and a review of communications framework for the Ellington Board of Education. The committee discussed accomplishments for the 2012-2013 school year and priorities for the fall, including items regarding a communications plan, the Facebook page, backdrops, community forums, email distribution list, the Ellington Friend of Education Award, the budget basics flyer, the role of student representative, teacher and staff recognitions, and crisis communication protocol. Dr. McGurk distributed a draft of the revised Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Update brochure for the committee's review. The next committee meeting will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

Administrative Reports

Superintendent's Report(s)

Request for Instructional Technology Specialist Position

Mr. Cullinan stated that when the budget was put together, it allowed for this position to be included. In Connecticut, there is no certification for this particular position; it is currently grade specific. During the interview process, two internal candidates were selected. Michael Nash holds a grade 7-12 certificate, and Jenna Torniero holds a K-6 certificate. Mr. Cullinan has added two action items for consideration by the Board, one for the addition of a K-6 Instructional Technology Specialist and one for the appointment of Jenna Torniero as the grade K-6 Instructional Technology Specialist. Mr. Cullinan state that there is a need for these positions, there are finances for these positions, and we have excellent candidates for these positions.

Monthly Update on School Building Projects

Mr. Cullinan reported that construction meetings were held for both Crystal Lake and Windermere projects on May 29, 2014. Construction meetings are also scheduled for

both projects on June 12, 2014. The Permanent Building Committee met on June 10, 2014, and there was a Crystal Lake groundbreaking ceremony on June 3, 2014.

Interior work on Crystal Lake will begin once the school year has ended, and the abatement work will start the week of June 21, 2014. The main office for Crystal Lake will be relocated to Center School through early August. Mr. Cullinan noted that as work progresses, evacuation plans will have to change as phases of the project change. The Windermere project is scheduled to begin June 17, 2014.

Mr. Cullinan noted that there is an issue not related to the Windermere project, but it came up through the project. He received a letter from the Fire Marshall's office that, before the opening of school on August 27, 2014, a pull station, horn and strobe must be installed in classrooms with an exterior door. There was a follow up meeting with the Deputy Fire Marshall on June 10, 2014. The pull stations may not be required if there are sufficient smoke and heat detectors. The requirement for additional horns will be determined by decibel level. An analysis by Simplex will be completed.

On June 23, 2014, Pat Sweeney, Resident State Trooper, and two officers from the State Critical Infrastructure Unit (who assessed our schools), will meet with Mr. Cullinan. They will look at all schools to review every camera in every hallway and egress to determine if any revisions need to be made.

Monthly Instructional Report – May

Mr. Cullinan stated that the May report was included in the board packet.

Crystal Lake School reported on the data team work for all grade levels; fourth graders completed a unit on journalism and had a visit from Jonathan Bissonnette, a journalist with the Journal Inquirer; a teacher appreciation luncheon; and a third grade trip to the CRRA Trash Museum.

Center School reported on teacher appreciation week; Grandparents and Special Persons Day; the fourth grade chorus at the Rock Cats; TV turnoff week; a talent show; a Shakespearean performance; a plant sale; and a school-wide reward for students making 10,000 PAWS-itive choices.

Windermere School reported on work with the Teachers College; its Behavior Intervention Team; the Bridges Mathematics program; an iPad training conference; a PBIS Northeast Forum held in Mystic, CT; a final PTO meeting with new officers elected for next school year and an internet safety presentation; K-4 field day; Rachel's Rally;

the Reading Olympics; Revolutionary War Day; the sixth grade trip to the Southwick Zoo; and the fourth grade transition to fifth grade.

Ellington Middle School reported on eighth graders completing a journalism unit and seventh graders completing a drama unit; instrumental and choral presentations; the annual trip to Washington D.C.; and hosting sixth grade students as part of their transition to the middle school. Ellington Middle School was also one of two finalists for the 2014 “Middle School of the Year” award.

Ellington High School reported on several field trips; AP exams; a meeting of the Schedule Committee; instrumental and choral concerts; annual academic and sports awards; a production by the Opening Knight Players; and the Ellington Community Scholarship Association awards totaling over \$60,000. Dr. LaPorte and Mrs. Haberern continued to plan for extended school year services, and the ELL Potluck Supper was a huge success.

The Monthly Instructional Report also contained many student and staff recognitions, including: Windermere Golden Award winners; the Governor’s 2013 Summer Reading Challenge; staff that presented at the CT ASCD; and the high school National Honor Society students.

Kindergarten Readiness Video

Mr. Cullinan presented a kindergarten readiness video created by the staff at Center School. He commented on the expertise and professionalism of the Ellington School Readiness Program. The video will be given to all parents during kindergarten registration, to all Ellington preschools, and available on the Ellington Public Schools website.

Annual Notification of Racial Statistics

Mr. Cullinan stated that the Ellington school district has no issues with imbalanced racial percentages.

2014-2015 Staffing Update

Mr. Cullinan stated that, to date, four elementary/intermediate staff positions, two special education positions, a reading position, a physical education/health position, a world language position, a science position, a math position, an instructional technology position (approved this evening), and a board certified behavioral analyst (approved this evening) have been filled.

Mr. Cullinan noted that a social studies position and a part-time speech and language position still need to be filled. There are final interviews on June 12 for a grade five and a grade three position. There is still one grade six position to fill.

Directors' Reports

Annual Professional Development - Dr. McGurk

Dr. McGurk distributed a document with the highlights of the Professional Learning Program. She stated that the handout contained only highlights and does not represent all of the professional learning opportunities in which individual staff members participated. Many professional development programs have been previously communicated in the monthly instructional reports. Dr. McGurk described programs across the school year for teachers and administrators, discussing the components and benefits of each program. She also provided details of professional development provided by the STEM curriculum supervisor and by the ELA/WL/SS curriculum supervisor. Dr. McGurk also noted the excellent work done and expertise provided by Leslie Mancuso, mathematics specialist, and Karin Perkins, sixth grade teacher and consultant for Kendall Hunt Mathematics.

Board Liaison Report

Mrs. Picard-Wambolt reported that there was a CREC meeting that dealt with the financial audit. There were also several save the date messages from CAFE.

Student Representative Report

Student Representative DelPiano reported on the sports wrap-up at the high school, noting the success of the girls' doubles tennis teams; finals week; and the upcoming graduation on June 13, 2014. She thanked the Board for the wonderful experience of being the first student representative.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made to add as Action Items #5a and b, the personnel resignations of Chrissie Deitelbaum and Peter Beebe.

1st. M. Purcaro

2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to add as action items #6 a and b, the personnel employment of Justin DeCormier and Sara Spak.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson

2nd. K. Picard-Wambolt

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to add as action item #7, the establishment of a K-6 Instructional Technology Specialist Position.

1st. G. Blanchette

2nd. A. McNamar

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to add as action item #8, the appointment of a K-6 Instructional Technology Specialist.

1st. A. McNamar

2nd. M. Purcaro

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

1. A motion was made that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board hold a second and final vote to rescind all policies contained in its current Board of Education Policy, Section 9000, Board Bylaws and adopt in its place the revised Ellington Public Schools Bylaws of the Board: Series 9000 as presented.

1st. K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

2. A motion was made that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board hold a second and final vote to rescind all policies contained in the current Board of Education Policy, Section 0000 – Mission-Goals-Objectives and adopt in its place, the revised Ellington Public Schools: Mission-Goals-Objectives: Series 0000 as presented.

1st. K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

3. A motion was made that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board hold a first vote to rescind all policies contained in the current Board of Education Policy, Section 1000 – Community Relations and adopt in its place, the revised Ellington Public Schools: Community Relations: Series 1000 as presented.

1st. K. Picard-Wambolt 2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

4. A motion was made to approve the appointment of Michael Nash as a Grades 7-12 Instructional Technology Specialist, effective August 25, 2014.

1st. M. Purcaro 2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

- 5a. A motion was made to accept the personnel resignation of Chrissie Deitelbaum, math teacher at Ellington Middle School, effective June 30, 2014.

1st. A. McNamar 2nd. M. Purcaro

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

- 5b. A motion was made to accept the personnel resignation of Peter Beebe, third grade teacher at Crystal Lake School, effective June 30, 2014.

1st. A. McNamar 2nd. M. Purcaro

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

- 6a. A motion was made to approve the appointment of Justin DeCormier as a physics teacher at Ellington High School, effective August 25, 2014.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson 2nd. K. Picard-Wambolt

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

- 6b. A motion was made to approve the appointment of Sara Spak as a system wide Board Certified Behavior Analyst, effective August 25, 2014.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson 2nd. K. Picard-Wambolt

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

7. A motion was made to establish the position of Instructional Technology Specialist for Grades K-6.

1st. M. Purcaro 2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

8. A motion was made to appoint Jenna Torniero as the Grades K-6 Instructional Technology Specialist, effective August 25, 2014.

1st. M. Purcaro

2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Purcaro reported on the wonderful ESL Pot Luck Dinner held at Windermere School.

Mr. Cullinan thanked Mrs. Marita Francis for her years of attending board meetings on behalf of all teachers. Mrs. Francis introduced Katelyn Moule, third/fourth grade teacher at Center School, as the new teacher member for future board meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 8:35 p.m. that the Board vote to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation; review of exempt documents pertaining to strategies related to negotiations; matters related to student confidentiality and review of exempt documents related to the Superintendent's evaluation and negotiations; and to invite the Superintendent of Schools Stephen Cullinan into the executive session.

1st. A. McNamar

2nd. A. Hayes

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

The Superintendent left Executive Session at 9:28 p.m.

The Superintendent returned to Executive Session at 9:32 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:32 p.m.

A motion was made to add as action item #9, the approval of a contract of employment for the Director of Facilities.

1st. A. McNamar

2nd. M. Purcaro

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to add as action item #10, the approval of a contract of employment for the Director of Technology.

1st. A. McNamar 2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to add as action item #11, the Extension of the Contract of Employment for the Superintendent of Schools.

1st. A. McNamar 2nd. M. Purcaro

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to add as action item #12, the approval of the Contract of Employment for the Superintendent of Schools.

1st. M. Purcaro 2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to add as action item #13, the approval of a Settlement Agreement for pending litigation per the terms presented in Executive Session.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson 2nd. M. Purcaro

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to approve the 2014-15 contract of employment for the Director of Facilities with a salary increase of 2.75%, resulting in a 2014-15 salary of \$79,118 with four weeks of vacation.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson 2nd. M. Purcaro

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to approve the contract of John Collins for the period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017 with a 2014-15 salary of \$83,428, a 2015-2016 salary of \$85,722 and a 2016-2017 salary of \$88,079.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson 2nd. A. Hayes

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to add a two-year extension of employment to the Contract of the Superintendent of Schools through the 2016-17 school year ending June 30, 2017.

1st. M. Purcaro

2nd. A. Hayes

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to approve the Contract of the Superintendent of Schools for the 2014-2015 school year with an increase in compensation of 2.75% resulting in a salary of \$157,655.

1st. A. McNamar

2nd. K. Picard-Wambolt

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute a Settlement Agreement for pending litigation per the terms presented in Executive Session.

1st. M. Purcaro

2nd. T. Kiff-Judson

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made to suspend all appropriate rules of the Board of Education. That we convene a special meeting of the Board of Education tomorrow night which is June 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. That the purpose of the meeting would be to hear the grievance or complaint of the parents who appeared before us tonight and any appropriate comments from the administration. They would also be invited into Executive Session and decide if it is appropriate for us to take any board action with regard to the parent's complaint.

1st. D. Roberson

2nd. K. Picard-Wambolt

VOTE: Ayes: Hayes, Picard-Wambolt and Roberson.
Nays: Blanchette, Kiff-Judson, McNamar, and Purcaro.

The motion failed.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:38 p.m.

1st. T. Kiff-Judson 2nd. A. McNamar

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Marie Hayes
Secretary

AMH/ad