

A Regular Meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, in the Ellington High School Library Media Center, 37 Maple Street, Ellington, CT 06029.

**The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Dzen.**

**PRESENT** Chair Jennifer Dzen, Vice-Chair Mike Young, Secretary Jennifer Mullin, Marcia Kupferschmid, Angela Moser, Kerry Socha (6:13 p.m.), Miriam Underwood

**ABSENT** Liz Nord, Treasurer, Gary Blanchette, Steve Viens

**ALSO PRESENT** Dr. Scott V. Nicol, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Ms. Jennifer Brown, Coordinator of Human Resources  
Mr. Aaron Fliss, Director of Information Technology

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Center Elementary School (pre-recorded)

Watch [HERE](#)

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**Teacher Specialists Representing All EPS Teachers - Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent**

Mr. Barton introduced Math and Literacy Specialists, Emily Wry, Amy Duff, Lisa Schumacher, and Chad Sullivan from across all grade levels to represent the work of our teachers who help our students progress and grow academically throughout the year. Each specialist was asked to speak about things they noticed in their work with teachers that helped Ellington students grow and succeed over the last two years. Looking at data and using creative techniques such as, incorporating Math in Social studies and Science classes, kept our students ahead of the curve. Ellington was the only district in the State to show growth in SBAC, ELA and Math, and SAT Reading and Writing and Mathematics. This is a result of the work of our teachers and teacher leaders who work collaboratively to help our students excel.

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**BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

Ms. Dzen gave her report to the board and the viewing public. Chair Dzen shared that Ellington Schools deserve to be very proud of their SBAC and SAT achievements. We were the only town in the State to show increases year to year. This shows the commitment and dedication of EPS' teachers and staff. Additionally, Chair Dzen shared that tonight, the District Improvement Plan (DIP) will be presented. This plan is aligned with School Improvement Plans (SIP) and the Superintendent's Goals. EPS' District Improvement Plan incorporates a shared vision and measurable outcomes.

Watch [HERE](#)

**CITIZEN & STAFF FORUM** – None

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of minutes: Regular Meeting, August 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
2. Approval of minutes: Special Meeting, September 19, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
3. Human Resources Monthly Report

Watch [HERE](#)

Ms. Dzen asked if anyone wished to remove any item(s) from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Dzen announced that with hearing none, the Consent Agenda is accepted as written.

**REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

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### **District Improvement Plan Update**

#### **Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**

Mr. Barton shared the process by which the District Improvement Plan is built. The process started with a reflection on last year's strategies, their implementation, and their impact. This was reported at the May 2022 Board meeting. Student summative evaluation data was reviewed by Administrators in June and July, including at a July "Mini retreat". At the August Administrative Retreat, Board members and Administration reflected on what the schools do well; caring about students, knowing students well, collaborating, prioritizing academics, and communication were identified as strengths. The areas of focus on the District Improvement Plan are data trends and targets, high-quality teaching and learning, emotional intelligence, and efficient operations. The next steps in development will include building leaders developing School Improvement Plans (SIP) aligned with the DIP that address school improvement in their specific contexts. The District Improvement Plan will be on the October board meeting agenda for approval.

### **REGULAR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Finance**

Watch [HERE](#)

Dr. Nicol gave an update on behalf of the Finance Committee Chair, Liz Nord. The Finance Committee meeting was held on September 21, 2022. The agenda included fiscal updates for the 2022 and 2023 years, online family payments, staffing updates and purchasing card discussions.

#### **Policy**

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Policy Chair Moser stated the next meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2022, and that the Board will have a Workshop on October 13, 2022 to review the Bylaws of the Board, Series 9000.

#### **Communications**

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Communications Chair Mullin shared that the next meeting will be held in November to review and discuss the December Communications Corner newsletter.

**Curriculum** – No Report

**Operations** – No Report

### **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

**Superintendent's Report** – No Report

#### **Directors' Reports**

##### **Human Resources Staffing Report**

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**Ms. Jennifer Brown, Coordinator of Human Resources**

Ms. Brown shared with the Board the 2022-2023 staffing report. The report included the certified and non-certified comparisons to last year and a summary of the recent positions filled and on track to be filled in the upcoming months.

##### **Monthly Financial Report**

Watch [HERE](#)

Superintendent Nicol gave a review of the monthly Finance memo earlier in the meeting.

### **BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

Watch [HERE](#)

#### **Student Representative**

Watch [HERE](#)

Rik Roy gave his report to the Board.

- Quarter 1 mid-point is Friday, September 30, 2022
- First Home Football Game was a success with a win!

- Open House is on September 29, 2022 at Ellington High School
- Club Fair- October- Students can learn about after school programs offered
- OKB has their first show coming up, "One Act" - Date TBD

**Center School**

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Liaison Kupferschmid shared that on October 12, 2022, Center School will participate in National Walk to School Day. The Harvest Parade is coming up and will be held in Arbor Park. More information to come. The PTO sponsored event, Fall Festival Trunk or Treat is October 29, 2022.

**Windermere School**

Watch [HERE](#)

Assembly was held titled "Rise to the Top". Principal Hill reported to Liaison Socha that the two Open Houses went well. Windermere is off to a good start. The Running Club has begun. This is a great opportunity to be active before the start of school.

**Ellington Middle School**

Watch [HERE](#)

Liaison Socha commented that opening day was great. Kudos to the Co-Principals for starting "Coffee Talks" on Friday mornings inviting parents in to ask questions. EMS offers many great after school activities to get involved. Liaison Socha mentioned soccer, cross country and drama had all begun.

**Ellington High School**

Watch [HERE](#)

Liaison Moser shared that the HS does an excellent job at running the Open House. Chair Moser commented that Mr. Rawlins, EPS' Director of Athletics and Wellness is making a great presence at the High School.

**Crystal Lake School**

Watch [HERE](#)

Liaison Underwood shared that the opening was great and pictures of the sensory walk were taken to share in the newsletter. Plans for the track are being discussed with Planning and Zoning. Trunk or Treat is planned in October.

**Wellness Committee**

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The Wellness Committee met on September 27, 2022 and is currently working on goals for the year. Raffles were a topic of discussion. Anthem provides 15k for wellness purposes. The balance currently sits at \$8,000.

**CREC**

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Liaison Underwood shared that CREC had their first meeting of the year last week. There are 2500 teachers in the CREC program. Liaison Underwood shared that she was impressed with the backpack program where all students receive a backpack.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Watch [HERE](#)

**Add Additional Action Item #10: Approval of the Ellington Administrators' Association Contract**

**MOTION:** First: M. Young  
Second: A. Moser  
To add action item #10, the approval of the Ellington Administrators' Association contract.  
Motion carried.

**Second read to approve the repeal of 5000 series policies as outlined in Sample A**

**MOTION** First: A. Moser  
Second: J. Mullin  
To approve second read to approve the repeal of 5000 series policies as outlined in Sample A.

Motion carried.

**Second read to approve the adoption of 5000 series policies as outlined in Sample B**

**MOTION** First: A. Moser  
Second: J. Mullin  
To approve second read to approve the adoption of 5000 series policies as outlined in Sample B.  
Motion carried.

**Second read to approve repeal and adoption of 5000 series policies as outlined in Sample C**

**MOTION** First: A. Moser  
Second: M. Kupferschmid  
To approve second read to approve repeal and adoption of 5000 series policies as outlined in Sample C.  
Motion carried.

**Second read to approve the repeal of 6000 series policies as outlined in Attachment A**

**MOTION** First: A. Moser  
Second: M. Kupferschmid  
To approve second read to approve the repeal of 6000 series policies as outlined in Attachment A.  
Motion carried.

**Second read to approve repeal and adoption of 6000 series policies as outlined in Attachment B**

**MOTION** First: A. Moser  
Second: M. Kupferschmid  
To approve second read to approve repeal and adoption of 6000 series policies as outlined in Attachment B.  
Motion carried.

**Second read to approve the adoption of 6000 series policies as outlined in Attachment C**

**MOTION** First: A. Moser  
Second: J. Mullin  
To approve second read to approve the adoption of 6000 series policies as outlined in Attachment C.  
Motion carried.

**To approve 2021-2022 Final Expenditures**

**MOTION** First: M. Young  
Second: M. Underwood  
To approve 2021-2022 Final Expenditures.  
Motion carried.

**To approve the retirement of Donna Hamm, Food Service Department**

**MOTION** First: K. Socha  
Second: M. Kupferschmid  
To approve the retirement of Donna Hamm, Food Service Department.  
Motion carried.

**To approve the requested unpaid extended child rearing leave of Nicole Willis**

**MOTION** First: J. Mullin  
Second: M. Underwood  
To approve the requested unpaid extended child rearing leave of Nicole Willis.  
Motion carried.

**To approve the ratification of the contract between the Ellington Administrators' Association and the Ellington Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2027**

**MOTION** First: M. Young  
Second: M. Underwood  
To approve the ratification of the contract between the Ellington Administrators' Association and the Ellington Board of Education for the period of July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2027.  
Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS** – None

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**ROUNDTABLE** – None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** First: M. Young  
Second: J. Mullin  
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (7:22 p.m.)  
Motion carried.