

A Special Meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, in the Ellington High School Library, 37 Maple Street, Ellington, CT 06029.

The meeting was called to order at 5:46 p.m. by Jennifer Dzen

PRESENT Chair Jennifer Dzen, Vice-Chair Kerry Socha, Secretary Jennifer Mullin, Gary Blanchette, Marcia Kupferschmid, Angela Moser, Steve Viens, Miriam Underwood, Dr. Lenora Williams (6:17 p.m.), Michael Young (virtual).

TOWN MEMBERS Mary Cardin, Board of Selectman, Board of Education Liaison (6:19 p.m.)
Daniel Keune, Board of Finance Chair, Board of Education Liaison (6:05 p.m.)

ALSO PRESENT Lori Badger, Paraeducator
Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Alisha Carpino, Director of Finance and Operations
Kerin Edwards, Paraeducator
Aaron Fliss, Director of Information Technology
Melissa Haberern, Supervisor of Special Education
Sara Iapaluccio, Supervisor of Special Education
Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services
Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools
Brian Syms, Paraeducator
Stephanie Veturis, Coordinator of Accounting
Carolyn Yakaitis, Coordinator of Human Resources

The Board of Education met for the first budget workshop of the 2025 budget cycle. The meeting consisted of three informational sessions focusing on Special Services, specifically Paraeducators. One group session focused on Financial Considerations (Salaries and Benefits and the impact) facilitated by Alisha Carpino, Stephanie Veturis, and Lori Badger. Another session focused on Hiring and Retention (with Policy considerations) and was facilitated by Administrator Melissa Haberern and Paraeducator Kerin Edwards. The third session reviewed Absenteeism and its cumulative impact with legislative considerations facilitated by Administrator Sara Iapaluccio, HR Coordinator Carolyn Yakaitis, and Paraeducator Brian Syms.

The Board also considered a draft of the Board of Education's Legislative Platform focusing on the CT Paid Sick Leave Law (in effect 1/1/25) as well as a proposed policy update to Policy 5420, Non-Resident Attendance.

Board Endorsement of the 2025 Ellington Legislative Agenda

MOTION: First: J. Mullin
Second: M. Kupferschmid
Due to possible student supervisor and safety concerns, the Board endorses this year's 2025 Ellington Legislative Agenda requesting that the CT General Assembly make legislative changes as outlined to the CT Paid Sick Leave Law that went into effect January 1, 2025, and directs the Superintendent to lobby accordingly.
Discussion: Miriam Underwood inquired about why the law was written and moved forward based on information provided at the recent Legislative Breakfast on January 3.
Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION First: J. Mullin
Second: L. Williams
To adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board (7:05 p.m.)
Motion carried unanimously.