

## **Board of Education Ellington, Connecticut**

July 25, 2018

A regular meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, July 25, 2018, in the School Administration Building.

Present were: Mr. Blanchette and Young; Ms. Kiff-Judson, Picard-Wambolt, Foster, Dzen, Kupferschmid, Nord, and Socha (7:20 p.m.); Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Brian Hendrickson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services; Mrs. Melissa Haberern, Special Education Supervisor; and Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance & Operations. Mr. Purcaro was absent.

Also attending were Mr. John Guidry, Principal, Ellington High School; Mr. Michael Nash, Assistant Principal EHS/EMS; Ms. Becca Aldred, Assistant Principal EHS; Mr. Mark Spaulding, Director of Student Services in Plainfield, CT; Mrs. Anita Yost, Coordinator of Accounting, BOE; and Mr. Mark Mahler, Union President, Ellington Education Association.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Mrs. Kiff-Judson, Chairperson. A round of introductions were made.

### **CITIZENS AND STAFF FORUM**

No one addressed the Board.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mrs. Kiff-Judson asked if anyone wished to remove any item from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Picard-Wambolt asked to remove the approval of Susan Wambolt as a science teacher for Ellington High School. The item was removed and added as an action item later in the meeting. Consent Agenda items one through seven were adopted.

1. Re-approval of the Minutes of the June 12, 2018 Special Board Meetings.
2. Re-approval of the Minutes of the June 13, 2018 Special Board Meeting.
3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 20, 2018 Regular Board Meeting.
4. Acceptance of the resignation of Jennie Brady as an English teacher at Ellington High School, effective June 30, 2018.

5. Acceptance of the resignation of Doug Luginbuhl as a technical education teacher at Ellington High School, effective July 13, 2018.
6. Approval of the employment of Matthew Ferraro as a social studies teacher at Ellington Middle School, effective August 27, 2018.
7. Approval of the employment of Tesla Donovan as an English teacher at Ellington High School, effective August 27, 2018.

## REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Special Reports

#### Possible Appointment of Director of Facilities

Mr. Greenleaf introduced Ms. Rebecca Gonzales as candidate for the Director of Facilities position. Board member packets included her resume and letters of recommendation. Ms. Gonzalez currently works in the facilities department at CREC (Capital Region Education Council) and directly oversees the Learning Corridor. Mr. Greenleaf described the Learning Corridor as a complicated property, with HPS (Hartford Public Schools) as the property owner, CREC as the property manager, and both HPS and CREC as primary tenants. Ms. Gonzalez thanked Mr. Greenleaf and the Board.

A motion was made to approve the employment of Rebecca Gonzalez as Director of Facilities for the district, effective July 30, 2018, with a salary of \$83,000 for the 2018-2019 school year, prorated.

1<sup>st</sup>. M. Young

2<sup>nd</sup>. K. Picard-Wambolt

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

### Directors' Reports

#### Presentation and Possible Action Regarding Special Education Supervisor Position

Dr. LaPorte and Mr. Greenleaf discussed the possible action of hiring a Special Education Supervisor. Their presentation detailed how this action could benefit the students of Ellington. Dr. LaPorte stated that while this position was not included as part of the 2018-2019 budget, trends seen within the district and its special education student population during the 2017-2018 school year necessitate action. The identification of students with special needs, along with families moving into district with

students accessing special education programming, has been increasing steadily over the past several years.

The position of a Special Education Supervisor will allow for better management of the current growing special education caseload and allow the district to be proactive in the management of other trends and generate sustainable revenue through new programming.

Dr. LaPorte stated that, as outlined in the presentation, five students have been identified to bring back to the district upon the approval of this position. This yields a sustainable savings/revenue stream to offset the cost of this position.

Dr. Nicol emphasized that without adding the supervisor position the five students would not be able to be brought back from out placement. These actions would net the school district approximately 100K in the 18-19 school year.

A motion was made to approve the addition of a Special Education Supervisor position as presented for the 2018-2019 school year.

1<sup>st</sup>. J. Foster

2<sup>nd</sup>. M. Kupferschmid

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

#### Ellington High School Communication Plan Update

Mr. Hendrickson began with an update on Mastery Based Learning (MBL); he has met with many community leaders, EPS administrators and staff to ensure that messaging is consistent throughout the district with specific attention focused at the high school and with the syllabus. Communications will focus on the how and the why MBL nurtures and develops a rigorous learning environment that better prepares all students for success in and out of school. Mr. Hendrickson went over a memo that outlines MBL initiatives for K-6 schools, the middle school, and the high school.

Mr. Guidry reported, as outlined in the memo, that he and his staff are preparing various communications that will continue to educate parents, staff, students and the community on all topics related to MBL. Updates will be made through the following communication vehicles:

- Summer family communications
- Freshman Orientation
- Open House
- Beginning of year staff meetings

Ms. Kiff-Judson noted that Mr. Guidry's reference to A-F numerical grading may be confusing to parents even though the grading system will not be changed.

Ms. Picard-Wambolt noted that there are two types of homework as outlined in Board policy. Some homework is graded, such as work done for a project, etc. and homework such as practice that is not graded. Ms. Picard-Wambolt stated that it may be important to clarify this to parents.

### Facilities Study Update

Mr. Greenleaf provided a brief update on the facilities study. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out to select an architectural firm. There are three different areas the RFP is centered on:

- Demographics
- Aging infrastructure
- Vision for academic programs

Mr. Greenleaf stated that five firms submitted bids, which were narrowed down to three. On July 11, an administrative committee met which included stakeholders from the Board of Education, the Board of Finance, the Board of Selectmen, the Town Planner, and the Permanent Building Committee. After presentations by the three firms, one firm, DRA Architects of South Windsor, was selected by the committee.

Although DRA was the lowest bidder, their proposal did exceed the original authorization in the Capital Improvement Plan approved by the Town. The committee did discuss reducing the scope to bring down the cost, however there was strong consensus to move forward as planned in order to ensure the study is conducted properly, allowing the Town the best information moving forward. There is an Action Item authorizing the Superintendent to request from the Town an additional appropriation. Additionally, Mr. Greenleaf indicated that, assuming the Board of Education and the Board of Finance authorizes the additional appropriation, the Board of Education would reimburse the amount by the close of the 18-19 fiscal year.

### ACTION ITEMS

1. A motion was made to add as Action Item #3, the approval of Mrs. Susan Wambolt as a science teacher at Ellington High School, effective August 27, 2018.

1<sup>st</sup>. M. Young

2<sup>nd</sup>. M. Kupferschmid

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

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2. A motion was made to add as Action Item #4, to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to request an additional appropriation from the Town of Ellington for a Capital Project Facilities Study.

1<sup>st</sup>. J. Foster2<sup>nd</sup>. G. Blanchette

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

3. A motion was made to approve Mrs. Susan Wambolt as a science teacher at Ellington High School, effective August 27, 2018.

1<sup>st</sup>. M. Young2<sup>nd</sup>. M. Kupferschmid

Abstain: K. Picard-Wambolt

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

4. A motion was made to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to request an additional appropriation from the Town of Ellington for a Capital Project Facilities Study.

1<sup>st</sup>. J. Foster2<sup>nd</sup>. L. Nord

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion was made at 8:35 p.m. to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation and Negotiations and to invite the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Scott Nicol, into the Executive Session.

1<sup>st</sup>. K. Picard-Wambolt2<sup>nd</sup>. M. Kupferschmid

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

At 10:19 p.m., Mr. Purcaro entered the Executive Session via telephone, he exited the Executive Session at 10:23 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:27 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the Contract of Employment for the Superintendent of Schools for the 2018-2019 school year with an increase of 2.5% resulting in a salary of \$176,616, and discussed benefits, and that the Board Chair and legal counsel are authorized to finalize and execute the contract as discussed by the Board in executive session.

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1<sup>st</sup>. K. Picard-Wambolt      2<sup>nd</sup>. J. Dzen

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:29 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup>. M. Young                      2<sup>nd</sup>. M. Kupferschmid

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Picard-Wambolt  
Secretary

KPW/amd