

Board of Education Ellington, Connecticut

October 23, 2019

A regular meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 in the School Administration Building.

Present were: Mr. Blanchette, Purcaro and Young; Ms. Picard-Wambolt, Nord, Socha, Kupferschmid, Kiff-Judson, Foster and Dzen; Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Jaimee DelPiano, Student Representative.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Ms. Kiff-Judson, Chairperson. A round of introductions were made.

CITIZENS AND STAFF FORUM

Cristin Millen, 83 Muddy Brook Road, Ellington, expressed her concerns for teacher turnover in the district and asked the Board Members to investigate the reasons for teacher departure.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Kiff-Judson asked if anyone wished to remove any item from the Consent Agenda. Consent Agenda items one through eleven were adopted.

1. Approval of the minutes of the September 25, 2019 Regular Meeting.
2. Approval of the employment of Sarah Zwarick as a part-time Special Education Aide at Windermere School, effective September 19, 2019.
3. Approval of the employment of Kaitlyn Proulx as a part-time Special Education Aide at Center School, effective September 19, 2019.
4. Approval of the employment of Ricky Ruocco as a part-time Van Monitor at Center School, effective October 1, 2019.
5. Approval of the employment of Loretta Forde-Sklenar as a part-time Special Education Aide at Center School, effective October 2, 2019.
6. Acceptance of the resignation of Joan Hoffman as a part-time Special Education Aide at Windermere School, effective October 9, 2019.
7. Acceptance of the resignation of Sophie Ludwig as a part-time Special Education Aide at Crystal Lake School, effective October 10, 2019.
8. Approval of the employment of Dana Dionne as a full-time Special Education Aide at Crystal Lake School, effective October 17, 2019.

9. Acceptance of the resignation of Rebecca Einsiedel as a part-time Administrative Assistant at Crystal Lake School, effective October 18, 2019.
10. Approval of the employment of Michaela Brocuglio as a part-time Special Education Aide at Windermere School, effective October 21, 2019.
11. Acceptance of the resignation of Danielle Eldridge as a part-time Special Education Aide at Windermere School, effective October 21, 2019.

REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Special Reports

Graduation Date

Mr. John Guidry, EHS Principal and Mr. Roy Gurnon, EHS Science teacher, reported on the outcome of the Graduation Date Committee. With the new public act that was passed this year allowing districts to determine a firm graduation date, a committee was formed to determine a date for the EHS Class of 2020 graduation date.

The committee recommends June 5, 2020 as the graduation date for the 2019-2020 school year. The committee, which consists of teachers, security personnel and administrators, ensured that there will be no conflicts with award ceremonies, senior exams and assemblies.

REGULAR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations Committee

Ms. Dzen and Mr. Greenleaf reported that the Operations Committee met on Monday, October 21 to discuss the five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Underground storage tanks are nearing the end of their 30 year life cycle, they will need to be removed and will not be replaced.

Athletic fields, approved by Board of Education in August to move forward, in order to structure best outcome collaboration between the Town and Board of Education will be a priority.

There has been an update to fire door codes. Administration is working with the Fire Marshall to make necessary updates and adjustments where needed.

The Center School roof was replaced last year on the back side of the building (K-1 wing). We are now seeing some concerns on the front-side of the building.

A few large capital projects for Windermere School include the roof and window replacement. We are leaving those items on the Capital Improvement Plan as they need to get done as quickly as possible. If the Windermere Building Project moves forward, then these items would be removed from the CIP.

Modulars may be needed in the future based on enrollment projections. The town will decide if they would lease or own. Often times the modulars become permanent fixtures.

Upcoming dates for Long-Term Facilities Study and Windermere Building Project meetings run from October through January, with a few changes. The Windermere Community Forum scheduled for October 28 has been rescheduled to October 30 due to Trails for Treats and the December 10 Facilities Workshop for Windermere Discussion Update will need to be rescheduled to another date due to Windermere's Holiday Concert.

Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee met on October 16, Dr. Young stated there were three items on agenda. The first item discussed was the on-going effort to upgrading the Student Information System to Infinite Campus. Mr. Collins has been meeting with all stakeholders for feedback and created a spreadsheet of all assessments. He is looking at inefficiencies across the board and talking to all teachers, K-12, to hear their concerns with current system and wants for the new system.

The next item was a preview of Accountability Testing. Mr. Hendrickson shared a few slides from presentation that was reviewed at the committee meeting. Some of the highlights that were discussed were the strengths of the non-high need student performance for SBAC (grades 3-8), SAT School Day (Grade 11) as well as Grade 6 performance. A priority area that was highlighted with our high needs students was in math for 7th and 8th grade.

The last item discussed was the review of the EDUinnovate grants for approval. Seventeen grant submissions were received; nine were approved.

Communications Committee

Ms. Kiff-Judson reported that the Communications Committee met on October 8. The Committee continued discussions on cultural observations. They reviewed South Windsor's cultural observance calendar that includes many religious holidays that they celebrate and acknowledge, however, they do not close school for all of these dates.

The committee also reviewed the district communication template for updates.

Policy Committee

Ms. Picard-Wambolt reported that the Policy Committee met on October 7. The committee continued discussion of Policy 5118 - Nonresident Attendance. The revision to this policy outlines circumstances students would be approved and outlines tuition guidelines. The revised policy is on the action items for a first read during this meeting.

Discussion on creating a policy for wand metal detectors at the High School as another tool in the fight against vaping took place at the meeting as well. The use of the wands

would only be for reasonable cause searches. No action is required of the board at this time; discussion will continue at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Next item that was discussed is Policy 3432 – Budget and Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement this revised policy is on the agenda for a first read tonight. The only change is due to a legislative update.

Update on volunteer protocol was the next policy discussed at the meeting. We currently have a policy for volunteer protocol, however it is very brief. The manner the volunteers are screened in the district have been inconsistent at each school. We will not be changing the policy, we are only changing the process/procedure that will be consistent in the future. They reviewed a program, Raptor, that requires a swipe of a driver's license for a background check. We will pilot the program at the central office this year.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Reports

Superintendent's Goals

Dr. Nicol provided a brief reminder to the Board that they received a presentation on his goals last month at the September Board Meeting, the goals are an action item this evening.

Ms. Dzen commented that under section 3c Dr. Nicol should add nutritional presentation for students to the goals. Dr. Nicol will add them to the goals and the action item will reflect as amended.

Directors' Reports

CHOICE/Magnet Enrollment

Mr. Hendrickson and Mr. Greenleaf presented on CHOICE/Magnet enrollment as the third of four enrollment updates of the year.

Over the last four years our enrollment is up forty-one students, this year we have decreased fifty-seven students from October 1, 2018. Magnet enrollment was slightly up this year and resident enrollment decreased as well. A breakdown of numbers was reviewed and discussed. All numbers for this year are based on October 1, 2019 enrollment.

Ms. Socha asked if Ellington families on the waitlist for preschool were called to fill seats that were not accepted by CHOICE families. Dr. LaPorte confirmed that all families that expressed interest were notified of open seats as they became available.

Mr. Purcaro asked if we surveyed any exiting families to determine why they are leaving our district to other schools. Dr. Nicol stated that we currently do not survey as part of a standard operating procedure, however three years ago he met with a few families to

discuss why they were leaving. Many parents send their children to International Magnet School for Global Citizenship in South Windsor because they like their specific programming, others were for social reasons.

Volunteer Protocol Update

Mr. Collins provided an update on the volunteer protocol. Mr. Collins has looked at several volunteer management systems used in districts around the state. The Raptor system was chosen. Raptor provides more than just a sex-offender registry check it performs a national background check. We will be using only the volunteer model; however there is the ability to expand to a more robust visitor management program in the future.

School Improvement Plan Reports

Mr. Hendrickson thanked the Board for their feedback at the workshop, it was incorporated into the plans.

BOARD LIASION REPORTS

CABE

Mr. Purcaro reminded everyone that the CABE/CAPSS Convention is coming up, November 15, 2019.

For any BOE members that would like a refresher, a new BOE member conference will be held in December, and current members may attend.

CREC

Mr. Blanchette reported he was unable to attend the last meeting.

Dr. Nicol mentioned that EPS held their annual CHOICE family dinner, more than thirty-five staff members were present at the event. This was a successful event.

EDUinnovate

Ms. Dzen reported that the next EDUinnovate meeting will be held on November 5, 2019.

Student Representative Report

Ms. DelPiano stated that they are in the middle of Spirit Week at EHS, and the next event is the Veterans Day Assembly.

The ASL teacher unfortunately resigned, students are hoping for a quick turnaround.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Move to approve the Superintendent's 2019-2020 Goals as amended.

1st. M. Purcaro 2nd. G. Blanchette

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

2. Move to approve the graduation date of Friday, June 5, 2020 for the Ellington High School Class of 2020.

1st. J. Dzen 2nd. J. Foster

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

3. Move that the Board of Education approve the Ellington High School Opening Knight Players field trip to New York City from January 24, 2020 - January 26, 2020, subject to the conditions as outlined in Board Policy #6153.

1st M. Kupferschmid 2nd L. Nord

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

4. Move that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board of Education hold a first vote to adopt the Ellington Public Schools Revised Policy 5118 - Nonresident Attendance, as presented.

1st. K. Picard-Wambolt 2nd. J.Foster

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

5. Move that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board of Education hold a first vote to adopt the Ellington Public Schools Revised Policy 3432 - Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement, as presented.

1st. K. Picard-Wambolt 2nd. J. Foster

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

6. Move that the Board, per the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee, approve the acceptance of funds from the EDUinnovate Grants in the sum of \$18,327.00.

1st. M. Young 2nd. J. Foster

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

The meeting reconvened at 10:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

None.

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:30 p.m.

1st. K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. M. Purcaro

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Picard-Wambolt
Secretary