

Board of Education

Ellington, Connecticut

November 18, 2020

A regular meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, in the Ellington High School Gymnasium, 37 Maple Street, Ellington, CT.

Present were: Mr. Blanchette, Purcaro and Young; Ms. Dzen, Picard-Wambolt, Socha, Nord, Kupferschmid, Underwood; Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools.

Administration present were: Mr. John Collins, Director of Technology; Mr. Brian Hendrickson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations; Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services; Ms. Jennifer Hill, Principal, Windermere School; and Ms. Jennifer James, Assistant Principal, Windermere School.

Also in attendance: Ms. Jennifer Brown, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Human Resources Coordinator and Ayushman Choudhury, Appointed Board of Education Student Representative.

The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m. by Mr. Purcaro, Chairperson.

Pledge of Allegiance

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Purcaro began by thanking the administration for continuing to have access to the BOE meetings in person and virtually. He thanked all EPS staff for providing premium education for all students and the members of the Board of Education. Mr. Purcaro spoke of a meeting that he participated in a conference call with the White House Intergovernmental Affairs Office where the Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Dr. Adams reaffirmed and reassured that the work being done for the students, staff and community follows the guidelines at the state and national level. Mr. Purcaro played the audio recording of the conversation with the Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Dr. Adams. In summary, Dr Adams stated that students that were in school at the beginning of the pandemic were considered a mass gathering. However the transmission rate of those students in school was no higher than those individuals of the community not in school.

He continued by stating that in many cases there is actually a lower transmission rate than individuals not in school. By students being in school they are following proper social distancing and wearing masks where as when out in the community those protocols are not being followed as strictly. Dr. Adams continued to say that schools are among the safest places and calls for leaders not to reactively close schools because Covid cases begin to rise. The mental and physical health consequences by closing schools would increase as well. Continue to take mitigation strategies seriously. There were lower rates across the country with students testing positive that were in school versus students that were in the community not in school.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Recognition of Students Tyler, Steven and Jason Chapman

The Chapman brothers have a passion and talent for car racing. The Chapman brothers participated in races at Stafford Motor Speedway. Steven Chapman finished second, and Tyler Chapman finished first. Jason Chapman came in second in a race the following day. Dr. Nicol wanted to recognize all the Chapman brothers for their accomplishments.

CITIZENS AND STAFF FORUM

NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Purcaro asked if anyone wished to remove any item from the Consent Agenda. Consent Agenda items one through ten were adopted.

1. Approval of the November 11, 2020 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of the October 28, 2020 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes.
3. Approval of the October 21, 2020 Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes.

4. Approval of the employment of Thomas Kindall as a part-time Special Education Aide at Ellington Middle School, effective November 4, 2020.
5. Approval of Margaret Quinn as a district-wide permanent substitute teacher, effective November 5, 2020.
6. Acceptance of the resignation of Shawna Johnson, part-time Kindergarten Aide at Center School, effective November 5, 2020.
7. Approval of the employment of Alexis Belco as a part-time Cafeteria and Recess Aide at Center School, effective November 13, 2020.
8. Acceptance of the resignation of Courtney Lavoie, Building Substitute at Center School, effective November 13, 2020.
9. Approval of the employment of Alyssa Iverson as a full-time Special Education Aide at Ellington High School, effective November 16, 2020.
10. Approval of the employment of Marissa LaPLante as a part-time Special Education Aide at Crystal Lake School, effective November 16, 2020.

A motion was made to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

1st. M. Young

2nd. L. Nord

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Special Reports

Discussion and Possible Action: Windermere Building Project - Mr. Greenleaf

On Monday November 16, 2020, a joint meeting was held with the Finance and Operations Committees. Mr. Greenleaf explained that the Windermere Building Project was postponed in the spring and the submission deadline had passed on June 30, 2020. Mr. Greenleaf proposed having a discussion to apply for this project again for

June 2021. Components of the project need to be refreshed. The timing of the referendum, either spring of 2021 or fall 2021. Cost escalation of projects as well, about 4-5% per year (\$2.5 million-\$3 million dollars), the forecast of debt dependent on projects that have been completed. Design changes within the schools due to the Covid pandemic and what that would look like for the building project for Windermere. Mr. Purcaro responded that discussions among Board members and committee members about being fiscally responsible is very important. If the overall cost of a large project has a negative impact on Ellington taxpayers that is something that the Board has and will continue to be mindful of.

Dr. Nicol wanted to note that January 27, 2021 would be the date for the Board to make a decision regarding the Windermere Building Project in terms of moving the project forward, not of when the referendum would be. Monday November 23, 2020, and November 30, 2020, are available dates for the Board to ask questions, and learn more information in order to make an informed decision. Mr. Purcaro would like to keep those dates available. Mr. Greenleaf stated that the information requested (enrollment projections from NESDEC) at the joint meeting would not be available on the dates above, and would require more time. Mr. Greenleaf proposed also getting Tecton Architects revisions to make a more accurate projection of building construction costs, and making adjustments as necessary. Ms. Socha inquired that if there would not be an updated information about enrollment projections then a meeting may not be effective. She also asked if the cost escalation numbers were based on pre-Covid costs, as the equipment and materials costs needed at schools during Covid is higher. Mr. Greenleaf discussed that even with the additional costs, the broad number used for the cost of construction can be used during this time. Cost escalation would be between 4-5%. Ms. Picard-Wambolt inquired if the 58% reimbursement from the state will still be available, to which Mr. Greenleaf replied that it should be within the 55%-58%, and there had been no legislative changes in the State of Connecticut. Ms. Nord inquired if the town Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen would be contacted, in which Mr. Greenleaf responded yes there would be communication, not only to the town Board departments, but also with the bond council, to start drafting a timeline for 2021 in order to authorize the project to move forward.

Discussion and possible action: District Improvement Plan - Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson began by referencing the materials presented to the Board regarding the District Improvement Plan, and recapping the Superintendent's feedback from last

June leading to the development of preliminary district improvement plans. He reviewed previous discussions and updates with the district improvement plan, which included the topic of early release Wednesdays. An additional board workshop included a presentation of the draft of the district improvement plan in which feedback was received by administration and board members. A school improvement plan was presented to the board by administration and staff members as well, and is included in the materials presented to the Board.

Ms. Nord inquired about the decrease of student class size and the increase of hiring of teachers to help reduce the class sizes, especially in the upper elementary grades. Mr. Hendrickson as part of his presentation explained that the Action Step Strategy #2 under High Quality Teaching is to explore multi-year plans to lower class size, based on feedback received from teachers and Board workshops.

Regular Board Committee Reports

Communications

Dr. Nicol presented on behalf of Committee Chair Mullin two items which would require a vote from the Board of Education. The first in regards to the schedule of regular Board of Education meetings which is submitted to the town and second is the Communications Committee's calendar. Dr. Nicol wanted to discuss highlighted meeting dates for the board's information. In addition, with the assistance of Mr. Collins, is to set up the town hall conference room with the capability to have video conferencing for the Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education, with safety protocols in place. The start time of the board meeting of 5:00 p.m. was also addressed and to be discussed by the board.

Ms. Picard-Wambolt commented that the Board of Education has a Bylaw, # 9321, that meetings are to begin at 7:00 p.m. at the administration building. Additionally, it states that there is to be a meeting held on the first Wednesday of September. A vote would be taken this evening but would also need to be addressed and updated in policy to change the bylaw to keep with practice. Dr. Nicol stated the Wednesday meeting in September could be added as a special to ensure the board is in compliance with the bylaw. If the board would like to vote to change the bylaw regarding how meetings are held, it would be reflected in the minutes that the Board would be modifying and adjusting the bylaws.

Dr. Young mentioned that because of Covid, the bylaw could be set aside. Ms. Picard-Wambolt countered by stating that the bylaw is specifically for this Board of Education and if the change of starting meetings at 5:00 p.m. versus the 7:00 p.m. time stated in the bylaw, the bylaw should be changed because of how both bylaws and policies read.

Ms. Dzen pointed out that the committee calendar showed scheduled committee meeting dates that were incorrect and/or fell on a day where a monthly board meeting was scheduled. Dr. Nicol responded that the specific dates in question would be amended and would resend the updated calendar to the board.

Operations

Committee Chair Socha began by stating that both she and Ms. Nord had a joint meeting. Ms. Socha provided updates on the priority number one of the ongoing fire door situation that is being addressed. Photos and specifics were given to board members, which illustrated minor details of labeling doors and others where cracks and gaps would cause a situation if there was a fire. A total of \$40,000.00 has been spent with a remaining \$135,000.00 to spend. Priority number two would be the repairs needed on the exterior of the Ellington High School auditorium. Priority number three is a replacement of the 2003 GMC pickup truck for a van with the cost of \$25,000.00. Priority number four is for school security based on the work of Mr. Greenleaf is in process and a “man trap” would be installed where a person would enter the first set of doors but would be locked in between the first and second set of doors. Camera installation would be required as well. Priority number five is the need of modern classroom furniture, beginning with the high school and middle school, to be replaced (i.e. desks, chairs) and would cost \$30,000.00 to cover five classrooms. Ventilation systems are continuing to be monitored, as the addition of air conditioning in common areas of school buildings are used for shelters, and the possibility of roof replacement, specifically Windermere. Ms. Socha called upon Mr. Greenleaf to clarify his previous comments regarding the cost of the Windermere construction project, and the cost of residential construction versus commercial construction. Mr. Greenleaf replied that he would provide the articles he was referencing to the Board.

Curriculum

Committee Chair Young reported on both October and November committee meetings. The October meeting discussed the Seeds of Civility and the upcoming election, as well

as the Ellington Middle School math curriculum. The November meeting included both the staff of Mr. Hendrickson and Dr. LaPorte to primarily speak about the social emotional learning with SEL specialist Mr. Solomon Leonard and BCBA Ms. Hope DeBour and the work they are doing in elementary schools with regard to social emotional learning. Both Mr. Leonard and Ms. DeBour are present with Dr. LaPorte's staff, with teachers and home visits on occasion.

Mr. Hendrickson added that based on last year's January PDEC meeting and the subsequent SEL type behavior subcommittee meetings non-negotiables were outlined with teachers about what those SEL positions would look like. Both Mr. Leonard and Ms. DeBour continued to follow through with what was described in their positions. Dr. Young continued by referencing Lori Purcuro and the SRBI tier intervention program and the efforts to align the programs across schools.

Dr. LaPorte addressed the Board by stating that the SEL specialist and BCBA would come and speak to the Board held regarding the new positions, and the changes with math and reading intervention that have come to fruition. Dr. LaPorte continued to say that her staff have worked hard to make sure that the Board's expectation is what will happen. Ms. Purcuro, Mr. Leonard and Ms. DeBour presented forms that will align with their positions and will work together to ensure the processes and forms are collaborative. Depending on the type of meeting- behavior invention or academic invention, the same processes are being used by Ms. Purcuro, Mr. Leonard and Ms. DeBour.

Dr. Young mentioned that the same language would be used (for students to describe social and emotional feelings) at the high school level as in elementary and middle school. Dr. LaPorte stated that the SEL coordinators and the SRBI coordinators at the elementary level will utilize the same language for those sixth grade students going into seventh grade and eighth grade students moving to ninth grade. In the elementary schools, the psychologists and the SEL coordinators send out a Friday email to teachers to help handle stress, ideas for stress relievers and sending out a positive message. It was questioned at a previous meeting by Ms. Picard-Wambolt if that would be something introduced to the middle and high school and Dr. LaPorte stated it was in development. Dr. Young concluded his report by stating that the efforts being made in math curriculum and social emotional learning within a chaotic age of teaching are remarkable.

Finance

Committee Chair Nord discussed the object summary report, highlighting the third item of the report which was non-certified substitutes. Ms. Nord continued that it needs to be certified substitute teachers and non-certified substitute teachers because it takes into account both. Mr. Purcaro asked Mr. Greenleaf for clarification that both of those line items (non-certified substitutes and certified substitute teachers) would be itemized separately, would not change the finances required of those line items and Mr. Greenleaf confirmed yes.

The five year capital plan would include the change of Windermere School if the vote should pass for the project; if not, then a roof replacement would be needed. The budget calendar presented differently this year which included input from staff, teachers and principals. The board will review what the administrators and teachers have compiled as priority for their school budgets for next year. A budget meeting workshop will be held with faculty, staff and administrators along with the Board of Education. The Superintendent will prepare the proposed budget and present that on a Saturday. The date of January 28, 2021, should be January 27, 2021; which January 27, 2021, was confirmed by Mr. Greenleaf as the correct date. Medical reserve account was presented by Mr. Greenleaf to the Board of Selectman in September 2020, which was passed to the Ordinance Committee in October 2020, which was then presented at a public hearing on November 9, 2020, and is now pending a town meeting in December. Mr. Greenleaf also presented it to the Board of Finance, and although a vote was not made, the topic was received positively.

Policy

None - Meeting scheduled for December 9, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Discussion of Early Release Wednesdays

Dr. Nicol expressed a great deal of consensus among teachers and administrators that the early release Wednesdays are critical and important to continue. As suggested by Ms. Picard-Wambolt, early release Wednesdays should continue as long as a distance

learning option for students is available. An email announcement would be made to parents and the community that early release Wednesdays would continue until the distance learning program is non-existent.

Ms. Dzen commented that teachers have needed this time on early release Wednesdays to work collaboratively with other teachers and use the time creatively, and the momentum of the early release Wednesdays should continue.

Ms. Underwood posed the question if the entire district was required to distance learn, would early release Wednesdays continue, in which Dr. Nicol responded that a discussion would be needed to come to that point and could be discussed in future board meeting workshops.

Appointment of Jennifer James (Acting Windermere Principal)

Jennifer James is currently the Assistant Principal at Windermere School and has proven to be a strong leader and have great communication with staff, students and their families. Jennifer Hill, Principal of Windermere School will be going on maternity leave and Mrs. James will be the acting Principal for Windermere School. Dr. Nicol stated that Ms. James is principal material and earned this role.

Ms. James thanked Dr Nicol for his support, explained that she is currently in her sixth year at Windermere and is excited to have a different temporary role to continue to support Windermere students and families. Ms. James was grateful and honored for the Board's consideration of the position, to continue the district and building work and maintaining the daily operations.

Ms. Socha and Ms. Kupferschmid commended Ms. James and have their support.

Ms. Dzen made the motion to approve Jennifer James as the Acting Principal of Windermere School commencing on or around January 4, 2021 through the end of Ms. Hill's maternity leave.

1st. J. Dzen

2nd. K. Socha

VOTE: Unanimous: The motion passed.

Appointment of James Harrison (Interim Windermere Assistant Principal)

Dr. Nicol began by stating the Windermere School would require additional administrative support in the absence of Ms. Hill. Windermere needs the support of an Interim Assistant Principal too. Dr. Nicol presented to the board Mr. James Harrison and fully disclosed that he and Mr. Harrison worked together at Vernon Center Middle School as assistant principals. Mr. Harrison's credentials included being a twenty year administrator with six years as principal of VCMS. Mr. Harrison has demonstrated a strong skill set with climate and culture, working well with students, parents and teachers. The agenda is to support Ms. James and Windermere School. Mr. Harrison began by stating that he retired a year and a half ago, however was honored for the opportunity. Mr. Harrison realizes the challenges of coming into a school as an interim administrator but is eager to help support Windermere staff and administrators, and work to the best of his ability.

Mr. Purcuro thanked Dr. Nicol for providing two fine candidates for the administrative positions, disclosed that he also worked with Mr. Harrison at VCMS and is very happy about the selection this evening. Ms. Underwood commented that she too worked with Mr. Harrison, along with Dr. Nicol, as an assistant principal at VCMS and feels that he would be a great fit with teachers and staff and is very easy to work with. Ms. Nord welcomed Mr. Harrison to the Ellington community.

Ms. Kupferschmid made the motion to approve James Harrison as Interim Assistant Principal of Windermere School commencing on or around January 4, 2021, to the end of Ms. Hill's maternity leave.

1st. M. Kupferschmid

2nd. M. Young

VOTE: Unanimous: The motion passed.

Discussion of Superintendent Goals 2020 - 2021

Dr. Nicol stated that the goals presented are a precursor to the December 2, 2020, Board of Education Workshop that will illustrate how changes will continue in school improvement planning, district improvement planning and Superintendent goal development. More layers of process will be included based on teacher feedback and the inclusion of the Board and their understanding of the processes. Dr. Nicol continued

to highlight from the presented draft the bullet points from the written evaluation provided by the Board. At the December 2, 2020, Board of Education Workshop, with the central office leadership team present, the Board participated in activities around the Superintendent goals.

Dr. Young requested clarification by Dr. Nicol regarding SBAC and SAT testing in the spring. Dr. Nicol responded yes, however, has not determined exactly how those tests would be measured. Due to Covid, students did not take those tests last spring 2020. Ms. Nord proposed prior to the meeting on December 2, 2020 a discussion of how to measure the objectives and goals of testing, in which Dr. Nicol agreed.

Directors' Reports

Monthly Financial Report - Mr. Greenleaf

Mr. Greenleaf reported that one item on the report was the group insurance line and made adjustments in the journal entry to move those items to the appropriate liability account. Line item 210 group insurance was now under the appropriate account. One item added was the object 122 non-certified substitutes which included substitutes for certified staff. Substitute coverage continues to be a challenge for the district therefore the number of permanent substitutes has increased. The investment of increasing permanent substitutes made the encumbrance balance to be over. However savings from leaves of absence from staff that are unpaid show the balance of \$118,000.00, which will continue to be reviewed over time. Covid related expenditures are being developed to be put on a journal entry in which the transfer of some would go to grant accounts. The total of \$190,000.00 would be moved into the ESSER grants as well as the CRF grants.

Mr. Purcuro thanked Mr. Greenleaf for the budget journal entry reports, which the Board will use to help develop a budget based on what is actually used and needed for the upcoming fiscal year. The journal entry line items presented were from 10/1/2020 - 10/31/2020 but the cumulative totals twenty-two items, Mr. Greenleaf confirmed yes. Mr. Greenleaf pointed out that the report also shows budget entries for grant accounts and the first four digits of "1000" is our fund for the general fund; a "1000" on the front pertains to the Board of Education budget. Those "2330" reflect the special revenue account and not within the general fund. The report shows both general and non general fund budget transfers.

Discussion of Coordinator of Human Resources Job Description - Ms. Brown

Dr. Nicol began by stating that the central office had hired a consultant, Rebecca Adams, who previously worked as an attorney at CABE and is currently a Human Resource Director at another school district. Dr. Nicol continued to explain that an assessment was made of how human resource work in Ellington is done. The need of a Human Resource Coordinator position was asked to be considered by the board. Dr. Nicol stated that the absence of the position has impacted all the central office departments in different ways. The job of central office is to support the schools, however the overwhelming amount of work being undertaken is impacting its efficiency.

The central office has a group of individuals who are extremely dedicated and hard working but the workload has increased substantially due to the Covid crisis. Dr. Nicol asked the Board with the full understanding that the best way to hire new positions is through the budgetary process, but that this would be an exception based on the need of the central office. Dr. Nicol, with the approval of the Board, suggested the start date of the position on July 1, 2021, but if the finances would allow, earlier if possible. Dr. Nicol recommended the consideration of the Board.

Mr. Purcaro thanked Dr. Nicol for the introduction. Mr. Purcuro stated that it's highly unusual to approve a new position mid-year without a very compelling case as to the need of the position. Based on what was presented, and the growing size of the district, the need is evident. Mr. Purcuro continued by stating by way of process it was the intent of the administration plea to post the position immediately. Dr. Nicol's response was no; he would continue to monitor finances on a monthly basis with the intention if the finances allow posting the position early 2021. If the finances are not available it would post the position competitively July 2021 and follow the processes by posting both internally and externally. Consulting with Mr. Greenleaf, determining if the finances could include the hiring of the new position is premature at this time.

Ms. Kupferschmid recognized the amount of work Ms. Brown undertakes and truly supported the effort of her and the new position.

Ms. Underwood questioned that the Coordinator of Human Resources job description lacked the educational qualifications for the position. Also the reference of Covid of which may be irrelevant to the position in the future.

Mr. Purcuro inquired about the description of the position presented as it was more of a summary versus a description and requirements. Ms. Brown responded with the confirmation of the addition of educational qualifications and offered to make the detail more concise.

Ms. Nord commented that the position would need job specification and educational expectations. Ms. Nord continued by stating that Ms. Brown currently has a salary agreement as the Assistant to the Superintendent and Human Resources Coordinator. Ms. Brown replied that currently her position was a 2.0 FTE position and with the growing needs of the district and the current pandemic situation, the workload is not sustainable for one person. Ms. Nord responded that the budget process has not been finalized with an emphasis on decreasing class size. Therefore based on the current information she did not feel the Board is to make this a definitive position.

Dr. Young spoke in favor of the position and believes that the position should be a priority and supports it. In addition to comments by Ms. Underwood regarding educational requirements, Dr. Young proposed continued education as well. Also to amend Ms. Brown's job description and what the duties of that position include.

Ms. Socha spoke of her concerns where the job position presented to the Board did not include enough information to make an informed decision to vote upon. Ms. Socha continued that there are other items to consider for the budget that may become a priority. Ms. Socha supported the new position, however not voting on it at this time.

Mr. Blanchette strongly supported the new position, and felt it was a disservice to Ms. Brown to expect the additional duties to be given to her already high workload. Mr. Blanchette strongly recommended the position be filled as soon as possible. Ms. Picard-Wambolt agreed with Mr. Blanchette and would like to see the position filled as soon as possible.

Dr. Young inquired about modifying the language of the motion to more align with what was presented by the Superintendent. Stating that filling the new position is contingent on available funds; and changing the start date from July 1, 2021, to as soon as possible.

Mr. Purcuro stated that he supports the position, however, the presentation of the job description did not meet his standard for a job description and requested more

information and detail of the position. Ms. Socha agreed and explained that how the job position was presented, she was unable to vote without all the information.

Mr. Purcuro inquired about the work of Ms. Adams and did she help guide some of the human resource processes. Ms. Brown responded that her assistance was to look at how the central office operates, how the district operates with human resources and streamlined other aspects of the office. Specifically with the Human Resources Coordinator position in other offices comparatively to the need of Ellington's central office and an overview of their whole system.

Ms. Nord stated her support of the position but needed to look into the logistics of the position perhaps in a Wednesday workshop meeting.

Dr. Young motioned to table action item #4 of the approval of the Coordinator of Human Resources position and move it to the December Board of Education meeting.

1st. M. Young

2nd. M. Underwood

VOTE: Unanimous:

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Underwood attended a CABE webinar for disaster psychology presented by Dr. Johnson out of New Haven. One point that resonated was the need to keep in communication with all segments of the community, especially the homeschooling community in Ellington. In consulting with Mr. Hendrickson, Ms. Underwood has tried to come up with a plan to reach out to the homeschooled families. Dr. Young commented that legally the need of communication with homeschooling family's needs to be clear. Mr. Hendrickson stated that this is a sensitive topic in the homeschooling community, that most families prefer to be independent and acknowledged that Ellington has three times more students homeschooled than in previous years. However most do plan on returning.

Mr. Purcuro announced that CABE Leadership Convention would be hosting a virtual delegate assembly on Thursday, November 19, 2020. Mr. Purcuro will report to the Board what the legislative priorities are for the upcoming legislative session at the end of the delegate assembly. Lastly the Connecticut Conference and Municipalities conference will be held virtually in December along with Mr. Mike Frieda, current

president of CCM, Fran Rabinowitz from CAPPs, and Patrice McCarthy from CABA to discuss town and Board of Education relations, shared services and ways to work together and meet the needs of the community.

Ms. Kupferschmid appreciated the Wednesday board workshop meetings. Spoke with Mr. Verderame of Center School and a Thanksgiving drive was held with monetary donations being accepted.

Mr. Blanchette was unable to attend the CREC meeting held today due to technical difficulties.

Student representative Ayushman Choudhury recognized Ellington Middle School Diversity Committee and Social Justice Club which focus on the use of kind language during this school year.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Move that the Board of Education accept, with regret and best wishes, the retirement request of Rebecca Wentworth, Teacher at Center School, effective December 18, 2020.

1st. L. Nord

2nd. J. Dzen

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

2. Move that the Board of Education approve the 2021 Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule.

1st. J. Dzen

2nd. L. Nord

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

3. Move that the Board of Education approve the District Improvement Plan 2020-2021.

1st. M. Kupferschmid

2nd. M. Young

VOTE: Unanimous: The motion passed.

4. Move the Board of Education table motion of approval of the Coordinator of Human Resources position.

1st. M. Young

2nd. M. Underwood

VOTE: Motion tabled until December Board of Education meeting.

5. Move to add that the Board of Education approve the budget calendar for 2021-2022

1st. M. Young

2nd. L. Nord

VOTE: Unanimous: The motion passed.

6. Move to add that the Board of Education approve the budget guidelines for 2021-2022.

1st. L. Nord

2nd. J. Dzen

VOTE: Unanimous: The motion passed.

7. Move that the Board of Education approve the Capital Improvement Plan 2021-2026.

1st. L. Nord

2nd. M. Kupferschmid

VOTE: Unanimous: The motion passed.

8. Move that the Board of Education approve the budget calendar for 2021-2022 recommended by the Finance and Operations Committees as amended.

1st. J. Dzen

2nd. M. Underwood

VOTE: Unanimous: The motion passed.

9. Move that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2022 budget guidelines as approved by the Finance and Operations Committees.

1st. J. Dzen

2nd. L. Nord

VOTE: Unanimous: The motion passed.

10. Move that the Board of Education approve the 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Plan as approved by the Finance and Operations Committees

1st. L. Nord

2nd. K. Socha

VOTE: Unanimous: The motion passed.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Socha expressed her frustration and concerns about the current class size for silver distance learning students, specifically the fifth grade class. Her main concern is the disadvantage that this particular group has for the teacher having to schedule over thirty parent teacher conferences, and that these students are not receiving fair access to education or the same resources as other students. Dr. Nicol requested a response from Mr. Hendrickson, who then presented the current number of in person students versus distance learning students for each grade. Mr. Hendrickson continued that if a student required specialized education (i.e. IEP), math or reading intervention, or the assistance of the SEL specialists, those needs would be and continue to be communicated to students and their families currently in the silver enrollment group. Mr. Purcuro respectfully proposed that the administration prepare current enrollment numbers for both in person students and distance learning students, to be presented for the next Wednesday workshop meeting.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session at: 8:43 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE/ROUNDTABLE

None

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

1st. K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. M. Underwood

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Picard Wambolt
Secretary