

Board of Education

Ellington, CT

August 11, 2020

A special meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at the Ellington High School Media Center, 37 Maple Street, Ellington, CT.

Present were: Mr. Purcaro, Blanchette and Young; Ms. Kupferschmid, Dzen, Nord, Socha, Underwood and Picard-Wambolt.

Administration in attendance were Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. John Collins, Director of Technology; Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations; Mr. Brian Hendrickson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Rebecca Gonzalez, Director of Facilities; Mr. Mike Nash, Co-Principal, Ellington Middle School; Ms. Michele Murray, Co-Principal, Ellington Middle School; Mr. Mike Verderame, Principal, Center School; Ms. Jenn Hill, Principal, Windermere School; Ms. Melissa Haberern, Special Education Supervisor; Mr. Brandon Hubrins, Assistant Principal, Ellington High School; Ms. Sara Spak, Special Education Supervisor; Dr. Sue Nash-Ditzel, Principal, Crystal Lake School and Ms. Jen James, Assistant Principal, Windermere School.

Also in attendance was Ms. Jennifer Brown, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Human Resources Coordinator, Mr. Mark Mahler, Teacher and Ms. Katie Herrity, Teacher.

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Mr. Purcaro, Chairman.

Mr. Purcaro and Dr. Nicol opened the meeting thanking the Board and Administration for attending the workshop. Purpose of the meeting is to ensure that the Board is making the most informed decision possible.

I. Workshop: Reopening 2020-2021

Dr. Nicol started the presentation with an overview of key strategies and targeted communications to date on reopening for the 2020-2021 school year. As of right now the state will not allow for full-distance remote (absent a waiver from CSDE).

Options for schools districts include a full return to school or a hybrid return to school. All parents have the option to choose full distance learning as well.

A review of the schedule as well as benefits and concerns were discussed. Grouping assignments would consider siblings, special education, 504 plans, class sizing and class scheduling.

During the hybrid model discussed Wednesdays will be a remote learning day for all students. Discussions around technical equipment for remote learning, cohort models including half school or half classroom, and survey results were discussed.

The first week back to school will be half days and a full hybrid week will begin the following week. An evaluation of the model will occur on September 28 with the goal to return to full return to school Monday, October 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Picard-Wambolt
Secretary