

Board of Education

Ellington, Connecticut

August 25, 2021

A regular meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Windermere School Cafeteria, 2 Abbott Road, Ellington, CT.

Present were: Mr. Blanchette and Young; Ms. Dzen, Kupferschmid, Picard-Wambolt, Moser, Nord, Mullin, Socha, and Underwood (via video conference), and Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools.

Administration present were: Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations and Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services.

Also in attendance: Ms. Jennifer Brown, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent; Mr. John Collins, outgoing Director of Information and Technology; Mr. Aaron Fliss, incoming Director of Information and Technology; and Madeleine (Maddie) Willett, Appointed Board of Education Student Representative.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Ms. Dzen, Chairwoman. (00:21:56)

Pledge of Allegiance (00:22:09)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION _____(00:22:37)

EDUinnovate Grant Recipients - Mr. Jon Moser and Mr. Jeff McMeans

Dr. Nicol requested Mr. John Moser, President of EDUinnovate and Mr. Jeff McMeans presented to the Board of Education the EDUinnovate grant recipients.

Mr. Moser thanked the Board of Education and explained that the purpose of EDUinnovate was to support Ellington public schools and provide funding for teachers applying for grants to fund innovative projects with their students. The Board of EDUinnovate reviews the applications and selects those that fit the criteria for approval. The EDUinnovate foundation has collected \$850,000.00 to date with the goal of reaching \$1,000,000.00 to continue to support Ellington teachers. Mr. Moser continued to thank those teachers who applied, and the administrative teams, Dr. Nicol, Mr.

Greenleaf and EPS principals that have supported the EDUinnovate foundation. EDUinnovate mission would be to continue to focus on the positive offering in the Ellington Public Schools and how to continue to provide further support to teachers.

Mr. McMeans requested Briane Malone, Buffet Harris-Fogarty, Gomathi Ramacha and Jennifer Melnick four teachers to come forward for recognition. Mr. McMeans stated that one thousand dollars would be granted to the Seeds of Civility garden, five thousand dollars would be granted to a laser printer, and as well as a few other projects. Mr. McMeans stated that twelve thousand dollars had been provided for teachers through EDUinnovate this year.

Mr. Moser announced that an auction to continue to support the EDUinnovate foundation would be held in October and information to parents and students would be forthcoming.

Ms. Dzen thanked Mr. Moser for the work he and EDUinnovate have provided for teachers and students of Ellington.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT (0:27:28)

Ms. Dzen began her report with updated information of Ellington Public Schools safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of service plan. The service plan version 1.0 was built off the original plan which was adopted July 20, 2020. The original service plan was created under previous Board of Education Chair Michael Purcaro, with guidance and input from senior local and state medical and public health officials and advisors. Dr. Matthew Carter, State of Connecticut epidemiologist; Dr. Lynn Sosa, Deputy State epidemiologist; Dr. Deirdre Gifford, current State Public Health Commissioner; Patrice Sulik, Director of the North Central Health District provided guidance to the service plan. Dr. Daksh Rampal, Physician of Priority Urgent Care In Ellington led a nationally recognized Covid vaccine program. In addition to input from medical professionals, the Board of Education participated in local leadership conference calls directly with the White House, public health and medical leaders from the Center of Disease Control (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Health and Human Services (HHS). Valued input was received from EPS professional and licensed school nurses who actively participated and collaborated in the transparent process. Ms. Dzen thanked Mr. Purcaro and Mr. Greenleaf and his staff who diligently created this service plan which offered a solid foundation to current plans. Mr. Dzen reported that continued guidance from officials and advisors would ensure the health and safety of all students, their families, and staff.

Before reviewing information along with other agenda items, Ms. Dzen thanked the over sixty parents, grandparents and Ellington citizens who contacted the Board of Education to share their thoughts, their feelings, their research and their ideas of the fall school reopening plan. Ms. Dzen appreciated those who felt disappointment in the service the Board of Education had provided thus far as there was opportunity for the Board to reflect on past practices, recognize areas of improvement, and change what was necessary for the betterment of children. Positive dialogue and active listening would be facilitated to gain understanding of each person's perspective.

CITIZENS AND STAFF FORUM _____ (00:30:46)

Ms. Dzen announced that the Citizen and Staff Forum was an opportunity for the Board of Education to listen to citizens and staff within approximately five minutes to address the Board of Education. Those who were to address the Board and comfortable to do so, could remove their mask when speaking.

Ms. Nicole Roy addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Roy opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools and presented a petition of over three hundred seventy signatures in addition to relevant articles printed and emailed to the Board of Education for their consideration.

Ms. Emily Henderson was unable to attend therefore Ms. Katie Kessel would address the Board of Education on behalf of Ms. Henderson. In the statement presented to the Board by Ms. Kessel, Ms. Henderson opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Ms. Marissa Coles addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Coles opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Ms. Holly Godek addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Godick opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Mr. Ryan McCook addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Mr. McCook was in favor of all Ellington Public School students to continue to wear masks in public schools.

Ms. Saraswathi addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Saraswath spoke on behalf of thirty families and was in favor of all Ellington Public School students to continue to wear masks in public schools.

Ms Jessica Faye addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Faye was in favor of all Ellington Public School students to continue to wear masks in public schools.

Mr. Ben Mund addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Mr. Mund was in favor of all Ellington Public School students to continue to wear masks in public schools.

Ms. Charlotte Ward addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Ward was in favor of all Ellington Public School students to continue to wear masks in public schools.

Ms. Elizabeth Stone addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Stone opposed the current masking guidelines in Ellington Public Schools and felt it was the parents' choice to make that decision.

Mr. Sam Chang addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Mr. Chang opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Mr. Nick Sackandy addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Mr. Sackandy opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Ms. Dawn Wynans addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Wynans opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Ms. Emily Wynans addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. As a current high school student, Ms. Wynans opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Ms. Sarah Poulin addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Poulin stated page four of the Ellington Board of Education's Code of Ethics which states that members of the Board would advocate for free public education for all students in Connecticut and think of children first. Based on current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools, Ms. Poulin was opposed for the practice of masking students to continue.

Mr. Rob Bora addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Mr. Bora opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Mr. Jeff Lemalva addressed the Board of Education on behalf of his daughter, Ms. Meredith Lemalva. In the statement presented to the Board by Mr. Lemalva, Ms. Lemalva opposed the termination of Windermere teacher Maura Klezsewski and was disappointed in how the process and decision was made.

Mr. Gary Gardner addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Mr. Gardner opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Ms. Kristen Deptula addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Deptula stated her concern with communication between the Board of Education and families of Ellington, including input from the district's medical advisor. Ms. Deptula was in favor of all Ellington Public School students to continue to wear masks in public schools.

Mr. Aaron Foster addressed the Board of Education in regards to a previous email to the families of Ellington from the superintendent discussing confusion regarding mitigation strategies. Mr. Foster appreciated the follow up email from Mr. Greenleaf, and suggested that the Board and superintendent actively consult the district's medical advisor prior to mass email communication shared to Ellington families.

Mr. Jason Josefiak addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Mr. Josefiak opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Ms. Carol Baker addressed the Board of Education with the topic of unmasking school children in Ellington Public Schools. Ms. Baker opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Ms. Beverly Russo, of Lanz Lane, addressed the Board of Education in regards to parents being prohibited from entering public schools and not a part of their children's education process. Ms. Russo was reminded by Board Chair Dzen that the five minute time limit had expired, and would allow an additional thirty seconds. Ms Russo strongly opposed the current masking guidelines implemented in Ellington Public Schools.

Ms. Dzen thanked all citizens for their comments and announced a brief recess for the Board of Education meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA (0)

1. Approval of the minutes from the July 21, 2021 Regular BOE Meeting.
2. Acceptance of the resignation of Kristine O'Donnell, Special Education Teacher at Crystal Lake, effective July 30, 2021.
3. Acceptance of the resignation of Marissa LaPlante, part-time Special Education Aide, effective August 2, 2021.
4. Acceptance of the resignation of Kris Mjos, part-time Special Education Aide, effective August 10, 2021.
5. Acceptance of the resignation of Kaila Morrow, Special Education Aide, effective August 19, 2021.
6. Acceptance of the employment of Lisa Polack, Library Media Specialist at Center School, effective August 20, 2021.
7. Approval of the employment of Joshua Farris, English Teacher at Ellington High School, effective August 30, 2021.
8. Approval of the employment of Ryan Matthews, Special Education Teacher at Crystal Lake School, effective August 30, 2021.
9. Approval of the employment of Jill Monck, Grade 3 Teacher at Windermere School, effective August 30, 2021.
10. Approval of the employment of Charlene Records, Special Education Teacher at Crystal Lake School, effective August 30, 2021.

11. Approval of the employment of Karen Blain, Special Education Aide at Ellington High School, effective September 2, 2021.

12. Approval of the employment of Ricardo Collazo, Cafeteria/Recess Aide at Windermere School, effective September 2, 2021.

13. Approval of the employment of Caitlin Harris, Food Service Worker at Ellington Middle School, effective September 2, 2021.

14. Approval of the employment of Nicole Laffin, Food Service Worker at Ellington High School, effective September 2, 2021.

15. Approval of the employment of Nicole Stewart, Food Service Worker at Ellington Middle School, effective September 2, 2021.

Ms. Dzen asked if anyone wished to remove any item from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Dzen announced that hearing none, the Consent Agenda is accepted as written.

REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS (02:34:00)

Special Reports

Introduction of new Director of Technology & Information (Aaron Fliss) - Mr. Collins, Current Director of Technology & Information

Mr. Collins introduced Mr. Aaron Fliss as Ellington Public Schools' new Director of Technology and Information. Mr. Collins was pleased to have the opportunity of working with Mr. Fliss over the past three years and was an integral part of the technology and information team. Mr. Fliss assisted in the successful rollout of Infinite Campus over the past eighteen months and has dealt with challenges head on. Mr. Collins was pleased to pass the reins over to Mr. Fliss knowing that the technology department would be successful going forward.

Mr. Fliss thanked Mr. Collins for his continued support and was excited to step into his new role of Director of Technology and Information. Mr. Fliss stated that there were district initiatives which would be carried forward based on the foundation that Mr. Collins had developed over the past fifteen years.

A motion was made that the Board of Education approve Aaron Fliss as Director of Technologies effective August 30, 2021, recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

1st. L. Nord 2nd. M. Young

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Ms. Dzen congratulated Mr. Fliss and welcomed him to the new position of Director of Technology.

Health Update on 2021-2022 Opening - Mr.Mr. Greenleaf, Director of Finance & Operations (02:37:49)

Prior to Mr. Greenleaf's report, Dr. Nicol publicly recognized all citizens that commented at the Board of Education meeting and appreciated all comments presented. Dr. Nicol stated it was an honor and privilege to serve as Superintendent and was aware that the Board of Education members were invested in serving the Ellington community. Although challenging decisions would ultimately need to be discussed, dialogue between the Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools and the Ellington community would continue in a productive and respectful way.

Mr. Greenleaf began his report in reference to the reopening plan email that was sent to the Ellington community based on consultation with the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Education. Mr. Greenleaf discussed the areas of focus for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Holistic approach to ensure the safety of staff, students and their families.
2. Following medical experts, the State Department of Public Health, the local health department and listening to their guidance without going too far beyond it.
3. Maintaining transparency and communication to the Ellington community.

Mr. Greenleaf continued that the reopening plan contains a broader framework with policies in plan which would be implemented at the school level. Many individuals collaborated with the 2020-2021 reopening plan (i.e. school nurses, school administration, custodians, teachers, paraprofessionals, etc.) which resulted in schools not being a large vector of the spread of Covid-19, whereas most of the spread was found in the broader community. The 2021-2022 reopening plan was similar to the previous with a few changes based on the current stage of the pandemic the community was now in. One change to note was extensive cleaning and sanitization (i.e. classrooms) as the guidelines have determined that Covid-19 would be spread more by respiratory droplets than touching surfaces. Cleaning and sanitizing would continue to occur in heavy duty areas such as nurse's offices and bathrooms. The contact definitions changed where the CDC put forth an exemption for students in classrooms; rather than six feet for fifteen minutes between students, the guideline now stated three feet between masked students was acceptable, and masks were not required for students when outside.

Ms. Picard-Wambolt requested clarification in regards to the distance requirements for students. Mr. Greenleaf replied that guidelines were still six feet or more to be considered a close contact however the exemption being with student to student within the classroom setting.

Ms. Nord stated that if there was a Covid-19 case within an elementary classroom, that entire classroom would be required to quarantine. Mr. Greenleaf responded that as with last year administration would look at each positive case and the specifics of each positive case and based on six foot setting requirements were unable to make a determination of which student may or may not have been a close contact, therefore the entire class was required to quarantine. This year's guidance of three feet, within students wearing masks, may or may not require an entire class to quarantine.

Ms. Mullin inquired if legally administrations were allowed to ask who may be vaccinated in a situation where several students may be required to quarantine, keeping that information on the student's record which would save time for administration and nurses gathering the contact tracing information. Mr. Greenleaf replied that it would be an option to inquire to staff and families if a situation arises where multiple individuals were required to quarantine, and the individuals could provide evidence of vaccination in compliance with definitions established by the State Department of Public Health and CDC.

Ms. Underwood (via video conference) inquired how required quarantined students would receive instruction. Mr. Greenleaf replied that a multifaceted plan (including synchronous and asynchronous learning) would be divided by grade band due to varied expectations amongst grade levels. Detailed information of this plan would be communicated to Board members and the Ellington school community.

Ms. Socha asked Mr. Greenleaf if a student was not vaccinated would they be required to quarantine if they were contract traced under this plan, in which Mr. Greenleaf confirmed based on current guidelines. Ms. Socha questioned if students had to be remote based on their medical status, would those students be treated fairly in their education.

Dr. Nicol responded by explaining the State of Connecticut's position appears to be based on the science they have reported that the overall health (vaccinated versus unvaccinated) of the school district is prioritized over the education a quarantined student would receive. Ms. Socha inquired if the state policy contradicts the Board of Education policy of discriminating against students based on their medical history, where in turn could result in bullying amongst students. Would the Board of Education

be liable due to creating an environment of vaccinated students versus non vaccinated students. Ms. Dzen explained that the Board of Education would consult with the Board of Education attorney to determine the correct course of action.

Dr. Young asked Ms. Socha from her conflicts of law training would state law override Board policies, in which Ms. Socha stated that state law would override Board policies however those laws could be challenged. However, clarification would be needed to determine if executive orders by the Governor override those state laws. Ms. Nord inquired about HIPPA laws to which Mr. Greenleaf responded that medical records would not be disclosed based on medical history or vaccination status. Dr. Young questioned why vaccine status would be discussed and the presence of antibodies was more important. Mr. Greenleaf explained that based on the guidance, there were two ways that individuals would not be quarantined based on contact tracing: If the individual was vaccinated or if the individual tested positive for Covid-19 within the past ninety days.

Mr. Greenleaf, stating that he was not a public health expert, explained based on the data that individuals who may have the presence of antibodies would not necessarily be a good indicator of whether or not an individual could contract Covid-19 as it depends on a variety of factors.

Ms. Picard-Wambolt addressed the topic of bullying that Ms. Socha had previously discussed and unfortunately students may bully other students for any reason or no reason.

Ms. Dzen stated that the Board attorney would be consulted on the concerns discussed and Mr. Greenleaf reiterated that if there were any individual bullying incidents within the schools to which schools are made aware of, a response to that incident would be made based on the framework and policies that have been set forth and the state laws that are currently in place.

Dr. Young inquired on the outdoor space usage for the school year based on discussion by the citizen forum. Mr Greenleaf explained that the tents currently at each school would be utilized for additional lunch spaces, music instruction, and the expansion of each school's WIFI signal would allow outside instruction for all grade levels to occur. Ms. Dzen requested clarification that music programs did occur last year, to which Mr. Greenleaf stated that more opportunities occurred at the high school level, however this year music would continue to occur amongst all schools.

Ms. Moser thanked Mr. Greenleaf for his responses to all the Board members' questions.

Ms. Dzen inquired if the periodic review process could be adjusted at any time or if the timeline must be followed. Mr. Greenleaf explained that the periodic review process in the document was set forth by the State and Federal Governments and requirements for the ARP Esser Grant. However, as guidance changes, the periodic review process could be reviewed and an interim version number could be assigned.

Ms. Dzen questioned Mr. Greenleaf if he was aware of any mitigation strategy that included individuals taking a holistic approach (i.e more exercise, healthy diet, vitamin C, etc.) as a precaution. Mr. Greenleaf responded that he had not, however performing those suggestions would be good for overall health.

Ms. Nord inquired if another vaccination clinic would be available for teachers to which Mr. Greenleaf stated that more information regarding clinics would be forthcoming.

Regular Board Committee Reports

(03:06:27)

Curriculum

Committee Chair Young reported that the Curriculum Committee met on Tuesday August 17, 2021, where three items were discussed with sub items.

The first item was data visualizations where the technology staff would create dashboards for teachers to view trends in individual student data, trends for the school, trends for a program, trends for specific students, etc. Mr. Fliss would complete tableau training related to Infinite Campus to incorporate data visualizations. Committee Chair Young thanked the technology department for keeping the priority of Infinite Campus to which data visualizations would be utilized despite all the emergency responses of Covid-19

The second item was an update on three ongoing initiatives. The first sub-item included social emotional learning (SEL) with children and the involvement in a Yale University program called the RULER program which would assist in the transitioning of remote learning to in-person learning. The second sub-item on initiatives was continued work of tiered supports (i.e. Scientific Response Based Interventions or SRBI) to standardize the work utilized to create tiered support for students and identifying students by including cut scores.

The third sub-item was discussion of the high school accreditation process NEASC, where Ellington High School completed its eighth of a ten year accreditation process, a self study would begin in the fall with committees in place and feedback would be provided in March 2022.

The third item on the Curriculum Committee agenda was the planning for quarantines using a strategic approach to adjust to remote learning. Teachers would receive more information and instruction during upcoming professional development dates.

Mr. Barton added that the planning for remote instruction would be based on the knowledge of partial classes out on quarantine, smaller groups of students out for shorter defined periods of time, and common expectations across all the schools. When a student would be required to quarantine, video or live instruction would occur along with some asynchronous or independent work from students and regular feedback from teachers to respond to a student's work, progress and answer questions a student may have. This approach would look different across grade bands and principals would present a preliminary plan to teachers.

Committee Chair Young continued with an additional agenda item discussed which was the state assessment data and what could be learned from an unusual testing period. One positive result was that the suspected learning loss that students nationally experienced was not as severe as anticipated and within the district one level change was happening to roughly less than ten percent of our students. Committee Chair Young stated that the data was not interpretable due to the circumstances in which the tests were taken.

Ms. Socha inquired about the proficiency of remote students versus in-person students. Committee Chair Young stated that seventy four percent of remote students maintained proficiency or moved up a level. Mr. Barton stated that the in-person percentages vary by grade level due to several factors and there was no definitive pattern one way or the other.

A motion was made that the Board of Education extend the August 25, 2021, meeting by an additional thirty minutes.

1st. M. Young

2nd. A. Moser

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Policy

Committee Chair Picard-Wambolt reported that the Policy Committee met on Monday, August 16, 2021, and seven updated policies would be presented to the Board of Education for first reading. Committee Chair Picard-Wambolt reported that the first agenda item discussed was the revised Policy 1110.1 - Communications with the Public which was a recent legislative change in response of the Covid-19 pandemic, which read that the two annual required parent-teacher conferences can be filled by use of telephone, video or other conferencing platforms. Also an additional parent-teacher conference in addition to the two already required will be conducted during periods of remote learning for more than three consecutive weeks and then an additional parent-teacher conference every six months thereafter for the duration of the remote learning. Committee Chair Picard-Wambolt stated that the committee discussed the implementation of a change of work conditions to which a change was not necessary based on input from Dr. Nicol.

Second policy revision was for Policy 4118.11 - Nondiscrimination, which was an update in legal references.

Third policy revision was for Policy 4212.42 - Requirements for School Bus Drivers, which reflects a recent legislative change which now required transportation contractors to include in their drug and alcohol testing program pre-employment and annual query of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's drug and alcohol clearinghouse. This comprehensive database would document any and all issues for all employees and would require transportation companies to check prior to hiring an employee but yearly as well.

Fourth policy revision was for Policy 5113 - Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal, which reflects recent legislative changes in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The first change was added language regarding remote learning. If a student was remotely engaged for not less than half of a school day they are considered present. The way the policy reads was that the students are not excluded from the definitions of excused absence or unexcused absences. The engagement during remote learning included remote classes, remote meetings, activities on time logged electronic systems and completion and submission of assignments. As a committee it was discussed that the accountability may be difficult to determine and difficult to monitor however the legislation provided the update. The second change was in regards to mental health days. Students enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade could now take up to two mental health days per school year and would be considered excused absence. This absence was to permit the student to attend to his or her emotional and psychological well-being in lieu of attending school. A student would not be permitted to take the two

mental health days on consecutive school days and if taken these mental health days would be counted as part of, not in addition to, their nine allowable excused absences.

Fifth policy revision was Policy 5113.2 - Truancy, which was similar to the above policy. When calculating the district's chronic absenteeism rate and the school chronic absenteeism rate a student's engagement in the remote learning if it's for not less than one half of one day can not count toward chronic absenteeism as well as taking the two mental health days can not count toward chronic absenteeism.

Sixth policy revision was Policy 5131.911 - Bullying, which reflected legislative changes and was in the makeup of the safe school climate committee. It was now required that there would be at least one teacher on the committee selected by the exclusive bargaining unit, medical or mental health personnel would be required to be on the committee and at the high school level, at least one student currently enrolled at the school would need to be on the committee.

Seventh policy revision was Policy 0200 - Goals and Objectives, which adopted a sample policy from CAFE to replace current policy which states that districts include social and emotional learning within their written goals and objectives, based on the legislative change.

Communications

Committee Chair Mullin reported that the Communications Committee met on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, and the primary focus was the 2021-2022 school year and the Behind the Scenes with the BOE. Mr. Hubrins was in attendance at the committee meeting and he reported that the AV Club had fifteen students and five teachers and were excited to begin the work of the show in production, editing, etc. The district videographer had committed to teaching the students the equipment and how to produce videos. In addition, the introduction of a Spotlight piece which would highlight a student, parent or teacher. The next episode would be tentatively at the end of September.

Operations

No updates at this time

Finance

No updates at this time

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Superintendent's Report _____ (03:27:10)

Dr. Nicol reported that Board members were invited to visit Ellington Schools on the first day of school. Ms. Jenn Brown would contact board members if they are interested in participating.

Directors' Reports _____

Monthly Financial Report: Mr. Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations (03:28:23)

Mr. Greenleaf reported that for fiscal year 2021 it was expected a return of four hundred eight two thousand dollars (\$482,000.00) to the town of Ellington which was more than anticipated and when presenting to the Board of Finance it would be requested to set money aside into the medical reserve account. For the current year, purchasing was ongoing in addition to new hires to the district.

Ms. Nord questioned how much was in the medical reserve account to which Mr. Greenleaf responded two hundred and thirty thousand dollars (\$230,000.00)

Board Liaison Report _____ (03:30:28)

Board of Education Student Representative Ms. Willet reported positive feedback and comments on the success of Graduation 2021 and its momentum has continued in the upcoming senior class and their excitement of being all back together. Link leaders were preparing for the upcoming freshman class orientation and looking forward to welcoming the newest class to Ellington High School. Since May, Ms. Willet had heard classmates express their enthusiasm for a variety of new courses added at Ellington High School.

Center School Liaison Kupferschmid reported the principal was appreciative of the new signs and Gaga pit approved by the Board of Education. Ms. Kupferschmid had the opportunity to tour the BASES facility and felt it would be a great addition to special education.

Board of Selectmen Liaison Dzen reported that the Board of Selectmen meeting was held on August 9, 2021 and the Board unanimously voted to start a shared services committee for the town with six members on that committee, three of them would be from the town one of which would be the Chair as well as one from the Board of Finance, one from the Board of Education, and one from the Board of Selectmen with more information to come.

Board of Finance Liaison Nord reported the requested involvement of the Covid recovery money however the Board of Selectman had an ordinance that the town had to approve for them to be able to decide what to with said money, and Chair Dzen stated that the Board of Selectman decided to revise the motion and include the Board of Finance.

CABE Liaison Picard-Wambolt reported early registration was open until 4:00 p.m. on October 15, 2021, for the CABE CAPS Convention 2021 to be held in person at the Mystic Marriott Hotel in Groton, CT on Friday November 12, 2021.

ACTION ITEMS (03:35:48)

1. Move, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board of Education holds a first vote to adopt the Ellington Public Schools Policy 1110.1 - Communications with the Public as presented.

1st K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. L. Nord

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

2. Move, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board of Education holds a first vote to adopt the Ellington Public Schools Policy 4118.11 - Nondiscrimination as presented.

1st K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. L. Nord

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

3. Move, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board of Education holds a first vote to adopt the Ellington Public Schools Policy 4212.42 - Requirements for School Bus Drivers as presented.

1st K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. M. Kupferschmid

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

4. Move, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board of Education holds a first vote to adopt the Ellington Public Schools Policy 5113 - Attendance/Excuses/Dismissal as presented.

1st K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. M. Underwood

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

5. Move, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board of Education holds a first vote to adopt the Ellington Public Schools Policy 5113.2 - Truancy as presented.

1st K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. M. Kupferschmid

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

6. Move, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board of Education holds a first vote to adopt the Ellington Public Schools Policy 5131.911 - Bullying as presented.

1st K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. L. Nord

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

7. Move, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, the Board of Education holds a first vote to adopt the Ellington Public Schools Policy 0200 - Goals and Objectives as presented.

1st K. Picard-Wambolt

2nd. J. Mullin

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

8. Move that the Board of Education approve the Personnel Leave Request of Jennifer Melnick, Library Media Aide at Ellington Middle School from August 2021 through November 19, 2021, per article 14 Leave of Absence without pay of Ellington Paraprofessionals CSEASEIU Local 2001 collective bargaining agreement.

1st. K. Socha

2nd. M. Kupferschmid

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

9. Move that the Board of Education approve the Appointment of District Medical Advisor - Dr. Daksh Rampal, Priority Urgent Care in Ellington.

1st. G. Blanchette

2nd. A. Moser

Discussion: Mr. Blanchette questioned if there was a job description available for the Medical Advisor position, to whom would Dr. Rampal be advised, would Dr. Rampal have the availability to attend Board of Education meetings to answer any questions the public may ask.

Mr. Greenleaf responded that the role of Medical Advisor was to advise administration on topics within the schools, oversee the capacity of the nursing staff by providing standing orders that are needed for the nursing staff to administer medications. Mr. Greenleaf continued that it had been several years that the district has not replaced the Medical Advisor however, Dr. Rampal would be a great addition to the district. Dr. Rampal as a physician and emergency room doctor would follow the recommendations of the Department of Public Health and CDC guidelines. Mr. Greenleaf stated there was no increase to have a district medical advisor and the cost would be five thousand dollars (\$5000.00) per year. There currently was not a job description however a contract with a scope of services within it.

Ms. Nord stated that Section 4 minutes 10 205 of the Connecticut Education Statutes had a description of what the medical advisor was required to do in the school district. Ms. Nord would provide a copy for Mr. Blanchette.

Ms. Picard-Wambolt inquired how Dr. Rampal was selected. Mr. Greenleaf stated that a relationship had been established over the years and felt he would be a knowledgeable addition to the district.

VOTE: Abstain: M. Underwood Ayes: G. Blanchette, M. Young, J. Dzen, M. Kupferschmid, L. Nord, K. Picard-Wambolt, A. Moser and J. Mullin.
The motion passed.

10. Move that the Board of Education accept, with regret and best wishes, the Personnel Retirement Request of Nancy Hurlburt, Van Driver, effective

August 8, 2021.

1st. J. Mullin

2nd. A. Moser

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

ROUNDTABLE

NONE

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. (3:45:32)

1st. M. Young

2nd. K. Picard-Wambolt

VOTE: Unanimous. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Picard-Wambolt
Secretary