

A Regular Meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, in the Ellington High School Library Media Center, 37 Maple Street, Ellington, CT 06029.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Vice Chair Dr. Michael Young.

PRESENT Vice-Chair Mike Young, Treasurer Liz Nord, Gary Blanchette, Angela Moser, Kerry Socha, Miriam Underwood and Steve Viens

ABSENT Chair Jennifer Dzen, Secretary Jennifer Mullin, Marcia Kupferschmid

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Scott V. Nicol, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations
Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services
Mr. Aaron Fliss, Director of Information Technology

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Center Elementary School (pre-recorded)

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SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Thank you to the Maintenance Team

Mr. Greg Kliman, Director of Facilities

Mr. Kliman gave a presentation to recognize the work of the facilities and maintenance team who keep the schools running and provide a safe and clean environment for our students each year. He began his presentation by honoring Barbara Kelliher who was a tremendous part of the team for 25 years. Barbara lost her battle to an illness in 2022 and is very missed. Mr. Kliman continued on to introduce and recognize the head custodians and maintenance team for the district who combined have 80 years of service to the district. He also recognized the 20+ members of the custodian staff throughout all of our buildings. He shared that he is incredibly proud of the team.

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BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Dr. Young welcomed everyone back to the start of the 22-23 school year cycle. He shared that the Board is here to assist with all the continued work of our staff and administration. Dr. Young shared that Chair Jen Dzen received a note from the town thanking our business office staff for their work through the end of the year close-out.

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CITIZEN & STAFF FORUM – None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes: Regular Meeting, July 27, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
2. Acceptance of the resignation of Patricia Gamble as a paraprofessional at Ellington Middle School as of 7/25/22.
3. Acceptance of the resignation of Breanna Naegeli as a PT Kinder Aide at Center School as of 7/27/22.
4. Acceptance of the resignation of Teresa Cavanagh as a paraprofessional at Crystal Lake school as of 7/29/22.
5. Acceptance of the resignation of Lori Goodin as an Admin. Assistant at Center School as of 8/4/22.
6. Acceptance of the resignation of Maggie Jordan as a paraprofessional at Center School as of 8/5/22.
7. Acceptance of the resignation of Lindsay London as a Pre-K Teacher at Windermere school as of 8/9/22.
8. Approval of the employment of Pamela Hanna as an Admin. Assistant at Center School as of 8/15/22.

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9. Acceptance of the resignation of Edward Depeau as a Teacher at Ellington Middle School as of 8/17/22.
10. Acceptance of the resignation of Zachary Webber as an IT Technician at Central Office as of 8/19/22.
11. Approval of the employment of Tara Anderson as a Teacher at Windermere as of 8/29/22.
12. Approval of the employment of Giselle Beloff as a CREC Resident Teacher at Center School as of 8/29/22.
13. Approval of the employment of David Bradbury as a Teacher at Ellington High School as of 8/29/22.
14. Approval of the employment of Alicia Dryburgh as a Teacher at Crystal Lake School as of 8/29/22.
15. Approval of the employment of Yoriko Hotta as a Teacher at Ellington High School as of 8/29/22.
16. Approval of the employment of Se'sha Johnson as a Teacher at Crystal Lake School as of 8/29/22.
17. Approval of the employment of Kelly Knotts as a Teacher at Ellington Middle School as of 8/29/22.
18. Approval of the employment of Hyla McNeely as a Paraprofessional at Ellington High School as of 8/29/22.
19. Approval of the employment of William Schultz as a Teacher at Ellington High School as of 8/29/22.
20. Approval of the employment of Felicia Sternberg as a Teacher at Ellington High School as of 8/29/22.
21. Approval of the employment of Lisa Classen as a PT Kinder Aide at Center School as of 9/1/22.
22. Approval of the employment of Maria DiFabio as a PT Kinder Aide at Center School as of 9/1/22.
23. Approval of the employment of Lauren Kindall as a PT Admin. Assistant at Center School as of 9/1/22.
24. Approval of the employment of Amie Martin as a PT Cafe/Play Aide at Windermere School as of 9/1/22.

Dr. Young asked if anyone wished to remove any item(s) from the Consent Agenda. Dr. Young announced that with hearing none, the Consent Agenda is accepted as written.

REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

SPECIAL REPORTS

Ellington High School Field Trip to Puerto Rico

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Mr. Marc Richard, Asst. Principal, Ms. Karen Contorno, Science Teacher and Greg Watchausen, Grand Classroom

Mr. Richard began his presentation by requesting that the Board approve the Puerto Rico Trip for the Spring of 2024 as the current dates planned for 2023 conflicts with the Music Department trip to Disney. Mr. Watchausen and Ms. Contorno continued to introduce themselves and speak to the benefits of these trips and how they align with the NGSS models. The students experience hands-on learning, cultural experiences and service opportunities all aligned with the curriculum.

MOTION

First: M. Underwood

Second: S. Viens

To approve the Ellington High School Ellington High School field trip to Puerto Rico in 2024, subject to conditions as outlined in Board Policy #6153.

The motion carried.

REGULAR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy

Policy Chair Moser stated the policy committee met this month and is almost at full completion of the review of 0000-6000 Policy Series. Tabled policies are slated to be worked on in September. The entire Board will meet in a workshop format to review the Bylaws of the Board (Series 9000). The Superintendent's office will continue to update the policies online and plan to formalize the Policy Manual in December.

Finance

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Finance Chair Nord stated that the Finance Committee discussed shared services at the August Meeting. An overview of the plan to merge Information Technology for the Town and Board of Education was provided at the Finance Committee Meeting. This would include restructuring the department to split the Network Administrator responsibilities to add a Systems Administrator. It was also recommended to request \$25K of the balance be placed in the Unexpended Funds Account for the purposes of Special Education tuition and transportation.

MOTION

First: L. Nord

Second: A. Moser

To approve the administration to finalize the MOU with the Town for Information Technology Shared Services as discussed.

The motion carried.

MOTION

First: L. Nord

Second: A. Moser

To approve the Information Technology Restructure to meet the IT Shared Services Plan as outlined in the MOU with the Town.

The motion carried.

MOTION

First: L. Nord

Second: A. Moser

To approve an appropriation request to the Boards of Finance and Selectmen of \$25,000 to the Unexpended Funds Account.

The motion carried.

Operations

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Ms. Nord attended the Operations Committee for Kerry Socha. The committee discussed a sensory walkway to be installed at Crystal Lake School to allow students to play "games" which are neurology-research based to allow students to reset and refocus on learning. A proposed walkway was also discussed. An update for the district wide HVAC study was provided by Mr. Greenleaf.

Curriculum

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Curriculum Chair Young shared that the committee met and discussed the data from the SBAC and SAT. Mr. Barton shared that the district is extremely proud of the work that was put into achieving these results by our teachers and students. An update was provided regarding the American Sign Language Course at the High School by continuing to offer the course led by online instruction by a certified teacher.

Communications

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Dr. Nicol reported on the work of the Communications committee to share and promote the work of the Board of Education through a quarterly newsletter: Communications Corner. The June newsletter was a success and the next newsletter is anticipated to go out on August 29th.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

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Superintendent Nicol shared a brief update on the Staffing Report for the District. Dr. Nicol stated that Jennifer Brown, HR Coordinator will provide a more comprehensive analysis to the Board in September.

Directors' Reports

Monthly Financial Report

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Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Greenleaf gave an update on fund balances for the District including funds being returned to the Town. Current year set up is still underway, a better projection will be provided next month as all the new staff will continue to be entered in the system.

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Selectmen – No Report

Center School – No Report

Shared Services – No Report

Windermere School – No Report

Student Representative

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Rik Roy gave his report to the Board.

- Course schedules were released on 8/15
- Band Camp is underway inviting all members are preparing for the season
- Athletics Tryouts have started; football has been practicing
- Rik thanked Dr. Nicol for his support with the composting program

CREC/Crystal Lake School

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Liaison Underwood shared that she is looking forward to visiting Crystal Lake to view the new sensory path. CREC will be meeting in September, report to follow.

Ellington Middle School

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Liaison Socha commented on how clean the Middle School looked. She also commented that the Middle School did a wonderful job with their welcome back presentation and the students enjoyed seeing friends and walking through the building. Ms. Socha also gave kudos to the custodial staff and shared her appreciation for the work that they do.

Ellington High School

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Liaison Moser wanted to take a moment to welcome all the new teachers to the district. Ms. Moser shared there is only one open position at the High School at this time.

Permanent Building Committee

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Liaison Blanchette shared that the Permanent Building Committee will meet in September to review bids for Architects for the Windermere Building Project. Mr. Greenleaf provided an update on the timeline.

ACTION ITEMS

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Second read to approve the Repeal and Replacement of Policy 5132, Dress Code

MOTION

First: A. Moser

Second: L. Nord

To approve the second read to approve the repeal and replacement of Policy 5132, Dress Code.

Ayes: G. Blanchette, A. Moser, L. Nord, M. Underwood, M. Young

Nay: S. Viens, K. Socha

Abstentions: None

Motion carried.

Second read to approve the repeal/deletion of the Ellington Public Schools Policies as outlined in Exhibit A

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: M. Underwood
To approve second read to approve the repeal/deletion of the Ellington Public Schools Policies as outlined in Exhibit A.
Abstention: L. Nord
Motion carried.

Second read to approve the repeal and adoption of the policies as outlined in Exhibit B

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: S. Viens
To approve second read to approve the repeal and adoption of the policies as outlined in Exhibit B.
Motion carried.

Second read to approve the adoption of policies as outlined in Exhibit C

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: S. Viens
To approve second read to approve the adoption of policies as outlined in Exhibit C.
Abstention: L. Nord
Motion carried.

First Read to repeal/delete the Ellington Public Schools policies as outlined in Sample A

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: S. Viens
To approve first Read to repeal/delete the Ellington Public Schools policies as outlined in Sample A.
Abstention: L. Nord
Motion carried.

First Read to adopt the policies as outlined in Sample B

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: K. Socha
To approve first Read to adopt the policies as outlined in Sample B.
Abstention: L. Nord
Motion carried.

First read to repeal and replacement of policies as outlined in Sample C

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: K. Socha
To approve first read to repeal and replacement of policies as outlined in Sample C.
Abstention: L. Nord
Motion carried.

First read to repeal 6000 series policies as outlined in Attachment A

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: K. Socha
To approve first read to repeal 6000 series policies as outlined in Attachment A.
Abstention: L. Nord
Motion carried.

First read to repeal and adopt 6000 series policies as outlined in Attachment B

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: K. Socha
To approve first read to repeal and adopt 6000 series policies as outlined in Attachment B.
A friendly amendment was made to remove Policy 6162.6 from Attachment B for further review.
Abstention: L. Nord
Motion carried.

First read to adopt 6000 policies as outlined in Attachment C

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: S. Viens
To approve first read to adopt 6000 policies as outlined in Attachment C.
Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE – None

ROUNDTABLE

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Ms. Socha commented that she feels Physical Education should be optional for students if they are involved in a sport.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION First: K. Socha
Second: A. Moser
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (8:21 p.m.)
Motion carried.