

A Regular Meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, in the Ellington High School Library Media Center, 37 Maple Street, Ellington, CT 06029.

**The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Dzen.**

**PRESENT** Chair Jennifer Dzen, Vice-Chair Michael Young (virtual), Treasurer Liz Nord, Gary Blanchette, Marcia Kupferschmid, Angela Moser, Kerry Socha, Miriam Underwood, Steve Viens

**ABSENT** Jennifer Mullin, Board Secretary  
Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations

**ALSO PRESENT** Dr. Scott V. Nicol, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services  
Mr. Aaron Fliss, Director of Technology  
Mr. Rik Roy, Board of Education Student Representative

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**American Sign Language Students, Ellington High School**

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**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

**WINNERS 39th Annual Fire Marshal's Fire Prevention Poster Contest**

**Mr. James York, Ellington Fire Marshal**

Mr. York shared information about the Annual Fire Safety Poster contest. Ellington participates in this state-wide contest where approximately 30k students participate. He also thanked the combined efforts of the town's Fire Departments, Ambulance Corps, and Town Boards to ensure Ellington has a good record of Fire Safety programming. A Crystal Lake student took first place, Center School took 2nd and Windermere took 3rd. Each school also had an honorable mention.

Watch [HERE](#)

**EDUinnovate Fall Grant Recipients**

**Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent**

Mr. Barton introduced Jeff McMeans from EDUinnovate to share information about the program and to recognize the grant recipients. Chair Dzen began by thanking EDUinnovate for the amazing grants awarded to Ellington. Mr. McMeans shared the mission of the EDUinnovate Foundation is to stimulate innovation and support excellence in education, both in Ellington and beyond, by providing funding for projects and programs that enhance the educational experience for public school students.

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EDUinnovate has awarded \$24,255 to seven recipients in Ellington:

<u>Project</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Recipients</u>
Soaring to Success	Center	Elizabeth Loubier
Light Sensory Table	Crystal Lake	Annie Vernier
Crystal Lake School Indoor Sensory Path	Crystal Lake	Leah Luginbuhl
Science Exploration through Outreach Programming	Windermere/CLS	Megan Davis
Windermere 6th Grade Author in Residence	Windermere	Matthew Murphy
STEAM Outreach Programs at Ellington Public Schools	All K-6	Gomathi Ramachandran
Cue us Up!	EMS	Jennifer Melnick & Karen Nigro

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

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Chair Dzen began by thanking the Board members and Student Representative Rik for their time during this busy time of year. Ms. Dzen shared that she and Board Member Socha attended the CAFE conference this year. Dr. Scott Nicol was a panelist for the Teachers of Color Recruitment Program. Ms. Dzen shared that he represented the Board very well and the event was well attended. Ms. Dzen also shared that she attended the Curriculum Committee meeting this month and learned about the Learning Walks that are held in the district, she felt a renewed sense of pride for the people who educate the children of Ellington—they genuinely want to know our children. She shared her thanks to each and every one of the teachers and staff for the caring way they teach in our district. She wished everyone health, wellness, grace, and happiness during this season and in the new year.

**CITIZEN & STAFF FORUM – None**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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1. Approval of minutes: Special Meeting, November 16, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
2. Human Resources Monthly Report

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

**REPORT AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**SPECIAL REPORTS – None**

**REGULAR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance**

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Liaison Nord shared that the Committee discussed the budget calendar and is up for approval tonight. An additional date (January 18th) was added to the budget calendar to discuss the budget in more detail. Dr. Nicol added that he is pleased with the approach this year. Instructional supplies are one topic to be discussed in more detail. The main drivers of the budget will also be discussed.

Ms. Nord also shared that the committee discussed the disposal of maintenance vehicles. Ms. Nord made the suggestion that one of the vehicles go to the Tech Ed program at the high school which the district will be able to accommodate. Dr. Nicol thanks Ms. Nord for the suggestion.

**Curriculum**

Watch [HERE](#)

Mr. Barton thanked Chair Dzen for sharing her appreciation for the teachers. He shared that he appreciated the passion they had and how reflective they were in their interest to see other classrooms and share their classrooms for observations. Board Member Moser added that she appreciated the teachers who were able to come to a candid circle discussion with honest feedback to the board so they can learn the process. Ms. Nord added that is great when Board members can sit and talk to teachers so they feel that the board is interested and appreciate what they are doing. Board Member Underwood shared that the conversations were honest and authentic; she shared her appreciation as well.

**Policy**

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Moser shared an update that the policy book will be completed soon and uploaded to the website. Dr. Nicol shared that formatting is underway. The Board Bylaws will be on a future meeting agenda.

**Operations – No Meeting**

**Communications – No Meeting**

## **ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

### **Superintendent's Report**

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Dr. Nicol gave a brief legislative update. There was a change in the Education Committee for the State. Representative Curry, East Hartford, is the new co-chair of the committee. Dr. Nicol and Board member Underwood, who is also the CREC Liaison met to discuss how can CREC and Ellington work together on a legislative item. Committee meetings will be held in January. Ellington will host the CABA/CAPPS Legislative Breakfast in February.

### **Directors' Reports**

#### **Monthly Financial Report**

Due to Brian Greenleaf's absence there was no report. Dr. Nicol shared that the Board may email Mr. Greenleaf with questions pertaining to the budget.

## **BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

### **Student Representative Report**

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Student Liaison Rik Roy gave his report to the Board.

- Annual Thanksgiving Football game...many came out to show solidarity, it was a great experience.
- Ellington Boy's soccer won the state championship against Weston. First State win since 2014.
- NEASC team toured the high school with student council officers. A student panel spent time with the team to answer questions.
- Christmas in Pinetree Corners, a play by Mr. Prenetta and OKP, was a success on December 9 and 10th.
- Pure Advocates for a Better Society sponsored a blood drive at the High School.
- Mid Point of Q2 has passed, and midterms are coming up.

### **Permanent Building Committee**

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Liaison Gary Blanchette shared that the committee has selected a construction company for the Windermere Building Project. Dr. Nicol added that there may be another Community Forum in January. Board Members Liz Nord and Mike Young added to the conversation.

### **Center School**

Watch [HERE](#)

Liaison Marcia Kupferschmid shared that Center School now has a new therapy dog who has visited three times this month. The students and staff love it! Pajama Day was also held raising \$700 for Connecticut Children's Medical Center. The chorus performed and did a great job and the Holiday shop was held and sold over \$13,000 in items. Finally, Liaison Kupferschmid shared that the holiday concert is coming up on December 19th.

### **Ellington Middle School**

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Christmas Carol Performance is coming up on the 16th and 17th. Liaison Socha also recognized the music teachers for the work they put into the program. For example, recently, the chorus tried out for the All CT Easter Region Festival, and she thanked the teachers for the time put into these events. Liaison Socha also gave kudos to the EMS boy's basketball team for cheering on the girl's basketball team during a recent game.

Finally, she mentioned that the Windermere holiday fair needed volunteers and Miriam and Angie stepped in to assist at the Holiday shop. Ms. Socha received a thank you from Marie Grey to share with the Board, Board Member Moser also gave kudos to Marie Grey for the work she does to make the holiday shop a success.

### **Windermere School**

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Liaison Viens reported that Windermere had its holiday concert and it was very well attended with standing room only. The 4, 5, and 6th grades did a great job and kudos to Mrs. Biggie for her work! The Holiday

Boutique continues this week, Science visits are coming to third grade and Windermere will hold its first in-school concert on the 20th.

**Crystal Lake School**

Watch [HERE](#)

Liaison Underwood attended and was blown away by the 4th, 5th, and 6th-grade concert. The student performances were amazing. The Pancake breakfast will be held on Monday.

**Ellington High School**

Watch [HERE](#)

Liaison Moser attended the parent group discussion portion of the NEASC meeting at the high school. The report will come in the next couple of months. The high school also held another virtual author session that was well attended. Board Member Kupferschmid was in attendance.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Watch [HERE](#)

**Second read to repeal and adopt Board of Education policies in Packet A**

**MOTION**

First: A. Moser

Second: M. Kupferschmid

To approve second read to repeal and adopt Board of Education policies in Packet A

Motion unanimously carried.

**Approval of the Disposal of Maintenance Vehicles**

**MOTION**

First: L. Nord

Second: M. Underwood

To approve of the Disposal of Maintenance Vehicles

Motion unanimously carried.

**Approval of the 2023-2024 Budget Calendar and Guidelines**

**MOTION**

First: L. Nord

Second: M. Underwood

To approve the 2023-2024 Budget Calendar and Guidelines

Motion unanimously carried.

**OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS** – None

**CORRESPONDENCE** – None

**ROUNDTABLE** – None

Chair Dzen invited Student Representative, Rik, to attend committee meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

First: L. Nord

Second: Marcia

To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (7:11 p.m.)

Motion unanimously carried.

