

A Special Meeting of the Ellington Board of Education was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, in the Ellington High School Library Media Center, 37 Maple Street, Ellington, CT 06029.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Jennifer Dzen.

PRESENT Chair Jennifer Dzen, Vice-Chair Mike Young, Secretary Jennifer Mullin, Treasurer Liz Nord, Gary Blanchette, Marcia Kupferschmid, Angela Moser, Kerry Socha (7:12), Miriam Underwood, Steve Viens

ABSENT Dr. Kristy LaPorte, Director of Special Services
Mr. Aaron Fliss, Director of Technology

ALSO PRESENT Dr. Scott V. Nicol, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations
Mr. Rik Roy, Board of Education Student Representative

NATIONAL ANTHEM

EHS Vocal Ensemble - 11/11/22 Veteran's Day Ceremony (Pre-Recorded)

Watch [HERE](#)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Brett Lussier, Ellington High School for his production of the Safe Grad Video

Mr. John Guidry, Principal, Ellington High School

Mr. Guidry introduced Brett Lussier to the Board and recognized him for his work on project Safe Grad. He created a promotional video to market the fun that the seniors can have at this event. He took the initiative to put a crew together and collect footage to create the video to show at the Open House. Out of a sense of community and contributing to the mission of Project Safe Grad, Mr. Guidry is honored to recognize Brett.

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BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Dzen shared that there will not be an official report but she wished the community a Happy Thanksgiving.

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CITIZEN & STAFF FORUM

Susie Mitton-Shannon, 9 Ridge Drive, Ellington, CT

Ms. Minton-Shannon addressed the Board.

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CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes: Special Meeting, October 25, 2022, 8:00 p.m.
2. Approval of minutes: Regular Meeting, October 26, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
3. Approval of minutes: Special Meeting, November 9, 2022, 5:00 p.m.
4. Human Resources Monthly Report

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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

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Discussion and possible action regarding the EHS Boys Swimming and Girls Gymnastics Programs

Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations and Mr. Anderson Rawlins, Director of Athletics and Wellness

Dr. Nicol began by addressing the Board and the families. He expressed his apologies for how the recognitions were missed. Mr. Greenleaf began the presentation by echoing Dr. Nicol's statements and gave a background of the programming. Mr. Rawlins began by recognizing the Boys' Swimming program for their regular season record of 5-0 and Nutmeg Record of 2-0 in the 21-22 season. They broke 5 records in the regular season, 2 in the Nutmeg records, and held the title of Conference Champions! The team and many swimmers in All-Conference and All Honors as well as an All-State Athlete from Ellington.

Moving on to Girls' Gymnastics. The team had 8 scholar-athletes, 2 All-State Athletes, and 1 All-American. Mr. Rawlins congratulated the Girls' team for these amazing accomplishments. Mr. Rawlins thanked the teams for their hard work and dedication. The teams received a standing ovation. Board Member Mullin shared that she is glad that the meeting is recorded so the families of seniors from last year can see that they received the recognition they deserved.

Watch [HERE](#)

Mr. Greenleaf continued the discussion on Title IX implications of funding sports. He described the summary of the costs to fund the needs of the Boys' swimming and Girls' Gymnastics programming. Chair Dzen shared that the Board wholeheartedly supports athletics. As we approached the budget process she encouraged the Superintendent and Mr. Rawlins to review the needs of all athletics. Dr. Nicol shared that the district will work within the athletic budget to explore at least partial transportation for both teams and this included interfacing with the families to understand their needs.

MOTION

First: K. Socha

Second: L. Nord

The BOE to support the Girls' Gymnastics and Boys' Swimming programs within the budget constraints of this year and provide whatever support we (BOE) are able to within our budget.

Friendly Amendment: The BOE is to support the Girls' Gymnastics and Boys' Swimming programs within the budget constraints of this year and provide whatever support we (BOE) are able to within our budget and within the budget and the operational confines of what we (BOE) can do.

Motion carried unanimously.

Update regarding the HVAC State Grant Initiative

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Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Greenleaf provided three Educational Specifications for Center School, Ellington Middle School, and Ellington High School required for the grant application. Board action is needed to move forward in the process.

MOTION

First: J. Dzen

Second: M. Young

To enter into a 5-minute recess to review the Educational Specifications.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Board began the recess at 8:25 p.m.

The recess ended at 8:37 p.m.

Approve Educational Specifications as modified for the HVAC Project at Center School

MOTION

First: M. Underwood

Second: M. Young
To approve Educational Specifications as modified for the HVAC Project at Center School.
Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Educational Specifications for the HVAC project at Ellington Middle School

MOTION First: M. Kupferschmid
Second: L. Nord
To approve Educational Specifications for the HVAC project at Ellington Middle School.
Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Educational Specifications for the HVAC project at Ellington High School as presented

MOTION First: J. Mullin
Second: M. Kupferschmid
To approve Educational Specifications for the HVAC project at Ellington High School as presented.
Friendly Amendment: To approve Educational Specifications for the HVAC project at Ellington High School as amended.
School as amended.
Motion unanimously carried.

REGULAR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy

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Policy committee Chair Moser shared that we have been hard at work, and one more meeting is scheduled to complete the policy review. Dr. Nicol added that the goal is to have a new Policy Book in place before the holiday break.

Finance

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Board Member Nord shared that the committee met and discussed the 22-23 budget updates and object summary reports. Up next was food service financials. Free lunches will end by December 1, 2022. Ms. Nord continued on to the Health insurance update where the reserve is \$700k as of the end of FY22, with the intent to grow it to approximately \$1.8M over the next few years. Finally, the Special Education programs are estimated to bring in approximately \$1.25M this year, with approximately the same amount of costs.

Curriculum

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Dr. Young shared that Curriculum Committee met and discussed the Curriculum and Instruction webpage and shared what they would like to see. He would like to see the District and School Improvement plans and the Superintendent's Goals shared in these areas. Dr. Young shared that the administration was very responsive to these requests. The Committee also discussed the EDUinnovate Grant applications. Mr. Barton shared brief details of the grants that were awarded. The awards were voted on and accepted unanimously. Finally, the Committee discussed the NGSS standards within the curriculum.

Approval of the EDUinnovate Fall 2022 Grant Cycle

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: M. Underwood
To approve the EDUinnovate Fall 2022 Grant Cycle
Motion unanimously carried.

Operations – No Meeting

Communications

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Communications Chair Mullin shared that communication and plan to release the next newsletter on December 19, 2022. Meeting dates for 2023 were reviewed and approved. Ms. Mullin reminded the board to share photos of events they attend.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

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Dr. Nicol asked the Board to save the date, Wednesday, January 4, 2023, for the Budget Workshop. Dr. Nicol shared that the Superintendent's Goals are on the agenda for approval with items added for the Board to review.

Directors' Reports

Monthly Financial Report

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Mr. Brian Greenleaf, Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Greenleaf stated that work to clean up encumbrances specifically in the 111 accounts was done. Mr. Greenleaf took questions from the Board. An explanation was given on the difference between energy and electricity and he shared that the retirement accounts are still under review.

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

Student Liaison Report

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Student Liaison Rik Roy gave his report to the Board.

- Quarter 2 has begun. Students can utilize feedback from teachers.
- Sports- Fall teams in tournament season. Girl's soccer in the semi-finals, Boy's soccer in the finals.
- Winter sports are approaching.
- On 11/4, EHS had Dr. Phil Campbell present - "What is our Why?" which kicked off EHS' "Journey to uncover what it means to be Knight".
- Veterans Day Celebration - Student-driven, run by the student council with breakfast and assembly.
- Parent-teacher conferences this week.

Permanent Building Committee

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Gary Blanchette called on Brian Greenleaf to share an update from the PBC. DRA is working on schematic drawings for Windermere. The construction manager search will be in November. DRA would like to come back to the BOE for input before more details are added. Mr. Blanchette shared that he is pleased with how the outside is starting to look. He shared that he feels the busing may need to be looked at for ease of use. He is looking forward to getting this project going.

Center School

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Liaison Kupferschmid shared that Center School had a great fall season with donuts, a harvest parade, a book fair, and a trunk or treat with over 40 decorated cars. An Administration site visit was held including teachers and Admins visiting classrooms. Center School held a very successful in-person PTO meeting.

Dr. Nicol shared that, during the site visit, teachers and admin visit the classrooms to talk about teacher craft, teacher effectiveness of instruction and how to drive professional development.

Ellington Middle School

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Liaison Socha shared that the parent/teacher conferences were held at the Middle School. All of the student's teachers meet together, with the parents, to report on their student's progress. She thought they were very well structured and organized.

Board of Selectmen

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Liaison Mullin shared that HVAC project updates passed unanimously at the BOS meeting on 11/14/22.

Windermere School

Watch [HERE](#)

Liaison Viens shared that Windermere School had a Veterans Day ceremony on 11/11 that was well attended by at least 25 veterans.

Crystal Lake School

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Liaison Underwood shared that Crystal Lake is getting ready for the Annual Pancake Breakfast, and nutrition lessons were given in grades PK-2 by Whitsons.

CREC

CREC met and the conversation was centered around energy and busing concerns. Multiple districts have similar problems with busing. Geothermal was the topic of discussion for energy savings in surrounding districts.

Ellington High School

Watch [HERE](#)

Liaison Moser shared that the Veterans Day ceremony at the high school was very well done and was pleased that the ceremony was student-led. Very impressive and much appreciated. She also shared that it is very impressive that both the Girls' and Boys' soccer teams have moved on to the semi-finals and finals. Ms. Moser also shared that EHS is always looking for volunteers specifically with the OKP programs. Kerry Socha added that the music at the ceremony was moving. She gave kudos to Mr. Diamond for the production.

ACTION ITEMS

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Second read to repeal Board of Education policies in Packet 1

MOTION

First: A. Moser

Second: M. Kupferschmid

To approve second read to approve the repeal of Board of Education policies in Packet 1

Motion unanimously carried.

Second read to repeal and adopt Board of Education policies in Packet 2

MOTION

First: A. Moser

Second: M. Underwood

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

Packet 2

Motion unanimously carried.

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

MOTION

First: A. Moser

Second: J. Mullin

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

Motion unanimously carried.

Adoption of Transportation Policy Update (outlined in Packet B)

MOTION

First: A. Moser

Second: J. Mullin

To adopt Transportation Policy Update (outlined in Packet B)

Motion unanimously carried.

Adoption of Shipman and Goodwin Policy regarding Automatic External Defibrillators (outlined in Packet B)

MOTION First: A. Moser
Second: M. Kupferschmid
To adopt Shipman and Goodwin Policy regarding Automatic External Defibrillators (outlined in Packet B)
Motion unanimously carried.

Approve Superintendent's Goals 2022-2023

MOTION First: K. Socha
Second: J. Mullin
To approve Superintendent's Goals 2022-2023
Motion unanimously carried.

Watch [HERE](#)

Discussion: Board Members Nord and Underwood inquired about specific goals within the Superintendent's Goals for 22-23.

To Table the Approval 2023-2024 Budget Guidelines and Calendar

MOTION First: L. Nord
Second: K. Socha
To table the approval 2023-2024 Budget Guidelines and Calendar to a future meeting.
Motion unanimously carried.

Accept the retirement of Anita Sussman, Speech Pathologist at Windermere School, effective July 1, 2023

MOTION First: M. Kupferschmid
Second: J. Mullin
To accept the retirement of Anita Sussman, Speech Pathologist at Windermere School, effective July 1, 2023
Motion unanimously carried.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS – None

CORRESPONDENCE – None

ROUNDTABLE

Board Member Socha added a statement on Transparent Education. She stated, "I think transparent education is important, it puts the student first and allows parents to parent in that they participate in their child's education. What's being taught in school should not conflict with the values and beliefs that are being taught at home; to do otherwise does not create a safe and inclusive place for our children to learn." She stated that she strongly supports the continued efforts of this Board and of the administration in implementing and making transparent education happen in Ellington.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION First: M. Young
Second: J. Mullin
To adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board (9:25 p.m.)
Motion unanimously carried.